

VULNERABILITY IN TRANSITIONS TO RECOVERY: A Shelter and Housing Perspective from the Philippines

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Post-disaster shelter and housing - what is it and why is it important?

Shelter and housing are critical for survival and recovery post-disaster. They are key to building short and long-term resilience, providing physical safety and protection, and enabling social and economic recuperation by supporting the continuation of economic, educational and community activities. **Shelter and housing recovery is a social process** and considering it in terms of **what it does** rather than merely **what it is** allows it to be used as a proxy for observing household recovery during the transitional phase.



Figure 1: Leyte (Philippines): examples of shelter and housing types. Temporary accommodation in the form family and friends' homes was used immediately following the disaster, being cited by some as their initial choice from day one (Yore & Faure Walker, submitted).

Pre-existing shelter and housing vulnerability and post-disaster recovery – is there a link?

Pre-existing vulnerability determined using two proxies:

1. **Post-disaster housing damage** - indicator of the strength/weakness of a home before Yolanda.
2. **Pre-Yolanda employment type** - indicates the potential for reduced, unstable or non-existent income following Yolanda.

Results show that pre-existing vulnerabilities in the form of weak housing and insecure employment / livelihoods before Yolanda, often translated into post-Yolanda housing and employment / economic vulnerabilities in both the short term (up to three months) and the medium term (four months to 3 years). **Those identified to have pre-existing vulnerabilities in these domains also experienced:**

- Longer periods of unemployment post-Yolanda
- Longer periods of time in temporary and transitional housing post-Yolanda
- Poorer quality housing repairs over the short and medium terms post-Yolanda.
- Fewer income streams per household

Key research findings and contributions

• **At the broader community level**, progression through post-disaster shelter and housing generally follows the recovery processes illustrated in earlier frameworks (e.g. Quarantelli, 1995).

• **At the household level however, it is a different picture:** more non-linear, out-of-sequence pathways between shelter and housing and the use of temporary accommodation with multiple entry and exit points.

• Included a “**no shelter**” category to reflect the time spent outside without any covering by those displaced.

• Highlighting within “temporary accommodation” the **significant role of family and friends** in providing both immediate and longer-term shelter and housing solutions.

• Sub-categorising “**temporary housing**” into “**transitional housing**” and “**semi-permanent housing**”. The former reflects purpose-built transitional housing options (and to differentiate from forms of debris shelters), and the latter to represent permanent homes with temporary fixings to cover damage.

• **Pre-disaster vulnerability in terms of housing and employment extends into the post-disaster era**, sometimes well into what is often considered the recovery phase, reinforcing precarious living and working conditions even years following a disaster.

• **Lowest average number of days in temporary shelter and housing** associated with receiving materials within the first two months, and cash between three and five months.

• In the medium term (four months – three years), **those in weaker housing were far more likely not to have received assistance** (cash, materials) than those in robust housing.

	Timing of earliest provision of cash				
	Up to 2 months	3 - 5 months	6 months - 1 year	Over 1 year	None received
Average days in temp housing	85	68	73	150	101

	Timing of earliest provision of housing materials				
	Up to 2 months	3 - 5 months	6 months - 1 year	Over 1 year	None received
Average days in temp housing	74	102	85	122	85

Table 1: When cash and housing material assistance was received measured against the average time spent in temporary shelter and housing.

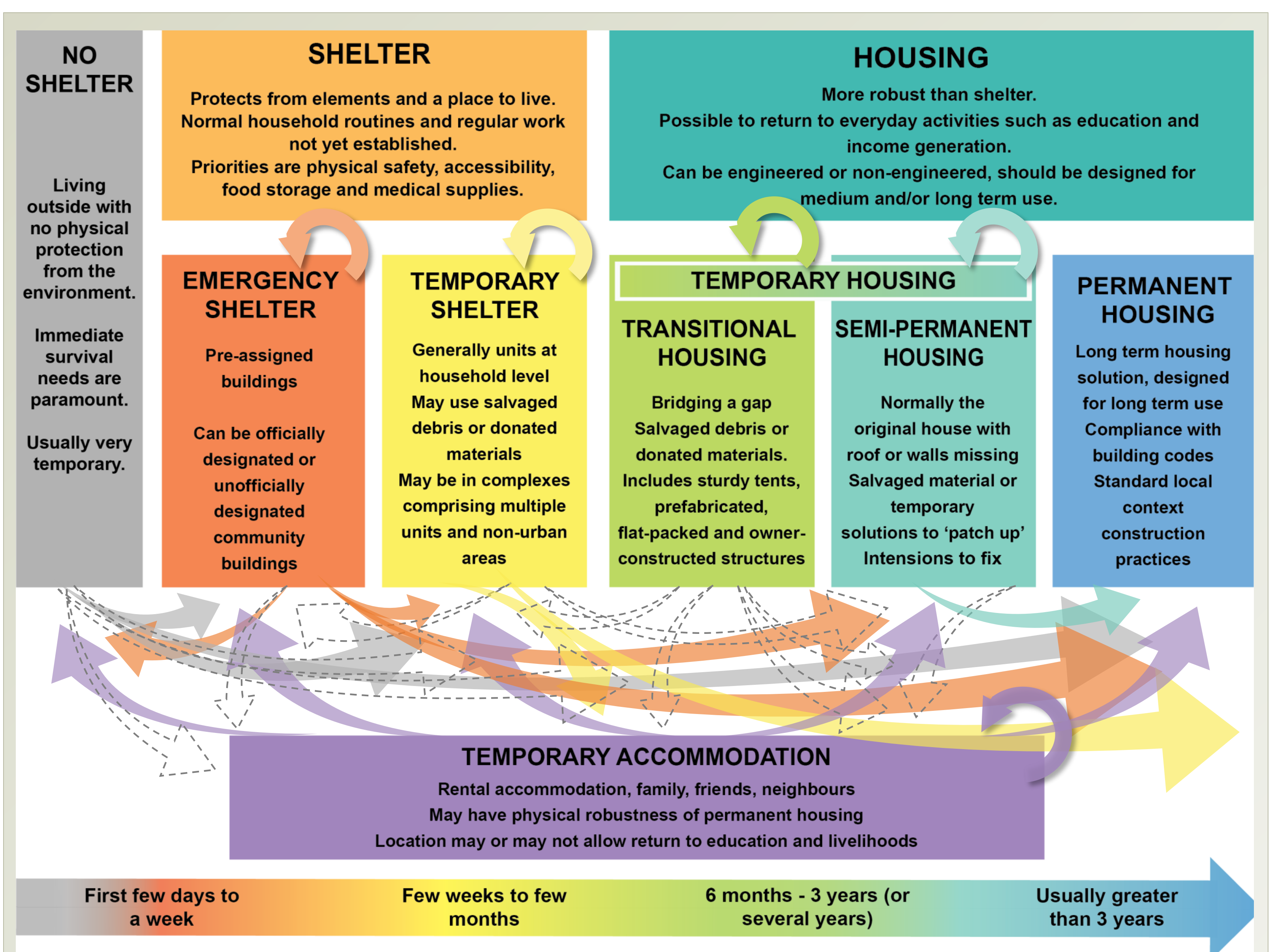


Figure 2: Adapted journey through post-disaster shelter and housing building on the earlier works of Quarantelli, 1982, 1995, Davis and Alexander, 2015, Contreas, 2016, Wagemann, 2017, Sutley and Hamideh, 2020. Coloured arrows show paths identified within this study; grey dotted arrows show paths not seen within this study, but possible movement that could be observed in other case study locations (Yore & Faure Walker, submitted).