

Extreme Heat Working Group, Global Shelter Cluster

HNPW 2025 Session Report

Introduction

This session was sponsored by the Global Shelter Cluster Extreme Heat Working Group. The session took place from 1500 to 1630 on 26 March 2025 at the 2025 Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week in Geneva. The session was moderated by Ela Serdaroglu, who, together with Nick Bishop, Bassam Kalka and Camille Balfroid facilitated group work on defining how the humanitarian sector should address extreme heat. This report covers the content and results of the HNPW session as providing input to the larger work of the Global Shelter Cluster Extreme Heat Working Group.

HNPW Session Agenda

The HNPW session following the agenda points below:

- Opening
- Introductions
- RC/RC Climate Center Perspective on Extreme Heat - Ms. Roop Singh
- Summary of online survey of Extreme Heat impacts and needs
- Other perspectives on Extreme Heat impacts and needs
- Needs Refinement and Prioritization
- Closing

Presentations and notes from breakout sessions are included with this report and summarized below. The overall presentation for the session can be found in **Annex A**.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Center Perspective on Extreme Heat

Ms. Roop Singh of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre provided a presentation on **How climate change is driving extreme heat globally**. The presentation is available in **Annex B** and covered these key points:

- *Extreme Heat is a pervasive and growing threat to human health, infrastructure and economic productivity*
- *Hot extremes are getting hotter almost everywhere*
- *There are many solutions across sectors*
- *Heat Solutions (see example from presentation at right)*



Online Survey on Extreme Heat and Humanitarian Operations

The Extreme Heat Working Group conducted an online survey on issues related to extreme heat and humanitarian operations. The survey results can be found at this link:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=PRr6Xi9UpuMQQSPyJeSXKkYwCyAGI8EO&id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAN_s_xj5JUNU9GRU5DTTBFR01HRkdCMERaVkJJVIFSRi4u. Key results are summarized in the attached presentation (**Annex A**). A total of 79 individuals responded to the survey.¹

Survey results identified a need for the following:

As Prioritized from the Survey	Not Prioritized from the Survey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written technical guidance. • Online training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to weather forecasts

¹ At the time of this report, the number of respondents had increased to 81.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In person training. • Information on warning and early action measures. • Training of project participants on addressing extreme heat events. • Public awareness materials • Details on specific technical measures which can be used to mitigate extreme heat events. • Access to an off-site technical advisor. • An on-site technical advisor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparedness and Anticipatory Action plans • Coordination • Funding
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Breakout Group Results

Participants were divided into three break-out groups, two in the session room and one online, to discuss the direction and priorities for further action on extreme heat. Bullet points from these discussions are provided below.

Human Perception Group

Main Issues

- Context we work in (not well functioning states)
- Difficult to get the concerns around extreme heat on an already full agenda
- Heat affecting different groups, differently (age, urban, etc.)

Focus Efforts On

- Immediate impacts, life-saving aspects
- Data dissemination across sectors
- Look at ways to include heat in more systematized assessments/tools
- Community adaptation
- Impact-based forecasting tool (IBF)
- Instructional community messages
- New partnerships – get out of comfort zones

Capacity/Guidance Group

- Broad-based dissemination of existing guidance (e.g., via Climate Secretariat)
- Knowledge sharing – get away from too much “new” guidance
- Timeline-based/approach to providing guidance: Before, During, After; Emergency-deployment-related.

- Shelter focused or broader? Mainstream across clusters: WASH, Shelter, CCCM, Protection
- Limited uptake of lengthy written guidance
- Phone-base apps; practical guidance better, more up to date (Oxfam project learning)
- Duty of Care: example of Cash-for-Work in Cox Bazaar during high temperatures.
- Operational shift in addressing extreme heat; (avoiding) sending out workers in periods of extreme heat.
- Inclusion of heat under survey work for at-risk populations/displaced.
- Need for higher level of leadership from IASC & Global Cluster Coordinators
- *Summerization* – (the) planning process around heat.
- Adjust standard shelter and NFI kits to consider heat. (Note: this implies having full shelters, more than two tarps and a rope).

Online Discussion

- From the presentation there seems to be lots of advice from many different actors.
- Have summaries of the different perspectives and tools and with

- relevance to humanitarian contexts and cluster priorities.
- Training is super important with some key implementation messages. It is a complicated topic and needs discussion.
- See https://www.washcluster.net/Climate_Change_and_WASH_Toolbox as a model for collecting information into one place.
- Awareness raising materials as relevant within each region exposed depending on the scale of the humanitarian needs. Whilst there is consensus on the impact of extreme cold – including suffering, life-threatening, and mortality associated with it. On the other hand, talking about heat is still perceived as a luxury.
- Add a gender dimension to the presented impacts of extreme heat phenomena
- Importance of coordination (should be higher in the ranking).
- Ensure quality check of relevant resources and technical guidance on extreme heat and centralize them online in one platform to ensure their relevance.
- Strengthen early warning system to include extreme heat events + increase public awareness on prevention measures to react to extreme heat.
- Promote effective anticipatory actions to extreme heat events and support Governments in taking these measures.
- Increase collaboration between shelter, WASH and health clusters.
- Prioritize and identify field action plans with specific cost effective and practical activities directly linked to shelter and WASH activities especially with the current funding environment.

Session Conclusions

The key takeaway points from the HNPW Extreme Heat session include the following:

1. Extreme heat events are likely to increase over time and to occur in locations which have not historically faced these types of events with any frequency.
2. There is a need to improve the sharing of information about the:
 - a. Threats posed by extreme heat and (B)
 - b. Means to address the impacts of extreme heat.
3. Advocacy is needed to raise awareness, among at risk individuals, humanitarian actors and funding mechanisms, of the need to plan for and reduce the risks arising from extreme heat events.
4. Early warning, early action and improved heat-aware shelter and settlements planning should be brought together as a formal approach to avoid ad hoc and delayed responses to extreme heat events and improve overall risk management.

Annex A – Global Shelter Cluster Extreme Heat Working Group - HNPW 2025 Presentation



Heat HNPW 25
B.ppsx

Annex B - How climate change is driving extreme heat globally



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