

Key messages for the Shelter Cluster (updated 27 Jan 2014)

- In total, 1.1 million houses have been severely damaged or destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda). 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.
- To date, Shelter Cluster partners have provided 2.4 million people (> 480,000 households) with emergency shelter assistance such as tents and tarpaulins and close to 390,000 people (approx. 78,000 households) with “support for self-recovery”, i.e. tools, building and roofing materials that enable families to repair their own homes.
- 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.
- The REACH assessment commissioned by the Shelter Cluster shows that most shelter assistance has been provided along the coasts and in urban areas, even though many homes in rural and inland areas have also been destroyed. Given the shortage of funds, the shelter sector needs to improve targeting according to vulnerability rather than geography.
- Rain and wind caused by recent tropical depression Agaton have damaged or destroyed some emergency shelters. In some areas this means that additional tents and tarps are required. The Shelter Cluster anticipates that more emergency shelter materials will have to be replaced over the coming months.
- The shelter sector is seriously underfunded: shelter projects in the Strategic Response Plan are only 24 % funded (43 million out of 178 million USD). This is at odds with the massive shelter needs. While funding also exists outside the SRP, significant funding gaps remain. This lack of funding means that many disaster survivors will not have adequate shelter in time for the next typhoon season.
- 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 living conditions.