# **Introduction**

It is useful to reflect on the capacity of the National Society (NS) to deliver rental assistance more broadly than assessing capacity to deliver rental payments as explored SoP 1.5 CVA Feasibility Assessment.

The following has been written using some of the information from [IFRC (2020) Step-by-step guide for rental assistance to people affected by crisis](https://cash-hub.org/resource/step-by-step-guide-for-rental-assistance-to-people-affected-by-crisis/) Step 0 Preparedness, Table 6: Checklist for Preparedness for rental housing assistance programming. It can be used when investigating NS capacity for delivery of rental assistance programming, which may contribute to go/no-go decision and programme design.

# **Key Considerations**

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| **Area** | **Consideration** |
| Leadership Commitment | **NS leadership and senior management** has been briefed on rental assistance programming and agrees that, in principle, rental assistance programming is a response option to be considered in future operations.  **NS development plans** – what does the National Society want to do in the future? What is their intention in response (what sectors or thematic areas are important?) |
| Organisational Structure | **NS has appointed a rental assistance focal point** – for some NS this could be an operations manager, or the responsible person for shelter, cash and voucher assistance (CVA), social inclusion or migration for example. |
| Branch staff and volunteer capacity | **Branches** may have willingness and capacity (with further training and technical assistance, support with systems etc.) to support rental assistance programming? |
| NS Services and Functions | **What services does the NS offer or have experience in** that could support the delivery of components of rental assistance programming. Consider:   * Information e.g. does the NS run Humanitarian Service Points, have a strong social media presence that connects with the target population, have a website that can host a page specifically on rental assistance information? * Housing adequacy checks e.g. could the NS or a partner undertake visits to potential rental accommodation to undertake housing adequacy checks? * Security of tenure e.g. could the NS access tenancy advice to share with the target population, do they have staff or volunteer with skills who could do basic checks of agreements if guidance was given, could staff or volunteers support tenants and property owners to understand their roles and responsibilities under the tenancy if this was required? * Integration support, exit strategy support, complementary programming. e.g. Does the NS undertake social work related services where staff and volunteers could be trained to support households? What programmes does the NS currently or plan to deliver that could also assist the target population. Does the NS have staff who work on protection services? * Technical Advice e.g. Does the NS have experience or staff and volunteers who could undertake visits to households to help them to understand how to reduce utility bills or access support from government systems? Note this could relate to capacity to undertake social work. * Payments e.g. has the NS been involved in delivering regular multi-purpose cash payments or paying a large number of service providers? * Advocacy e.g. does the NS have experience of advocacy or is well placed to support government discussion related to housing? |
| Partnerships and Coordination | **Does the NS have relevant partnerships** or experience of forming these with organisations that could support in the delivery of rental assistance programming? Potential partnerships could be considered specifically in relation to the components of rental assistance that could be part of the programme.  **Does the NS engage in relevant coordination forums?** Especially those related to housing the displaced population. |
| Process, Systems and Tools | Does the NS have **information management system** **capacity**?  Does the NS have Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (**PMER**) **capacity**?  Is there **community engagement and accountability** dedicated staff available to support the programme, and are there existing **feedback and complaints** **processes** in place? |
| Acceptance | **Does the NS have acceptance** amongst the host community and the target (tenant) community in the likely programme areas? |