



Malawi Shelter Cluster Technical Working Group (TWG) on Promoting Safer building Practices
Notes of the meeting held on 24.06 .and 15.07.2021 from 10h-11.30h via ZOOM

Participants:
(in order of appearance on the zoom participants list)

	Name	Organization	Mail
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15	Enrique Sevillano G.	CRAterre, School of Architecture Grenoble, France	e.sevillano.gutierrez@gmail.com
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18	Emma Weinstein Sheffield	CARE UK	



Agenda:

1. recap & conclusions last meeting (June 24th and July 15th)
2. presentation communications channels analysis and comms strategy
3. Announcement and explanation of shelter learning day in September (foreseen date to be confirmed 9th)
4. first conclusions of geoscience & shelter workshop and outlook on next steps

1. Welcome recap, conclusions last meeting

Cecilia presented a recap of the discussions and conclusions of the last meeting:

- The material selection tool which has been developed in the TWG was tested together in the meeting on June 24th by filling it for grass/thatch in the context of Nsanje and Chiquawa.
 - The ranking for grass in that context was rather low, given it's low availability, low durability and low hazard resistance. The tools indicated that for this context the tool showed that CGI (corrugated Iron Sheeting) was more accessible and as affordable as thatch while scoring higher on durability and maintenance, so it would be the better choice of material to promote, at least amongst the communities that have some own resources.
 - Conclusion from the exercise, the tool is very useful to "check" the appropriateness if a material for a given context.
 - Suggested revisions:
 - cancel" criteria ("0" ranking) should be kept to the absolute minimum to not make the tool too restrictive.
 - Some criteria are more relevant or important than others, this should be reflected in the weighting to get more accurate results
 - It was agreed to work on the tool within a smaller group to facture in the suggested revisions and present a final version for discussion with Shadreck.
- Messages to promote safer roofing were discussed based on the key failure mechanisms for roofs assessed in poor rural contexts. The key elements selected to promote are:
 - roof shape (ideally hipped) and slope (20°-30° for CGI, 35°- 45° for thatch)



- detached veranda roof
 - roof overhang adapted to wind loads (50cm for most parts of Malawi)
 - wall plate or rings beam with tie downs to connect the roof structure to the wall
 - diagonal bracing (not as critical for hipped roof but essential to strengthen gable or single pitch roof)
- Dates were shared for upcoming sessions: geoscience workshop July 28th, field visit to CRS model houses August 17th and Shelter learning day September 9th (TBC) with quick introductions about the events
 - For the TWG meeting on July 15th several people couldn't join because of confusion with the zoom links. It was decided to not follow the intended agenda but instead use the session to introduce Ike Phiri from Malawi University, who joined for the first time, to the work of the TWG. Furthermore, we had a discussion about potential engagement of the university on research for alternative materials and dissemination of safer construction practices and further involvement of Ike or other University colleges in the TWG.

2. Shelter learning day

Brief introduction of CRS planned events:

- Field Visit to Nsanje on August 17th, to see the demonstration model houses that have been constructed, one to foundation level, one to Lintel level and one fully completed, to be able to see all the safer construction techniques and DRR features. Colleges from the national and local authorities as well as University are most welcome. Travel can be arranged for them.
- **Shelter Learning Day in September** 1st or 9th (TBC) in Lilongwe to share experience, learning and research from shelter projects in Malawi, → presentations from all TWG members as well as others on their learning and experience sharing are much welcome

3. CRS presentation communications channels analysis and comms strategy and tool (Sonia)

Edwin Chimsale presented how CRS has used the stakeholder and engagement channel analysis to identify the best communications-strategies to apply to the different target groups identified. Main conclusions were that manuals for technical trainings needed to be well illustrated to also be comprehensible for illiterate artisans. Furthermore, it is critical to conduct the trainings as well as other communications in the local language to ensure understanding and uptake. From the beginning of the process local authorities (VCDCs, housing officers, etc) were involved and targeted with awareness raising about safe and sustainable construction practices and also included in artisan trainings. Furthermore, TEVETA as the certified agency for technical trainings is involved to in the artisan trainings. Sonia presented the tool (xls sheet) that CRS used to capture and analyse the relevant information and come to the conclusions for the communications strategy.

4. Sneak preview geosciences & shelter workshop first conclusions



Susanne gave a quick recap of the geoscience & shelter session that had taken place on July 27th.with good participation. The overall objective to stat session was to make the links between geoscientists and shelter practitioners in order to promote exchange and collaboration that can help deal with barriers to shelter recovery that are related local geohazards (landslides, floods, earthquakes etc.) Presentations from geosciences side were given on different projects on Hazards & Geohazard mapping in Malawi, lessons from a project on sustainable water supply and on already available geoscience datasets for Malawi and how this data can be used to inform shelter projects. A presentation about humanitarian response for shelter & settlements in emergency and recovery helped to introduce the geoscience colleges to the challenges faced. Presentations will be made available online. Conclusions/actions for next steps were to create a platform for sharing ideas and information in order to connect people to the right skills and expertise. The role of DODMA to champion the connection with geoscientists to support shelter recovery I especially also n urban areas should be clarified. All agreed that working together on better accessibility and disseminating of information would be of great value.

- **The Next TWG meeting was set for 26th of August at 10h**
- **Main agenda topic will be to discuss MEAL (Monitoring, evaluation, and Learning)**

feel free to join the TWG Whatsapp group to be better connected: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/DJEj8QAwGN39Nk5o6y6EXA>

Sildes of the recap presentation:



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**Malawi Shelter Cluster
Technical Working Group
for
Promoting Safer Building Practices
in Malawi**

a collaboration with the Global Shelter Cluster Working Group on "Promoting Safer Building Practices" and partners of the GCRF research project

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Agenda:

1. recap & conclusions last meeting
2. discuss updated matrix for Identifying "green" construction materials
3. key messages for roofing?
4. fix date for geosience meeting

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Recap of goals and objectives

- Step 0: Forming the Working Group
- Step 1: Understanding the Context (SAP analysis, building practices, construction failure mechanisms, coping strategies, available materials, etc.)
- Step 2: Define IEC Preliminary Objectives
- Step 3: Identifying Stakeholders & Audiences
- Step 4: Engagement pathways analysis (communication media analysis)
- Step 5: Develop Detailed Messaging for Audiences/ Stakeholders and Engagement Pathways
- Step 6: Define Roll-Out Strategy and confirm IEC objectives
- Step 7: Define Monitoring, Revision and Evaluation Framework

→ **Context analysis:**

- Assessment trainings by CRATERE and fieldwork by CRS, Cadecom, CARD; finding shared and discussed in the TWG
- Sharing knowledge and experience from active agencies CRS/Cadecom, HFH, Care, Malawi Red Cross
- Identified most common failure mechanisms

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→ **Objectives and shared ambition:**

- promote stronger, more durable housing especially in highly vulnerable communities that are facing the realities of poverty, lack of resources and limited capacities.
- Focus not only on technical solutions but on awareness raising and better understanding of weaknesses and risks
- what are "green technologies" in different contexts? How to decide, identify the appropriate

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→ **Objectives:**

- Raise awareness of communities about their shelter & settlement related vulnerabilities and risks
- Promote safer building practices as widely as possible, with focus on people who do not receive any external reconstruction support

→ **Key stakeholders and audiences:**

- the affected communities
- artisans and builders
- VCPs, housing officers and other community mobilizers
- Traditional Authorities
- National authorities (MLHUD, MCPW, district level governance)

→ **Different kind of messages are needed for different target groups**

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→ **Suggested Communication channels:**

- "Theatre for change" (or for development) performances
- Community awareness raising about safer building practices
- Basic hands on trainings and demonstrations of safe construction practices in the communities (for "self-builders")
- Practical trainings for local artisans and builders, ideally with a "safer construction" certification
- Construction of Model houses
- Workshops and/or conferences to bring together representatives from the different involved ministries and levels (national and district level governance) and practitioners (NGOs) to discuss and exchange
- Continue coordination through the Shelter Cluster and the TWG

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→ **Messages identified based on analysis of failure mechanisms:**

- Foundations:
 - Strongly rebuke for the importance of building foundations and promote deep and strong foundations (except for in areas with black cotton soil)
 - Rammed earth
 - appropriate use of damp proof membrane
- Walls and loadbearing structures:
 - focus on proper dimensioning of elements (walls, columns, beams)
 - where possible avoid smaller parts for loadbearing elements
 - Proper wall base with plaster
- Promote materials that have least environmental impact
- Focus on good workmanship

→ **different regions/context different techniques and materials are appropriate.**

→ **if "green materials or techniques" are not affordable they will not be used, hence are not sustainable**

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Discussed criteria for choosing green materials:

- Need to "cancel out" criteria or rating
- How to distinguish suitability for urban areas?

How to keep the most suitable "green" materials/technology for your project?

Material/Technology	Criteria	Rating
...

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Presentation on geosience work in Malawi and how it can be useful for humanitarians

Localities based: Source: UNEP & World Bank
Road based: Source: UNEP & World Bank
Shelter Management Office (SMO) map

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