

[GSC Strategic Advisory Group \(SAG\)](#)

[Meeting Notes – 22/05/2025](#)

**Participants:** Australian Red Cross (Leeanne Marshall), CARE International (Step Haiselden), NRC (Amelia Rule), UNHCR (Francesca Coloni), IFRC (Ela Serdaroglu), IOM (Carolina Cordero-Scales), CRS (Eva Maria Suarez Castro), Habitat for Humanity (Mario Flores) and GSC (Pablo Medina, Seki Hirano, Hussien Ahmad and Mamen Sancha)

**Excused or Absent:** ACTED/IMPACT Initiatives

**Agenda**

1. UK Shelter Forum & Francophone Forum
2. Country Cluster Highlights and Updates
3. Indicator Mapping and SSC Update
4. Humanitarian Reset and Cluster Merger Discussions
5. Strategy 2030 Implementation
6. New Website and Naming of Reimagined Cluster
7. Any Other Business (AOB)

**Summary of Action Points**

- Ethiopia Shelter-Education Advocacy: GSC to follow up with Ethiopia team and Education Cluster on joint advocacy regarding schools used as shelter.
- GSC Strategy 2030: SAG members to continue using and referencing the Strategy for positioning, but not preparing a big launch until humanitarian reset decisions are clearer.
- Review of SAG ToR: SAG members agreed to keep it on hold during the humanitarian reset process
- Reimagined Cluster Scope and Name: GSC to circulate the draft scope proposal for feedback and name voting results.
- Environmental Paper: GSC to review and coordinate final consultation with SAG before publishing the Environment CoP paper.
- Area-Based Programming: GSC to organize a mini-SAG for positioning the settlements approach within area-based coordination frameworks.
- Website: Proceed with development while making the platform adaptable to the potential new cluster structure.
- Cluster Naming Survey: SAG members to review and vote on preferred names from brainstormed list.

**1. UK Shelter Forum & Francophone Forum**

- UK Shelter Forum: Held at Bath University; themes on climate change and uncertainty. Feedback suggested more time for in-person interaction needed in these type of events. Next forum likely to be in London, perhaps UCL, co-led by UCL and NRC.

- Francophone Forum: Scheduled for early July in Lomé, Togo. Limited budget, but well organized. Agenda still open for additional thematic contributions.



## GLOBAL SHELTER CLUSTER

Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

### 2. Country Cluster Highlights and Updates

- Ethiopia: SC recent missions to Amhara and Tigray reveals dire living conditions of displaced population in this regions. Shelter and NFI response during April, the lowest (0.3% of the target) [more details](#)
- Sudan: Achieved 20% of reprioritized target; notable progress in the response and resource mobilization. [Sudan shelter and nfi cluster cash and voucher assistance guidelines](#)
- Afghanistan and Venezuela: Ongoing humanitarian architecture revisions. Afghanistan may merge Shelter with WASH; Venezuela Shelter Working Group to shift under Protection.
- El Salvador: Very interesting example where the shelter cluster is leading a project with strong settlement approach component in La Campanera settlement, involving participatory assessment and nexus with development and peacebuilding actors.

### 3. Indicator Mapping and SSC Update

Hussien presented an ongoing exercise of indicators mapping across the country clusters following a harmonized list general indicators aligned with the three SSC pillars, enhancing data comparability to allow more in-depth analysis.

New quarterly reporting format will reflect activity-specific impacts more accurately.

### 4. Humanitarian Reset and Cluster Merger Discussions

Pablo and Seki updated on the proposed Shelter, CCCM, and HLP merger process.

OPAG feedback expected by June 3 and IASC Principals meeting on June 17.

SAG supportive of a reimagined cluster with broader scope—tentatively named 'Homes & Communities'

Proposal includes 6 pillars: Shelter & Items, Settlements, Community Engagement, HLP, Environment, Energy.

### 5. GSC Strategy 2030 Implementation

SAG members agreed the GSC Strategy 2030 remains valid despite merger uncertainties and no need to prepare a relaunch, but to continue with limited communications through tailored materials. Continue using Strategy for positioning and internal alignment.

### 6. New Website and Naming of Reimagined Cluster

Website redevelopment to continue with adaptability for new cluster identity. Naming exercise underway; SAG members encouraged to vote.

### 7. Any Other Business (AOB)

- Environment CoP draft paper to be reviewed for tone and coherence with the previous one.
- Settlements Approach to be further integrated into area-based programming discussions.
- Annual Shelter Meeting likely to be virtual in September.