



GLOBAL
SHELTER CLUSTER

Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

GSC MEETING 2024

12-14 JUNE 2024

OPEN SPACE SESSION

TOPICS DISCUSSED AND PRESENTERS

Time	Room: Alpha	Room: Sigma	Room: Theta	Room: Zeta	Room: Iota	Room: Omega	Room: Kappa
14:00 - 14:30	<p>Repurposing plastic sheets into doors”.</p> <p>Danielle Fares/Abdul Rahman – UNHCR</p>	<p>An Approach to Maximizing Localization, Extended Impact, and Optimal Reach</p> <p>Tom Corsellis - Shelter Center</p>	<p>Introducing new tools for the Shelter Sector: CO2 calculator; flood mitigation; etc</p> <p>Rama Al Nimri - UNHCR</p>	<p>Environmental considerations in the Settlements Approach</p> <p>Nataliia Makaruk - Impact Initiatives</p>	<p>Pro Bono support for engineering services: Designing an online platform for NGOs</p> <p>Francois Baillon - IHIP</p>	<p>Humanitarian energy interventions: Insights, progress and challenges</p> <p>Aimee Jenks and Hajar Al Kaddo GPA/NorCap</p>	<p>The HLP in Displacement e-Course - Introducing the interactive online, open access training resources</p> <p>Ibere Lopes - IOM</p>
14:30 - 15:00	<p>Managing Shelter Waste: The end of life cycle of the Refugee Housing Unit (RHU) and other shelter solutions</p> <p>Eva Ferrer - Better Shelter</p>	<p>Introducing the GSC Network for supporting Francophone countries</p> <p>Luca Ginoulhiac-CRS</p>	<p>Managing a complex Emergency Response after a natural disaster in Pakistan</p> <p>Muhammad Abbas - IOM</p>	<p>Strengthening inclusion of LGBTIQ+ people in humanitarian shelter responses</p> <p>Michael McGrath- Edge effect</p>	<p>Fostering Localization through increased alliances between INGOs and local CBOs</p> <p>Igor Radonjic - Alight</p>	<p>Shelter Response in Poland: Housing solutions for refugees</p> <p>Alicia Szczutowaska - Habitat for Humanity</p>	<p>Shelter and CCCM clusters collaboration</p> <p>Global Cluster coordinators</p>
15:00 - 15:30	<p>Homestay accommodation: Solutions for helping displaced people to find accommodation with host families</p> <p>Morgane Miramon and Gareth Lewis - J'accueille Gabriela Georgial-CRS</p>	<p>How the Shelter Projects publications create knowledge and what can be improved</p> <p>Alberto Alcalde - IOM</p>	<p>Post-conflict engineering- Ensuring return of affected communities to safe shelters in Ukraine</p> <p>Nourullah Kuchai - RedUK</p>	<p>Integrated rental solutions for urban internal displacement context - opportunities and challenges for catalytic change (the example of Somalia)</p> <p>Amun Osman- IOM</p>	<p>Exploring system challenges for localization and prioritizing communities based on experiences made with the settlements approach</p> <p>Hilmi Mohamed - InterAction</p>	<p>How aesthetics and beauty in the built environment enhance the well-being, dignity, and resilience of people in humanitarian crises</p> <p>Stephanie Acker - EUI</p>	

A man in a blue shirt stands at the front of a meeting room, facing a group of people seated in chairs. The room has large windows with blinds, and the windows are covered with numerous colorful sticky notes (yellow, orange, blue, green) containing handwritten text. An exit sign is visible above the door on the right. The text "Following slides are short summaries of discussed topics during the Open Space Session" is overlaid in white on the image.

Following slides are short summaries of discussed topics during the Open Space Session

Repurposing plastic sheet into doors

Recycling plastic sheeting is a widespread concern, posing environmental, financial, and logistical challenges for the shelter cluster. There is growing interest in exploring innovative products from recycled plastic sheeting, especially in protracted crises or transitioning to sustainable responses. The idea of lightweight, easily transportable doors made from recycled plastics was found intriguing. This solution addresses the need for essential shelter items while promoting sustainability. By focusing on such practical and eco-friendly applications and studying the future of these recycled items, operations can reduce plastic waste and enhance the efficiency of the response.

Humanitarian energy interventions: Insights, progress and challenges

The GPA Coordination Unit and NORCAP Energy roster teams delivered a session on clean energy within humanitarian responses, sharing major challenges, including limited energy expertise within the humanitarian system, coordination issues, limited funding, and data visibility. Examples of clean energy projects, such as the large-scale rollout of LPG for clean cooking in Cox's Bazar and solar mini-grids managed through sustainable finance models in Kakuma, were discussed. Participants talked about integrating energy into the Venezuela Shelter/NFI/Energy Cluster and expressed interest in follow-up discussions. Actions to follow: Connect with the GPA Coordination Unit for global support (aimee.jenks@unitar.org) or NORCAP for energy expert deployment (hajar.alkaddo@nrc.no).

Introducing new tools for the Shelter Sector: CO2 calculator, flood mitigation



The session introduced new tools for the Shelter Sector, developed by UNHCR as a result of a collaborative research effort developed in an academic partnership facilitated by the Geneva Technical hub, between UNHCR/SDC and the Swiss Institute of Technology of Lausanne (EPFL) as well as ETH Zurich. These tools include:

- Shelter and Sustainability Assessment Tool: Evaluates environmental impacts, promoting sustainable shelter solutions.
- Flood Mitigation and Risk Assessment Toolbox: Assesses and mitigates flood risks, through GIS tools and community consultation.
- Settlement Layout Optimization Guidelines: Provides best practices for communal open space, circulation networks, and facilities and services design in humanitarian settlements.

These tools together aim to enhance the sustainability, resilience, and efficiency of shelter and settlement programs, addressing environmental as well as operational challenges. The session highlighted the importance of such collaborations for integrating these tools into shelter initiatives to achieve better outcomes.”

Introducing the GSC Network for supporting Francophone countries by the “Réseau Habitat d’Urgence Francophone”



The 30-minute session was an opportunity to briefly present the Francophone interagency initiative and the newly established Community of Practice (CoP), and to receive feedback from participants to identify a list of possible priorities and activities to better joint deliver and coordinate shelter assistance in French-speaking countries.

In addition to the need to translate and provide guidance in French, the participants underlined the need for an assessment of capacities in the countries and their shelter sectors and based on this assessment, to organize knowledge exchanges, training and tailored guidance, including through the identification of dedicated funding sources.

Environmental considerations in the Settlements Approach

Session on “Environmental considerations in the Settlements Approach” highlighted recommendations for humanitarian actors on how to incorporate environmental lens in the initial steps of settlement identification, delineation, and profiling, building on the principles of the settlement approach. The audience was also introduced to existing tools and resources that support operationalization of settlements approach and notified about the upcoming in September Environmental Thematic Annex to Settlements Approach Guidance Note.

Homestay accommodation: Solutions for helping displaced people to find accommodation with host families



This presentation covered 2 hosting projects, where refugees are matched with local people willing to offer a spare room, offering not only accommodation but also connection between refugees and the host population, enhancing integration and social cohesion. J'accueille described their work in France, where 1,300 hosts offer their homes with no additional cash support, and CRS described theirs in Moldova where 14,000 hosts are provided with cash.

Video testimonies from hosts and hostees of the J'accueille program, and links to their recent movie "ma France a moi" can be found on their Instagram here: <https://www.instagram.com/jaccueille/reel/C6JBWvqIswF/>

Managing a complex Emergency Response after a natural disaster in Pakistan

Pakistan is the 8th most vulnerable country on the Global Climate Risk Index. It is vulnerable to natural disasters, including floods, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF), droughts, and others.

Developing countries like Pakistan, and least developed countries, while contributing negligible share to the global emissions, are facing brunt of the climate change impacts. Pakistan is affected by Monsoon rains (July-September), and Shelter NFI Sector takes appropriate actions as part of preparedness and managing emergency situations. The Cluster Coordinates with various key stakeholders including Government, humanitarian community, and civil society in this regard.

The preparedness actions include Strategy development, Information management and data sharing, Coordination meeting and partners mobilization, Partners and stocks mapping, Technical guidelines/Standards, and Early warning. In 2024 the response targeting includes Newly displaced populations, People living in poor shelter, Female-headed households, Persons with disabilities (PWD), and Afghan refugees. The Response Strategy is built on Leave no one behind, context specific and people-centered coordination mechanism, enhancing system wise preparedness and response mechanism, ensure affected population has access to assistance according to humanitarian principles.

How the Shelter Projects publications create knowledge and what can be improved

Shelter Projects' breakout session participants proposed to translate the publications to different languages to maximize the dissemination at the field level, also leveraging the clusters for disseminating the information to the partners. They suggested as well distributing hardcopies to public libraries and enhancing the engagement with local authorities and academia through orientation sessions and workshops. For the upcoming 10th edition, to be released in June 2025, participants proposed to include more research abstracts, and links to access the supporting documents provided by the case study contributors, such as technical designs, bills of quantities, reports, etc.

Shelter Response in Poland: Housing solutions for refugees

The situation of Ukrainians seeking refuge and safety in Poland is dynamic, with evolving needs and legislation changes. While some consider returning to Ukraine amidst changing legislation, others choose to remain in Poland or move to other EU countries. The initial surge of ad hoc support, including solidarity housing and humanitarian aid, is declining. Consequently, there is a pressing need for sustained, longer-term housing and development assistance - not only for Ukrainian refugees. This presentation aimed to reflect on past response, implemented measures, and explore current challenges.

Managing Shelter Waste: The End of Life of RHU and other shelter solutions

The session centred on Better Shelter's approach to sustainability. It began by reviewing the existing shelter's lifecycle analysis to determine which of the components is the most carbon-intensive. We continued by discussing the limitations of such quantitative approaches, such as failing to consider the social, more qualitative aspects of the shelters, or the end of life waste management options. To address these limitations, we have been working with Alicia Gimeno, an external consultant, who has assisted us in identifying local waste management initiatives with which we can potentially collaborate to develop and implement a circular economy.

How aesthetics and beauty in the built environment enhance the well-being, dignity, and resilience of people in humanitarian crises

This session explored the significance of beauty in the built environment for individuals who have experienced forced displacement. The research, drawing on participatory arts-based methods and community-driven dialogues, reveals that beautification of spaces supports mental health and resilience by fostering hope, agency, and cultural identity. Acts of beautification allow individuals to cope with trauma, express complex emotions, and uphold human rights. Beautification also enhances community resilience by fostering social capital and preserving cultural identity. Challenging Maslow's hierarchy, the research emphasizes that aesthetics are vital, not a luxury, for holistic humanitarian responses.

THANK YOU