2012 in Review

Over the first nine months of the year (January to September) Cluster members distributed 98,070 standardised NFI kits, benefitting 588,420 Somalis affected by displacement. During the same time period, 296,000 IDPs benefitted from improved shelter. Cluster members used a variety of shelter types dictated by security of tenure and urgency of the need (see page 4).

In September, Shelter Cluster meetings were held in Hargeisa, Bossaso, Mogadishu and Nairobi to set the objectives and priorities for 2013 – 2015 (see page 3). This consultative process was an opportunity to visit the field and meet agencies operating in the contrasting environments.

The contrast between the different zones was underlined by the involvement in the shelter sector by the authorities. Increased participation enables more durable solutions to be found and donor confidence to invest in shelter.

After months of planning, mapping, settlement layout and discussions, the Tri-Cluster shelter component started in Sona K in Mogadishu (see page 2). As a beneficiary commented, “when the new shelter is completed, it will be a new day for us”.

The Cluster led an assessment of solar lighting in Hargeisa (page 3). As technology improves and prices come down, Cluster partners have more options to choose between, whether it be household lighting or street lighting. Whatever the technical solution, the benefits of solar lighting are clear.

The country-wide Shelter Cluster Review, led by REACH Initiative aims to consolidate documents inclusive of secondary data from shelter partners, remote sensing analysis and field data collection (page 2). Its scope will be to act as a baseline for the sector and to feed into relevant decision making and strategic processes such as government policies, CAP and other humanitarian key documents or funding decisions.

October heralds the 2nd CHF allocation ($3.25 million for Shelter) the submission of CAP projects and new funding for Emergency Reserve. During this busy planning period, agencies continue to deliver on long-term shelter projects while the needs for NFIs in response to conflict or natural disasters continue.
CAP 2013 – 2015

CAP 2013 – 2015 is now officially launched in Somalia and also in Nairobi. The Shelter NFI Cluster projects require USD 72m to be able to provide displaced Somalis with shelter and emergency assistance packages in 2013.

The Shelter Cluster is targeting three quarters of a million internally displaced people (IDPs) who are still living in crisis.

“We aim to give 750,000 people in need Emergency Assistance Packages (EAPs), including transitional shelter kits to over 250,000 people. Without the foundation that shelter provides, the level of protection we can offer is reduced. The ability to cope with ongoing nutrition and health issues is diminished and it is more difficult to improve sanitation at internally displaced people’s settlements,” Gedu said.

The Shelter Cluster will continue delivery of emergency assistance through EAPs, provision of transitional shelter from plastic sheeting right through to semi-permanent and permanent shelter, including settlement planning and return of IDPs. A total of 39,000 Somali IDPs are targeted for durable housing based on secure land tenure.

“We the transitional shelter approach allows us to provide shelter for all types of IDPs from the recently displaced to protracted IDPs,” said Richard Evans, Emergency Shelter Cluster Coordinator. “Shelter solutions range from a plastic sheeting for a new arrival in Mogadishu to a solid brick house for the long-term displaced in Puntland,” he added.

The 750,000 EAPs each contain plastic sheeting, a jerrican for water collection and storage, blankets, sleeping mats, a kitchen set of vital utensils, as well as sanitary items including soap. A new addition to the emergency assistance package for 2013 is a standard ‘Women’s Dignity Kit’ which will contain traditional Somali women’s clothing and sanitary items for all female members in a beneficiary family.

World Vision Somalia, with funding from the UK Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC), German Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH), and World Vision’s Emergency Appeal Funds from Canada, is providing shelter to 1,200 displaced households in Butinle and Garowe. Now at project midpoint, beneficiaries praise the project for securing not only housing, but also permanent land rights and title deeds to their new homes—including for women owners.

In addition to extensive community consultations, beneficiaries are participating in the building process of their new homes, 800 of which are now complete. The project includes water catchment berkats, latrines, showers, and Child-Friendly Spaces (CFSs) to benefit the permanent settlement, and has actively supported Puntland’s new Department of IDP Affairs, the Ministry of Interior.

ARC: In coordination with the Shelter/NFI Cluster and furtherance of the cluster response strategy, ARC provided emergency material assistance to 1,800 vulnerable families residing in the IDP settlements of Mogadishu. Non-food item kits containing cooking pots and utensils critical for cooking distributed food, sleep mats, basic clothing, hygiene items and emergency shelter construction materials reached 7,200 members of female and youth headed families, and 600 disabled persons in the districts of Hodan, Waberi, Bondere and Dharkeely, with support from the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.

World Vision: After famine was declared in 2011, the IDP issue in Puntland reached a critical stage as drought and conflict conditions in the south led to a swelling of displaced populations. New arrivals as well as families displaced by earlier droughts and conflict required shelter, along with other critical services.

When a shelter project was proposed, the beneficiary community advocated for permanent structure designs which could only be cost effective if the status of the land were not in question. Extensive engagement began with clan elders and national, regional and municipal government leaders to secure land rights for the new home owners.

“...Futama, oldest daughter of single mother Habibo, helped paint flowers on their new house in Garowe, Puntland. The house comes with the deed to the land—even though Habibo is a woman—thanks to advocacy work with local and regional government leaders.” —Annette E. Taylor.

Photo Credit: Emergency Shelter /World Vision/Annette E. Taylor, October 2012
When a family is displaced, an appropriate shelter and household NFIs are the foundation to recovery, resilience and re-integration.