

Rubble Removal in Shelter Operations

Operations

Debris/Rubble Removal

Debris/rubble removal interventions aim to clear debris and rubble from affected areas to facilitate shelter construction, access to basic services, reduce the risk of collapsing buildings and generally reduce health and safety hazards. They also aim to restore access and movement within affected areas, and can have additional goals of supporting the recreation of livelihoods. Debris/rubble removal is often the first step towards recovery from a crisis.

Debris/rubble removal activities often includes:

- Engagement of technical specialists (demolition experts) for the removal of large debris.
- Mobilization of local communities to carry out small-scale removal efforts through cash or food-for-work programmes.
- Establishment of disposal areas.
- Careful prioritization and development of strategies for rubble removal.
- National and local government engagement.

If demolishing of existing buildings is involved, approval must be obtained from an owner of the property prior to demolishing. A safe dumping site for debris/rubble needs to be identified with local authorities before the actual debris/rubble removal starts.

Particular care is required:

- In conflict areas where there may be unexploded ordinance or Improvised Explosive Devices.
- Where there may be bodies which may require special processes to ensure that correct identification procedures are followed.
- Dealing with precarious structures.
- Where there may be contamination – such as from chemical spills or Asbestos.

While debris/rubble removal interventions are closely linked to shelter interventions, they are usually coordinated through the Early Recovery Cluster (see the Global Cluster for Early Recovery Website for more information). Close engagement with the Early Recovery Cluster at the country level is essential for these types of programmes. Technical support in the development and implementation of debris/rubble removal interventions is provided by the [Transition and Recovery Division](#), but can be essential for effective implementation of shelter and other transition and recovery projects. Where cash for work is being conducted, support may be required from LEG and HR teams at country level in relation to the safety and employment legislation.

Links

- [IOM Shelter Website](#)
- [Global Cluster for Early Recovery Website](#)
- [Disaster Waste Recovery NGO](#)

Other Entries in this Topic

- [Shelter and NFI Coordination](#)
- [Shelter and NFI Operations](#)
- [Housing, Land and Property in Shelter Operations](#)
- [Shelter and NFI Staffing](#)
- [Water, Sanitation and Hygiene \(WASH\)](#)

- [Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms in Shelter Operations](#)

Contacts

For more information, please contact the Shelter and Settlements Unit in Geneva: ShelterSupport@iom.int.

Please also find the contact information to the IOM Shelter Reference Group: ShelterReferenceGroup@iom.int.

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