GSC Research Baseline and Next Steps

Roofing reconstruction, South Sudan 2018 © Eva Samalea
GSC Research Baseline and Next Steps

1. Why Research?
2. Baseline Purpose and Scope.
4. Understanding of Research.
5. Barriers to Research
6. Priority Themes.
7. Expertise.
8. Next steps.
Research provides an essential evidence base to the work of the GSC

“There needs to be evidence to support quality”.

“thinking beyond the short term, the avoidance of repeated mistakes and adaptation to local context”.

Shelter and settlement interventions, however, remain an under-researched aspect of humanitarian response (Peacock, Dash and Zhang, 2007; Twigg, 2002; Maynard, Parker and Twigg 2017;).
Purpose:

To describe the research priorities of humanitarian practitioners engaged in coordination of humanitarian response.
Scope of Geography and Participants:

42 Countries
20 Cluster Coordinators
24 Academic Partners
11 SAG members
Key Questions:

How is Research understood and used by Shelter Clusters?

What are the Research Priorities of Shelter Clusters?

What are the Research Capabilities available to Shelter Clusters?
Widespread appreciation of the link between research, quality and accountability.

Causal research questions and comparative research questions were mentioned as the most useful types of questions for strategic planning and advocacy.

Descriptive questions which are useful in the early stages of a response.
GSC Research Baseline Findings: Understanding

Research Activities Alongside Humanitarian Assistance

- **Assessment**
  - Data Collection (Descriptive Research)

- **Strategic Planning**
  - Data Analysis
  - Acting on Findings

- **Implementation**
  - Data Collection (Causal Research)

- **Evaluation**
  - Data Analysis
  - Sharing Findings
GSC Research Baseline Findings: Barriers

Systematic barriers:

Related to the culture, values and expectations regarding research within the humanitarian system.

Practical barriers:

Related to the steps involved in finding evidence or implementing research.
The following areas were mentioned most often by participants:

The Longer Term, including Recovery – What are the barriers?

Cash and Markets Approaches – When are they appropriate?

The Wider Impact – How can we demonstrate this?
There exists a critical mass of potential research partners.
GSC Research Baseline Findings: Expertise

Research Partner Disciplines

- Architecture 14
- Multidisciplinary 4
- Humanities 2
- Planning 2
- Urbanism 2
- Engineering 6
- Health 2
- International Development 2
- Politics 2
There is a **significant amount of enthusiasm and activity** around research in the GSC Working Groups:

**The Recovery Working Group** – Contributed to and planning research.

**Cash and Markets Working Group** – Planning research.

**The Shelter Projects Working Group** – Planning research.

**The Disability and Inclusion Working Group** – Participated in research.

**The Environment Working Groups** - Contributed to research.

**The Construction Working Group** – Planning a research network.
Next Steps

1. Focus research work on **improving the evidence base** in the priority thematic areas of Longer-Term Recovery and Cash and Markets.

2. Ensure that the **value of research and evidence** and the harmonisation of response and research processes are supported by the new GSC strategy.

3. Review research priorities and research partners **on a regular basis** to ensure the continuing relevance of GSC research work.
Priority Studies

• Taking place between now and early 2023.

• Collaborative research between academic organisations and humanitarian agencies.

• Aim to increase evidence-based programming.
Summary

• Taking place between now and early 2023.

• Collaborative research between academic organisations and humanitarian agencies.

• Aim to increase evidence-based programming.
Research Questions: Cash Approaches

What are the criteria for deciding when and where Cash approaches are appropriate in support of those who have lost their shelter and settlements in humanitarian crises?
GSC Research Baseline Findings: Studies

Cash and Markets CoP
- ARC and CRS

GFP Research Function
- HFHI and Oxford Brookes University

Cluster Teams
- UNHCR, IFRC, IOM, NRC

Cash and Markets Consultant
- tbc

Cash and Markets Study Team
The research team will collect and analyse **practitioner experiences** of assisting households with cash based programming.

**Reasons why** cash was chosen or dismissed as an option will be identified.
Research Question: Connecting Relief to Recovery

Why are there barriers to connecting the relief and recovery for those who have lost their shelter and settlements in humanitarian crises?
GSC Research Baseline Findings: Studies

Recovery CoP
- CARE

GFP Research Function
- HFHI and Oxford Brookes University

Cluster Teams
- UNHCR, IFRC, IOM, NRC

Academic Research Team
- University of Sydney

Connecting Relief and Recovery Study Team
The research team will collect and analyse **practitioner experiences** of assisting households to move beyond crisis response.

**Barriers** to moving beyond crisis response and **strategies** for supporting households will be identified.
Thank you

lizzie.babister@sheltercluster.org