

About the Vanuatu Shelter Cluster

The goal of the Vanuatu Shelter Cluster is to provide people affected by Tropical Cyclone PAM with the means to live in safe, dignified and appropriate shelter.

The Vanuatu Shelter Cluster coordination team works with everyone who is involved in providing shelter and basic household items. These Shelter Cluster partners include the government, UN agencies, international and local NGOs, civil society organizations, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, academia and donors. The 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.

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

The Shelter Cluster is a global mechanism that is supported by many different organizations. In Vanuatu, the Shelter Cluster is led by the Government of the Vanuatu - Public Works Department and co-led by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

What the Shelter Cluster coordination team can do for you

The Shelter Cluster Coordination 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 of shelter and building materials
- Technical support for alternative shelter solutions such as repairs, host families or rental support.

The Shelter Cluster coordination 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 Shelter Cluster partners to implement decisions.

To achieve this, the Shelter Cluster coordination 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 Coordination Team that will advocate on behalf of the shelter sector

Structure

The Shelter Cluster consists of the following components:

- **A dedicated coordination team** that manages the core functions of the cluster, usually coordination, information management and technical support.
- **Main Cluster meetings**, which are open to all shelter actors.

- The **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.

Please contact coord.vanuatu@sheltercluster.org if you have additional questions. Visit <http://sheltercluster.org/response/vanuatu-cyclone-pam-2015> for more information.



Figure 1 - Safe shelter awareness session by CARE International in Tanna, May 2015

About the Building Back Safer Technical Working Group:

Recognizing that Government and agencies encourage wherever possible community resilience and shelter self-recovery, the Shelter Cluster agreed to include Building Back Safer at the core of its response and disaster risk reduction strategies to support affected population from Tropical Cyclone PAM.

This TWiG is articulated around regular meetings and activities to help identification of the key principles and enabling action which will help to streamline Building Back Safer through the response, including:

1. For the short term (till end July), need to use the same key messages around building principles, & related IEC material. It includes monitoring various partners' safe shelter awareness and training processes with feedback at cluster level for learning capitalization.
2. To look on how to support training processes and related activities, through vocational and non-vocational training networks.
3. For the long term, to see on how shelter cluster learning and strategy could contribute to the Recovery Strategic Action Plan, as awareness and training have to be core components of Building Back Safer reconstruction strategy

Please contact coord.vanuatu@sheltercluster.org and tech.vanuatu@sheltercluster.org