

Session Notes: Way Forward and evaluation of the shelter week

Date: 14 June 2024

Time: 16:00-17:00

Thematic area: Way forward

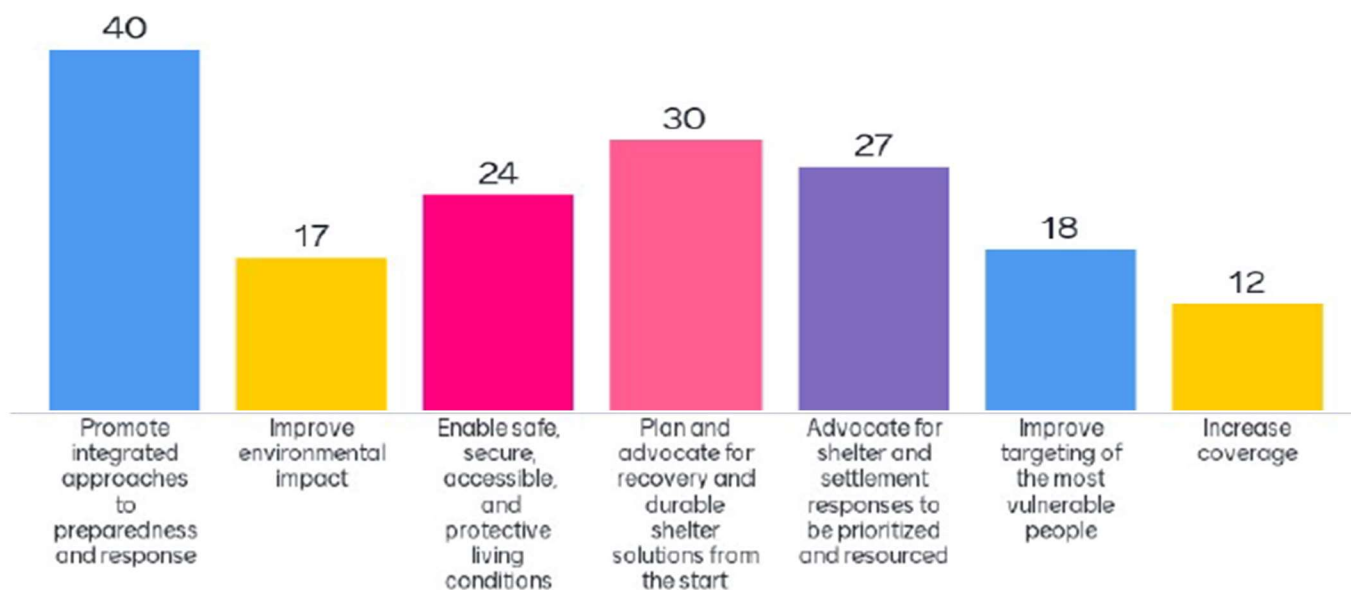
Facilitator: Seki Hirano & Pablo Medina

Note taker/analysis: Alexandre Koclejda.

Summary of the discussion

During this session, the Global Shelter Cluster coordinators presented the key highlights of the Annual Meeting, summarizing the identified challenges and the ways to progress our strategic priorities.

Participants shared the strategic priorities they can contribute to. Promoting the integrated approach to preparedness and response was the priority for the majority of participants. It is also interesting that all strategic priorities, including improving the environmental impact and increasing coverage, would have good support from the shelter community.



Participants were asked to share their inputs on:

- how to gain momentum and globally capture all partner's efforts to realize the vision.
- how to contribute and connect their work to the strategy.
- their main takeaway from the meeting

The following table compiles participants' feedback. It provides an overview of the quotes received during the annual meeting. Participants shared their feedback using their phones. Inputs shared by several participants are underlined in the table below.



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Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

Topic	how we can gain momentum and globally capture all partner's efforts in realizing the vision:	How would you make such contributions? How would you connect your work to the strategy?	What is your main takeaway from the meeting this year?
GSC Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help us to create a coherent language that we can use to discuss these issues and strengthen capacity/knowledge at a local level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSC's strategy is aligned with our organization's strategy, so that's automatic. • Seek alignment and contribution to the development of knowledge around the strategy. • <u>Enforcement at country level ensuring that the country strategy aligns with the GSC priorities.</u> • Using the strategy as a road map, measuring performance against it • <u>The CRS strategy aligns with the GSC strategy in many ways.</u> • <u>Edge Effect will release an LGBTQI shelter strategy that speaks directly to the GSC strategy.</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSC strategy 24-28 • Settlements • An inclusive effort towards the cluster strategy. Commitment to hear partner's voices. • There still feels like a massive gap exists between the need to address more with less and the new strategy, which identifies more to do with less but does little to address the basic needs gap. • We have one shared vision. We are willing to develop a common strategy
Effective Coordination, Collaboration, and Networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major coordination with different sectors in Shelter and more meetings to share ideas • Coordinate donors!! • Collaborate with universities. • <u>Coordinating with National and Provincial governments, shelter stakeholders, national NGOs, and GSC focal points is required.</u> • <u>Avoid working in silo.</u> • <u>Global meetings/briefing / bilateral meetings with country clusters</u> • An online forum • <u>Regular outreach on progress from partners and global initiatives. Newsletters show progress made and share knowledge across the network. Share success in newspapers.</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Take the lead at the country level and ensure the country-level strategy links/speaks to the global strategy, bringing partners together.</u> • We can provide technical support. We have access to 100s of engineers and experts willing to provide pro bono support. • Continuously engaging and participating in discussions • Engage with shelter cluster members. • <u>We will share information, collaborate on learning, and share resources around the priorities.</u> • engage my partners with the GSC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration breaking the silos, • We need to build partnerships. • I am the only private-sector actor. We need to change that if we are going to increase reach and collaboration and reduce the shelter gap. • Much better partnerships with the private sector are needed. • <u>Many great examples which hopefully influence the way we work</u> • <u>spirit of friendship and collaboration and empowerment of the partners</u>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish & invest proactively in extending networks across academia & other sector groups. • Stakeholders mapping and coordination. • Proper trust building by providing equal opportunities to each organization. Highlight and recognize their efforts and achievements by reflecting on their contribution at the global level. • More visibility and participation of different actors with different roles • More regional meetings should be held among the shelter focal points in the regions. Create a Shelter community on MS Teams (media) that will allow ideas to be exchanged and support each other. • Organizing workshops and working groups, practical approaches to tackle different topics, and facilitating more collaboration. • We need to identify and collaborate with more champions from other sectors to demonstrate our multi-sector impact and value through evidence and collaborate to advocate for us and with us. • Do e-meetings on a monthly or quarterly basis 		
Durable Solutions, Nexus, and Integrated Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in collaboration with all stakeholders and mainly advocating for political solutions for IDPs to find durable solutions. • Better and integrated coordination • Committing to adhere to an integrated approach. • <u>Expand the scope of interest to non-traditional donors, private sector/ impact investors, diaspora, and media.</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design holistic and sustainable projects in line with the strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable solutions and integrated approach • Nexus does not work. Solutions are the way forward. • Inter-sectoral approach can work. • Lots of talk on durable solutions • Longer term solution Evidence beyond the emergency Environmental mainstream



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and leverage existing and new partnerships to create opportunities to amplify the centrality of shelter and settlements for achieving multi-sectoral durable solutions 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development agencies still have much to learn about linking emergencies with durable solutions, breaking the cycle of emergencies, and saving lives. Integrated response through partnerships. Ensuring conflict sensitivity in shelter response The link between shelter and durable solutions (housing) The long-term sustainability of projects is a crucial requirement for project success, and we need to better understand our long-term impact on social relations and community resilience.
Building capacity, lessons learned, and knowledge sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support training and internal capacity-building efforts. Building capacities of local government, academics in affected countries, national NGO Be the best of who you are. Sharing knowledge and lessons learned across the world. Align the learning agenda to generate evidence and examples. Build partnerships with academia and universities. Strengthen the organization that has permanent structures to the root level. Focus on the basics and field support, not the most complicated elements. Train coordinators and provide technical support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using university mentors Continuous education in parallel domains and establish contacts with other colleagues within the sector. Share case studies in specific contexts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge sharing, learning from similar clusters. Learned from many other interventions and feedback from diverse organizations. A need to not duplicate errors that occurred in the 70s when development actors thought technologies alone would solve housing problems



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the capacity of the people and communities we support 		
Advocacy, fundraising, and communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on Impartiality at the global level. • Cross clusters funding support. • More synergy and joint effort in advocacy and resource mobilization for our sector • Maybe think of a well-structured advocacy campaign • Stronger engagement with the private sector and non-traditional donors • Advocating for durable and quality solutions to public and private donors. • Mid/long-term budgets • Include cost analysis in advocacy messages, including mapping a transition strategy (time-bound limits for emergency shelter solutions) and how to roll out through targeting. • Strategic advocacy tapping into the social, economic, and political implications of inaction or residual assistance. • Push (kindly) donors to allocate funds based on evidence. • Joint initiatives: Delegate advocacy materials development to different organizations, focusing on the wider impact of shelter. Allocate different topics to different groups with some funds. • Focus on a multi-faceted approach that includes strengthening partnerships, enhancing communication, and leveraging technology. • Reduce running costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing in other donors • Increased communication and sharing • Provide a situational analysis of responses and funding in a sample of multiyear responses. Link to specific actions for funding recommendations. • Tv reports • Advocated for the neglected crisis. • More actively participate in the country-level cluster sharing results and evidence from shelter interventions and continue interacting with the GSC team, sharing these contents and amplifying guidance. • As a donor relations person, I will use the strategy to advocate for shelter funding. • <u>A list of the ten most neglected shelter crises was suggested as a document to raise funding; I would be happy to help create that tool.</u> • Focus on fundraising for more evidence and research on multi-sector impacts, particularly the impact of shelter for children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources are shrinking. Don't rely on one donor. We have talked enough, we need to ACT on collaborative efforts. • More training and funding are needed. • Advocate for the importance of shelter



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate at the high level of UN agencies and INGOs to prioritize Shelter assistance/activities. • More communication!!! • Financial support from humanitarian institutions and the scope of those institutions should be elongated for rehabilitation 		
Localization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize partners' actions. • Localization based on a real capacity-building approach. • Engage more closely with academic and development partners to explore gaps in knowledge and LOCALISE. • Giving local NGOs, communities, and authorities more visibility and leadership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education, UNESCO chair networking, reengineering of local building culture. • <u>Localized and multi-stakeholder approaches.</u> • <u>Including as many partners (as much local and community level as possible) in the design and implementation of solutions since the starts</u> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Localization</u> • Local funding and expertise Inclusion
Evidence and innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather evidence of what works well in shelter... decision makers respond to evidence. • <u>Collaboration to improve the evidence and knowledge about durable solutions.</u> • Change the KPI to measure the number of assisted people and how long they are assisted. • Explore how to calculate the cost of no action in shelter and other ways of better advocating for shelter and settlement funding—keep the dialogue initiated today on this topic. • Stop pretending that we already have all the answers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpacking and translating the strategy to specific actions • GFP research • Turning ideas into pilot projects. • Support decision-making by giving clearer evidence of different shelter options. • Working on evidence-based data, focused on a prioritized targeting approach. • <u>Join the multiple working groups and committees</u> to understand the evidence better. • We aim to work more closely with universities and researchers in the countries where we work to identify key advocacy messages to bring back to donors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be creative regarding collaboration and cooperation / Reach out to colleagues in other sectors. • try to find innovative shelter assistance solutions to increase coverage and efficiency. • We need more evidence, and we need to communicate that evidence better



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be more active in engaging with other operations and have more information about what they do in similar contexts. • My work would align with the Shelter Cluster strategy by integrating local feedback and promoting innovative solutions, enhancing transparency, efficiency, and community engagement. 	
Environment and Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make climate a core element in the shelter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the GSC and in-country clusters with practical solutions and technical advice in clean cooking and sustainable solar solutions for communities. • Research on climate change's impact on displacement and humanitarian response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming the environment in Cluster activities • Environmental impact mitigation • Environment has become an important topic. • Sustainability and environmental protection (as much as possible) should be considered as early as possible in humanitarian responses. • Don't overlook sustainability, beauty, and humanity in our responses. • Climate actions
Accountability to affected population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting people in need at the center of all response interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging with communities and making them part of the solution is the best way to find solutions. • Ensuring a people center approach is my goal always 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting PEOPLE first. All that is happening is for people, not as projects that must be done and boxes ticked. • Putting people at the center • We should strive to support people in creating their own homes and communities and step away from making all the decisions pertaining to those two things.



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Impacts and M&E	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working closely across sectors/clusters to improve impact.• Continue good work on monitoring.• Focus on your shelter task, reevaluate your approaches, drop stuff that is not yielding results, demonstrate the efficacy of using shelters to improve people's lives, and stay away from complex things.• We need to work in a way that we achieve tangible results on durable shelters and settlements to improve conditions of forced displaced people	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good monitoring and reporting from partners• By being active in clusters and TWiGs, doing our best in program implantation, monitoring and evaluation of the activity in the field.	
Other topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Embedding LGBTQ-sensitive lens in programming, training, and organizational policies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Sharing thoughts, information</u>• Keeping in touch, liaising with all relevant actors, providing technical support and echoing good advice.• <u>I'd create digital tools for data sharing and project tracking, ensuring stakeholder collaboration and local feedback.</u>• Stay connected	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Great participation, Great people! Honest discussions• Shelter is a process, not a product. There is also a massive unspoken division in our sector. Ninety percent of implementors in the field are still focused on the product-driven approach, while the SAG and global discussion are focused on the process.• The issues are repetitive across the globe, and only discussions on the political level are happening. No practical up-to-bottom mechanism has been proposed.• We repeat the same issues. However• <u>It was good to reconnect with old colleagues and get the opportunity to share some of our work.</u>• We should have the next shelter week not in Geneva :)



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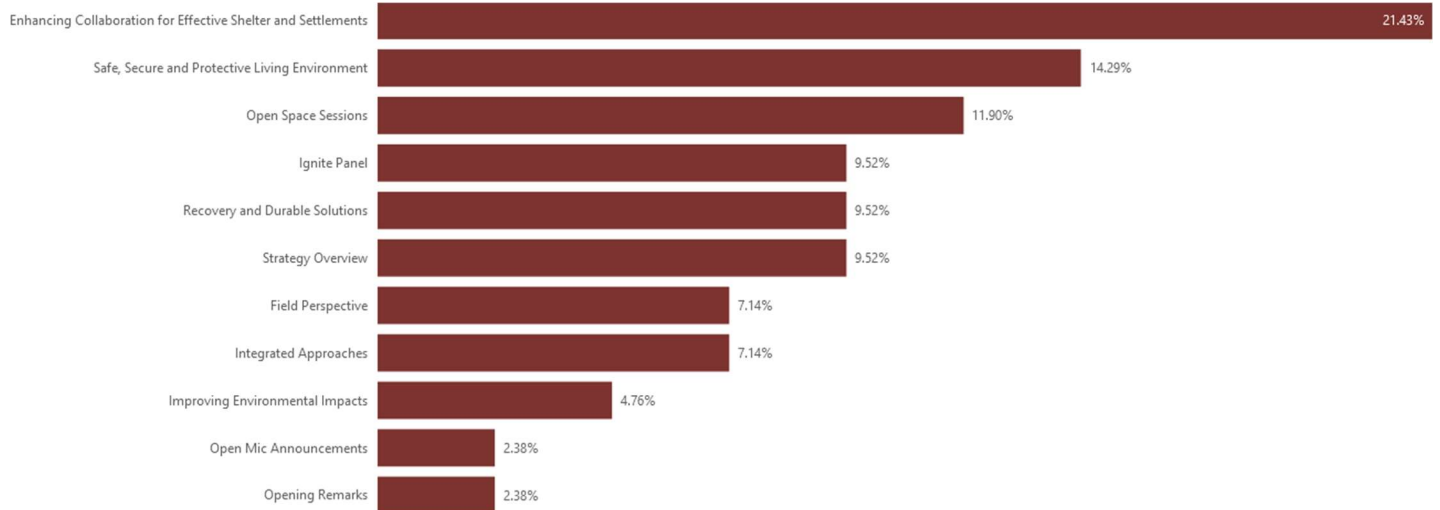
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting people that are facing the same challenges as me.• <u>Unique experience interacting with different shelter clusters people across the globe and learning how they work.</u>• Conflict sensitivity of our responses• Beauty is fundamental to being human, and we should celebrate and promote it in shelter response and use it to connect and remind ourselves of our shared humanity



GSC Annual Meeting 2024 Evaluation

A [dashboard](#) summarizes the feedback from the participants

Most relevant sessions

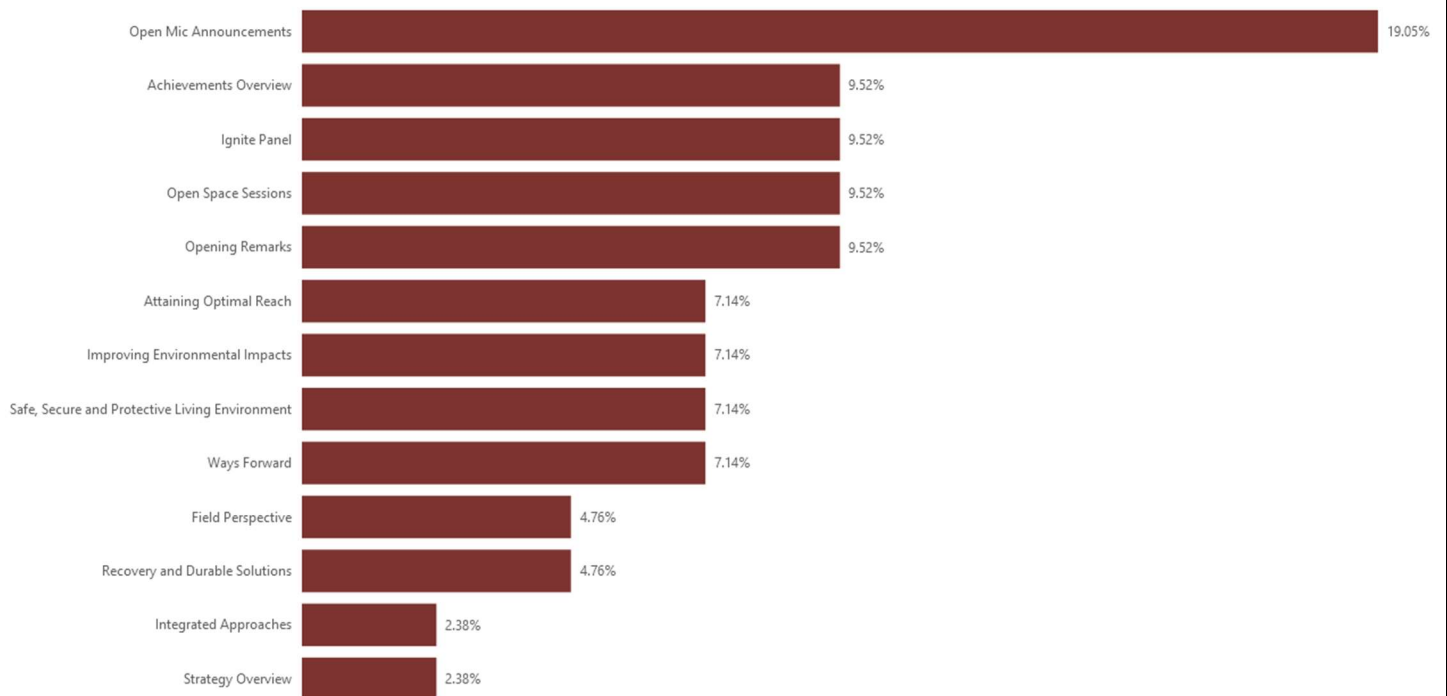


What did you like the most about the event this year?

- Advocacy and Response
- Being able to choose the sessions.
- Breaking out rooms and panels
- Collaborative, inclusive, interactive sessions and constructive exchanges (and during coffee breaks)
- Communication and shared experience, including from the field.
- Relevant content and diversity of topics, presentations from different operations
- However, more work is required to bring grassroots organizations.
- Energy and passion of participants
- Improving Environmental impacts
- Localization
- Meeting colleagues in person, networking
- Panel discussions
- The connectivity of people in the room
- The venue



What were the least relevant sessions?



What aspects you didn't like about the event this year?

- Classroom seating arrangement.
- Coffee
- Geneva is too expensive.
- Having large private sector pitchers.
- It is hard to think of one.
- Lack of time to interact.
- less engagement between participants and session facilitators
- Not enough time for questions and discussions (feedback from several participants)
- Not many discussions about shelter in urban settings. No side meetings with regional coordinators
- Not many high-level speakers.
- The online questions system and QR codes often did not work or were closed before we scanned them.
- Time allocation for each session: Some sessions were short and others too long.
- The lack of time for networking within the event itself
- The room was a bit dark, but at the same time, it was nice to be small/ intimate and allow easy conversation.

Comments from the note-taker:

Many participants mentioned they liked everything or that there was no session they did not like.