**PASSA in Nepal EQ 2015 Response Context – guidance**

Introduction

PASSA (Participatory Approach for Safer Shelter Awareness) has received significant attention from Shelter Cluster partners, and it is believed that a number of agencies will be undertaking PASSA or participatory learning approach (PLA) methodologies in their community engagement in Nepal.

In general terms the methodology described in PASSA (which grew from PHAST) is just good programming where the community:

* identifies their own needs and prioritises them
* produces their own solutions to these needs
* produces a plan for implementation and a monitoring plan

It is good programming because it allows communities to have control of the design of their own programme.

Use of PASSA in Nepal post EQ 2015 response

Although PASSA has been undertaken in Nepal pre EQ response 2015 by Habitat for Humanity Nepal (using the Bangladesh picture cards) it is believed that this was confined to the Terai region, and predominantly concentrated on flooding.

PASSA is generally considered a resilience tool and its use in a post-disaster context to define a recovery programme requires careful consideration.

General Guidance for Agencies

1. Agencies are asked to **run the first activities of PASSA sector** neutral to allow a wider settlements approach to be considered. This will help to allow communities to define their own priorities (which could impact on WASH, Food Security, Access etc. and not just shelter). Agencies are asked not to use this as merely a “rubber stamping” process as part of a half-hearted consultation process with the community where the agency already has a programme agreed with a donor.
2. **Sensitised donors** that participation of communities in designing their own recovery programmes (participation being a core part of accountability to beneficiaries) using a participative tool such as PASSA, can take time, and make it hard for donors to fund programmes with fixed agency defined deliverables.
3. Agencies need to frame the PASSA conversations to **not build up expectations in communities which can not be met**. This means agencies need to be clear about what resources the agency may be prepared to invest at the start, or that the community will only be working under their own resources with the agency prepared to offer technical advice services for example.
4. **Agencies don’t need to undertake PASSA from activity 1 through to 8**. They can shorten, skip or compress activities based on their own programmes. For example, where a vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) has already been undertaken they may choose to skip activities 1 and 2.
5. Recommendations on selecting communities in Nepal for PASSA could include ….

Nepal context picture cards

A starter set of Nepal context cards are currently being developed by Care Nepal and the Red Cross. Further information can be found by contacting Betisa of German Red Cross: [betisa.brcfl@gmail.com](mailto:betisa.brcfl@gmail.com)