

Shelter Cluster partners to implement decisions. To achieve this, the team collects, analyses and shares information. Some of the ways that organizations can benefit from participating in the Shelter Cluster include:

- Up-to-date information showing shelter needs, how these needs are being met, who meets them, as well as the remaining gaps. This includes maps, distribution data etc.
- Technical expertise and lessons learned
- A place where shelter actors can agree on standards and decide on common strategies
- Information about available funding, what it is for and how to access it
- Advice on how to connect the current shelter programmes to early recovery, contingency planning and risk reduction
- A team that will advocate on behalf of the shelter sector as a whole

Structure

The Shelter Cluster consists of the following components:

- A dedicated team that manages the core functions of the cluster, such as coordination, information management and technical support.
- **Cluster Meetings** which are open to all shelter actors.
- A **Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)**, a smaller group of organizations that represents the cluster and provides strategic direction.
- **Technical Working Groups (TWiGs)** that work on specific issues such as shelter design, technical specifications, land issues, housing, land and property rights, reconstruction planning, etc.

Contact

The Shelter Cluster has dedicated offices in Manila, Tacloban, Cebu, Roxas and Bohol with representatives in Guiuan, Ormoc and Borongan.

Please write to the following email addresses if you have additional questions.

Manila: Coord.Phil@ShelterCluster.org

Cebu: Coord2.Phil@ShelterCluster.org

Tacloban: Coord3.Phil@ShelterCluster.org

Roxas: Coord4.Phil@ShelterCluster.org

Bohol: Coord.Bohol@ShelterCluster.org

Visit www.haiyansheltercluster.org for more information.



Photo: WFP / M. Frattini

Working towards safe, dignified and appropriate shelter



Photo: IOM / L. Doyle



Photo: UNHCR / R. Rocamora

About the Shelter Cluster

Within just a few weeks, the Philippines were hit by two major disasters: first the earthquake in Bohol, then Typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda). **As a result, more than 1 million homes have been damaged or destroyed, of which approximately half have been completely destroyed.** Shelter is one of the most urgent priorities for the survivors. The aim of the Shelter Cluster is to provide people affected by these disasters with the means to live in safe, dignified and appropriate shelter as quickly as possible.

The Shelter Cluster Team works with everyone who is involved in providing shelter and basic household items. Key partners include the government, UN agencies, international and local NGOs, civil society organizations, the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, academia and donors. The Shelter Cluster also provides a forum to liaise with the media, the private sector and other actors with a stake in the provision of humanitarian shelter assistance.

The Shelter Cluster helps all stakeholders work together better, so that people who need shelter assistance get help as quickly as possible and receive the right kind of assistance. The team makes every effort to involve the affected people and their communities in decisions related to the response.

The Shelter Cluster is a global mechanism that is supported by many different organizations. In the Philippines, the Shelter Cluster is co-led by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

What the Shelter Cluster Team can do for you

The Shelter Cluster team is here to support the work of those working to provide shelter and to facilitate agreement on important topics. These topics can include:

- Coordinated and joint assessments
- Overall strategic priorities for the response
- Standardization and quality of shelter and building materials
- Technical support for alternative shelter solutions such as repairs, host families or rental support
- Housing, land and property concerns.

The Shelter Cluster team *does not* directly provide shelter materials, such as tents, plastic sheeting, tools etc., but helps Shelter Cluster partners provide assistance in a coordinated way.

The Shelter Cluster works with all stakeholders to help ensure that the right resources are made available to the right people, but depends on the



Photo: IFRC / A. Torralba