

Key messages for the Shelter Cluster (06 Jan 2014)

- To date, Shelter Cluster partners have provided close to 1.7 million people (> 330,000 households) with emergency shelter assistance such as tents and tarpaulins and close to 175,000 people (approx. 35,000 households) with “support for self-recovery”, i.e. tools, building and roofing materials that enable families to repair their own homes.
- In total, 1.1 million houses have been severely damaged or destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan. The government has asked humanitarian organisations to address the shelter needs of 500,000 households. The remaining families will be assisted directly by the government.
- Lack of good quality roofing materials as well as tools continue to delay support for self-recovery. However, the Shelter Cluster expects that these problems will reduce in the coming weeks and that implementation speed will increase.
- Shelter self-recovery is taking place at an impressive rate. However, many houses are being “built back worse” with - at best - the same vulnerabilities as before. To mitigate this, Shelter Cluster partners are providing the survivors with hands-on training and assistance to facilitate a progressive “build back safer” approach.
- While the initial target for the distribution of emergency shelter materials (i.e. 300,000 households) has been reached, the Shelter Cluster recognizes that there are still locations that can benefit from additional plastic sheeting and other emergency shelter materials. However, given the affected population’s preference for more durable roofing solutions (such as CGI sheeting), organisations wishing to continue to distribute emergency shelter materials are encouraged to also plan for more durable solutions in the same locations.
- Bunkhouses are a temporary shelter solution implemented by the government to house people living in hazardous “no-build zones”, as well as evacuation centres. The Shelter Cluster is working closely with relevant ministries and other clusters to ensure that the design of these bunkhouses adequately addresses the needs of the people who will live there. This dialogue has been very fruitful and modifications are being made to improve standards. The Shelter Cluster also reiterates that relocation should only happen based on the informed consent of the affected people.
- Shelter is seriously underfunded: Shelter projects in the Strategic Response Plan are only 22 % funded (40 million out of 178 million USD) while average funding for the SRP is at 42%. This is at odds with the massive shelter needs.