

# LENSS TOOL KIT

LOCAL ESTIMATE OF NEEDS FOR SHELTER AND SETTLEMENT

FIELD VERSION



IASC EMERGENCY SHELTER CLUSTER

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## FOREWORD

Much has been written in recent years about the challenges of providing housing for the victims of natural disasters. Despite all our knowledge of the subject, sustainable reconstruction and rehabilitation in the housing sector remains one of the most controversial and challenging aspects of post-disaster recovery.

One of the biggest problem areas identified by the IASC Global Shelter Cluster is getting reliable assessments of housing and settlements needs after a crisis.

This publication, the Local Estimate of Needs for Shelter and Settlements, seeks to help fill the gaps here.

It explains the importance of ensuring that those who survive a natural disaster are involved and consulted from the very beginning in their recovery process – rather than being treated as “humanitarian liabilities”. This inclusive approach has significant implications for the recommended approaches to post-disaster housing and settlements recovery.

It further argues that immediate and coordinated strategic planning covering land use, tenure, livelihoods and critical services, in addition to housing reconstruction is essential for any long term recovery.

Furthermore, sustainable recovery and development is only possible if it also addresses the risks and vulnerability factors that made a bad situation worse.

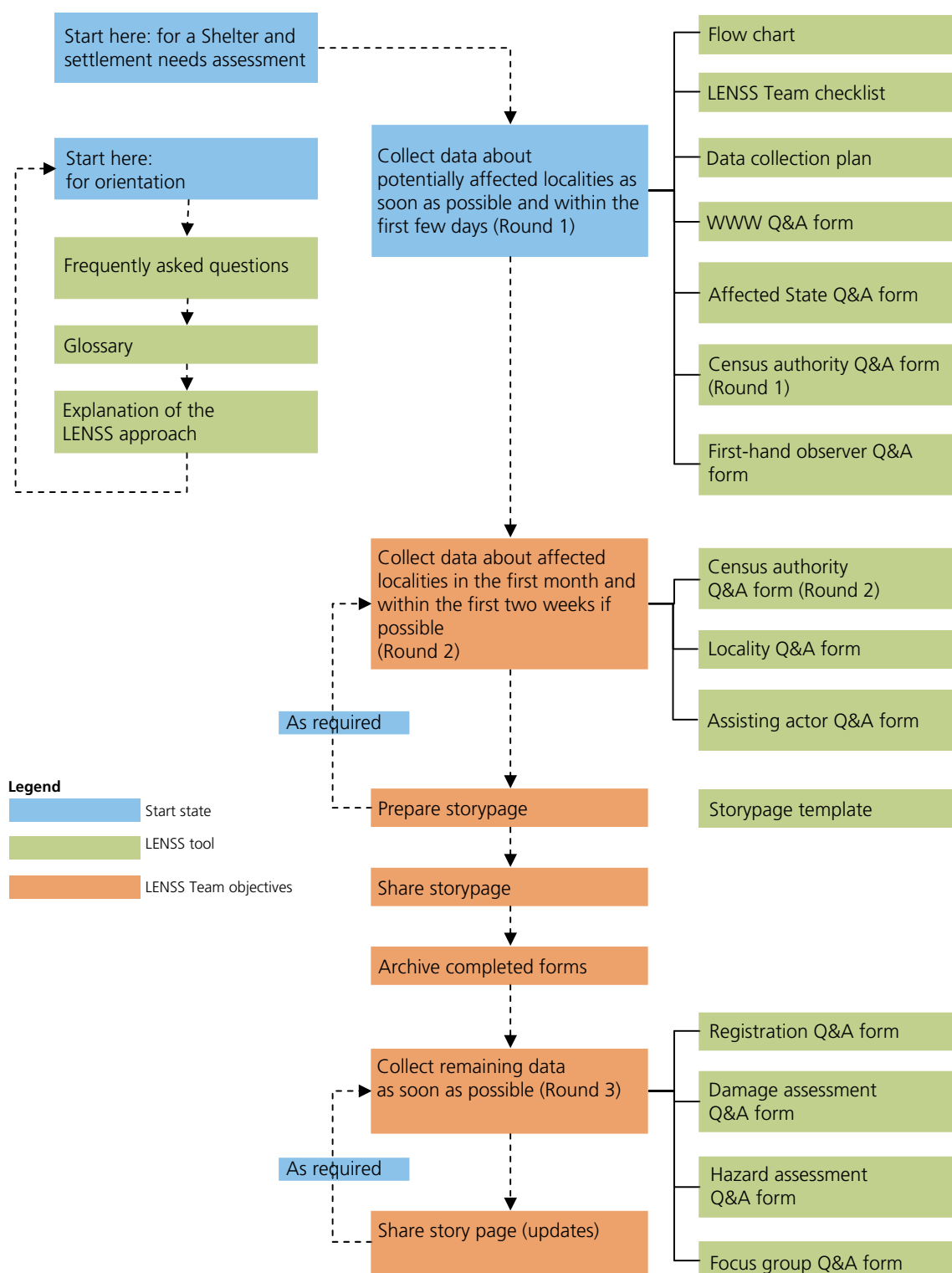
The humanitarian reform process (2005/2006) has helped broaden the community of practitioners, reinforced global and country-based coordination systems, and required the agencies involved to seek new and better means of ensuring integrated and robust humanitarian programming and early recovery approaches for achieving sustainable development.

This is why we emphasise here the importance of always being aware of local cultural, and socio-economic norms in drafting post-disaster plans. This is especially important when it comes to housing for the simple reason that new homes become a permanent aspect of everyday life.

Putting the people first is the key to success.

## FLOW CHART

FIGURE 1 - LENSS ASSESSMENT FLOW CHART



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## LENS TEAM CHECKLIST

TABLE 1 – LENS TEAM CHECKLIST

### Legend

A	Means “action”
D	Means “decision point”

This checklist includes generic steps for the LENS Team. The checklist is not all-seeing or all-knowing. Judgment may suggest different or additional steps to achieve assigned goal, objectives and responsibilities. It all depends on the case at hand.

WHEN		WHAT	QUICK TIPS
Before LENS needs assessment can start	A	Establish a LENS Team	<p>LENS assumes that a central team is managing the data collection and sharing. The team of one or more persons, as required, is called the LENS Team.</p> <p>If only one locality is involved, the team is established at the local level. If multiple localities are involved, the team will likely be at the national level. Either way, the team is generally established by a disaster management entity who expects to receive the results of the assessment</p>
When the LENS Team is established	A	Review the quick tips for the LENS Team goals, objectives and responsibilities	<p>It is important to understand what it is you are trying to accomplish.</p> <p>The goal of the LENS Team is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide timely information to people involved in, interested in and affected by decisions regarding shelter and settlement response and recovery</li> </ul> <p>To achieve the goal, the team is expected to complete the following objectives:</p>

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