

Recovery and Reconstruction Working Group

Terms of Reference

Background

On the 25th April, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck the Central and Western Regions of Nepal, with the epicenter in Lamjung District (north-west) of Kathmandu. A second 7.3 magnitude earthquake occurred on 12 May 2015, striking the district of Dolahka. A total of 639,156 houses have been reported as damaged or destroyed, with a focus on the 14 most affected districts.

The Nepal Shelter Cluster, co-led by the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC), the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), is composed of over 120 partner agencies involved in shelter interventions. The Shelter Cluster's approach and coordination architecture is described in the Strategic Directions document, and aims to ensure that shelter responses support appropriate, flexible, and progressive shelter solutions to meet the needs of the affected population. These solutions also must contribute to the people's self-recovery with the aim of providing a safer, resilient, and durable shelter supported by short-term and longer-term strategic goals.

The housing sector is not only the largest sector, but also among the earliest to start recovery activities. People take initiative to salvage materials, start repairs, and begin new construction as soon as they have the means to do so. The Government of Nepal (GoN), with support from the World Bank (WB) and other partners have developed a housing reconstruction plan to support the longer term rebuilding process, which is expected to commence at scale after November 2015. A number of Shelter Cluster partners are expected to contribute to these efforts through social mobilization, training, information, finance, materials and quality assurance, so it is essential to ensure good collaboration and coordination of that contribution.

Objective:

To provide a platform for coordination, strategic planning and technical guidance for agencies involved in longer term recovery and reconstruction, and to engage with the GoN, WB and other stakeholders to inform the wider housing reconstruction plan.

Key functions:

Coordination

- Identification and mapping of shelter cluster partners interested in longer term recovery and reconstruction including their plans, human and financial capacities.
- Ensure appropriate and timely flow of information to and from partners at national and district level.
- Encourage 4W reporting at national level and through the regional hub coordinators as well as inputs to the Information Monitoring Matrix (IMM) for monitoring progress and gap analysis.
- Promote inter-cluster linkages at national and district level, especially with the WASH cluster, to ensure a joined up approach to recovery and reconstruction planning.

- Advocate for the inclusion of humanitarian agencies as part of the wider reconstruction coordination mechanism, to be represented by the Shelter Cluster Coordinator, the lead of this working group and one other representative of the shelter cluster partners as appropriate.
- Develop a transition/exit strategy from the Shelter Cluster to the wider earthquake housing reconstruction coordination architecture.

Strategic and Technical Guidance

- Develop a common strategic approach to recovery and reconstruction, aligned with the Shelter Cluster Strategic Directions and GoN, WB and other stakeholders housing reconstruction plans.
- Provide inputs and feedback on the further development of the earthquake housing reconstruction plan through engagement with WB, NPC, MOUD/DUDBC, MOFALD, and other relevant agencies as required.
- Prepare key messages, recommendations or guidance documents on specific recovery and reconstruction issues for shelter cluster partners, government or other target groups such as training, targeting/prioritization, housing typologies and HLP issues.
- Form Technical Working Groups to support the development of the above key messages, recommendations and guidance as needed.

Membership

- Membership of the Recovery Working Group should be limited to those Shelter Cluster partners intending to engaging in the longer-term recovery process.
- Shelter cluster partners should be represented by one person per agency, national or international, with appropriate experience in recovery and reconstruction.
- The Recovery and Reconstruction Working Group will be led by UN-HABITAT supported by the Shelter Cluster.

Meetings, Deliverables and Timeframes

- Meetings will take place every 1-2 weeks, or as needed to address specific issues.
- The first meeting will establish a more detailed work plan with deliverables and timeframes

Accountability, Reporting and Approval

- Progress against the work plan and establishment of any new TWG shall be shared with the CSG for feedback and guidance and approved by the SAG.
- Any key messages and documents for publication shall be reviewed and approved by the CSG and SAG and shared with Shelter Cluster partners through the Shelter Cluster mailing list and at Shelter Cluster meetings.
