

GSC Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) - Meeting Notes – 28/08/2025

Participants

CARE International (Joud Keyyali), NRC (Alexander Davies), IFRC (Ela Serdaroglu), Habitat for Humanity (Lizzie Babister), DRC (Xavier Jean Andre Denis Desplans), GSC (Pablo Medina, Seki Hirano, Mamen Sancha)

Excused/Absent: ACTED / IMPACT Initiatives; CRS; IOM; UNHCR

Agenda

1. Agency updates (HFH, IMPACT)
2. Country Cluster Highlights – Nigeria and Myanmar
3. Cluster Reform - Update and Discussion
 - a) Global (scope, structure, CLA, dashboard)
 - b) Country level (ToRs)
4. Designing the transformation process
5. Announcements and Any Other Business (AOB):
 - WG
 - a) Communications: strategy video (repost)
 - b) Q2 dashboard update

Summary of Action Points

SAG members to provide further inputs on the Cluster Reform transformation plan for the period from October–December 2025 through this [link](#).

SAG members to amplify GSC strategy videos dissemination on LinkedIn and propose alternative scripts if desired.

1. Agency Updates

Habitat for Humanity (HFH): Lizzie Babister was welcomed as the new SAG member representing Habitat for Humanity. Lizzie introduced her new role as Senior Director for Housing, Disaster Resilience and Recovery. She highlighted ongoing work, including research on shelter-health linkages, continuation of the cash guidance work, and extended engagement of Jim Kennedy in the research and evidence focal point role until end-2025.

IMPACT Initiatives: Giulia Montisci is back to IMPACT Initiatives and although she was not present in this meeting it was confirmed she will be again the person representing the organization at the SAG meetings.

2. Country Cluster Highlights

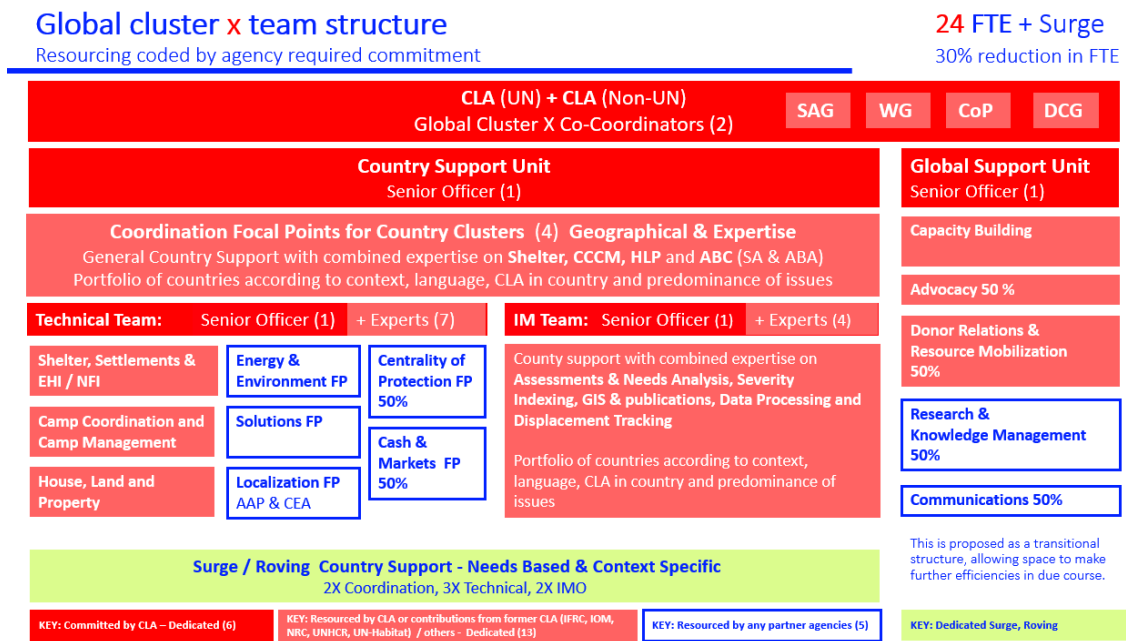
Nigeria: 3.4M people in need; 1.5M targeted; 920K without adequate shelter. Only 4.6% of required funding received. Partner withdrawals leaving locations uncovered. Since January, 55,600 people affected by hazards (fires, floods, windstorms, evictions). DRR workshop held in Maiduguri in July; webinar planned for September. Urgent priorities: \$1.4M for shelter construction and maintenance kits for 8,925 households; \$1.2M for NFI support to 7,954 households; alternative accommodation for IDPs in flood-prone areas.

Myanmar: 5.2M people in need; 2.5M targeted; 950,000 reached. \$189.8M requirement with only \$16.7M funded (91% gap). Five months since EQ; 43,000 HH affected, 14,000 houses destroyed, 13,000 damaged. Shelter priority in 64 sites; cash preferred in 86% of locations. Coordination supported by UNHCR, NRC, IFRC, CRS, KMSS. Urgent priorities: Scaling up shelter/NFI response; funding transitional and long-term solutions. Donor briefing scheduled for 2 September.

3. Cluster Reform - Update and Discussion

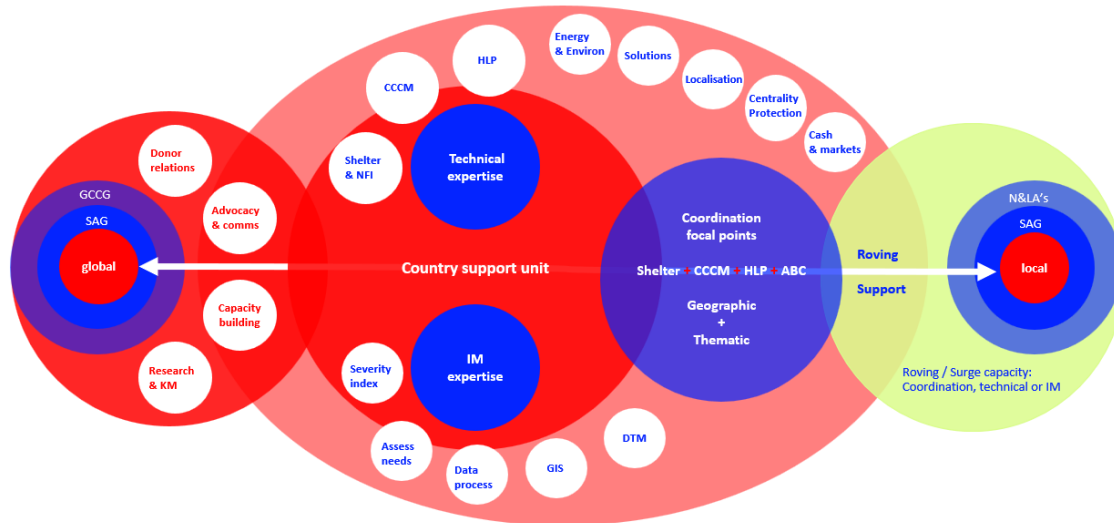
a) Global level:

Update on “Cluster X” scope and structure (Shelter, CCCM, HLP merged). Presence at the moment of the 3 in the different countries and global staffing as of December 2024 and proposed for Cluster X (30% reduction)



Presented also a preliminary diagram with the relationship between global and local structures

Relationship between Global and Local structures



Dashboard with Shelter, CCCM and HLP updated figures (Q2 2025) available [here](#)

b) Country level:

Ongoing merger/transition discussions in different countries.

Merger status at country level

Afghanistan - CCCM to be integrated into the joint CCCM/Shelter/HLP sector. Transitioning from cluster to sector in parallel. Somalia and Ethiopia started the discussions for the merger. Sudan has a cluster coordinator double hatting at the moment for CCCM and Shelter and started a consultative process with partnership for the interim situation.

Under accelerated transition of humanitarian architecture

Nigeria – Transition plans and localization strategy – under discussion, HCT only provided the horizon of 2026 / counterpart - NEMA (strategic purposes at national level) and SEMA (operation coordination)

Cameroon and Colombia have a transition plan under discussion. In the case of Colombia R4V will take over the coordination from the cluster.

4. Designing the Transformation Process

SAG and support team to co-develop a transition plan for Q4 2025. Need for clarity on naming, scope, and relationship between global and national structures. Agreement to continue iterative inputs, with October–December as timeline for refining the transformation roadmap.

5. Announcements and AOB

Communications: SAG members encouraged to repost GSC strategy videos (multilingual versions available). Alternative scripts welcome.

Dashboard: Q2 figures now live on the GSC website.

Next steps: SAG agencies to remain engaged in both technical and governance discussions; additional meetings may be scheduled if required.