

GSC Annual Event 2024 - Session Notes - Day 1 - 3

Date: 12 June 2024

Time: 16:30 – 17:30

Thematic area: Recognize & Acknowledge: Open Mic

Facilitator: Mario (HfH) / Ela (IFRC)

Co-facilitator/Note taker: Elsa

Number of participants & countries represented (if relevant):

Summary of the discussion

15 people:

1. Olivier Moles (CRATerre) – Charles stepping in

Introducing the Recovery Community of Practice (CoP) – call to meet people

We're all about linking recovery, that nexus point, and development actors.

Tanya: At a recent meeting of the CoP, it was discussed having a new member informal platform. We launched a WhatsApp group to attract private sectors and academia and engage in discussion. Stall tomorrow at the marketplace with a QR code to join the WhatsApp group.

2. John Wain (SC Ukraine)

Ukraine operation activity handbook: 19 activities and 150 partners. We've developed an HNRP handbook, which is available on the webpage. This handbook helps partners report and gather good data across the sector.

3. Sanjeev Hada (Habitat for Humanity Pacific)

An example of how preparedness works is the earthquake last year in Nepal, to which Habitat for Humanity (HfH) responded with shelter support. Now, in collaboration with the authorities, construction is underway. It took about five months because of good planning. The good thing is that HfH has committed to investing in preparedness planning in the coming years.

4. Step Haiselden (CARE International)

Community of Practice (CoP) on gender and inclusion. There are now some resources on the [CoP website page](#). Co-led by the Australian Red Cross and Stephanie UNHCR and CARE (Step). The plan is to populate the website and build on the work of the GBV working group a few years back.

5. Aimee Jenks (UNITAR)

Working on energy – responsible for providing technical support to humanitarian actors. Three main activities:

- Research data and training – working with REACH with the energy module of the MSNA and associated training material
- Advocacy and partnership – an extensive network of partners and energy donors
- Knowledge sharing – set of technical tools and webinar, and we meet every month

Working closely with our colleagues at NORCAP, we're strategic partners and bring in some expertise. Our pool has 80+ experts. We're ready to invest in energy and the environment, and we'd like to see more of this.

Priority areas: clean cooking, blended finance, and energy in emergency settings.

6. Jia Cong Ang (UN Habitat)

Two points :

- We're always interested in discussing how we can work in urban areas. Shoutout: to push the work that has been happening on the settlement approach -> revision by the cluster leads and environmental addendums
- Before next week: World Refugee Day – releasing recommendations to mainstream urban planning in migration contexts.

7. Enrique Sevillano (CRATerre)

A training course on participatory assessment for local building culture was developed over the past year with partners. To follow the course or recommend it, go to the FRC learning platform where it is hosted. Many thanks to IFRC, which helped to build the online training. Feedback is most welcome. It will be helpful to translate it later on. Enrique thanked BHA and GSC for their support.

8. Andrea Cuisana (UNHCR)

Moldovan operation—initiative for community inclusion. In MDA, there are refugees remaining in the country, and to avoid social tensions, we started a strategy for public spaces working with the government and the local refugee forum. We started in 2023 and identified different projects around the country. By the end of 2023, we had completed 15 projects in 10 districts and supported 16,000 refugees and locals. It's in the data portal, and you can come and have a look.

9. Luca Ginoulhiac (CRS)

Representing a group of organizations: Antoine from IOM, Xavier from the FR IFRC, Olivier CRATerre, Madeline, and Stephanie from GSC. We created this new CoP. We do not want to duplicate but respond to a specific issue: the operational capacity of the shelter cluster in francophone countries is not as it should be. We needed to do something because least funded and publicized crises in the world. The aim is to enhance the capacity of the shelter cluster with a focus on:

- Knowledge and experience sharing
- Cooperation
- Research

So far, we organized online meetings (2 series): basic knowledge of relevant topics and colleagues' shared practices.

10. Lizzie Babister (Global Shelter Cluster, HfH)

Informing approaches to cash assistance is the latest of our global research. We have a webpage on the GSC website under resources called “research initiatives.” This research is now available for you to see. It’s a practical piece of research on how to decide to use cash or not, and it also covers the influences of that decision process.

On the webpage, you can also find studies done by our fellows.

If you see anyone with a red spot on their badge, that’s someone involved in research. We’re having an informal networking event around lunchtime on Thursday. Also, tomorrow, there will be two breakout groups on evidence.

11. Davide Colini (Geneva Technical Hub)

Wearing the hat of UNHCR – seconded to ICRC. GTH is an initiative of UNHCR and SDC. Started in 2021 to respond to complex technical issues related to UNHCR operation: operational guidance, capacity building, and technical support. The GTH concludes its work at the end of the year. We aim to become multi-agencies (IOM, UN Habitat, etc.). We are expanding the GTH and growing in terms of donors, operations, and agencies. Presentation on Friday of the outcomes.

12. Louise Thaller filling in for Nataliia Makaruk (IMPACT)

An environmental addendum is attached to the settlement approach guidance note. You will hear about it on Friday. We need to make progress on environmental outcomes in the sector and the entire humanitarian sector. The impacts of climate change and the environment are local. We developed the technical annex to the existing settlement guidance note, and it will be available for all of you at the end of the month.

The next USWG is on June 18th, and we hope to reflect on this week's lessons. If interested, please come and talk to us.

13. Juan Pablo Franco (Blumont)

Blumont's country director in Colombia. This is our first time participating in this event and working in Colombia with humanitarian assistance for IDPs and programming for Migrants. We’ve been obsessed with rental support and have done an impact evaluation, which you can hear about tomorrow (Thursday).

Settlement approach: We work with migrants and provide female-headed households with nine months of rental support. We were surprised by the results: ¾ have been able to sustain adequate housing after one year. Livelihoods also improved, and social integration improved. We’re working hard on rental support, and we’d love to hear from every agency with experience.

14. Igor Radonjic (Alight)

We are starting up a co-creation hub in Nairobi, which is the focus of what we do. Co-creation has been intentional through involving customers and localization. The American Refugee Committee now became Alight. Nairobi co-creation hub: we will discuss shelter and settlement co-created through localized action. We plan to replicate the hub in the US, SE Asia, the Middle East, and Ukraine. So that partners can interact with these hubs.

William Anderson (Sphere)

A network of thousands of practitioners, policy leads, and advisors. We're a small secretariat financially supported by BHA, SDC, and PRM. We want to put quality at the heart of the humanitarian agenda. Seeing the overall indicators from the GSC mentioned with dignity is great. We host the Minimum economic recovery standards and minimum camp management standards. Sphere is not a threat or a rule book but a helper.

We will unpack a guide on nature-based solutions during the week.

We're considering revising the Sphere handbook and will work closely with GSC on this. We also want to create an online platform. Watch this space, and please engage with us.

15. Abdul Rahman, SC coordinator in Lebanon (UNHCR)

Lebanon has no camp policy, but many informal settlements have been established, mostly with makeshift shelters. Those shelters are made with plastic sheeting and timber that we distribute. We ended up distributing 100,000 plastic sheeting in 6,000 settlements. On Friday, we presented an innovative project about recycling plastic sheeting.

16. Ani (IFRC)

One of the key responses of the IFRC has been hosting assistance. We've compiled guidance notes that we will launch with a tipsheet and online training soon.

Priority Recommendations / Key Takeaways

The [Shelter Cluster communities of Practice](#) (CoPs) are voluntary bodies consisting of individuals with expertise and interest in a thematic area related to humanitarian shelter response, shelter practices, or shelter coordination. They provide capacity building tools and a forum as a point of entry to a repository of knowledge on key thematic issues related to the Shelter sector. This can be accessed as desk support to field responses or as policies, guidelines and other tools in support of the sector. The CoPs do not have a time-bound mandate as they typically support core ongoing cluster functions.

The Shelter Cluster communities of practice are:

- [Coordination Community of Practice](#)
- [Technical Community of Practice](#)
- [Information Management Community of Practice](#)
- [Recovery Community of Practice](#)
- [Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Community of Practice](#)
- [Environment Community of Practice](#)
- [Réseau Habitat d'Urgence Francophone](#)