

Evaluation of temporary shelter in response to the 2023 Morocco earthquake

Understanding how shelter contribute to the wellbeing of affected families



Internal evaluation
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Executive Summary

On 8 September 2023, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck at the heart of the Atlas mountains in Morocco. It caused profound and widespread damages to many populations and settlements in the mountains and was felt in places and cities at large distance from epicentre. The toll was high: 3,000 people died and more than 6,000 were injured. Destruction to infrastructure, buildings, houses, schools and roads meant that people's lives were turned upside down.

Immediately after the earthquake, the Moroccan Red Crescent (MRC) deployed 300 volunteers to support in rescue work. This was supported by International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC). During the first months following the destructions, response primarily focused on providing integrated emergency assistance across three of the most affected provinces - El-Haouz/Marrakesh, Taroudant, and Chichaoua. As the first response moved into a early recovery programme phase, thanks to funds from IFRC emergency appeal, Better Shelter was able to support MRC and IFRC in the recovery efforts.

Between 2024 and 2025, close to 1500 transitional housing units were installed, thanks to which 31 873 individuals benefitted directly, and 61 244 indirectly. (TSU:s) were erected and implemented across four affected provinces (Chichaoua, Taroudant, El-Haouz/ Marrakesh and Azilal). 873 TSU:s for households were put up as homes – households, directly benefiting 3104 individuals. 490 TSU:s were erected for classrooms and accommodation for teachers, 10 TSU:s as health centres.

As the response has come to an end, Better Shelter decided to do an end-of-project evaluation of the wellbeing outcomes of the shelter support for the displaced communities. The objective of the evaluation was to understand what outcomes in terms safety, dignity, health and psychosocial wellbeing the TSU:s had contributed to. It was an internal evaluation, undertaken by Better Shelters own impact staff, and it was conducted in April 2026. It was done in two of the four provinces where shelter support had been provided, using a cluster sampling approach. 58 household interviews were conducted, along with interviews with seven teachers and Department of Education staff.

The findings from the evaluation paint a strongly coherent picture of how the displaced populations had fared in the shelters. Many experiences and themes expressed by the interviewed people were shared by all households, whether positive or negative.

The TSU:s have had a significantly positive impact on the wellbeing of the families who lived in them. All households consulted experienced mental relief and how their sense of dignity has been restored. Many noted that they have regained a sense of hope. All household consulted reported better sleep, calmness, and reduced psychological stress. Sleep quality was mentioned in every interview; psychological recovery is considered to be strongly connected to shelter stability and security.

The TSU:s have enabled livelihood recovery or daily functioning across all household consulted in the evaluation. The lockable door has played crucial role in livelihood recovery: once in the TSU:s, adults were able to leave for work, travel, collect firewood, or visit family. People could leave home without fear.

Consequently, design features of the shelters can be directly attributable to the wellbeing outcomes. This includes the lockable door of the TSU/RHU, as well as the firm structure which withstand strong winds and aftershocks. A knock-on effect and benefit from the TSU is that it did not require any repairs. Families were able to save significant amounts of money, that they previously had to spend getting replacement materials and plastics for provisional shelter solutions. Feeling less economic stress is also key to the wellbeing of families, and contributes to reduced stress.

All households with children noted improved safety and most of them better overall health. Children

slept better and were calmer. Parents noted that they could let the children play inside, which before they were scared to do due to insects, snakes and scorpions enter previous shelters that could not be sealed or locked properly.

Lessons learned from the evaluation is that, in the case of the Morocco response, the lockable door of the TSU/RHU was the most impactful single design element. It enabled resuming work and livelihood activities, improved sleep, freedom of movement, and psychological stability. Another lesson is that TSU:s strongly improved physical health due to waterproofing and stability.

Thermal comfort was the main limitation — and insulation solved it. 35 percent of the households interviewed in the evaluation had got their shelters upgraded with rockwool insulation. Insulated TSUs delivered a superior living experience, and insulation turned the TSU into a place people love living in.

TSU:s for education purposes has ensured continuity of education, but sustainable teaching and learning are challenged by the high temperature inside during school hours. This indicates that a priority for Better Shelter should be to recommend or develop simple measures in TSU:s that are aimed for education or child-friendly spaces.

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1. Introduction

Better Shelter is a non-profit organisation that develops and provides safe, dignified shelters for people displaced by war, disasters, and other humanitarian crises. The goal is to provide safer, more dignified living conditions for refugees and internally displaced people while they wait for permanent housing. The shelters can be upgraded or upcycled according to local needs and local traditions.

In 2023 a 6.8 devastating earthquake in the Atlas Mountains in Morocco destroyed many settlements and caused extensive damages in the mountains and beyond. As part of the humanitarian response to the earthquake, Better Shelter supported Moroccan Red Crescent (MRC) and International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) with shelters for people who lost their homes in the earthquake. Over 2024 and 2025, the partnership with IFRC and MRC evolved and just under 1,500 shelters were deployed.

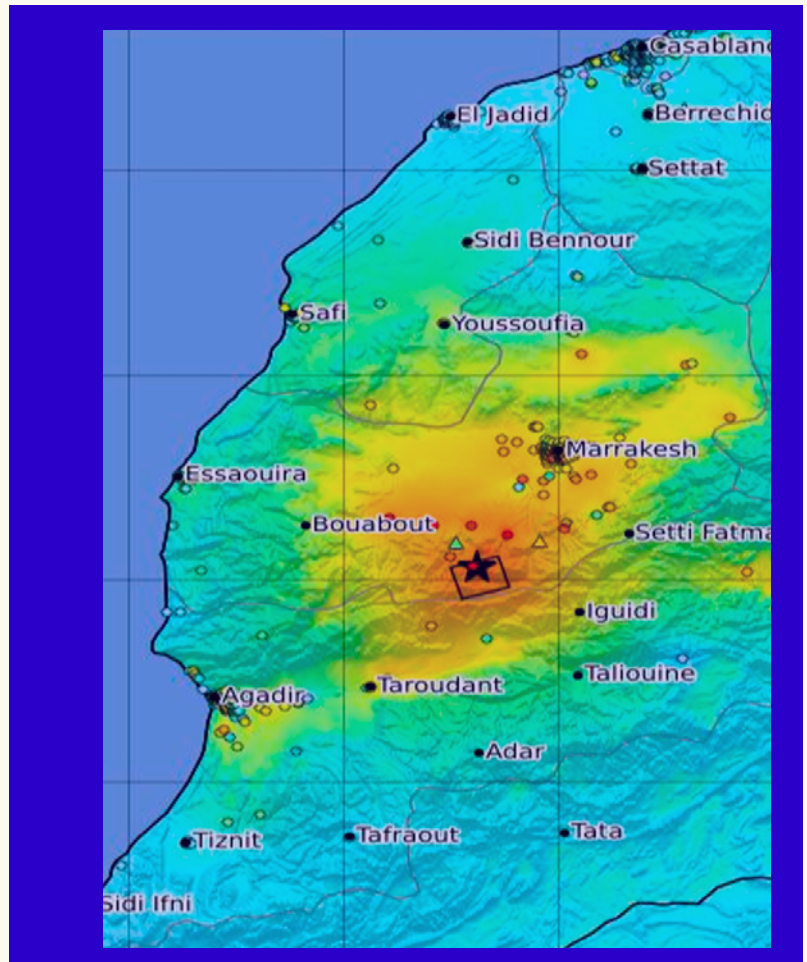
As the shelter earthquake response was coming to a close, an end of project evaluation was conducted. The evaluation is in line with Better Shelter's ambition to be a learning organisation, that continually reflects and improves what it does based on evaluating wellbeing outcomes for people who get to live in and use our shelters.

The focus of the evaluation was to understand what outcomes in terms of safety, dignity and wellbeing the transitional shelter units (TSU:s) had contributed for displaced communities. The evaluation was conducted in April 2026 and focused on two of the four regions where the earthquake response was channeled to.

This report presents the findings and conclusions from the evaluation. It has the following structure:

- Chapter 2 explains the context of the earthquake and the response
- Chapter 3 sets out the methodology and approach of the evaluation
- In chapter 4 findings from the data collected is presented
- Analysis and lessons learnt are presented in chapter 5
- In chapter 6, final conclusions are drawn

2. Background



2.1 The earthquake

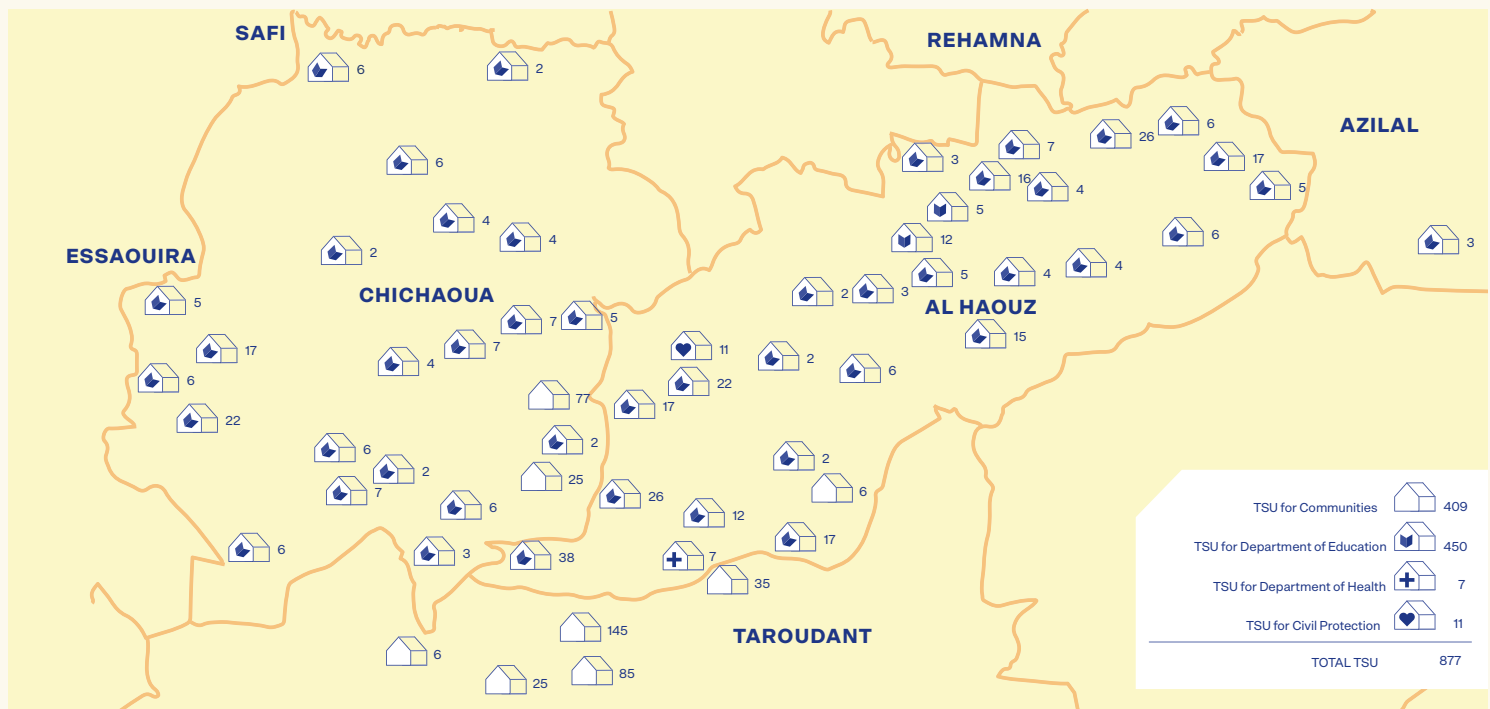
A 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck near the town of Oukaïmedene in western Morocco on September 8, 2023. Around 3,000 people were killed and more than 6,000 injured in temblor and aftershocks. The earthquake devastated several remote settlements in the Atlas Mountains. It was felt as far away as in Casablanca, in Portugal and Algeria.

The earthquake caused extensive damage to buildings and critical infrastructure throughout the provinces of El Haouz/Marrakesh, Chichaoua and Taroudant as well as Ouarzazate and Azilal. 60,000 houses were destroyed or damaged in urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Schools, health facilities and other public amenities also suffered severe damage. The disaster resulted in an urgent need for shelter and household essential support.

2.2 The response

MRC immediately deployed volunteers to the affected areas in the first days following the earthquake. It then worked closely with IFRC and its partners to respond to the needs of the people affected. 300 volunteers transported injured to medical facilities and distributed non-food items and tents. It also provided psychosocial first aid to affected communities and their volunteers.

During the first year after the earthquake, MRC's response primarily focused on providing integrated emergency assistance across three of the most affected provinces - El-Haouz/Marrakesh, Taroudant, and Chichaoua. The main objectives were to improve the safety of the shelter sites and provide essential health and hygiene items, safe water, and secure sanitation facilities for the affected population.



From the end of summer 2024, the focus evolved towards integrating early recovery programming and addressing longer-term needs. This included improving the shelter situation for the still displaced communities. Deployment of shelters from Better Shelter, in Morocco called Transitional Shelter Units (TSU:s) and that had begun in earlier in 2024, was scaled in the three targeted provinces.

Initially, the TSUs were aimed solely for households in the affected communities. However, authorities asked for other uses of the shelters as well: as temporary classrooms to support the Ministry of Education with the start of the school year in September 2024, as well as to support the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Department of Civil Protection.

Between 2024 and 2025, close to 1500 TSU:s were erected and implemented across four affected provinces (Chichaoua, Taroudant, El-Haouz/

Marrakesh and Azilal). Broken down by the purpose and use, the reach has been:

- 873 TSU:s for households (directly benefiting 3104 individuals)
- 490 TSU:s for classrooms and accommodation for teachers (directly benefiting 7216 individuals)
- 10 TSU:s as health centers (benefitting 3460 households, 13 840 individuals)
- 31 873 individuals benefitted directly, and 61 244 indirectly

Over time, some of the TSU:s were upgraded with insulation. This was to help with temperature regulation, both during cold and hot seasons.

3. Methodology and approach

3.1 Evaluation purpose, objective and key questions

The *purpose* of the evaluation was to learn from how the shelter support contributed to the wellbeing of displaced communities following the 2023 earthquake. By identifying strengths and areas needing enhancement, improvements to how shelters are design for different needs can be made, as well as how to shape the response most effectively in different contexts.

The *specific objective* of the evaluation was to understand what outcomes in terms safety, dignity, health and psychosocial wellbeing the TSU:s had contributed to and how that had influenced other secondary benefits and outcomes.

When designing an evaluation, criteria are used as a framework for judging the merit or value of an intervention or programme. Assessments are then made against those criteria. For this evaluation, the main criteria are *relevance* and *effectiveness*. These were chosen because the evaluation uses an open-ended harvesting approach to understand how shelters may have contributed to people's wellbeing. In practice, this meant assessing whether the shelters were useful for their intended purpose (relevance) and, if so, what results (effects) they had for the people living in and using them. Because shelters help enable other needs and rights to be fulfilled, there is no fixed logic or precise expected outcome against which criteria such as efficiency can be applied.

The following key questions guided the evaluation:

1. What have the TSU:s meant for the wellbeing of families and individuals?
2. What have the TSU:s contributed to in terms of families' and individuals' physical and psychosocial health?
3. How have the TSU:s contributed to the ability to engage in livelihood activities?
4. How have the TSU: contributed to children's wellbeing and development?
5. How do the TSU: compare to other types of temporary accommodation and shelters experienced by the communities?

3.2 Evaluation design

Principles

Evaluation principles are the foundational beliefs or norms that guide how an evaluation should be conducted. The principles that have underpinned this evaluation are overlapping and interdependent:

- *Exploratory, open-ended and harvesting.* The changes experienced by the communities are not pre-determined by a Theory of Change or a set logic. The TSU:s provide a foundation for other needs to be met and basic rights to be fulfilled. An open-ended harvesting approach to understanding the different outcomes for different individuals, depending on their individual needs, has therefore been applied.
- *Participation and inclusion.* All available individuals in selected communities were invited to participate in the data collection. The participatory approach meant that the

community members themselves shaped the interviews, depending on their individual experiences, and the changes they considered were most significant to them. The open-ended harvesting approach facilitated participation and inclusion of different perspectives.

- *Human rights-based and gender sensitive approach.* Tightly linked to participation and inclusion, a rights-based approach takes into consideration the participation of rights holders to contribute in a meaningful way and be able to influence the outcomes of a project. Women, girls and vulnerable groups are informants of their own well-being, as opposed to other people/adults speaking on their behalf, and their empowerment is crucial for the success of the project. Steps were taken to ensure that women were able to convey their voices and perspectives in the manner and format that was most relevant to them. This meant being aware of power dynamics and differences in culture, local customs, religious belief and practices.

Data collection methods

The main data collection method for this evaluation were key informant interviews. Interviews with households, teachers, Department of Education representative, as well as MRC/IFRC staff were included.

In addition to the focus on interviews, ad hoc observations and TSU walk-throughs were done.

Sampling

With a large overall target group reached from the shelter intervention (close to 1500 TSU:s), cluster sampling was the main sampling strategy used to

determine a representative sample size. This approach meant that clusters of villages close to one another in each of the provinces selected for the study were consulted. The intention was to include all families within the cluster/village to be interviewed. In practice, in some villages families had already left their TSU:s to go back to their home villages, or moved into a newly constructed house, or conversely in some villages the target group was too large and due to time constraints not everybody could be consulted and interviewed.

The following villages and sample sizes were covered in the data collection:

El Haouz

- 10 villages at the heart of the Atlas Mountains were visited
- 22 households were interviewed
- 7 teachers (TSU:s for education purposes)
- Uninsulated (normal) TSUs

Taroudant

- 5 villages
- 36 households
- Largely insulated TSUs

3.3 Scope and limitations

The actual number of households interviewed were slightly less than planned. This was due two reasons: 1) more people had moved on from their TSU than what was known at the planning stage; 2) road conditions, including large amounts of road works in the mountains meant that significant amount of time was spent getting around, to and from places and remote villages near the epicenter of the earthquake. Notwithstanding this smaller

sample, the assessment is that the sample is representative as data saturation occurred early in the data collection process: there were strong convergence in opinions expressed, with many answers concurred to by all households, or a significant majority.

Only a few teachers (7) were interviewed. Some planned interviews did in the end not happen as the teachers had recently left to go to another teaching station, or the TSU in mind for classroom purposes had recently been dismantled. Yet, those interviewed shared similar views. It is therefore plausible that a larger interview sample would have ended up showing similar themes and answers, but this is of course not certain.

The people interviewed came from very dire shelter situations prior to moving into the TSU:s. This meant that they had a dismal baseline and strongly appreciated the TSU:s and how this shelter

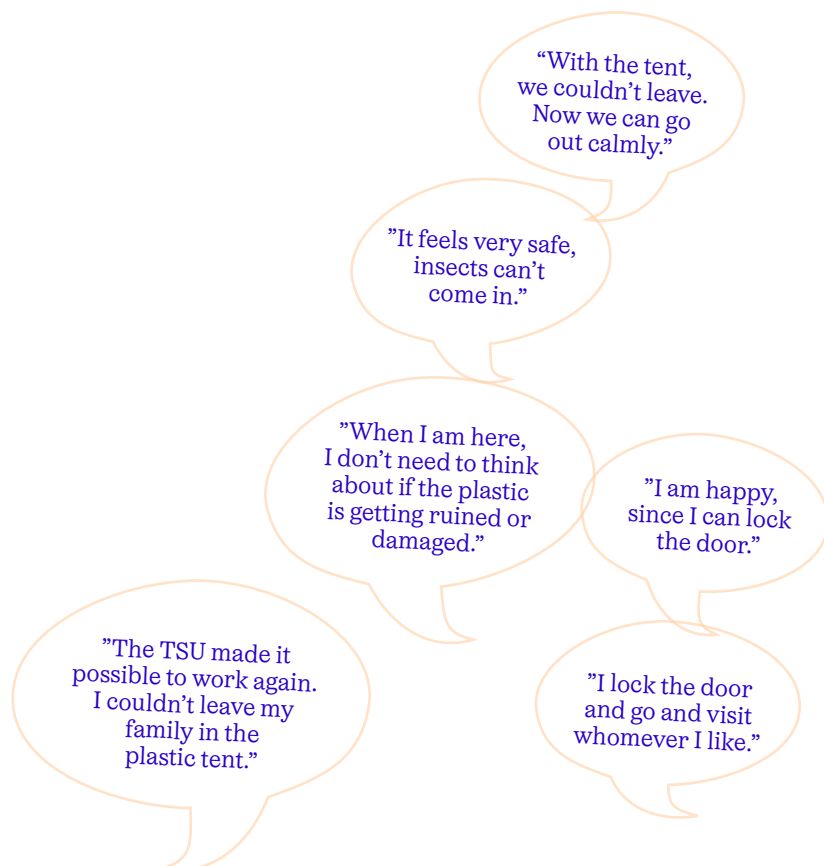
solution had changed their lives. This dire living situation prior to moving into the TSU:s affects the robustness of the findings to some extent. At the same time, at the time of the evaluation people had lived in the TSU:s for 1–1,5 years on average. They were now used to this improved standard and were, as human psychology has it, looking ahead to something better and had over time become more critical to aspects of the TSU.

The evaluation was an internal evaluation, meaning it was carried out by Better Shelter's own impact staff. While an external evaluation brings more independence and therefore more credibility, and internal evaluation is more sensitive to programmatic context as well as it can be more efficient due to built up in-field relationships. The lessons drawn and recommendations put forward can also be more implementable and fit-for-purpose.

4. Findings

In this section, the findings from the full data collection is presented. It is structured in the following way:

- Themes and points expressed by all households
- Themes expressed by a majority of households
- Themes critical for wellbeing
- Differences between insulated and non-insulated shelters
- TSU:s for education purposes



4.1 Points expressed by all households

The transformative effect of a lockable door
Every household, insulated or not, emphasises the door as the single most life changing element. The door had meant the following for all interviewed individuals:

- It restored a sense of safety
- It meant freedom to leave home – to work, to visit family, collect firewood, go to the market etc.
- People slept better, without fear
- Protecting of belongings from theft, from animals and insects entering the living space

Across the dataset, the lockable door is the single biggest factor that restores safety, dignity, freedom of movement, and livelihood. is universally mentioned as life changing. Some representatives quotes are above.

Waterproofing & wind resistance

All 58 households interviewed describe the TSUs as:

- fully waterproof
- stable in storms
- stable in aftershocks
- vastly superior to previous tents

Individuals consulted repeatedly compared TSUs to earlier tents that collapsed or leaked. The stability aspect is closely linked to improved sleep and reduced fear.

People were quoted saying

"even if it rains, it doesn't come in";

"even if there are aftershocks, I feel safe";

"with strong wind or aftershocks, we just sleep, nothing happens"

and *"It is like a house!"*



Psychological improvements

All households mentioned mental relief or restored wellbeing, upon moving into the TSU:s. Every household interviewed reported...

- better sleep
- reduced fear
- reduced stress
- ability to "think ahead" again
- renewed energy

Many people use phrases like

*"I feel at home"; "Life changed";
"It is magnificent"; and "I feel 100 percent safe".*

Other representative quotes were voiced:

"I sleep like a dead person in the TSU."

*"Before, we were afraid the tent would fall.
Now we sleep peacefully."*

"I felt stressed in the old tent. Now I feel at ease."

"Even during aftershocks, we slept through it."

Major improvement in children's safety and health

Improved indoor environment (dryness, cleanliness, safety) makes a major difference for the health and wellbeing of children. All households with children noted improved safety, and 80 percent noted better health. Universal observations included the following:

- safer sleeping conditions
- fewer insect bites
- fewer allergies
- children can now play inside
- calmer behavior

Parents explained that due to the TSU being enclosed, with sealed roof, windows and the door, the dry and enclosed space inside meant that the children had less insect bites. In previous shelters, the insects came in, including scorpions in some parts of the mountains. The plastic used both in own improvised shelter solutions as well as in other tents provided made the children sick and many developed allergies.



Because of the better sealed shelter, in combination with its robustness in harsh weather conditions, meant that children slept better and as a result were more harmonious and calmer.

Ability to work and manage daily life again

All households interviewed concluded that the TSU:s have enabled livelihood recovery and daily functioning. More precisely, the TSU:s...

- allowed resumption of agricultural work, teaching, or self employment
- enabled leaving children safely
- required no repair costs, thus allowing saving money for a new house

Because families could safely lock the TSU, adults could work, travel, collect firewood, or visit family. Families were expressing that before they could not go out, now they were able to work again; and now they can go to the market, or travel for several days and leave the TSU safely locked, without any worries or stress.

Most households emphasised the constant repair costs in old tents, versus the zero repair costs in TSUs. The means a critical financial relief: 85-90 percent mentioned saving money, as a result.

Cost savings were substantial and immediate once families replaced plastic tents with TSUs. This is one significant knock-on effect and realised benefit from living in the TSU:s.

4.2 Themes expressed by a majority of households

The themes in this section were expressed by 60-95 percent of all households.

Too hot in summer

A dominant issue was that with the non insulated TSU:s, there were nearly universal heat complaints. This while the insulated TSU:s had significantly reduced heat (in some cases “totally solved”).

The evaluation found that this is the strongest design linked negative theme.

Cold in winter

As a minority issues, and mainly related to non-insulated TSU:s, cold in winter was mentioned. Of the non insulated TSU:s, approximately 30 percent note cold. Of the insulated, less than 5 percent mention cold.

Theme / Feature	All Households	Non-Insulated	Insulated
Safety & Protection			
Lockable door = safety	100%	100%	100%
Waterproof	98%	98%	100%
Comfort and Wellbeing			
Better sleep	100%	100%	100%
Mental health improved	100%	100%	100%
Children healthier	80%	75%	90%
Ability to work again	100%	100%	100%
Thermal Performance			
Too hot in summer	75–80%	95%	15–20%
Cold in winter	10–15%	30%	<5%
Economic Benefits			
Financial savings (no repairs)	85–90%	85–90%	85–90%
Remaining Gaps / Requests			
Space insufficient (large families)	40–50%	40–50%	40–50%
Desire for toilet	~15%	15%	15%
Desire for bigger windows	~20%	20%	<5%

70 percent of the households highlighted dignity and social participation. Many of the households mention that they can now receive guests with pride and that they can host family events. One family expressed that they felt “like people in normal houses”. One family hosted a wedding in their TSU!

The theme is especially strong in insulated TSUs, but present across all households.

4.3 Themes critical for wellbeing

A few themes have a particularly strong connection to design, and how design influence wellbeing. They are presented in this section.

The lockable door

The lockable door is a top determinant of wellbeing in the case of the Morocco earthquake response. It represents the single most important design element for wellbeing in this case. The lockable door enables:

- psychological safety
- leaving for work
- better sleep
- children staying inside safely
- restored autonomy and dignity

Weatherproof structure

The weatherproof structure – with the roof, the frame and the waterproof panels – had a direct link to:

- reduced illness
- reduced insect exposure
- protection against storms
- mental peace during aftershocks
- ability to sleep in bad weather

Thermal comfort

For the non insulated TSUs, thermal comfort has been a key issue and impacts on level of wellbeing:

- unusable during daytime
- strong heat stress
- headaches, fatigue

In the non-insulated TSU, 95 percent complained about the heat. Some people put blankets in the roof to reduce the heat effect. Some said they sat outside during the hot summer days. And some said it was hot in the TSU, but that it was even hotter in the previous plastic tent.

For insulated TSUs, the impact on wellbeing was overall very positive in terms of thermal comfort. People expressed that the insulated TSU felt like a



home, that the insulation changed everything and that life became significantly easier with the insulation.

Of the household interviewed, 35 percent were insulated TSU:s and 65 percent were uninsulated.

4.4 TSUs for education purposes

Over the course of the earthquake response, 490 TSU:s were deployed for education purposes – for classrooms or for accommodation for teachers. This benefitted directly 7216 individuals.

By the time this evaluation took place, many TSU:s for schools had been taken down and classes had resumed in reconstructed or newly built premises. There was limited access to teachers who did still teach in TSU:s. Seven teachers were consulted during the evaluation, as well as the Director of Education at El-Haouz provincial government.

The Director of Education noted that the resumption of schooling took place within 1 to 2 weeks after the earthquake, using temporary spaces (mosques, community halls, tents). After this, the deployment of TSU:s started at the end of 2023 and beginning of 2024. The Director considered that the TSU:s had deblocked a problem: it helped save time and safeguarded access and the right to education. It was used for all educational levels: from preschool, to primary, secondary, and

college. The solution was considered highly effective in an emergency considering time and space, and secured school time for children so soon after the disaster.

In terms of overall robustness, anchoring was generally considered good. A few instances of units being blown over (~6 units) during an episode of exceptional wind (~100 km/h), considered isolated cases in relation to the total number of units. All of the teachers interviewed noted that the TSU:s stood very firm against the weather elements – wind, rain and snow, aftershocks – and that they and the children felt very safe in them.

All teachers noted, however, that the TSU:s were too hot to teach in in the middle of the day during the warm months. This impacted on the children's ability to concentrate.

Teachers confirmed the TSU:s had secured continuity of education for the children.

Often, an additional structure was connected to the TSU, either to make more classroom space or as a back-up. Sometimes the extra space had become the space that was primary one, given the heat in the TSU during spring and summer days.

5. Analysis and lessons learnt

5.1 Analysis of findings

The data collected during the evaluation paint a very consistent picture. Several themes appear in 100 percent, or close to 100 percent, of all household interviews. Some themes have a clear split between insulated versus non-insulated shelters. What are the reasons for this strong convergence of themes?

Design elements play a key role in the strongest emerging themes. To begin with, the lockable door of the TSU:s was the single biggest factor restoring safety, dignity, freedom of movement, and livelihood.

Furthermore, the TSU:s were experienced as very stable by all individuals consulted: they withstood strong winds and were stable in aftershocks. The stability of the structure was found to be closely linked to improved sleep and reduced fear:

people who have experienced earthquakes are naturally highly sensitive to any movements and can suffer from post-traumatic stress syndromes. The value of staying in a well-anchored light weight structure is high for peace of mind and better sleep.

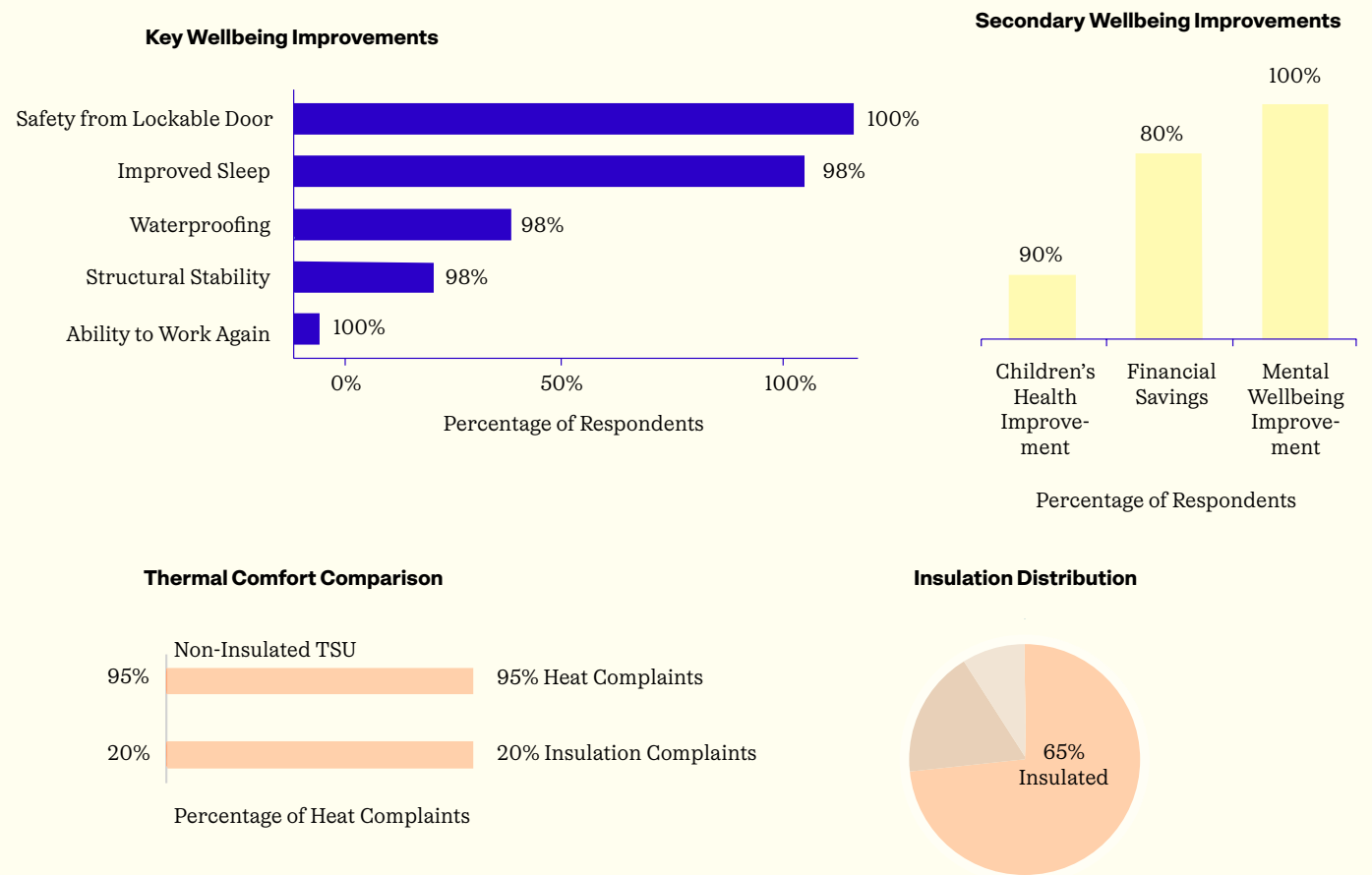
All households consulted reported better sleep, calmness, and reduced psychological stress. Sleep quality is mentioned in every interview;



psychological recovery is strongly connected to shelter stability and security.

All households with children noted improved safety and 80 percent improved health. According to parents, children slept better, were calmer, and have fewer illnesses or insect bites. Improved indoor environment, such as dryness, cleanliness and safety were considered to have made a major difference for children.

Wellbeing dashboard



All consulted noted that the TSU:s had enabled livelihood recovery or daily functioning. Because families could safely lock the TSU:s, adults could go to work, travel, collect firewood, or visit family. Livelihood recovery is considered to be directly tied to the lockable door and shelter stability—people can leave home without fear of theft or break-ins.

This meant restoration of livelihood and resilience. This was further strengthened by the positive knock-on effect that the TSUs required no repairs. Previous temporary plastic shelter solutions required the families to monthly spend large amounts of money on replacing the plastic materials and buying other components to keep the shelter in place. With the TSU:s, the families did not have to buy anything and could save the money instead.

The above demonstrate that strong correlation between design and wellbeing exists. Once a design works and are relevant in a context and for a specific period in time, it can enable other needs and rights to be fulfilled. Shelter is a basic need, other needs will suffer if the shelter is not in place.

The TSU:s for education purposes had been a relevant temporary solution to securing continuation of education for all affected children and students. It had deblocked a problem due to its deployability (lightweight and easier than other solutions to transport to very remote and hard-to-get-to places). For teaching and learning purposes, the TSU:s were considered too hot in the middle of the day during the spring and summer period.

5.2 Evaluation questions answered

What have the TSU:s meant for the wellbeing of families and individuals?

The evaluation demonstrates that the TSU:s have had a significant impact on the wellbeing of the families who got to live in them. All households consulted mention the mental relief the shelters have meant to them, how their sense of dignity has been restored. Many people noted that they now look to the future and have regained a sense of hope.

Some design features can be directly attributable to the wellbeing outcomes, such as the lockable door, the firm structure which withstand strong winds and aftershocks.

A knock-on effect and benefit from the TSU, which require no repairs was that families could save significant money. Feeling less economic stress is also key to the wellbeing of families, and contributes to reduced stress.

What have the TSU:s contributed to in terms of families' and individuals' physical and psychosocial health?

Every household consulted reported better sleep, calmness, and reduced psychological stress. Sleep quality was mentioned in every interview; psychological recovery is considered to be strongly connected to shelter stability and security. The stability of the TSU was very beneficial to people with residual stress and trauma from the earthquake.

How have the TSU:s contributed to the ability to engage in livelihood activities?

The TSU:s have enabled livelihood recovery or daily functioning across all household consulted in the evaluation. In the case of the Morocco earthquake response, the design element of the lockable door has played crucial role in livelihood recovery: once in the TSU:s, adults were able to leave for work, travel, collect firewood, or visit family. People could leave home without fear.

How have the TSU: contributed to children's wellbeing and development?

All households with children note improved safety and most of them noted better health. Children

slept better and were calmer. Parents noted that they could let the children play inside, which before they were scared to do due to insects, snakes and scorpions coming in to the shelters. The improved sleep and calmness is likely to be beneficial to the children's development.

How have the TSU: contributed to children's wellbeing and development?

Everyone consulted in this evaluation had before getting access to a TSU stayed in dismal conditions following the earthquake. Some had also stayed proper tent, but made of thick plastic. In both cases, life had been hard, and people's health was affected. Given this, the TSU worked out well for all consulted.

5.3 Lessons learnt

Lessons learned from the evaluation of the Morocco earthquake response is that the lockable door of the TSU is the most impactful single design element. It enables work, sleep, freedom of movement, and psychological stability. Another lesson is that TSU:s strongly improve physical health due to waterproofing and stability.

Thermal comfort is the main limitation — and insulation solves it. Insulated TSUs deliver a dramatically superior living experience. Insulation turns the TSU into a place people love living in.

TSU:s for education purposes has ensured continuity of education, but sustainable teaching and learning are challenged by the high temperature inside during school hours. This indicates that a priority for Better Shelter should be to recommend or develop simple measures in TSU:s that are aimed for education or child-friendly spaces.

6. Conclusion

The evaluation of the Morocco earthquake shelter response provided by Better Shelter in partnership with MRC and IFRC demonstrates that the TSU:s have universally transformed the felt safety, mental health, and daily functioning of the displaced peoples who got to stay in them and use them. Social and economic recovery were significantly enabled by TSUs.

Prior to moving into the TSU:s, families were struggling in several ways – with keeping their temporary shelter solutions in place, protecting belongings from theft and vulnerable family members from intrusions. Inability to stay dry and properly locked in affected the health of adults and children.

A few design features can be directly attributable to some well-being outcomes. The lockable door is the most impactful single design element. It has meant that people have been able resume work or engage in livelihood activities, their sleep improved, they felt freedom of movement, and psychological stability. Furthermore, the TSU:s strongly improved their physical health due to waterproofing and stability.

On the other hand, thermal comfort was the main limitation, as the TSU tended to get very hot inside during late spring and summer periods. Those who got to have their TSU:s insulated had very high satisfaction levels and praised the space and seemed at peace.

TSU:s for education purposes had deblocked a problem of shortage of relevant classroom spaces following the earthquake, and secured continuation of education in several affected locations. At the same time, the TSU:s were found to be hot for teaching and learning during late spring and summer. A solution to supplement the TSU:s for education or child-friendly spaces purposes should therefore be a priority.