

**Recommendations for donors:**

- Provide timely additional funding to make up the \$25 million shortfall in support for shelter in West Sumatra. (Shelter solutions include provision of transitional shelter; technical assistance for self recovery; disaster risk reduction programming such as ‘*build back better*’ training; and promoting low cost repair systems.)
- Promote a flexible approach to transitional shelter, including cash programming
- Support agencies that are already established on the ground as these are best able to use funds effectively
- Advocate for the completion of and dissemination of the Government’s final Reconstruction Plan as a matter of urgency
- Advocate for the distribution of Government grants as soon as possible
- Advocate for the integration of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities to promote a ‘*build back better*’ approach

**Background:**

- On 30 September 2009 an earthquake of magnitude 7.9 on the Richter scale struck off the coast of Padang in West Sumatra, Indonesia.
- 13 out of 19 districts in the West Sumatra province were affected, the death toll has reached 1,117. 1,214 people were seriously injured and 1,688 were moderately injured.
- Revised district-level data indicates that 114,797 houses were severely damaged and 67,198 moderately damaged, meaning nearly 182,000 households are in need of shelter assistance. The worst-affected district is Padang Pariaman, where nearly 75,000 houses have been severely or moderately damaged.
- The total damage is estimated at some US \$2 billion.
- Complete villages were swept away by mudslides triggered by the earthquake. Heavy rains pose serious threats to communities living in earthquake-affected and landslide-prone areas. The steep terrain that characterizes West Sumatra is very susceptible to landslides during the rainy season, which is expected to last until February/March 2010.
- A total of 9 IDP camps (5 in Padang Pariaman district and 4 in Agam district) have now been set up. There are approximately 8,000 displaced persons.
- Provincial and District authorities have recognised the urgent need for transitional shelter and are actively seeking assistance from NGOs.

**Problem Statement:**

The response to the earthquake is entering Week 10 and agencies are moving from emergency relief activities into more substantial early-recovery activities. However,

- There is a large and urgent unmet need in transitional shelter and complementary technical assistance –**the cluster estimates a total funding shortfall for shelter of some US\$25 million** (82,500 households x \$300)

- Within rural and peri-urban communities there are potentially **up to 82,500 households without appropriate shelter**.
- There will be a **considerable time-lag before government assistance for permanent housing reconstruction will be disbursed**; this may be as late as June 2010.
- The **lack of suitable shelter is having a major negative impact on livelihoods, health, protection and the environment**, and in some cases may be leading to long-term asset erosion; the onset of the rainy season has added to the pressure on households as they seek to provide covered space for their children and belongings
- Self recovery efforts are underway but **people are building unsafe houses** that would not be able to withstand future earthquakes; there is therefore an urgent need for technical assistance and the use of low-cost repair techniques.
- **Continued needs assessments** are also required, **particularly in urban areas**, to assess how the humanitarian community and government can best respond to the complex situation, and to ensure the needs of women and specific vulnerable groups are met.

#### **Shelter Cluster Strategy:**

***To assist affected families to achieve safe, adequate and durable housing until the reconstruction phase is underway and promote safe build-back practices in support of, and in consultation with, the Government of Indonesia.***

#### *Current and Planned Activities:*

- Cash and material distribution – adopting a flexible approach to assistance according to the needs of the targeted population
- Disaster Risk Reduction through better building practices
- Supporting government with community-based training
- Provision of low-cost and easily-implemented repairs to damaged housing
- Promotion of close linkages with professional organizations, government and universities to provide sustainable technical support and strengthen long-term capacity
- Support for needs assessments