

Expected outcomes of the project include:

- Global Focal Points as standby/surge capacity
- Regional Focal Points to support preparedness, planning & awareness raising
- Enhanced Assessment, Reporting and Evaluation capacity
- Independent reviews of country level shelter clusters
- Dedicated and improved website

More information can be found here:  
[www.sheltercluster.org/Global/Pages/ECHO.aspx](http://www.sheltercluster.org/Global/Pages/ECHO.aspx)

### The Role of the Global Focal Points

The Global Focal Points act as a pool of experts that support country-level shelter clusters in the establishment of adequate coordination systems, the roll out of on-the-job training for deployed team/cluster members, the formulation of the initial cluster strategy and plan, and facilitate a gradual handover to longer-deployment teams. They also work as a standby/surge capacity and support for global cluster preparedness. In total, the Global Focal Points cover four functions:

- Coordination
- Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation
- Information Management
- Advocacy and Communication

The Global Focal Points are part of the GSC Support Team and also facilitate the work of the SAG, Working Groups, and Communities of Practice of the GSC, and provide inputs to inter-agency discussions and inter-cluster coordination at the global level.



This initiative of the Global Shelter Cluster is supported by:



Humanitarian Aid  
and Civil Protection



## Surge Capacity: Global Focal Points



Photo: V. Agustina /IFRC



Shelter construction in Puntland, Somalia. Photo: C. Jepsen/NRC

The Global Shelter Cluster (GSC) is an open platform with around 30 partners participating consistently at the global level. Country level shelter clusters are currently active in 24 countries, with an additional number of countries with active shelter working groups supported by the cluster co-leads.

The GSC started the year 2013 implementing a five-year strategy. The goal of this strategy is to meet more effectively the sheltering needs of population affected by humanitarian crises, by strengthening the shelter response of humanitarian actors through leadership, coordination and accountability in the humanitarian shelter sector.

More information on the Global Shelter Cluster can be found here: [www.sheltercluster.org](http://www.sheltercluster.org)

### The Global Shelter Cluster's Management Structure

The **Global Shelter Cluster partners** meet twice a year to review progress against agreed objectives and define the GSC's strategic direction and annual priorities. In order to effectively meet their global responsibilities, the GSC partners have agreed to organize and coordinate their activities through a management approach that allows participation and at the same time streamlines decision making.

This management structure is as follows:

- **Strategic Advisory Group (SAG):** composed of agencies and institutions that are part of the GSC, it is a permanent body that works to

advance the Cluster's strategic direction and overall work plan.

- **Global Cluster Lead Agencies:** The GSC is co-chaired by UNHCR and IFRC. The IFRC convenes the Shelter Cluster in natural disaster situations, while UNHCR leads the Shelter Cluster in conflict situations.
- **Working Groups:** task-oriented and time bound structures with clear executable deliverables that are established by the SAG to address particular identified needs.
- **Communities of Practice:** thematic groups of expert individuals that provide technical support to the global or country level clusters.
- **Support Team:** a team of dedicated personnel seconded by different cluster partners. This team is the support cell or secretariat of the GSC and is responsible for its day to day management.

### DG ECHO Contribution to the GSC

DG ECHO, as the main donor, together with other Cluster partners, allowed the GSC to set the foundation to operationalize the Strategy 2013-2017 through a project aiming to **Enhance the Coordination of Humanitarian Shelter Response**. The project time frame is **21 months starting on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2013**. It is **implemented by eight cluster partners** (ACTED, Australian Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, IOM, NRC and UN-Habitat, IFRC, and UNHCR) and led by UNHCR. The specific objective of the project is to strengthen the shelter response of humanitarian actors by improving the GSC surge capacity and global preparedness.