

# Greening the shelter response



**Mobilising collective efforts towards a greener and climate-smart humanitarian shelter and settlements response**

**April 2023**

# Background:

## Environment as a GSC priority

- Environmentally sustainable Shelter Response = a **long-term priority** of the Global Shelter Cluster, lead agencies, global partners and increasingly of donors
- **Environment Community of Practice**: active role for 10 years providing expertise and guidance at global and country level
- GSC lobbied for **global focal point for environment** since 2017 and now has 3
- GSC partners led in the development of **Sphere Environmental Sustainability Shelter Standard 7**
- Key role of **connecting greening shelter initiatives** of lead agencies and global partners



Credit: Francis Moran



# Greening Approach

*Result: Shelter responses become more environmentally sustainable at country and global level*

- Coordination with other greening efforts
- Decision-making tool
- Integration into HPC
- Advocacy/ communication
- Capacity building/ training of focal points
- Localisation

**Global**

Activity 1: Shelter **partners** green their response

Activity 2: Environmental **research and advocacy** available to make country-level shelter responses greener and climate smart

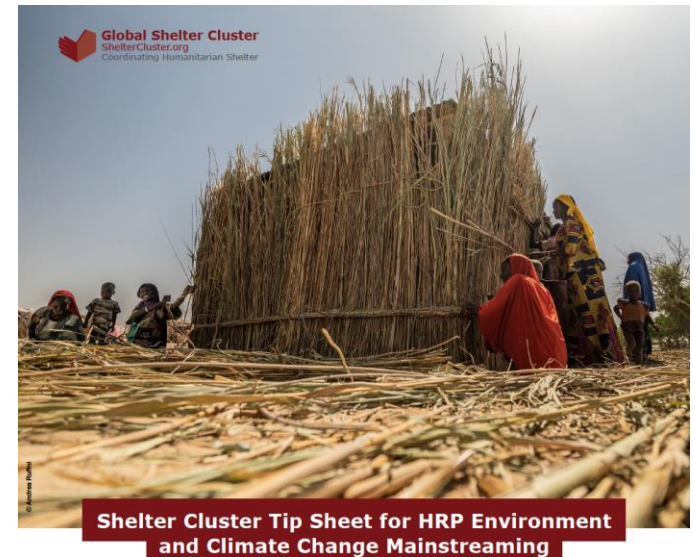
**Country**

Activity 3: **Country-level** shelter clusters effectively design and implement greener and climate-smart shelter responses



# Strategic Environmental Mainstreaming and Capacity Building

- **Global Strategy**
- **HPC mainstreaming:** (HNO/HRP/Shelter Sector Strategy development guidance; environmental indicators)
- **Capacity building:** e.g. environmental mainstreaming in global and regional cluster coordination trainings



This Tip Sheet is developed by the Global Shelter Cluster for use by country-level Shelter Cluster Coordinators to guide them on the minimum requirements on environmental and climate change mainstreaming in preparation of the Shelter Chapter of upcoming HRP's<sup>1</sup>. Environment and climate change mainstreaming is required to ensure we meet the needs of affected populations and address and mitigate the environmental impact of shelter and settlement responses in line with humanitarian standards and the "do no harm" principle.

Environmental mainstreaming in shelter programmes and projects depends on a systematic consideration of environmental risks, opportunities, and benefits in programme design, implementation, and throughout the project management cycle. Integrating environmental goals and indicators into planning is necessary to reinforce the rhetorical commitment. e.g. "All shelter responses should take into account at each implementation phase the themes of mainstreaming protection, inclusion, environment, and housing, land and property" (DRC)<sup>2</sup>.

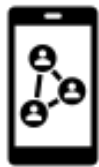
<sup>1</sup> This guidance can also be applied to sudden onset response plans.  
<sup>2</sup> Examples in Italics with countries indicated are from 2022 HRP's.

# Global level: Shelter partners green their response

- **Energy Options Tool:** To support shelter practitioners to make informed decisions on the best energy options
- **Greening shelter items:**
  - **R&D:** Partner contribution, technical advisory and info sharing on R&D, e.g. Eco-Tarpaulin UNHCR-ICRC-IFRC) & PP bags (UNHCR-ICRC-WFP)
  - **CO2 and virgin plastic footprint reduction of SNFIs:**
    - Estimated baseline values: 160,639 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> eq. & 25,475 tonnes of virgin plastic. Hypothetical projection of reduction to be estimated based on ongoing R&D results
    - Statement to advocate for development and adoption of greener shelter solutions has been shared for approval and endorsement with partners (April 2023)
- **Coordination with other greening efforts:** e.g.
  - Coordination with USAID-funded Joint Initiative for Sustainable Humanitarian Packaging Waste Management (JI): Participation in technical working group, resource sharing; joint events (e.g. HNPW)
  - NRC on roll out of the NEAT+ global capacity building project



# Environmental research, advocacy and communication



**Communication of greening efforts** through social media platforms (LinkedIn and Twitter) and the GSC email global updates - over 5,000 Twitter followers



**Participation & advocacy via global forums and networks:** e.g. HNPW, EEF, EHAN, Regional Shelter Forums



**Research** to support greener country level response (ECPs, SRPs)



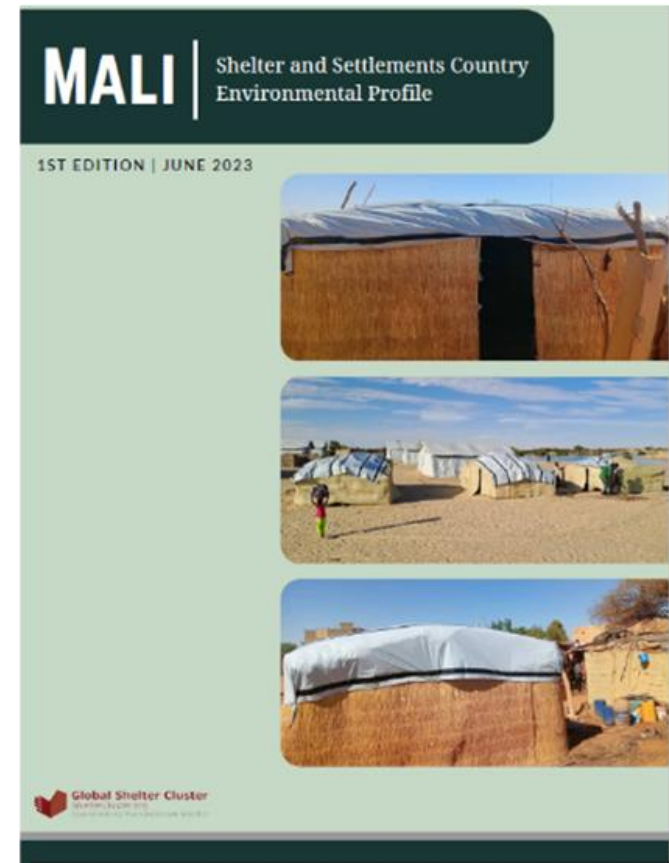
# Environmental Country Profiles

**Aim:** Inform environmentally sustainable shelter programming by making key info about country-level environment/shelter considerations, impacts, concerns & opportunities available and accessible to practitioners

**Approach:** 12 profiles (BHA & ECHO funded) in both conflict and disaster locations. Participatory, country-led Cluster process.

**Countries:** Bangladesh, Nepal, Philippines, Timor Leste, Madagascar, Mozambique, Mali, DRC, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen.

**Outputs:** 3 profiles complete and 7 completed by June; local mechanisms for working on environmental issues (e.g. TWGs); catalyst for training (e.g. NEAT+); local capacity building via consultants





# Shelter Response Profiles

- Provide an in-depth analysis of local construction practices and assist practitioners to develop shelter response that builds on local knowledge
- Carefully assess local building practices and provide insights and recommendations on potential environmental risks and mitigation measures.

## Current outputs:

- Participative and iterative approach: local authorities, cluster members of respective countries involved in the development of the SRPs – this has localized and increased the ownership of the product
- 5 shared completed SRPs: Burkina Faso, Yemen, Venezuela, Somalia and Nepal. **Ongoing:** NW Syria
- Integration of the profiles' approaches into clusters strategic documents







- **What?** CRS supporting two Clusters (Malawi & Syria) to design and implement cash and market-based approaches that incorporate environmental considerations in the market assessment analysis
- **How?** Conducting market and supply chain analysis of selected items. Findings of the assessments will be documented and a set of guidelines/recommendations produced.
- **Current output:**
  - Data collection for market assessment completed (for Malawi)
  - Analysis of collected data & preparation of environmental risk assessment ongoing
- **Next steps:**
  - Complete market analysis and environmental risk assessment
  - Develop resources and tools for providing shelter cash assistance, with considerations on access to and capacity of markets as well as potential environmental impact of the assistance
  - Documentation and dissemination of the findings

# Designing and implementing greener shelter responses at country level



- **Decision making support tools:** Support countries to identify greener building materials and NFIs (e.g NFI and building materials scorecard; SMAC for Co2 emissions calculation)



- **Technical advisory:** support to country clusters & ongoing responses (e.g. Turkiye, Syria)



# (Some) next steps

- ❑ Support country-clusters in mainstreaming and monitoring HRP/HNO green indicators
- ❑ Develop shelter sector strategic planning environmental guidance
- ❑ Continue to build capacity of country clusters on mainstreaming environment into shelter programming
- ❑ Monitor and keep track of agencies endorsement and implementation of greener shelter items specifications
- ❑ Finalize – test – and roll out the energy option tool
- ❑ Disseminate, build capacity and advocate for the operationalization of the resources being produced/developed (ECPs, SRPs, Innovative cash approach)
- ❑ Develop generic scorecard approach



# Thank you!

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