



Global Shelter Cluster Teleconference 7 June 2017

MINUTES

Objective of the teleconference: to take stock of the progress made by the Global Shelter Cluster (GSC), prepare for the upcoming GSC meeting in the first week of October, and inform about ongoing GSC initiatives.

Participants: 38 participants from 20 organizations including members of shelter cluster coordination teams from 8 countries (full participants' list in annex).

1. Updates on key issues from the field

Brief presentations were made from four country level clusters on a variety of current issues:

- **Accountability To Affected Population (AAP) - Monir AISobari, Shelter Cluster Yemen:**

The Yemen Shelter and CCCM Cluster is promoting AAP in different ways such as:

- Incorporate [AAP commitments](#) in all relevant cluster policies and operational guidelines;
- Engage local/national NGOs in the work of the cluster;
- Ensure mechanisms for community feedback and considerations are in place;
- Develop a clear and practical checklist on cluster complaints and feedback mechanisms to ensure its effectiveness;
- Develop 4Ws matrix on accountability activities to monitor the implementation of the AAP commitments on a regular basis;
- Maximize the benefit of [post-distribution monitoring exercises](#) to get a clear picture of the adequacy of information provision and engagement in decision-making;
- Work closely with the inter-cluster Community Engagement Working Group in Yemen;
- Promote the use of funding mechanisms such as HPF to support specific activities or projects which facilitate community consultations, information campaigns and complaint and feedback mechanisms;
- Engage in dialogue with donors to encourage funding flexibility;
- Harmonize and agree on messaging – communities know what to expect of the response, ways to file complaints and provide feedback;
- Pass information on expressed needs related to other sectors;
- Validate the results of the HNO with a cross-section of community members;
- Support the roll-out of trainings to raise awareness;
- Ensure beneficiary selection is transparent;
- Agree on a coordinated approach to assessments and the use of participatory methodologies;
- Ensure assessments include a representative sampling of the population that captures age, gender and specific groups at risk;
- Promote the inclusion of questions in assessments to identify information needs, existing local capacities and concerns, preferred solutions to needs, and preferred ways to provide feedback/complaints;
- Ensure that cluster complaint mechanisms cover aspects of quality and appropriateness of projects, as well as complaints such as fraud, corruption and sexual exploitation and abuse;
- Ensure lessons learned on accountability and protection, including the community point of view, are taken into account.

- **Localisation - Igor Chantefort & Renee Wynveen, Shelter Cluster Ukraine**

- Shelter Cluster Ukraine activated in 2014 – now moving from emergency to a transitional phase. Support mission from the Global Shelter Cluster in February 2015



recommended changes to the cluster architecture – UNHCR as a national cluster lead, People in Need as a co-chair at the sub-national level. National cluster well positioned with stakeholders, ministries and policy-makers and advocacy messaging in Kyiv, while de-centralization and proximity to beneficiaries enhanced through the sub-national coordinator.

Main challenges of the transition:

- Lack of legal identity for the cluster poses challenges in dealing with regional and local authorities without any formal agreement. Engaging ministries in cluster capacity building is often challenging since the cluster is a coordination platform and cannot issue official invitations and provide supporting documents for expense reimbursement. Existing MoUs are often between a ministry and one agency and are not a suitable framework for engaging with all cluster partners. Discussing the possibility of engaging the authorities through less formal Letters of Intent.
- Response in-country still mainly dependent on national partners. At the sub-national level, partners on the ground remain engaged in populating the 5W, damage assessments, coverage of gaps in existing needs. The main challenge remains triangulating information between multiple competing line ministries.

- **Cash - Davide Nicolini, Global Shelter Cluster – Support Mission to Iraq, KRI**

- Many of proposals submitted by partners are based on shelter through cash (construction materials, labour, etc.) without any technical support foreseen or only provided on request.
- The GSC should provide tools/guidelines for coordinators and inform country teams on the GSC's position on cash for shelter in order to have a higher impact on response on the ground.

- **Preparedness - Sanjeev Hada, Shelter Cluster Nepal**

- Post-earthquake cluster preparedness activities – capacity building on shelter cluster coordination (October-November), information materials on disaster preparedness, update country contingency plans, revise the NFI and shelter kits contents and make them country-specific, discussion on the use of cash as a modality

- **Preparedness - Tom Bamforth, Global Shelter Cluster – Support mission to Sri Lanka**

- Monsoon rains in May caused massive floods and triggered mudslides. Data: 300 casualties, 205,000 houses totally damaged and 11,000 houses partially damaged.
- No official activation of the cluster system and no declaration of a state of emergency despite clear humanitarian needs and need for coordination and appeal to international donors.
- Sectorial Working Groups were eventually formed. The GSC is the only cluster which has deployed external assistance by both IFRC and IOM.
- Response: people are returning to places of origin. NFI and shelter repair kits are being distributed. Discussion on transitional shelter options for those who will not be able to return due to safety and possible relocation in the longer term. Focus on advocacy and HLP issues
- Third disaster in Sri Lanka for the last 12 months – raises questions about the extent to which capacity has been built with previous disasters and whether there are any effective investments in disaster risk reduction and resilience.

Q&A and Comments:



Q1: Is there an opportunity in **Sri Lanka** to engage non-traditional donors (e.g. the Indian government)?

A1: There is interest from China and South Korea for government assistance but it is not clear whether it will be available for UN agencies or NGOs.

Comment: Issues with localisation and cash also present in **Afghanistan**. ECHO and other donors are moving towards cash assistance which poses challenges for tracking and reporting. Different government entities make it difficult for the cluster to know which ones to engage strategically, especially when it comes to handover and exit strategies. Some local NGOs have access to difficult to reach areas and are able to provide assessment data but do not have response capacity.

Comment: The shelter cluster in **Nepal** has been deactivated two years ago but it continues to be involved and requested by the government to support recovery reconstruction projects – guidance from global level on whether and how far to engage would be appreciated.

2. Updates on the GSC Working Groups

- **Shelter and Cash WG** led by Habitat for Humanity: 5 objectives for 2017 – to finalize cash guidance from 2016, sign Cash Champions from interested agencies to provide capacity building and resources, looking at markets and how we analyse them, advocacy and educating other sectors about the specific needs of the shelter sector on cash, developed a joint position paper with the WASH sector.
- **Shelter Projects WG** led by IOM: Shelter Projects 2015-2016 is now available online on www.shelterprojects.org.
- **Construction standards WG** led by Save the Children: a final draft went out for review, get it adopted by the GSC along with an advocacy plan which will detail out how to bring this forward with donor agencies (DFID, OFDA) and other humanitarian actors (Sphere has expressed interest to reference the document).
- **GBV and shelter WG** co-led by CARE and IOM: linked to roll out of the IASC GBV guidelines, two documents on SGBV in shelter response have been rolled out – GBV Risk Reduction and Site Planning and the Good Shelter Planning. Both documents will be reviewed in the coming months or contact Joseph Ashmore at jashmore@iom.int for more information.
- **Non Food Items (NFI) Practices WG** co-led by UNHCR and IFRC: a workshop will take place in Bangkok, Thailand (22-25 August 2017). Interested participants can contact the WG focal points Corinne Treherne (corinne.treherne@ifrc.org) and Gregg McDonald (mcdonaldg@unhcr.org).
- **The State of Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements WG** co-led by IFRC, USAID, and UNHCR is targeted at policy makers and senior management. This will be the first edition and will be launched in 2018. The publication will set the baseline as to what humanitarian shelter and settlement is, rather than focusing on one topic. A lead editor will be recruited and an outline of the contents will be shared with Partners for validation.
- **Americas Regional Shelter Cluster Coordination WG** – a mechanism to fundraise for the position of an Americas regional shelter cluster coordinator. Three agencies have expressed interest in the role (IFRC, UN-Habitat and Shelter Box), in addition to some potential funding from ECHO.
- **Settlement Approaches in Urban Areas WG** – co-led by CRS, InterAction, and IMPACT Initiatives. This is a new working group, established in response to inter-sectorial discussions on the specific challenges and the value-added of area-based approaches to respond to urban crises. Objectives: 1) to identify best practice and lessons learned on settlement approaches in urban responses and to promote their use by the GSC partners; 2) to develop tools and guidance. The WG will start within the cluster and will reach out to other clusters and inter-cluster fora. A call for expression of interest to join the WG was sent out but so far there are no additional agencies interested. The first set of case studies and lessons learned should be made available in time for the GSC annual meeting in October 2017.
- **Promoting Safer Building WG led by CARE:** This is a new working group and will soon develop a draft working plan and setting up and initial call for expression of interest.



3. Update on the ECHO Grant for 2017-2018

The GSC applied for an Enhanced Response Capacity grant from ECHO for 2017-2018. There is a verbal confirmation from ECHO that the grant will be approved to the amount of EUR 1,000,000 but the contract has not been signed yet. The GSC will send a global update to call for expression of interest by Partners and organise a Webinar to explain what the project is about, how to apply and answer questions. More information can be found [here](#).

4. Update on GSC Strategy Review

A review of the GSC Strategy 2013-2017 looked into the three strategic aims and at issues like effectiveness, impact and relevance. The overall conclusions are:

- the GSC was able to effectively deliver on its strategic objectives and remains relevant;
- Positive feedback from field coordinators on the support they have received from the global level;
- The GSC was successful in harmonizing training and the Support Team roles;
- The review highlighted the spirit of partnership fostered in the GSC
- Sub-national coordination needs more attention, gaps remain;
- Effectiveness of shelter transition and recovery requires some attention;
- Need to improve consistency among cluster leads in the support they provide to the field;
- Cash needs to be made more visible;
- Technical guidance is developing slowly;
- More work needs to be done in raising the profile of the shelter sector.

5. Launch of the new Global Shelter Cluster Strategy 2018-2022

Based on the final finding of the GSC Strategy Review, a new GSC Strategy will be developed in 2017. A first version of the next 5-year strategy will be ready before the next GSC annual meeting in October. The draft will go through extensive consultation including with the field before a final draft is adopted at the annual SAG Retreat at the end of 2017. A Global Update announcing the creation of a Working Group to frame the discussion will be sent soon and request expression of interest from agencies.

6. Global Shelter Cluster Meeting and related events

The annual GSC meeting will be held in the beginning of October. A pre-meeting survey will be shared before the meeting and the GSC encourages Partners to participate. The Support Team is looking forward to meeting everyone in October. Additional information on WG and focal points' contacts could be found on the GSC website www.sheltercluster.org.

Thank you for your participation,
The GSC Support Team

**GSC Mid-Year Teleconference (7 June 2017) - Participants List**

	First name	Last name	E-mail address	Country	Organisation	Role
1	Monir	AlSobari	alsobari@unhcr.org	Yemen	UNHCR	Shelter Cluster Coordinator
2	Joseph	Ashmore	jashmore@iom.int	Switzerland	IOM	Shelter Cluster Coordinator
3	Tom	Bamforth	tom.bamforth@sheltercluster.org	Sri Lanka	IFRC	Shelter Cluster Coordinator
4	Deepika	Bhardwaj	deepika.bhardwaj@ifrc.org		IFRC	
5	Petya	Boevska	BOEVSKA@unhcr.org	Switzerland	GSC/UNHCR	Other
6	Neil	Brighton	neil.brighton@nrc.no	Norway	Norwegian Refugee Council	Other
7	Maria	Calzadilla Beunza	maria.calzadilla@croix-rouge.lu	Senegal	Luxembourg Red Cross	Shelter Specialist
8	Igor	Chantefort	-	Ukraine	UNHCR	Shelter Cluster Coordinator
9	Gustavo	Cortes	gustavo.cortes@medair.org	Switzerland	Medair	Shelter Specialist
10	Dominic	Courage	d.courage@savethechildren.org.uk	Global	Save the Children	
11	Wolfgang	Friedrich	friedriw@drk.de	HQ, Germany	German Red Cross	Shelter Specialist
12	Chris	Gad	christian.gad@drc.dk	Denmark	DRC	Representative
13	Patricia	Gomez	patricia.gomez@medair.org	Switzerland	Medair	Shelter Specialist
14	Sanjeev	Hada	sanjeev.hada@ifrc.org	Nepal	IFRC	Shelter Cluster Coordinator
15	Rhys	Hange	hange@un.org	Switzerland	United Nations	Other
16	Dipti	Hingorani	diptihingorani@yahoo.co.uk	Kenya	UN-Habitat	Other
17	Bo	Hurkmans	hurkmans@unhcr.org	Switzerland	GSC/UNHCR	Other
18	Martha	Kow-Donkor	kowdonko@unhcr.org	Afghanistan	UNHCR	Shelter Cluster Coordinator
19	Santiago	Luengo	santiago.luengo@ifrc.org	Americas	IFRC	Shelter Specialist
20	Pablo	Medina	pablo.medina@ifrc.org	Switzerland	GSC/IFRC	Shelter Cluster Coordinator
21	Steven	Michel	smichel@unicef.org	DR Congo	UNICEF	Shelter Cluster Coordinator
22	Victoria	Murtagh	v.murtagh@btinternet.com	England	Independent Consultant	Other
23	Aloys	Ngaruko	angaruko@iom.int	Burundi	IOM	Shelter Specialist
24	Davide	Nicolini	nicolini@unhcr.org	Iraq	GSC/UNHCR	Shelter Cluster Coordinator



Global Shelter Cluster

ShelterCluster.org

Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

25	Takuya	Ono	tono@iom.int	Switzerland	IOM	Shelter Specialist
26	Charles	Parrack	cparrack@brookes.ac.uk	uk	oxford brookes university	Shelter Specialist
27	Rita Marie	Petalba	rita.petalba@redcross.se	Bangladesh	Swedish Red Cross	Representative
28	Luca	Pupulin	luca.pupulin@impact-initiatives.org	Switzerland	IMPACT Initiatives	Other
29	Brenda	Rose	sbrendarose@gmail.com	Global (based in Jordan)	World Vision	Shelter Specialist
30	Nevins	Saeed	saeedn@unhcr.org	Sudan	UNHCR	Shelter Cluster Coordinator
31	María del Carmen	Sancha Maya	mamensancha@gmail.com	Peru	IFRC	Shelter Cluster Coordinator
32	Matthew	Sayer	matthew.sayer@ec.europa.eu	Global (based in Brussels)	ECHO	Other
33	Ela	Serdaroglu	ela.serdaroglu@ifrc.org	Switzerland	IFRC	Shelter Cluster Coordinator
34	James	Shepherd-Barron	james@shepherd-barron.com	Nepal	KissyFish	Other
35	Miguel	Urquia	urquia@unhcr.org	Switzerland	GSC/UNHCR	Shelter Cluster Coordinator
36	Eric	Weaver	eweaver@samaritan.org	United States	Samaritan's Purse	Shelter Specialist
37	Renee	Wynveen	renee.wynveen@peopleinneed.cz	Ukraine	People in Need	Shelter Cluster Coordinator
38	Jake	Zarins	JZarins@habitat.org	Global	Habitat For Humanity International	