

GSC Technical Sub-CoP Damage Assessment inaugural meeting Meeting Notes – 28/08/2025 (concise)

Date : 28 August 2025 - 13:00-13:015 (Geneva Time) - online

Participants : 44 participants

Facilitator : Pascal Panosetti GSC Technical CoP moderator and the Damage Assessment T.S-CoP committee members (Arnold, Heba, Chathu, Mamuney, Regina, Noor)

Recording : <https://youtu.be/7tPn89IkZls> [PowerPoint Presentation](#) [Detailed Meeting Minutes](#)

1. Summary:

The inaugural meeting of the GSC Technical Sub-CoP on Damage Assessment was held online on August 28, 2025, with 44 participants joining. The meeting introduced the T.Sub-CoP, presented the Terms of Reference, shared topics survey results, and facilitated a plenary discussion on expectations and future directions.

2. Key Decisions:

- Quarterly webinars will be held, with the next scheduled for October 2025 and December/January
- Topics for future webinars will be selected based on survey results and ongoing crises (e.g., Gaza, Ukraine).
- Subgroups may be formed to support country-specific damage assessment efforts (e.g., Gaza, Ukraine).
- Members are encouraged to share tools, resources, and complete the extended Damage Assessments Topics Survey by September 3.
- Participants are urged to create GSC accounts and follow the GSC Technical CoP and the Technical Toolkit pages to receive automatic regular updates.

3. Action Points:

1. Share existing tools and resources with the Sub-CoP committee for inclusion in the Technical Toolkit.
2. Complete the [Damage Assessments Topics Survey](#) by **September 3, 2025**.
3. Express interest in joining the committee by submitting a brief statement.
4. Participate in upcoming webinars and discussions.
5. Create GSC accounts on www.sheltercluster.org and follow the [Technical Community of Practice](#) and the [Technical Toolkit](#) pages.
6. Consider forming a subgroup for Damage Assessment in the Whatsapp Shelter & Settlements community
 - o Circulate follow-up survey.
7. Consider forming subgroups to support damage assessment and other technical component for Gaza and Ukraine
 - o Circulate follow-up survey to gauge member's interest.
8. Circulate follow-up survey to gauge preferred meeting
9. Encourage holistic damage assessment approaches that include social and environmental impacts, using case studies to identify overlaps.
10. Develop simple assessment tools to help residents understand risks when sheltering in unsafe buildings (e.g., Gaza, Ukraine).

4. Objectives of the Meeting

- Introduce the Damage Assessment Technical Sub-Community of Practice (Sub-CoP).

- Present the Terms of Reference (ToR).
- Share results of the topic survey.
- Facilitate plenary discussion on expectations, suggestions, and future directions.
- Outline next steps and any other business.

5. Introduction of the D.A. T.S-CoP Committee Members

- Pascal Panosetti – GSC Global Focal Point for Technical Coordination – committee chair
- Arnold Njogu from UNDP, Regina Wenk from the SDC, Chathu Jayakody & Heba Iskandarani from the Birmingham University, William Rogers-Tizard and Noor Kuchai from Radar UK – Co-chairs with expertise in shelter programming, research, structural engineering, urban planning, and post-conflict and disaster reconstruction.
- All committee emails can be found on the [Damage Assessment - T.Sub-CoP](#) webpage

6. Overview of the Technical Sub-CoP

- Presented by Pascal Panosetti.
- Launched in October 2024, active since April 2025 when partners had taken the chair and co-chair role of the technical theme sub-groups.
- Voluntary, inclusive community focusing on technical aspects of shelter and damage assessment.
- Some thematic sub-groups are linked to other CoPs (e.g., Recovery, Environmental).
- Thematic resources hosted on the GSC Technical Toolkit and webinar, presentation, meeting notes, events announcement and news on the Technical CoP webpages under [Damage Assessment - T.Sub-CoP](#)

7. Presentation of Terms of Reference

- Presented by Heba Iskandarani.
- Emphasized collaborative nature, diversity of expertise, and scope of work.

Key objectives:

- Develop and share methodologies and tools.
- Promote capacity building and training.
- Support country-level shelter cluster responses.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and coordination.

8. Survey Results Presentation

- Presented by Arnold Njogu.
- **65 responses analyzed** (presented by Arnold Njogu).
- **Top priorities:** assessment methodologies & damage classification (75%), capacity building/training (68%), technology & data use (54%), coordination/engagement (31%).
- **Key subtopics:** SOPs/templates (69%), rapid vs. detailed assessments (62%), common terminology & framework alignment (~54%).
- **Emerging themes:** call for standardized tools, stronger knowledge sharing, collaboration, and practical case studies.
- **Community recommendations:** clarify goals/users of assessments, enhance training & knowledge platforms, strengthen collaboration.
- **Overall feedback:** very positive, high appreciation for the initiative.

9. Plenary Discussion Highlights (Inaugural Meeting Minutes of the GSC Damage Assessment Technical Sub-CoP-detailed-28.08.2025)

- Tom Corsellis raised the need for building physics in conflict contexts.
- John Wain suggested using Gaza and Ukraine as a real-time case study into future technical meetings
- Regina Wenk and Dave Hodgkin discussed structural assessment differences between blast and seismic damage.
- Emphasis on habitability over structural classification.
- Sobia Kapadia and others highlighted the importance of integrating social, economic, and environmental impacts.
- Bill Flinn stressed the need for simple, community-level assessments for unsafe sheltering contexts, particularly concerning Gaza.
- Pascal noted that meeting frequency is flexible and community-driven. While quarterly webinars on tools and case studies are planned, additional meetings (monthly or need-based) can be organized depending on member interest, with possible focus areas such as Gaza or Ukraine.

10. Next Steps and reminder

- Quarterly webinars planned (next in October 2025).
- Topics to be selected based on survey and ongoing crises (e.g., Gaza, Ukraine).
- Subgroups may be formed for country-specific support (e.g., Gaza, Ukraine)..

Members encouraged to:

- Share tools and resources.
- Complete the survey (extended to September 3).
- Create GSC accounts and follow the Damage Assessment Sub-CoP page and the Technical Toolkit page

11. Closing Remarks

- Pascal thanked all participants and reiterated the importance of collaboration.
- Encouraged expressions of interest to join the committee.
- Meeting recording, the presentation and meeting notes to be shared via the GSC Technical CoP webpage.