

EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE AFTER ACTION REVIEW WORKSHOP

OCTOBER 2025

Executive Summary

This report summarizes the Earthquake Response After Action Review Workshop held in Mandalay, Myanmar, on 23–24 October 2025. Convened by the Myanmar Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster team, the workshop brought together cluster members to reflect on the response to the 28 March 2025 earthquake, which devastated communities across multiple states and regions.

The workshop aimed to strengthen emergency response capacities, promote peer-to-peer learning, and enhance coordination among partners. Through presentations, group discussions, and strategic planning sessions, participants shared experiences, identified challenges, and proposed actionable recommendations. Key insights from the workshop highlighted that strong coordination, transparent targeting, and community engagement are essential for effective emergency response. Participants emphasized the value of flexibility, localized partnerships, and technical support, which significantly improved the impact of interventions. However, gaps in planning, supply chain management, and damage assessments were noted as areas for improvement.

Looking ahead, the workshop underscored the importance of building on these lessons to shape a more resilient, inclusive, and coordinated emergency response system. The recommendations and reflections captured in this report aim to guide future preparedness and response efforts of Shelter/NFI/CCCM cluster members.

Background and Objectives

The 7.7 magnitude earthquake on 28 March 2025 caused widespread destruction across Myanmar, affecting over 17 million people. Over 40,000 homes were destroyed, leaving thousands of families displaced and exposed to unsafe living conditions. The humanitarian impact was immense, with 5.2 million people in need of Shelter, NFI, and CCCM support.

The earthquake compounded pre-existing vulnerabilities in areas already affected by conflict, displacement, and economic hardship. The onset of the monsoon season (June - October) has further intensified risks, including flooding, disease outbreaks, and secondary displacement. These challenges have placed extraordinary pressure on humanitarian actors and local responders.

In response, up to date, the Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster, through cluster members, reached 313,100 people with life-saving assistance across the four coordination hubs affected: North-West, South-East, National, and Shan/Kayah hubs.

To reflect on this response and strengthen future preparedness, the Earthquake Response AAR Workshop was convened in Mandalay on 23–24 October 2025. The workshop aimed:



- Strengthen emergency response capacities in the affected hubs.
- Promote peer learning, open reflection, and operational feedback.
- Present key interventions and findings from Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDMs).
- Review challenges and lessons learned from the field.
- Identify priorities and strategies for faster, more effective future responses.
- Reinforce the importance of localized coordination, technical support, and community engagement.
- Encourage active participation and constructive dialogue throughout the sessions.

This workshop provided a vital space for cluster members to share experiences, consolidate learning, and collaboratively shape a more resilient and inclusive SNFI/CCCM emergency response.

Workshop Agenda Overview

Day 1 - Sharing Experiences & Strengthening Coordination

Time	Session
Opening	Remarks and Objectives
Icebreaker	Participants' Introduction
Session 1	Overview of the Earthquake Response Efforts
Session 2	Cluster Members Presentation (Blocks 1-3)
Session 3	Challenges and Obstacles / Improve Coordination

Day 2 - Strengthening Systems & Planning

Time	Session
Morning	Recap of Day 1
Session 4	Improving Reporting and Information Sharing
Session 5	EQ Response Cluster Strategy Review
Session 6	General Recommendations for better coordination, timely response, and effective programming
Closing	Remarks and Acknowledgments

1. Overview of the Earthquake Response Efforts

The Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster presented a comprehensive overview of the emergency response following the 28 March 2025 earthquake. The presentation highlighted the affected areas, the need, achievements, and gaps for shelter, NFIs, and CCCM support and coordination efforts.

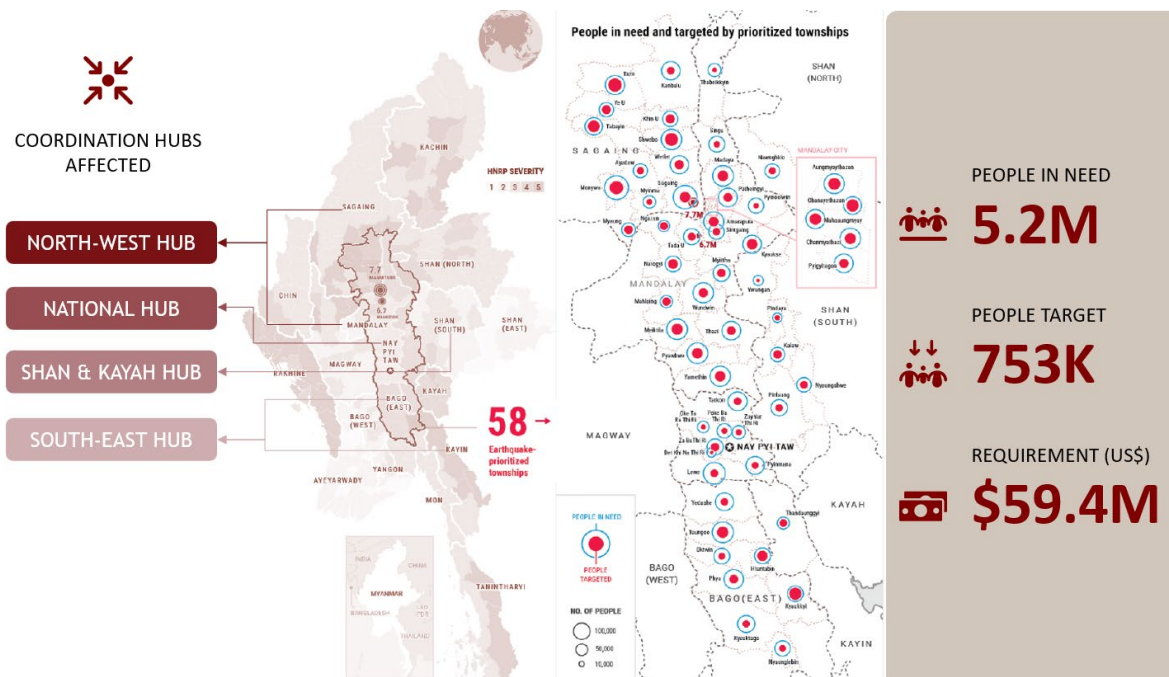
The response was coordinated across national and three different hubs **Northwest, Southeast, Shan & Kayah, and National** with strategic planning and technical coordination guiding the delivery of assistance. As of October 2025, the Cluster reached **313,100 people**, achieving **41.6%** of the **753,000**-target population, with a funding requirement of **\$59.4 million**, of which **\$5.05 million** has been received or committed as per FTS data.

Summary of coordination efforts:

- **Supporting Service Delivery:** Multi-level coordination meetings, response progress, gap analysis, avoid overlap (5w/ dashboard/ intervention plan), dissemination of information (cross-cutting issues, snapshot, factsheets, sitreps).
- **Informing HC/HCT Strategic Decision-making:** Joint needs assessments (MIRA, RNA), Shelter, NFI & CCCM Cluster needs assessment report.
- **Planning and Implementing Cluster Strategies:** Earthquake response cluster strategy, cash-based intervention for shelter and NFI guidance, transitional shelter design (two types) and BoQ, BBS IEC materials.
- **Building Capacity in Preparedness and Contingency Plan:** Inter-cluster armed conflicts and natural disasters contingency plan – NW, inter-cluster contingency plan – SE, after action review workshop, CCCM trainings.
- **Supporting Robust Advocacy:** HNRP flash addendum Myanmar earthquake, Shelter, NFI & CCCM cluster advocacy notes and key messages, and Shelter, NFI & CCCM cluster donor briefings.

The presentation also covered response figures by region, showing significant gaps in coverage. Implementation modalities varied across locations, with efforts to improve site management, community engagement, and disaster risk reduction through CCCM activities.

The session concluded with a call to enhance coordination, optimize data sharing, and guarantee localized, accountable, and technically proficient interventions moving forward.





2. Summary of Cluster Members' Presentation

During the workshop, partners delivered presentations that were subsequently followed by discussions addressing their responses, challenges encountered, best practices implemented, and lessons learned.

Challenges

The earthquake response in Myanmar faced a complex array of challenges that significantly impacted the delivery of shelter, NFI, and CCCM assistance. These difficulties were influenced by an unstable operational environment, logistical constraints, and resource limitations.

Access and Security Constraints

Many targeted areas were affected by ongoing conflict and high security risks. Restrictions on supply movements and scrutiny over cash-based modalities by authorities added to the operational burden.

Logistical and Transportation Barriers

Transporting materials to affected communities was hindered by tight checkpoints, limited financial access, and poor weather conditions. Organizations had to rely on local, trusted transport providers, often at high cost, and coordinate closely with local officials to navigate security risks. The lack of transportation funding and the limited availability of skilled technicians further delayed deliveries.

Resource Limitations and Unmet Needs

Despite significant efforts, the scale of need far exceeded available resources. Budget constraints limited the ability to provide standard assistance packages, and additional needs emerged due to compounding disasters such as flooding and landslides.

Shelter-Specific Challenges

Households aimed to rebuild homes based on previous designs and sizes, often without sufficient financial means, affecting the quality and resilience of reconstruction. In flood-prone areas, Build Back Safer (BBS) measures, such as elevated housing, required more materials and funding than were available. Moreover, BBS techniques like bracing were not commonly practiced by local carpenters, reducing the effectiveness of safer shelter designs.

Housing, Land and Property and Registration Issues

Concerns about HLP due diligence and ownership verification created delays in assistance. Household registration lists were often unstable or incomplete, complicating targeting and verification processes.

Financial and Market Constraints

Delays in fund transfers due to limited financial access, coupled with price fluctuations in shelter materials, further strained the response. In some cases, the transfer amounts were insufficient to cover the full cost of repairs for severely damaged homes.

These challenges underscore the need for flexible, well-resourced, and locally informed strategies to navigate complex humanitarian settings. Strengthening coordination, improving access, and investing in preparedness will be critical to overcoming these barriers in future responses.

Lessons Learned

The earthquake response in Myanmar revealed critical operational insights and valuable lessons that can inform future emergency preparedness and programming. These lessons span coordination, implementation, community engagement, and technical aspects of shelter and NFI delivery.

Coordination and Planning

Effective early coordination and networking among partners, local authorities and local communities helped minimize duplication of efforts and improve targeting. Village-level meetings and a transparent beneficiary selection process-built trust and accountability within the community.

However, delayed assessments and contingency planning revision, including budgeting, stockpiling, and warehousing, hindered a rapid response. Future initiatives should incorporate pre-prepared emergency toolkits and sector-specific assessment templates.

The presence of overlapping data and unstable household lists led to verification delays during distribution efforts. Therefore, it is essential to strengthen data management and sharing mechanisms.

Community Engagement and Inclusion

Community engagement is essential. Early involvement in the design of shelters and the selection of materials improved local ownership and ensured that the shelters met the specific needs of the community.

Mobilizing local labor and carpenters enhanced local capacity and reduced reliance on external contractors.

Holding sessions on HLP rights helped beneficiaries understand important aspects of tenure and documentation, which reduced disputes and improved targeting efforts.

Operational Flexibility and Risk Mitigation

Adaptive programming was key to managing inflation, access restrictions, and security risks. Flexibility in payment schedules helped households cope with economic pressures.

Local transport solutions and coordination with local authorities, local religious groups were necessary to navigate checkpoints and ensure safe delivery of materials.

Technical Support and Quality Control

Technical monitoring during construction enhanced shelter safety and consistency as well as prevented the diversion of aid. However, there were limited damage assessments, particularly in rural areas, and a lack of adequate technical support for shelter repairs.

Measures to "Build Back Safer" (BBS) were not consistently implemented due to a lack of awareness and training among carpenters. It is important to prioritize BBS sensitization and technical supervision.

The use of standardized shelter designs and guidelines helped maintain quality across the implementation areas.

Logistics and Procurement

Timely procurement and logistics planning are crucial, especially in remote or conflict-affected areas. Delays in the delivery of materials have impacted construction timelines. Additionally, price fluctuations and limited budgets have restricted the ability to provide standard assistance packages, particularly in flood-prone regions where elevated housing demands more resources.

Protection and Sustainability

Mainstreaming protection and inclusion, considering gender and disability, enhanced safety and accessibility. Capacity building through on-site training for local builders and leaders strengthened long-term resilience and technical skills.

Strategic Vision

When selecting sites for shelter repair priority should be given to vulnerable households that are able to return and rebuild safely.

These lessons highlight the importance of preparedness, community-centered approaches, and technical rigor in emergency response. They provide a roadmap for enhancing future interventions and building a more resilient humanitarian system in Myanmar.

Best Practices

The response showcased a range of innovative and context-sensitive practices that enhanced the effectiveness, inclusivity, and sustainability of humanitarian interventions. These best practices offer valuable models for future emergency responses.

Integrated and Localized Coordination

An interagency approach to joint distributions and field-level coordination enhanced efficiency and minimized duplication of efforts.

Improved operational radius planning and increased field missions allowed for better coverage and responsiveness in hard-to-reach areas.

The diversification of partnerships, including collaboration with religious institutions and community leaders, facilitated access, enhanced security, and strengthened accountability.



Community-Led Implementation

Community-led targeting through trusted local leaders ensured fairness and inclusion, particularly in sensitive areas. The formation of local construction groups increased ownership of the projects, accelerated implementation, and reduced reliance on external contractors. Additionally, door-to-door distribution guaranteed that assistance reached the appropriate beneficiaries, especially in remote or insecure locations.

Technical and Financial Innovations

Combining cash assistance with technical guidance greatly enhanced the quality of shelter repairs. Mobile cash transfers and flexible payment methods enabled households to better navigate financial constraints and inflation. Technical orientation sessions and on-site supervision ensured safe building practices and improved the durability of construction.

Use of Local Resources

Utilizing local service providers and materials, such as bamboo and timber, stimulated the local economy, reduced costs, and promoted sustainability. Although limited, in-kind support was strategically utilized to complement cash-based interventions, especially in hard-to-reach areas.

Strategic Planning and Preparedness

Development of HLP due diligence protocols ensured structure and rights-based assistance.

Pre-activity advocacy with local authorities at village/ward level helped secure approvals and smooth implementation.

Emergency toolkits and sectoral assessments supported deployment and multi-sectoral coordination.

Inclusion and Protection

Prioritization of vulnerable households, including those unable to return due to conflict, improved safety and dignity.

Integration of gender, disability, and protection considerations into shelter design enhanced privacy and accessibility.

Feedback mechanisms allowed communities to voice concerns and contributed to more responsive programming.

Cluster-Based Planning

Regular coordination with cluster partners and local authorities ensured equitable coverage and a decrease in overlapping.

Sharing of target location and monitoring data improved transparency and accountability across responses.

These best practices demonstrate the value of local engagement, technical rigor, and strategic coordination in delivering impactful SNFI/CCCM assistance. They provide a strong foundation for building more resilient, inclusive, and community-driven emergency response systems.

Recommendations

Building on the insights from the earthquake response, the following recommendations aim to strengthen future emergency preparedness, coordination, and delivery of shelter, NFI, and CCCM assistance.

Strategic Planning and Donor Engagement

Develop and implement a Response Plan to guide partners and ensure strategic alignment across hubs. Sensitize donors to the increasing politicization of aid and operational constraints, advocating for flexible funding mechanisms that accommodate contextual challenges, and promote flexibility within austerity measures to enable timely and adaptive responses, especially in volatile settings.

Operational Efficiency and Coordination

Improve coordination with local suppliers to stabilize material costs and ensure timely procurement. Encourage regular sharing of response plans and mapping updates among partners to enhance transparency and reduce duplication. Strengthen bilateral coordination and maintain open communication channels with village committees and community leaders to support inclusive and accountable programming.

Technical and Monitoring Enhancements

Conduct technical needs assessments before shelter interventions to ensure assistance is tailored and effective. Introduce harmonized beneficiary selection tools across partners to improve consistency and community trust. Strengthen monitoring and post-repair verification to assess impact and ensure quality standards are met. Expand technical support to enhance quality repair outcomes and beneficiary satisfaction.

Preparedness and Emergency Response

Prepare assessment tools and emergency kits in advance to enable rapid deployment during future crises. Clarify roles and responsibilities of the Cluster and partners during emergencies (e.g., floods) to streamline response efforts. Ensure capacity-building at the village level to support local response committees and improve readiness.

Inclusion and Protection

Reinforce HLP due diligence to address tenure and documentation issues, especially in areas with high displacement. Prioritize communal shelter needs and ensure technical support is available for safe reconstruction, particularly in underserved regions.

Sustainability and Transition

Balance emergency response with early recovery and long-term sustainability, integrating livelihood support and transitional shelter planning. These recommendations reflect the collective experience of partners and communities and are intended to guide more effective, inclusive, and coordinated responses in future emergencies.

3. Challenges and Obstacles/Improve Coordination

During this session, participants engaged in a discussion regarding the primary challenges and obstacles encountered, as well as proposed strategies for enhancing coordination among stakeholders.

In conclusion, the shelter/NFI/CCCM response continues to face significant operational and logistical challenges, including delays due to weather, access restrictions, resource limitations, and administrative barriers.

To address these challenges effectively, it is essential to strengthen coordination through improved information sharing, joint planning, and regular engagement. Promoting two-way communication, reviewing the document already developed by the cluster: harmonization

of terminologies, and ensuring technical support and orientation for shelter activities reach the cluster members equally, enhance the quality and coherence of the response. Establishing shared platforms, conducting joint assessments, and organizing regular cluster reviews will help align efforts and avoid duplication.

Building local capacity, improving readiness, and improving collaboration with authorities through the coordination architecture mechanism are critical to navigating access constraints and political sensitivities. Below is the summary of the inputs provided during the session:

<p style="text-align: center;">Challenges and Obstacles</p> <p>Operational Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy rainfall delaying shelter construction. • Labor shortages due to multiple actors implementing in parallel. • Late arrival of items to field offices. • Transportation and access restrictions to remote or conflict-affected areas. • Time limitations and delays in donor contract processes. • Administrative restrictions (MOUs, checkpoints, movement limitations). 	<p style="text-align: center;">Improving Coordination</p> <p>Information Sharing & Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote two-way communication between partners and the cluster. • Encourage regular sharing of activity details and monitoring, including target villages, to avoid overlap. • Share with all cluster members when dashboards are updated. • Provide accurate location data and organization codes to identify gaps. • Create a shared platform (e.g., SharePoint) with controlled access for partners.
<p>Coordination & Staffing Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing focal staff and weak handovers (missing contacts). • Low collaboration with township/high-level authorities. • Capacity gaps among local actors and carpenters. • Unstable local political context affecting coordination and decision-making. • Overlapping cash-for-shelter projects. • Low profile result target location duplication. 	<p>Joint Planning & Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct emergency joint assessments, responses, and reviews. • Align target numbers with ground realities. • Encourage sharing of internal assessments, market assessments, PDM findings, and challenges. • Develop a contingency plan for emergency response.
<p>Resource & Design Constraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High demand vs limited resources in target areas. • Inadequate budget for shelter rehabilitation (especially for brick, steel, and concrete houses). • Inappropriate selection criteria for project areas (donor-driven). • Difficulty integrating DRR into shelter design for local carpenters. 	<p>Capacity Building & Technical Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide orientation sessions before project starts to ensure quality shelter assistance. • Offer step-by-step technical guidance for shelter implementation. • Strengthen local-level committees and skill mapping (e.g., carpenters). • Build country-level readiness and capacity for response.
<p style="text-align: center;">Challenges and Obstacles</p> <p>Security & Political Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aid diversion by local authorities. • Politicization of project activities by local leaders. • International visits to the sites without TA increasing attention of local authorities and directly impacting partners. • Checkpoints and access issues causing duplication and delays. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Improving Coordination</p> <p>Coordination Mechanisms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize monthly in-person meetings and quarterly/biannual planning workshops. • Standardize terminology across organizations for better understanding. • Improve coordination to prevent overlaps, especially in cash-for-shelter projects. • Share response plans during the assessment stage.
<p>Monitoring & Data Gaps</p>	<p>Coordination Mechanisms</p>

- **Challenges in conducting PDM** due to security concerns.
- **Mismatch between needs assessments and ground realities.**
- **Limited market assessment** for cash assistance.
- No discussion on the **environmental impact** of shelter interventions.
- Provide **Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM)** guidelines.
- Address **access issues** proactively to avoid restrictions due to visits in sensitive areas.
- Ensure **coordination with authorities** to manage movement and project permissions.

4. Improving Reporting and Information Sharing

The session focused on enhancing the effectiveness of reporting and information sharing during emergencies. It brought reflection on the use of Earthquake 5Ws data, to assess how 5Ws reporting supported coordination efforts, identify existing gaps and bottlenecks, share lessons learned from partner collaboration, and explore strategies to improve information flow in future emergencies.

Participants acknowledged the critical role of 5Ws in providing a common operational picture, enabling gap analysis, and supporting decision-making and resource prioritization. The rapid reporting by partners using standardized templates was highlighted as a major strength in the beginning of the response, allowing for the creation of cluster dashboards and maps that facilitated quick identification of priority locations. However, several challenges were also discussed. These included incomplete or delayed reporting from field partners, inconsistencies in reporting formats and frequency, and difficulties in maintaining smooth information flow between field hubs and the national level. A notable concern was the lack of feedback loop to partners after data submission, which could affect engagement.

The session reviewed the existing 5Ws reporting cycles and showcased the different dashboards available that visualized partner presence and submission trends. These tools were instrumental in tracking response activities and identifying gaps across different hubs.

To conclude, participants engaged in a discussion on what worked well, the challenges they faced, and the improvements needed for future emergency responses. The session emphasized the importance of strengthening reporting mechanisms and fostering transparent, timely information sharing among all stakeholders.

5. EQ Response Cluster Strategy Review

Following the discussion session concerning the Strategy Review, please find below a summary of the principal areas of strategic focus designed to support the review:

Shelter Rehabilitation & Transitional Support

- Cash-for-shelter for minor and moderate repairs (Nov 2025–Mar 2026).
- Support for semi-permanent shelters and transitional shelter contributions.
- Rehabilitation of partially damaged houses and community infrastructure.
- Integration of Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) due diligence in shelter construction.

Sustainable Recovery & Urban Resilience

- Green and inclusive urban recovery targeting poor urban areas.
- Integrated development planning over 2–3 years.
- Environmental safeguards embedded in shelter delivery and reconstruction.
- Planning aligned with climate risk mitigation and community resilience.

Livelihoods & Infrastructure Development

- Cash-for-work programs linked to shelter and infrastructure improvement.

- Livelihood activities, including agriculture and livestock.
- Site improvements in IDP areas based on community committee inputs.

Capacity Building & Community Engagement

- Training for local carpenters, community leaders, and shelter actors.
- CCCM capacity building, earthquake awareness, and GBV training.
- Mobile CCCM/site management activities to support displacement sites.

Integrated Multi-Sectoral Coordination

- Joint planning across Shelter, WASH, and Livelihood sectors for 2026.
- In-kind NFI support based on updated assessments.
- Strengthened coordination to avoid duplication and improve targeting.

Way Forward (2026)

Although the Shelter NFI & CCCM Cluster officially entered the second phase of its earthquake response in June 2025, focusing on transitional and sustainable shelter solutions, numerous operational and access challenges have significantly delayed implementation on the ground. Moving forward to 2026, the strategy prioritizes accelerating shelter rehabilitation for partially damaged homes, with activities continuing through March 2026. Semi-permanent shelter assistance and transitional shelter contributions will be scaled up to meet the needs of both conflict and earthquake-affected populations. Environmental safeguards and HLP due diligence should be systematically integrated into shelter construction to ensure accountability and resilience. Infrastructure development through cash-for-work, aligned with livelihood activities such as agriculture and livestock, will be implemented as per the Early Recovery Cluster. Site improvements should be guided by community committees to ensure relevance and inclusivity. Strengthening local capacity, enhancing CCCM and protection awareness, and reinforcing inter-cluster coordination, particularly with WASH and Early Recovery clusters, will be critical to overcoming delays and ensuring a dignified, community-driven recovery process.

6. General Recommendations for better coordination, timely response, and effective programming

The workshop provided a critical platform for cluster members to reflect on the challenges, lessons learned, and strategic priorities emerging from the response to the earthquake. Drawing from field experiences and partner feedback, the following general recommendations were developed to guide future emergency preparedness and programming.

Strategic Planning and Donor Engagement

Effective emergency response requires strategic foresight and flexible funding. Partners emphasized the need for a comprehensive response plan that aligns efforts across coordination hubs. Donor sensitization is essential to address the increasing politicization of aid and operational constraints. Flexibility within austerity measures must be promoted to enable timely and adaptive responses, especially in volatile or conflict-affected settings.

Strengthening Coordination and Transparency

Robust coordination mechanisms are vital to avoid duplication and ensure equitable coverage. Regular sharing of response plans, mapping documents, and updated dashboards among partners is essential. Coordination with local authorities, suppliers, and community and religious leaders should be prioritized to stabilize material costs and improve accountability. Establishing cluster

member focal points at the township level and maintaining open communication with village committees will enhance local engagement and responsiveness.

Technical Support and Quality Assurance

Shelter interventions must be guided by technical assessments to ensure relevance and safety. Standardized tools for beneficiary selection and harmonized monitoring frameworks to ensure transparency and impact measurement. Expanding technical support and PDM processes will help maintain quality standards and increase beneficiary satisfaction. Sensitization on Build Back Safer techniques and incremental housing should be scaled up, especially in flood-prone areas.

Preparedness and Emergency Response

Preparedness is key to rapid and effective emergency response. Partners recommended the pre-development of assessment tools and emergency kits covering Shelter, NFI, and CCCM sectors. Clarifying the roles and responsibilities of clusters and partners during emergencies, such as floods, will streamline coordination. Strengthening logistics and supply chain planning, particularly for remote or conflict-affected areas, is essential. Capacity-building at the village level will support local response committees and improve readiness.

Inclusion, Protection, and HLP

Community engagement must be central to all programming. Early involvement in shelter design and material selection fosters ownership and ensures cultural appropriateness. Mobilizing local labor and carpenters builds capacity and reduces dependency. HLP due diligence should be reinforced to address tenure and documentation issues, particularly in displacement-affected areas. Protection considerations, including gender, disability, and privacy, must be integrated into shelter design and implementation.

Sustainability and Transition to Recovery

Balancing emergency response with early recovery is critical for long-term resilience. Transitional shelter planning should be aligned with livelihood support and environmental safeguards. Strategic planning over 2–3 years, including green and inclusive urban recovery, will support sustainable development. Cash-for-work programs linked to shelter and infrastructure improvements can stimulate local economies and enhance community ownership.

Capacity Building for Partners

To ensure consistent and high-quality implementation across hubs, targeted capacity-building initiatives must be prioritized for cluster members covering shelter, NFI, and CCCM thematic areas. This includes training on technical standards, data management, contingency planning, and community engagement. Strengthening local actors' skills and preparedness will enhance the overall effectiveness of the response and foster resilience within the humanitarian system.

Operational Efficiency and Localized Implementation

Localized coordination and community-led implementation emerged as best practices during the earthquake response. Utilizing local service providers and materials not only reduced costs but also promoted sustainability. Door-to-door distribution and trusted local leadership ensured fairness and inclusion. These approaches should be followed to improve responsiveness and build trust in future interventions.

These recommendations reflect the collective insights of cluster members and the coordination team. They aim to strengthen coordination, improve technical rigor, and promote inclusive, community-driven programming in future emergency responses across Myanmar.

7. Final Recommendation and Action Points

- a) **Emergency Preparedness & Planning:**
 - Update Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) with clear roles, risks, and scenarios.
 - Pre-position assessment tools and emergency kits for Shelter, NFI, and CCCM.
- b) **Funding & Operational Flexibility**
 - Advocate for flexible donor funding to adapt to changing needs due to evolving situation.
 - Advocate to implement simplified procedures to reduce response delays.
- c) **Coordination & Information Management**
 - Create a unified platform for incident and response tracking.
 - Improve data collection and coordination to avoid duplication.
 - Reinforce dissemination with cluster partners of response plans, maps, and dashboards regularly.
 - Assign focal points at the township level for localized coordination.
- d) **Logistics**
 - Improve engagement with Logistics WG to coordinate with local suppliers to stabilize costs and ensure timely delivery.
 - Strengthen logistics planning for hard-to-reach and conflict-affected areas.
- e) **Beneficiary Targeting & Verification**
 - Disseminate with cluster partners the cluster standardized selection tools to ensure fairness and transparency.
- f) **Technical Support & Quality Assurance**
 - Conduct technical needs assessments before shelter interventions.
 - Develop a PDM guideline for shelter and NFI assistance.
 - Promote Build Back Safer (BBS) techniques and training for local carpenters.
- g) **Community Engagement & Inclusion**
 - Involve communities early in shelter design and material selection.
 - Provide CCCM and site management support to affected populations as needed.
 - Mobilize local labor to build capacity and reduce external dependency.
 - Conduct HLP awareness sessions and ensure proper documentation.
 - Design shelters with protection-sensitive features (gender, disability, privacy).
- h) **Capacity Building**
 - Train partners in hub areas on shelter, NFI, and CCCM technical standards and contingency planning.
 - Conduct orientation and skill mapping to improve readiness.
- i) **Sustainability & Transition**
 - Link emergency aid recipients to longer-term support programs.
 - Align shelter rehabilitation with livelihoods and environmental safeguards.
 - Promote cash-for-work initiatives tied to shelter and infrastructure.

*“The Shelter/NFI/CCCM coordination team would like to acknowledge **Juliana Lima Coelho** leadership and contributions in organizing the AAR workshop and drafting the report, which were instrumental to the overall success of the event.”*

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