

SHELTER 24 FAMILIES BUKOBA, MISENYI, SENEREMA & KONGWA.

INT-0000036390

Intervention Description

The intervention supports 24 families of registered children from 8 FCPs of Misenyi, Bukoba, Sengerema and Kongwa by improving their living conditions through better shelter. It involves constructing new houses to enhance the quality of their dwellings.

General Objective

To enhance the living conditions and well-being of the families by providing improved shelter and creating a safe and conducive housing environment.

Specific Objectives

- To provide 24 families with safe and improved housing by September 30, 2024.
- To raise awareness about sustainable housing practices among 24 families by September 30, 2024.

Problem Statement

The problem of poor shelter among poor families in Kongwa in Dodoma, Sengerema in Mwanza, Bukoba and Misenyi in Kagera has significant social, economic, and health implications to 24 registered children. The problem is noticed by eight (8) Church Partners from Kongwa, Misenyi, Bukoba and Sengerema clusters during program cycle adoption where 24 families of registered children were identified as most affected. Several factors have contributed to the prevalence of poor shelter in these areas.

Limited financial resources in these families have forced them to construct unstable houses. Most of the families in these regions face financial constraints, making it difficult for them to invest in proper housing. Poverty restricts their ability to construct or maintain adequate shelter, leaving them with substandard housing conditions.

Limited housing options is a significant factor affecting availability of better housing in these areas. Inadequate availability of affordable housing options forces families to live in substandard structures. They are compelled to reside in overcrowded houses, provisional shelters or poorly constructed dwellings, which lack durability and fail to provide adequate protection from the elements.

Natural disasters weakens houses in these regions. The regions are prone to disasters. Sengerema, Bukoba, and Misenyi are prone to natural disasters like floods and earthquakes. Between 2015 to 2022 disasters caused by hails and earthquakes were experienced in Bukoba and Misenyi and caused severe damage to house and left some of the houses weak. So, leaving these houses in that condition without replacing them with better housing is risk to the future of the families.

The effects of poor shelter on the well-being of families are far-reaching. Children, parents and the entire family members suffer multiple challenges associated with poor shelter.

Poorly constructed or maintained houses often lack proper ventilation, insulation, and sanitation facilities. This lead to increased risk of respiratory illnesses, infectious diseases, and poor overall health among family members. The health of a child and his or her family is the priority area for Compassion ministry that is why leaving children exposed to health defect, is not something to overlook.

Substandard shelters are more vulnerable to collapsing or being damaged during natural disasters or adverse weather conditions. This puts families at a higher risk of injuries and even loss of life. Living in substandard

housing conditions also impact the mental and emotional well-being of children and caregivers. Stress, anxiety, and feelings of insecurity arising from unstable or uncomfortable living conditions have long-term effects on their psychological health and development.

Poor shelter conditions can hinder children's education. Inadequate housing often lack suitable study spaces, quiet environments, or access to necessary resources, making it difficult for children to focus on their studies and hindering their educational progress.

Background Information

Bukoba, being a major urban center, serves as a hub for trade and commerce activities. The town attracts traders from neighboring regions and countries like Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda, fostering economic growth and business opportunities. Despite the available trade and commercial opportunity in the area but poor people do not have access to. They are excluded from formal business sector which in indeed led to limited income and, subsequently, poor shelter conditions. The informal economy, which includes small-scale and unregulated businesses, often employs a significant portion of the poor population. While this sector provides some income, it tends to be less stable, with lower wages and fewer opportunities for growth and development.

The general housing landscape in Kagera and Mwanza regions varies, with a mix of different housing conditions and construction materials. The characteristics of the houses in these areas increases vulnerability and long-term threat to the families' well-being.

The condition of houses in Sengerema, Bukoba and Misenyi is significantly poor. In some areas, families live in well-maintained houses constructed with more durable materials such as bricks, concrete, or timber. However, many families, especially from poor families face challenges with poor maintenance, leading to deteriorating housing conditions. Factors such as limited financial resources and the lack of access to building materials contribute to the prevalence of substandard housing in these areas.

The nature of housing in these regions ranges from traditional mud and thatch houses to more modern structures made of bricks or concrete. Traditional houses are more common in rural areas, while urban centers like Bukoba have a mix of traditional and modern housing. Traditional houses often use locally available materials like mud, thatch, and sticks. Modern houses utilize bricks, concrete blocks, corrugated iron sheets, and timber. However, the choice of construction materials can be influenced by affordability and availability, leading to variations in the quality and durability of houses.

The vulnerability of shelters in Kongwa district, Kagera and Mwanza regions is influenced by natural disasters because the regions are prone to natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, which causes significant damage to house and infrastructure. Poorly constructed houses are particularly vulnerable to such events, leading to displacement and loss of shelter. Changing weather patterns and increased intensity of rainfall events exacerbate the vulnerability of shelters. Inadequate housing materials and poor construction techniques that do not withstand the effects of climate change, leading to increased risks and damage.

Providing housing assistance for poor families in these areas is crucial. Adequate housing is essential for the overall well-being of individuals and families. Better housing conditions can lead to improved health, safety, and overall quality of life. It is also critical for resilience to disasters. Properly constructed houses are more resilient to natural disasters, reducing the risks of displacement and loss of shelter during such events.

Promoting Economic Stability: Stable housing can provide a foundation for economic stability. When families have secure shelter, they can invest more in education and skills development, ultimately increasing their employability and income potential. Housing assistance reduces the vulnerability of families to economic shocks and natural disasters. Improved housing conditions contribute to the overall development of communities, fostering a sense of pride, unity, and social progress.

Intervention Solutions

The proposed intervention solution for improving shelter involves the construction of new houses for 24 families, to be implemented by 8 Church Partners from Kongwa, Misenyi, Bukoba and Sengerema. The key elements of the implementation plan are as follows:

- **Construction of new houses:** The intervention will involve construction of new houses for each of the 24 families. The proposed house size includes three bedrooms and one sitting room, designed to accommodate parents in their own room and children in separate rooms based on their gender.
- **Collaboration with families:** Families will actively participate in the implementation process. They will donate available materials from their localities, provide labor, and make financial contributions according to their capacity. This approach fosters community involvement and ensures the project reflects the needs and resources of each family.
- **Church project supervision:** The church will play a crucial role in overseeing the project. The Pastor and church elders will provide general oversight, ensuring that the construction adheres to established guidelines and quality standards. The child development centre committee will provide immediate supervision, monitoring the progress and addressing any issues that arise. The Project Director will have day-to-day supervision, ensuring smooth implementation and coordination of activities.
- **Compassion Monitoring and evaluation of the project:** Field-based Partnership facilitators from Compassion will conduct frequent monitoring visits to assess the progress of the project. They will work closely with the program support specialist responsible for complementary interventions, ensuring that the project aligns with the overall objectives and goals of Compassion ministry.