Description

A team of experienced shelter coordination professionals, Global Focal Points (GFPs) are a key component of the Global Shelter Cluster (GSC). GFPs provide surge capacity and remote support to country-level clusters in emergencies caused by conflict and natural disasters. In doing so, GFPs establish and maintain close relations with country-level clusters and help to preserve the link between the GSC and shelter clusters worldwide.

The main role of GFPs is surge capacity. GFPs provide key coordination support to country-level clusters to address issues that require the most advanced coordination expertise and the connection with the global level through deployments of up to one month. During these deployments, GFPs play a key role in supporting the establishment of adequate coordination systems, the formulation of cluster strategies and plans, and the roll out of on-the-job training for deployed team/cluster members.

Between deployments, GFPs provide flexible, constant support to country-level clusters. Direct and remote country support covers a wide range of areas, including: coordination; information management; assessment, monitoring and evaluation; and contingency planning.

--- GFPs CORE FUNCTIONS ---
- Coordination (with clearly defined geographical areas of responsibility)
- Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation (AM&E)
- Information Management

As key members of the GSC Support Team, when not deployed -and as second priority- GFPs engage in global cluster preparedness, capturing good practices, developing or updating guidelines and tools, and supporting other GSC initiatives (e.g. global meetings and workshops). GFPs also support GSC structures and activities by facilitating the work of the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) and participating in Working Groups and Communities of Practice.

GFPs also engage in inter-agency discussions and inter-cluster coordination at the global level to remain abreast of and influence global discussions with country-level implications. Additionally, GFPs play an important role doing advocacy at the global level, ensuring there is a link between country-level clusters, the Global Cluster Coordination Group (GCCG) and other key stakeholders.

Currently, the GSC has seven GFPs distributed as follows: Four providing general coordination support; two concentrating on Information Management, and one focusing on Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation. Additionally, the two Deputy GSC Coordinators provide coordination support.

In future emergencies, please contact:
- Conflicts: Miguel Urquia, UNHCR
- Natural Disasters: Pablo Medina, IFRC