

### Introduction

The Global Shelter Cluster (GSC) Technical Community of Practice was officially launched on October 8, 2024. The inaugural webinars on 12th February 2025, presented the seven technical thematic identified as priorities during a survey conducted in October 2024, featured snapshots underscoring the significance of each thematic, shared existing technical resources, and outlined the next steps for forming thematic groups that will collaboratively develop a 2024-2025 work plan with input from all thematic group co-leads. Recording and Slides are available [here](#).

### Inaugural Webinar meeting notes

<b>Date</b>	: February 12, 2025 – 9 am and 3 pm (Geneva time zone)
<b>Duration</b>	: 90 minutes
<b>Moderator</b>	: Pascal Panosetti – GSC Technical CoP moderator, IFRC
<b>Co-moderator</b>	: Alexandre Koclejda GSC – Roving Coordinator, UNHCR
<b>Attendees</b>	: Various representatives from humanitarian organizations, technical experts, Global Shelter Team and shelter cluster coordinators from different regions. (120 people for both webinar)

### Agenda:

1. Introduction of the Technical CoP
2. Presentation of the Technical Thematic survey results and priorities
3. Roles and responsibilities of subgroup lead, co-leads and members
4. Discussion on seven key thematic priorities
5. Communication channel
6. Next steps and engagement in the CoP

### Key Discussion Points:

#### 1. Introduction to the Technical CoP

- The Shelter Cluster Technical Community of Practice (CoP) is a venue for sharing and exchanging information, knowledge, and expertise on technical issues related to humanitarian shelter and settlement programs among shelter cluster partners at global and field levels.
- It is a voluntary group of individuals with expertise and interest in all shelter and settlement technical programming aspects of humanitarian shelter and settlement response. It is open to all interested individuals, regardless of agency affiliation. The initiative's value depends on the active participation of its members
- The term “technical” covers a wide spectrum of subjects, which is why this CoP will be designed to include various thematic subgroups. This structure will allow each subgroup to focus on specific areas of interest and expertise, enabling deeper discussions and can effectively address the nuances of different technical domains.
- The CoP does not have a time-bound mandate, as it typically supports core, ongoing cluster functions. In contrary, Working Groups are task-oriented, time-bound structures with clear, executable deliverables established by the SAG to address specific identified needs.
- For more details, visit the GSC website : [Active Working Groups](#), [Communities of Practice](#) & [Technical Community of Practice](#)

#### 2. Survey Results and Priorities

- The survey conducted in October 2024 gathered 184 responses, identifying key thematic areas of interest.
- Thematic priorities were ranked as follows:

1. **Damage Assessment**
2. **Emergency and Temporary Shelter Technical Specifications**
3. **Durable and Permanent Shelter Solutions**
4. **Good Construction Practices & Build Back Better**
5. **Non-Food Items (NFIs) and Essential Housing Items**
6. **Greener Shelter & Environmental Sustainability**
7. **Fire Safety in Shelter Responses**

- Each thematic area will have a lead and co-leads responsible for coordinating and advancing the topic. If no lead or co-lead is identified, the theme will be put on hold until members step forward to assume the leadership roles.
- Although Greener Shelter and BBB were not ranked among the top five overall, they received the most selections in the initial question (where participants chose 5 priorities out of 14). Consequently, we included them among the most important priorities

### **3. Roles and Responsibilities of Subgroup Leads and Members**

- **Lead and Co-Leads:**
  - Responsible for organizing meetings, webinars, and knowledge-sharing sessions every 2 or 3 months depending the needs and their availability
  - Expected to dedicate at least 4 hours per month to subgroup activities.
  - Facilitate networking and coordinate resource-sharing.
- **Active Members:**
  - Contribute case studies, success stories, and best practices.
  - Participate in discussions, share experience and tools.
  - Contribute to thematic presentation.

### **4. Discussion on Thematic Priorities**

#### **Snapshots of the theme's importance from partners and cluster at regional and global level**

- **Damage Assessment:**
  - Presented by Lionel Dosdos (Philippines Shelter Cluster Coordinator) and Leandro Fernandez (Palestine SC Technical Coordinator).
  - Importance of defining standardized damage classification and assessment methodologies.
  - Challenges include diverse methodologies and government definitions.
  - Various topics related to this theme will be discussed and defined in collaboration with the subgroup.
  - Sources use varied methodologies (satellite imagery vs. self-reports) and criteria (buildings vs. residential units), but limited access and safety hazards (explosive remnants, debris) restrict quality verification. (Palestine)
  - Urban damage assessments require multi-level analysis; however, limited technical capacity and coordination with local engineers hinder efforts. A unified tool and shared database would improve tracking and repairs, though maintaining them is resource-intensive. (Palestine)
- **Emergency and Temporary Shelter Technical Specifications:**
  - Presented by Maung Zaw Myint (Myanmar SC Technical Coordinator) and Alvaro Gramajo (Mozambique GSC Roving coordinator/IFRC).
  - Need for harmonization of shelter design and terminology.
  - Key challenges: limited funding, access restrictions, and material shortages.
- **Durable and Permanent Shelter Solutions** (Previously Durable Shelters and Sustainable Solutions)

- Presented by Mohammed Kyari (Nigeria CCCM officer) and Manuel Oviedo Cifuentes (Colombia SC Coordinator in 2024).
- The role of long-term housing solutions in disaster-prone areas.
- Considerations for affordability, resilience, and local integration.
- **Good Construction Practices & Build Back Better:**
  - Presented by Liz Palmer (Save the Children) and Olivier Môle (CRATERRE)
  - Addressing construction quality, safety, and adherence to humanitarian standards.
  - The need for standardized construction training across projects.
- **Non-Food Items (NFIs) and Essential Housing Items:**
  - Presented by Alvaro Gramajo (Mozambique & Honduras GSC Roving coordinator/IFRC).
  - Importance of defining standardized NFIs for various humanitarian contexts.
  - Ensuring adaptability to local market conditions and cultural preferences.
- **Greener Shelter & Environmental Sustainability:**
  - Presented by Madeleine Marara (Global Shelter Cluster, UNHCR) and Kelly.
  - Promoting environmentally friendly shelter solutions, including sustainable materials.
  - Linkages with the Global Shelter Cluster's Environmental Community of Practice and the Heat WG to evaluate which technical components for the Environment CoP might be addressed within the Technical CoP.
- **Fire Safety in Shelter Responses:**
  - Presented by Danielle Antonellis (Kindling) and Liz Palmer (Save The Children).
  - Importance of integrating fire risk reduction measures into shelter designs.
  - Need for standardized fire safety guidelines across different humanitarian settings.
  - Unmanaged fire risk persists due to unclear responsibilities; diverse expertise—from physical sciences and operational tactics to experiential and social insights—is needed but often underutilized.
  - No single solution exists; integrating these knowledge areas in context through collaborative, multidisciplinary efforts is essential for developing effective, tailored fire safety strategies.

**5. Next Steps and Engagement in the CoP**

- Participants are encouraged to **complete by the 28th February** the engagement form to indicate interest in thematic subgroups. Link: <https://ee-eu.kobotoolbox.org/x/4eCXvKY6>
- Leads and Co-Leads will be confirmed in March based on interest and expertise.
- Initial meetings for each subgroup will be scheduled to define work plans, communication, collaboration methods and to define potential discussion topics for presentation to the Technical CoP thematic members
- **Participants are encouraged to subscribe to the Technical CoP page on the Global Shelter Cluster website for updates and event notifications. The communication channel will be through the website and information will be sent by the NEWS tool.**

Action Point	Who	Deadline
Share webinar recording and presentation	Pascal Panosetti	ASAP
Fill out thematic engagement form	All interested participants	28 February 2025
Confirm thematic subgroup leads & co-leads	Pascal Panosetti	10 March
Initial subgroup meetings with all leads & co-leads or separated meeting by thematic subgroup	Thematic subgroup leads	March 2025
Encourage CoP members to register on the Global Shelter Cluster website	Pascal Panosetti	All participants

### Other comments from participants:

**Terminology.** Some thematic terminology could be rediscussed when the subgroup will be created. E.G. Permanent Shelter could be merged with Emergency and Temporary Shelter

### Links shared

- **All thematics documents will be published on the new GSC Technical Toolkit : [Technical Toolkit](#)**
- [More than just a Roof](#): Online training on shelter programming and shelter coordination
- [Building a better response](#): Online training on the Humanitarian Reform, the Humanitarian Programme Cycle and other related issues.
- [Cash and Shelter](#): training material for Shelter and Cash-based programming
- **Shelter Case Studies** : This [Shelter Projects publication and website](#) provides case studies that can be searched by country, year, and theme
- IEC Compendium : [Compendium | Shelter Cluster](#)
- [Promoting Safer Building Working Group | Shelter Cluster](#)

### Contact Information:

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### Next Meeting:

To be defined by the subgroups committee.