

# Global Shelter Cluster - Teleconference 7 June 2018

**Objective of the meeting:** Review progress on 2018 Global Shelter Cluster (GSC) activities, launch the GSC Strategy 2018-2022, prepare for the upcoming Global Shelter Cluster meeting in the first week of October and build engagement on GSC assorted projects.

**Participants:** 55 participants from 26 organizations including members of shelter cluster coordination teams from 11 countries. Full list in annex.

Presentation: the whole presentation leading the teleconference can be found [here](#).

## 1. Updates on key issues from the field

Syria and Vanuatu clusters presented. The Syria WG talked about experience coordinating shelter response in urban areas. Vanuatu cluster talked about supporting localization by establishing a cluster coordination hub at the affected island in response to the Ambae volcano. More details on both countries can be found in the overall presentation [here](#).

## 2. Updates on the Global Shelter Cluster (GSC) activities and services offered

### Updates from [Working Groups \(WG\)](#)

There are 11 GSC working groups, which can be found [here](#). Only updates from the most recently established WGs were shared, the rest can be found in their respective web pages.

- [Settlement approaches in Urban Areas](#) WG was set up one year ago. To date the WG has collected definitions of area and settlement based approaches, case studies, and championed the concepts into Sphere 2018. Area based coordination is being piloted, and the WG is discussing potential countries for the pilot. Over 20 agencies participate in the WG including other clusters such as WASH, Food Security, CCCM and OCHA.
- [The State of the Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements Report 2018 Edition](#) - the aim of the publication is to raise the profile and understanding of the humanitarian shelter and settlements sector. The inaugural edition will have articles and statistical analysis under a general theme of “What is Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements and Why It Is Important?” Now authors engaged are in the process of writing the pieces. Tentative publication date is on 31 July.
- [Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Shelter Programming WG](#) is newly established and aims to continue cluster work around inclusion. The WG will explore and test how the tools available are being used, collect good and bad examples, and eventually produce shelter programming tools on the inclusion of Persons with Disabilities.
- [Shelter and Cash WG](#) –the working group is working on guidance around labor market analysis, as well as improving external understanding of sector needs and issues around cash via advocacy and involvement in relevant discussions such as Grand Bargain, CaLP initiatives and others. As part of the GSC Cash Champions initiative, CRS has provided cash/market deployments.
- [Shelter Vulnerability Classification WG](#) - will develop a vulnerability classification methodology for the shelter sector based on existing good practices from country-level clusters and available research at global level.

### Additional services available thanks to the contribution from ECHO 2017-2018:

- **Roving Information Manager**, [Gabriel Mathieu](#), deployable up to 6 months. Has deployed to Chad, and will be going to DRC and CAR.



- HLP service can also be provided via the **dedicated GSC Roving HLP Advisor**, [Ibere Lopez](#). Requests for country level support should be sent to Joseph Ashmore or to Ibere directly. There is also a number of HLP training events planned. For more info contact Neil Brighton and Joseph Ashmore.
- **Country profiles for local building practices** led by CRAterre for clusters that are interested in better understanding local building practices. Funding is available for one more country, the first one was already carried out in Bangladesh. A call for expressions of interest will be sent.

## 2. GSC Strategy 2018-2022

The latest draft of the [GSC Strategy 2018 – 2022](#) was shared. The strategy is very close to completion, it has been through a long process. An external consultant, Jean McCluskey, was engaged to evaluate the previous strategy and later was re-engaged to facilitate the process of strategy development with the GSC SAG to ensure a consultative process.

Considering the enabling environment of technology, the humanitarian landscape is sensed to change quicker in the upcoming 5 years. Thus, the new strategy aligns to the humanitarian shifts that have taken place recently, such as the Grand Bargain, aiming to be visionary and inclusive of other sectors.

The strategy comes with an executive summary but also annexes that describe outputs, indicators and activities, which are costed. This will allow approaching donors with specific asks.

Transition to recovery is highlighted especially considering the increased attention on humanitarian development nexus. Cash features more prominently.

Since the cluster review found that the shelter cluster receives less funding than other clusters both at global and country levels, advocacy on the importance of the sector and its challenges as well as on specific operations will be increased.

The new strategy has 4 pillars: coordination, advocacy, evidence-based response, and capacity. Differing from the previous strategy, generating evidence gains prominence, focusing among other things on identifying gaps and knowledge management. The overall aim of the strategy is to strengthen shelter and settlement responses that build resilient communities, and we believe we will be able to contribute to this goal in the next five years.

The official launch is planned for the end of July on an IASC event at the Palais in Geneva. Partners are encouraged to disseminate this strategy.

## 3. Questions:

- What are we doing differently this year? How are we better linking development to humanitarian? How is reconstruction happening better, faster, safer, and how is resilience being built in the process? As mentioned earlier, the new strategy comes with concrete outputs and costed activities. In terms of what is done differently, good examples could be the cash and HLP champions that are showing positive results.
- On the State of the Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements – what is the dissemination strategy? Will it be incorporated into trainings? It is an advocacy piece to be used to engage with donors and policy makers.
- How do we ensure we have objective and measurable indicators? The strategy comes with very concrete and realistic outputs and indicators that are linked to concrete activities developed in consultation with the SAG members.
- Adding to the discussion on localization, the need to allocate resources for translation was highlighted as crucial.



**4. Other Business:**

- Yearly satisfaction survey will be launched soon to collect opinions on how the cluster is advancing and on the key topics to be discussed in the GSC Annual Meeting.

**5. Closing remarks:**

Mid-year teleconferences are important to better prepare for the GSC Annual Meeting. There are a growing number of challenges as we have heard from Syria, Vanuatu, as well as other clusters that we did not hear from today. It is up to us to work together and challenge ourselves to do more.

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Please note this is not an exhaustive list. We are missing some participants who called in but we were not able to identify based on the information in the Webex screen (just first name or a caller number). If you participated and wish your name and agency to be included, please send us an email to [urquia@unhcr.org](mailto:urquia@unhcr.org) and [pablo.medina@ifrc.org](mailto:pablo.medina@ifrc.org).