

***Shelter Projects 2015-2016 Working Group
Break-out Group at the GSC Meeting
5th and 6th October 2016***

Summary

Shelter Projects is a series of case study compilations which illustrate some of the project options available to agencies and institutions working in humanitarian shelter. Through annual (2008, 2009, 2010) or biannual (2011-2012; 2013-2014) publications, Shelter Projects aim to improve the capacity of humanitarian actors to meet the sheltering needs of disaster and conflict affected populations, by disseminating shelter responses and learning from the experiences.

The group objectives were to raise awareness and provide background on the new edition of the publication - currently under development; to review the case studies and opinion pieces submitted to date; to discuss the lessons learned emerged from a range of case studies and how to best describe such lessons; to involve potential reviewers and contributors; and to discuss the next steps in the development of the publication.

The sessions were planned to stimulate discussion around a series of case studies that were presented to the group by the contributors themselves. Opportunities were seized to reflect on how to improve the publication and enhance the quality of the individual case studies.

Overall, the session highlighted the range and diversity of activities that the shelter sector encompasses, and that will be captured in Shelter Projects. The group discussed which responses will need an overview section, in order to set the context of multiple case studies. It also identified which countries or crises are missing amongst the submissions, yet have been significant in the past two years of humanitarian shelter responses. This will inform the working group in order to seek additional case studies that will fill this gap, where possible. The group also reflected on crosscutting issues for the sector, such as the role of coordination of shelter responses and the balance between scale and impact/quality of shelter programmes. The latter, amongst other topics, will be further explored in an opinion piece under development.

The priority for this group was to engage a wide audience of contributors and users of the publication, and it achieved to stimulate several conversations about specific projects as well as overarching topics in the shelter and settlements arena. By opening up the process of Shelter Projects to more practitioners and agencies, the publication will gain in visibility and inclusiveness, ultimately improving its quality and success in reaching a wider public of future users.

The next steps for the Shelter Projects Working Group, as discussed during the GSC meeting, are:

- Agree on a rigorous peer review methodology;
- Discuss the submissions and the criteria for inclusion;
- Start the review process for the case studies submitted;
- Develop the overview sections for specific responses as identified during the meeting;
- Finalize the Photo Competition and uploading the pictures for public voting;
- Seek additional case studies from countries that are under- or not represented;
- Develop the final draft of the publication.