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Mid-year report Shelter and Settlements

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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30 August 2012

**This report covers the
period 01 January 2012 to
30 June 2012**

*Photo: Mollie Godinez/Philippines Red Cross
One of the model houses constructed in Iligan
City, after Typhoon Washi*



In brief

Programme outcome

To save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises by reducing the impact of, and vulnerability to, disasters through the development and effective use of national, regional and international Red Cross and Red Crescent capacities and resources in sheltering.

Programme summary

The first half of 2012 was rather quiet in terms of large disasters and this situation enabled the IFRC shelter team to focus on the ongoing initiatives and to work on the dissemination of the results of completed activities.

PASSA roll-out was kick-started by a ToT in Nicaragua, co-organized by Habitat for Humanity and the manual has been translated to Spanish. Capacity building activities continued with the tenth edition of the shelter technical training being held in the Netherlands in July and the ninth edition of the cluster coordination training also took place in June in Spain. Support was given to two regional technical trainings with a specific shelter focus, in Mexico and in Israel. The IFRC shelter technical training has received its accreditation from the Oxford Brookes University in the

UK and became a masters level course. Other training initiatives are underway and existing ones are continuously being improved.

Annual IFRC Shelter Reference Group Meeting took place in Ottawa in April, hosted by the Canadian Red Cross and attended by the representatives of eight national societies, IFRC Shelter Research Unit and the IFRC shelter team.

In the first half of 2012, a number of tools and publications have been finalized and produced by the team. Some of the existing reference material has been translated to other IFRC languages. The research and development work continued on a number of shelter items such as the shelter kit, family tent, lighting and cooking solutions, etc. After more than two years of preparatory work, the IFRC Shelter Research Unit has finally been given official status with the signing of the memorandum of understanding by all stakeholders.

IFRC continues to lead the shelter cluster at the global level, and engages in different inter-agency initiatives to improve the quality of shelter responses worldwide. At the beginning of the year, IFRC deployed a coordination team to the Philippines following the tropical storm Washi and successfully coordinated the shelter agencies in the emergency phase.

Work on the development of a sustainability benchmarking tool for post-disaster shelter interventions with BRE Global continued. The team also embarked upon a new initiative concerning the regulatory barriers to the provision of short and medium term shelter solutions, following the adoption of the respective resolution by the International Conference in December 2011. Collaboration with strategic partners on sector-wide initiatives continued.

Financial situation

The total 2012 budget is CHF 2,455,102, of which CHF 1,347,632 (55 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 580,307 (24 per cent of the annual budget and 43 per cent of the available funding) .

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

Our partners

Key Red Cross and Red Crescent partners have provided support ranging from funding, to the provision of staff on loan, and collaboration on activities. These include the American, Australian, Austrian, Belgian (Flanders and French community), British, Canadian, Colombian, Danish, Finnish, French, German, Indonesian, Jamaican, Luxembourg, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Norwegian, Spanish, Swedish and Swiss Red Cross Societies; Qatar and Jordan Red Crescent Societies; Magen David Adom as well as the ICRC. Project-specific collaborations have been established or initiated with a number of UN agencies including UNDP, UNHABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNECE and UNOCHA; IOM; international and national NGOs including ACTED, CARE, CRATerre, Habitat for Humanity, Handicap International, HelpAge International, Norwegian Refugee Council, Oxfam GB, WSPA and World Wildlife Fund US; technical and academic

institutes including BRE Global, Copenhagen/Lund Universities and Oxford Brookes University (CENDEP); and private sector support initiatives including the World Economic Forum.

Context

The first half of 2012 was a relatively calm period in terms of large-scale disasters requiring mobilization of significant resources. Smaller scale emergencies, such as the floods in Mozambique, required the deployment of shelter specialists and shelter coordination capacity was deployed to the Philippines and Peru. Beyond support as required to these responses, efforts were focused on the development of key tools and guidance, the consolidation of partnerships (e.g. with BRE, CRATerre, Oxford Brookes University, etc.), and further work on capacity building and training activities and the preparations for the promotion of shelter at major events. In addition, support was provided to the early recovery and reconstruction phases of the ongoing operations, engaging in discussions with Zone colleagues to address the capacity building needs in their respective areas and providing back-up technical support whenever and wherever needed.

At the end of June a very interesting analysis has been released by the Asia Pacific Zone regarding the shelter-related expenditure for all appeals launched in the Zone in the period 2007-2011, excluding the tsunami operations. According to this analysis 49% of expenditure of all annual and emergency appeals were shelter-related (25% in annual appeals and 54% in emergency appeals), adding up to a total of 151.8 million CHF. These figures appear even more striking when one considers the limited resources national societies (human and otherwise) dedicate to shelter compared to other sectors and the need for continued advocacy for raising the shelter and settlements profile.

Progress towards outcomes

Outcome(s)

1. Sheltering as part of disaster preparedness, response and recovery activities reduce shelter related risks and vulnerabilities and use best practices informed by sheltering policy guidance.
2. The human resources capacity of the IFRC and its membership in sheltering is strengthened and used effectively
3. The IFRC and its membership have the operational and technical support to provide an appropriate shelter and settlement response whilst strengthening local capacities.
4. The emergency shelter sector has the appropriate global and in-country coordination and support.
5. The global approach to and provision of emergency shelter has been advanced through collaborative sector initiatives and the networking of interested stakeholders.

Achievements

Outcome 1

- Similar to the years before, the first half of 2012 also saw the compilation, coordination and global dissemination of best practices and case studies through the Shelter Projects publication. The 2010 edition includes 10 case studies from Red Cross/Red Crescent contributors. A technical working group was established including several other agencies (NRC, IOM, ACTED, CRS) to provide a broader analytical back up of the selection process. The new edition was produced as 1,500 hard and 1,500 soft copies to be disseminated to the wide shelter sector, donors, stakeholders, etc.
- To address the issue of reducing shelter and settlement risks and vulnerabilities, a number of initiatives were undertaken in the previous years and these efforts were continued successfully in the reporting period as well. The development of the Participatory Approach to Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA) tool was completed in 2011 and in 2012 the efforts focused on its roll-out. A ToT was co-organized with Habitat for Humanity in Nicaragua and the manual has been translated to Spanish. Habitat for Humanity is a solid and strategic partner in the roll-out efforts, with discussions ongoing with them to replicate the Nicaragua experience in other parts of the world. The roll-out strategy for PASSA for 2012-2013 has been established at global level to inform decision-making, request funding and allow national societies to receive trainings.
- The shelter section on the IFRC website has been revisited and refreshed (<http://www.ifrc.org/shelter>). The changes include updated content, addition of new productions, links and possibility of having more interactive uses.

Outcome 2

- The capacity building focus of the Shelter and Settlements Long-Term Planning Framework is to establish standardized shelter trainings at the global, regional and country level as appropriate and to ensure that the shelter components of other institutional trainings are consistent with agreed IFRC terminology and approaches to sheltering (relief ERU, FACT and RDRT trainings). In keeping with this strategy, preparations for the 10th edition (since 2006) of the global shelter technical training (STT) were undertaken in the reporting period. The training consists of a five-week online distance learning (estimated 50 hours of study) and a six-day residential component. The online component took place between 28 May-8 July (extended for one week due to missions, etc. of participants). 19 participants from eight national societies and IFRC have signed up for the online training; 16 participants from seven national societies and IFRC have successfully completed this component and will be attending the residential training. The residential part will take place between 16-22 July in the Netherlands, hosted by the Netherlands Red Cross and delivered jointly by the Australian, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross with support from IFRC. Delegates who participate in the STT with the requested technical profile are included in the IFRC roster for shelter technical delegates and are being deployed to different operations.
- In the reporting period, the STT has become a certified Masters-level credit-rated course, in

collaboration with the Oxford Brookes University in the UK. The IFRC STT is a competency based, assessed course worth ten masters level credits. Credits are also recognized internationally and the IFRC STT is equivalent to level 7 on the European Qualifications Framework (EQCA). On the European Credit Framework, two UK credits are worth one European credit (ECTS), so the STT is the equivalent of five ECTS.

- In order to build the capacity to provide coordination services to shelter actors at country level, the 9th edition of the IFRC Shelter Coordination Training (SCT) was organized in the second quarter of 2012. As in the previous edition it had two components: a four-week tutored online component on IFRC learning platform (April-May) and a one-week residential component hosted by Spanish Red Cross and co-funded by British Red Cross in the first week of June in Madrid, Spain. A total of 16 participants participated in this training from five national societies, IFRC secretariat and other shelter cluster partners, such as UNHCR, CARE International, World Society for the Protection of Animals and Danish Refugee Council. IOM, ACTED and UN-Habitat supported the training, providing facilitators for some sessions.
- Similar to the STT, the credit rating process with Oxford Brookes University has been initiated for the SCT as well and should be completed during the first quarter of 2013.
- The first shelter technical workshop in Spanish (Formación Regional Técnica en Alojamiento-FTA) was organized in the Americas in January 2012 (residential component), covering programmatic components both for preparedness and response phases. This training was based on the global STT. The online module was done based on the translation into Spanish of the original distance learning component of the STT and the classroom component was revised and adapted to cover the regional needs. 24 staff or volunteers from 11 different NS in the Americas attended this pilot training.
- Shelter kit trainings targeting national societies continued in 2012 as well. From January to June, a total of 63 volunteers had access to such training. 33 persons from Haitian Red Cross have been trained with the support of the French and Canadian Red Cross. IFRC has also contributed to building the capacity of the Guatemala and the Sudan national societies with trainings organized at country level.
- Preparations have been made in the reporting period for the delivery of two shelter kit ToT sessions in Africa and Asia Pacific in the second half of the year. The trainings will target nine national societies in Africa and four or five national societies in Asia Pacific, with the support of the Swedish and Swiss Red Cross.
- Customized support was given to various national societies, such as the assistance to the Jordanian Red Crescent and Magen David Adom to develop and deliver a workshop on the management of international assistance in disasters with focus in logistics, shelter and relief distribution. The training was held in April, in Eilat, Israel. ICRC, IFRC secretariat (MENA Zone logistics, Europe Zone disaster management and Geneva shelter) and PNS (German and American), jointly with MDA and JRC were responsible for the organisation and facilitation of the workshop where 26 staff or volunteers from both national societies were trained.
- The Shelter and Settlements Department got involved in 2011 in discussions with Danish Red Cross and the Universities of Copenhagen and Lund to include a module on shelter in their joint Disaster Management masters program. This course was developed and delivered

in November 2011 in Copenhagen, Denmark. This year UNHCR has joined this initiative as well. The contribution by UNHCR of course content reflecting UNHCR's expertise in complex emergencies will define a more comprehensive vision of the whole shelter emergency response. The new edition of this course will take place in September-October 2012.

- To address shelter issues in the Africa Zone a regional shelter position was opened and with the support of the Netherlands Red Cross, this position will be fully-funded from September until the end of the year. This will be the first time dedicated shelter capacity will be available in the Africa Zone. There have also been changes in the shelter positions in other zones. Asia Pacific shelter delegate has finalized his mission in July. His replacement will take office in September. In the mean time technical support has been provided to the Zone office by the department. Also in the Americas Zone, the shelter coordinator finished her mission in July. Although there is not yet a permanent replacement for her, the American Red Cross has seconded their shelter adviser to cover for this position on part-time basis for three months. The shelter team in Geneva provided assistance in the recruitment of these positions and shelter positions in other operations (e.g. Haiti) as requested by the hiring managers.
- The annual IFRC Shelter Reference Group Meeting took place in Ottawa in April, hosted by the Canadian Red Cross. This year's meeting was attended by representatives of American, Australian, British, Canadian, Danish, Netherlands, Swedish Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, IFRC Shelter Research Unit in Luxemburg and the IFRC Shelter and Settlements Department. At this meeting, the priorities for the coming year were identified and it was decided to hold quarterly virtual meetings, in addition to the annual physical meeting. Next year's meeting will take place in Qatar, hosted by the Qatar Red Crescent.

Outcome 3

- In the first half of 2012, a number of tools and publications have been finalized and produced by the team. These include Sustainable Reconstruction in Urban Areas (IFRC/SKAT), Assisting Host Families and Communities in Crises and Natural Disasters (IFRC), Shelter Projects (IFRC/UN-HABITAT/UNHCR), Post-disaster Settlement Guidelines (IFRC), Post-disaster Community Infrastructure Rehabilitation and (Re)construction Guidelines (IFRC). Also in collaboration with the French Red Cross, a shelter kit instruction flyer has been produced. This flyer will be included in the packaging of the shelter kit from now on. In addition to these, the HelpAge-IFRC guidelines on including older people in emergency shelter programs have been translated into French, Spanish and Russian and disseminated widely. All these tools are available digitally on Fednet and hard copies or CDs can be requested from the department as long as they are in stock. Currently, the IFRC MENA Zone office is also working on the translation of shelter kit guidelines and plastic sheeting guidelines into Arabic.
- To complement existing guidelines, work will start in the second half of the year on a number of new tools and guidelines. These will include the follow-up volume of "Transitional Shelters: Eight Designs" which had come out last year; guidelines on integrating considerations for people with disabilities into shelter programs (in collaboration with the health department, Handicap International, CBM and Australian Red Cross); guidelines for decision-makers

concerning shelter programs and guidelines on shelter project management. These efforts will fully or partially be funded by the tsunami unit.

- In the reporting period, an initiative with the legal department to define standard contractual and legal templates, including cooperation agreement for reconstruction, memorandum of understanding, completion of work certificates, handover formats, etc. was started. This work also will potentially tie into the regulatory barriers to shelter initiative.
- In February, a FACT team was deployed to Mozambique to assist with the floods operation. The team included a shelter FACT member from the Australian Red Cross, who was in charge of monitoring the detailed shelter assessment, defining the shelter plan of action and assisting the national society in drafting the shelter section of the emergency appeal. This was the only FACT deployment in 2012 so far where shelter expertise was requested.
- As part of the stock pre-positioning overseen by the department, 527 tents and 3,869 shelter kits have been dispatched for replenishment of national stocks in Philippines and Bangladesh. Work on improving the shelter products continued in the first half of 2012, namely with the improvement of the shelter kit including new packaging and revised specifications for some items including the tarpaulin. The new specifications of the packaging will allow easy transport of the tools. In addition, due to its durability the bag could be used for other purposes. The detailed specifications are available in the Emergency Items Catalogue (EIC). Similarly, work continues on the identification and/or development of efficient solar lighting products. In collaboration with ICRC, the plan is to evaluate selected products for eventual inclusion in the EIC and to complement the family kit.
- Within the framework of the tent research and development project launch in 2011 in collaboration with ICRC and UNHCR, the development of the self-standing tent and the winterization kit specifications have been finalized. Both products will be included in the EIC to complement the shelter relief items and can be procured for operations.
- In absence of shelter focal point for the Africa Zone, remote technical assistance was provided by sharing the existing tools, publications, guidelines, training opportunities, etc. and by supporting the national societies which have applied for DREF (Mozambique, Madagascar, Central Africa Republic, Comoros Islands, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Gabon, Tanzania) and have submitted emergency appeals (Madagascar, Mozambique, Kenya, Republic of Congo, Sudan). With the exception of epidemic and food security operations, 94,4 % of DREFs and 85,7 % of appeals in Africa had shelter-related NFIs, emergency shelter components and in some case early recovery shelter activities. The Madagascar Red Cross has for example assisted 2,000 households with shelter kits provided from the French Red Cross stock in the Piroi. The Mozambique Red Cross has also dispatched shelter kits targeting 5,500 households with emergency shelter items.
- In the Americas, in addition to other operations, support continued to the Haiti operation. The owner-driven approach was promoted through the organization of exposure visits to similar owner-driven projects and supply of methodological assistance. Lessons Learned Workshop for shelter was organized in April in Haiti and the Geneva shelter team supported this event by assisting with the organization, content development, results-sharing (report, videos, presentation session at Secretariat), etc.
- Also in the MENA Zone, remote assistance was provided to the Zone DM team in the

absence of a dedicated shelter delegate. A special presentation on shelter was given to 15 national societies in May at the Zone DM workshop. In addition, specific requests from the national societies of the region with respect to trainings or resources are being responded to or accommodated whenever possible. The Geneva team also provided technical input to the emergency appeals for Syria and the neighbouring countries and is on stand-by to provide the Zone and the operations with technical expertise as necessary.

- The joint project with ICRC and UNHCR launched in 2008-2009, culminated in an improved version of the family tent and the continued collaboration in 2011 resulted in the technical specifications of the winterization kit and the validation of a frame tent model. This cooperation also underlined the need to continue the research for the development of a lighter-weight family tent solution. In 2012, the UNHCR agreed to increase its financial contribution for the analysis of a number of tent prototypes. The first project phase is looking at a selected number with dome and pitched roof structures and the laboratory testing of their materials. The project will also include the fire resistance specifications for the tarpaulins, as this is usually a major tent component. At this stage requirements of the new tent model have been defined and tests of three prototypes are under process.
- The shelter and settlements department launched in 2012 a joint initiative with the health department, disaster and crisis management department, food security team and ICRC to work on a cooking stove as part of the efforts to improve household non-food items. The objectives of the project is to undertake the review and analysis of the current practices, to identify possible gaps and to make recommendations for the development of appropriate cooking stove products within emergency operations. Discussion is ongoing with these stakeholders and the American Red Cross to identify a fundraising strategy, fine-tune the terms of reference and to finalize the scope and methodology of a consultancy.
- Born as an initiative of the Benelux Red Cross societies in 2010, the IFRC Shelter Research Unit (SRU) has been formally established on July 24, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding by all partners. The main objectives of the IFRC SRU are to map shelter solutions to analyze and therefore improvement and innovation possible; to diversify, improve and innovate standard response kits and items; to test shelter types and items for the optimization of practiced and envisioned shelter typologies and items. The IFRC SRU will interact with the academic research institutes and the private sector. Also in 2012, the department has provided the required and requested support to the SRU by participating on the panel to recruit a new coordinator, briefing the coordinator, participating in project meetings with relevant universities and partners, etc.

Outcome 4

- IFRC continued to lead the shelter cluster in El Salvador into 2012, following extensive damage caused by Tropical Depression 12-E in October 2011. IFRC deployed a Shelter Coordination Team (SCT) to support and complement Government's coordination efforts. The IFRC-led Shelter Coordination Team (SCT) consisted of a Coordinator, an Information Manager, and a Recovery/Technical Advisor, the latter through an agreement with UN-HABITAT. The SCT developed coordinated strategic plans and standards for shelter and NFI related interventions, held regular meetings with all cluster stakeholders, and reported

consolidated progress analysis on behalf of all partners, eventually handing over responsibility to Habitat for Humanity – El Salvador. Materials developed during the course of this Shelter Cluster deployment are publicly available on the ShelterCluster.org platform. A review of this deployment is currently in progress and will be completed in September 2012.

- In January 2012, IFRC deployed a team to lead the shelter cluster following Tropical Storm Washi (locally known as Sendong) in the Philippines. The four-person SCT included a Coordinator, an Information Manager, an Assessment Coordinator, and a GIS expert, the two latter through agreements with ACTED. The SCT worked closely in support of the government, providing assessment capacity, technical advice and coordination and information management services to ensure the implementation of appropriate shelter solutions and to ensure a seamless transition from emergency shelter to permanent housing, particularly for those who were most vulnerable. IFRC handed over the shelter cluster lead to the government and IOM for the coordination of the recovery efforts. A review of this IFRC-led shelter cluster has been completed and a management response is currently under development.
- As a result of an identified gap in the response to seasonal floods in Peru, IFRC was requested to provide support, in coordination with government authorities and other clusters, to carry out a detailed shelter assessment, develop a shelter strategy, and undertake advocacy activities on behalf of the shelter sector. At the time of reporting, a three-person SCT including a Coordinator, an Assessment Coordinator, and a GIS expert, the two latter through agreements with ACTED and IMPACT, had been deployed and were in the process of completing the assessment and developing a shelter strategy to be presented to government authorities and donors for consideration.
- Other support to country level shelter clusters included ongoing technical advice for National Societies to coordinate shelter cluster contingency planning efforts in countries where clusters are activated on an open-ended basis (e.g. Mozambique, Nepal).
- The 9th edition of the IFRC Shelter Coordination Training – SCT (global surge capacity for cluster deployments) took place between April and June, with the residential component co-organized with Spanish RC in Madrid. It was attended by participants from 5 national societies, IFRC secretariat and other shelter cluster agencies such as UNHCR, CARE International, WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals) and DRC (Danish Refugee Council). IOM, IMPACT and UN-Habitat supported the delivery of the training through the provision of facilitators for some of the sessions. As a result, 16 staff or volunteers from 5 national societies, IFRC and shelter cluster partners at global level completed the full training (online and residential modules) and joined the shelter coordination roster.
- Over the years, IFRC has progressively defined and refined its shelter coordination methodology through the emergencies in which it has convened the Shelter Cluster. With the support and active involvement of cluster partners including National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, operational NGOs and UN agencies, this methodology is now commonly understood. With the purpose of sharing its approach to shelter coordination more widely, IFRC published its Shelter Coordination Handbook, which provides an overview of the IFRC's methodology for shelter coordination with its partners. It is aimed at shelter coordination personnel, to provide a summary of the coordination functions; agency decision-makers at global or country level who may be contributing personnel to a Shelter

Coordination Team or participating in a country level cluster; and donors and affected governments to ensure a better understanding of the coordination role and how this common, interagency platform can contribute to enhanced humanitarian response.

- The mid-year Global Shelter Cluster meeting/teleconference was held in mid-June to address issues emerging from current country level clusters and review progress on the 2012 Global Shelter Cluster activities. The meeting/teleconference was well attended with a total of 17 different organizations and 31 participants overall. A general update was provided to Global Shelter Cluster (GSC) agencies on the activities of the different GSC Working Groups and issues raised from country level clusters were integrated into the work plan of these Working Groups where possible.
- Further to discussions held at the 2011 GSC Meeting, where it was agreed that a Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) would enhance the ability of the GSC to meet its global responsibilities, ToRs for the GSC SAG were developed and agreed upon in the first half of 2012. It has been agreed that an interim SAG will be established in July 2012 for a four-month interim period, during which the SAG shall further elaborate its functions, composition, and procedures and update the existing ToR accordingly for endorsement at the GSC Meeting in November 2012.
- Building on past discussions on how the Disaster Resource Partnership-World Economic Forum (DRP-WEF) could support the work of shelter cluster agencies and a joint IFRC-DRP emergency shelter training for future deployments in November 2011, a meeting was held on May between a small group of key humanitarian shelter specialists from different shelter operational agencies and high-level private sector representatives to explore avenues for partnership in disaster preparedness, risk reduction, response, and recovery. The meeting focused on agreeing on Standard Operating Procedures for deployment of DRP human resources in support of shelter cluster agencies and on identifying joint initiatives that could be carried out on a pilot basis, whether in the context of disaster response or addressing existing shelter vulnerabilities in disaster-prone areas. As a result, several expressions of interest have been submitted by shelter agencies participating at the May meeting and partnerships with DRP companies are under development on a pilot basis.
- IFRC has developed a website for the Shelter Cluster (www.sheltercluster.org), which supports the sharing and dissemination of information in active country-level cluster deployments as well as serves as the cluster "memory" and knowledge management system for past responses. The website also provides valuable information services for the Global Shelter Cluster activities and useful reference materials for all shelter agencies. During the first half of 2012, the website has continued to grow in content, usage, and function in order to better communicate important information through a single point-of-entry supporting cluster partner agencies acting in the shelter sector. In 2012, UNHCR has joined efforts with IFRC to advance and promote sheltercluster.org. Both organizations signed an MoU at the end of June to strengthen collaboration on the development and maintenance of the shelter cluster website.
- In support of the priorities identified at the 2011 Global Shelter Cluster Meeting, four Working Groups were established to address enhanced shelter cluster coherence, consistent and comparative assessment of the impact of humanitarian shelter and settlement interventions, increased predictability in shelter cluster resources, and increased support in housing, land,

property, regulatory and other barriers to meeting post-disaster shelter and settlement needs. These four Working Groups have established work plans and are currently advancing a number of key deliverables that will provide guidance and practical tools to more effectively deliver and coordinate the humanitarian shelter response.

- At the global level, IFRC continued to participate in interagency initiatives as Global Shelter Cluster Lead for natural disasters. IFRC provided input to a number of IASC fora, such as the Needs Assessment Task Force and its Multi-sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) process, to the Multi-Stakeholder Cluster Meeting, and to the Sub-Working Group on the Cluster Approach, among others. IFRC also contributed to various papers and guidance notes produced within the context of the Transformative Agenda.

Outcome 5

- The preparations for the second edition of the Europe and Central Asia Housing Forum (<http://www.ecahousingforum.eu/>) started during the first half of 2012. The first edition of this event had taken place in Budapest in April 2011. IFRC collaborates with Habitat for Humanity, UNECE and UNDP in the organization of this event. The second edition will take place in April 2013 in Geneva.
- Collaboration with BRE Global continued on the development of a self-assessment tool to benchmark sustainability in the shelter and settlements interventions in the aftermath of a natural disaster. This project was initiated in 2011. Following a number of exploratory meetings between partners in 2011, the first Project Consultation Group (PCG) meeting took place in March 2012 and the BRE team is currently working on developing the criteria for the emergency and recovery phase tools. The PCG has eight members and consists of national societies, shelter agencies and donors.
- Following the adoption of the International Conference resolution on regulatory barriers to the provision of shelter solutions in short and medium-term in December 2011, work has been initiated to advance on this topic. Support was given to the phase 1 of the regulatory audit project jointly being undertaken by the shelter and Disaster Law Programme (DLP) teams in Asia Pacific Zone. Funding for the second phase has been secured by the shelter and settlements department. Further and more detailed work on the issue of regulatory barriers has commenced with the joining of the advanced intern to the team in January. This project is being undertaken in collaboration with the DLP team in Geneva and Zones.
- Americas Zone has been assisted in assuming the lead to re-establish the REDLAC¹ shelter working group, to increase the level of coordination at regional and country level in case of emergencies due to natural disasters.
- Similar to previous years, also in 2012 dialogue has been initiated and continued for technical assistance with key institutions and experts in specific shelter domains to explore modalities of collaboration e.g. TRADA specialized on timber.
- As per usual practice, the department strove also in the reporting period to engage partner organizations to achieve higher value in our work. Examples: CraTerre technical support to the Haiti Lessons Learned report and workshop, UN-Habitat/UNHCR to deliver Shelter

¹ Regional IASC platform

Projects 2010, SKAT to co-produce the Urban Handbook, BRE Global to produce a sustainability benchmarking tool, etc. Also regular representation at international platforms and events took place (e.g. presentations given at the Shelter Centre Meeting (Geneva April 2012), CraTERRE/UN-Habitat day Graines D'Isère Festival (June 2012), etc.). In addition, where possible the department engaged in and supported cross-sectoral initiatives with other technical departments such as health, CPRR, etc.

Constraints or Challenges

Similar to previous years, the major challenge in the first half of 2012 has been to maintain an acceptable level of activity and support to shelter programs despite financial constraints. Lack of dedicated financial resources within the department to address the increasing demand from national societies to develop their capacities and knowledge in this sector has continued to be an issue. This challenge was compounded this year by lack of funding from ECHO despite earlier positive messages and inadequate access to resources from non-traditional donors for shelter. In addition, the fact that some financial support from donors took much longer to materialize than expected undermined the capacity to deliver on some activities in the first half year and delayed the results.

The absence of shelter focal points in Africa and MENA Zones delayed the development of shelter strategies for these Zones and the scaling up of the shelter capacity of interested national societies. A similar situation will be experienced in the Americas if a sustainable solution cannot be found to replace the shelter coordinator who has recently finished her mission. This situation also poses a challenge to the communication with the national societies and the capitalization of their experiences in providing shelter to affected communities.

Availability of shelter tools and resources in IFRC languages other than English continue to remain an issue. This challenge is largely related to the availability of financial resources to undertake the required translation, printing and dissemination. However, some progress has been made in this respect regarding the guidelines on shelter and age and the plastic sheeting and shelter kit guidelines are in the process of being translated into Arabic by the MENA Zone office.

The set up of the SRU with an agreed legal framework has been finalized but the working modalities, financial and human resources capacities remain a challenge for the coming months.

The lack of understanding of the formal cluster activation process by key internal and external stakeholders continues to pose challenges in ensuring effective, timely, and inclusive decision making on shelter coordination. Finally, inadequate financial resources for Global Shelter Cluster activities have limited the capacity to advance the priorities established at the 2011 Global Shelter Cluster Meeting.

Working in partnership

Collaborations reflect the different thematic or geographical interests of the respective national societies. For example, Spanish, Australian and Netherlands Red Cross societies have been

supporting shelter positions at regional, Zone and/or Geneva levels. French Red Cross has been actively engaged in contributing to the technical oversight and project management of the shelter kit training, whereas the Benelux Red Cross societies (Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgian-Flanders and Belgian-French speaking community) have been working on the establishment of the Shelter Research Unit. Canadian and British Red Cross supported the coordination capacity through funding of the global focal points for coordination and information management.

Netherlands, Australian, British, Canadian and Spanish Red Cross have continued their support to trainings. Spanish and Netherlands Red Cross have been engaged in hosting the events and Australian, Netherlands, Canadian, British and Spanish Red Cross have contributed with staff for the organization and facilitation of the trainings.

Greater impact and efficiency was reached regarding the PASSA dissemination and promotion at community level through the solid partnership of Habitat for Humanity in several regions (Americas and expected in Asia). A joint training in the Americas took place with a similar one planned for Asia in 2013 and funding started to be pooled to reach common goals to this effect.

Broad partnerships with technical counterparts at different level were established and continued in 2012 so far (e.g. SKAT, BRE Global, CRATerre at global level and Emergency Architects at country level), enabling the shelter team to customize support given to the operations or fill in the identified gaps in tools or resources more effectively.

Contributing to longer-term impact

As part of the systematization of the IFRC's approach to shelter, business processes are being introduced which include the required review, monitoring and accountability mechanisms. The group of interested national societies meeting to review progress on the IFRC's shelter commitment has already been formalized as the Shelter Reference Group. At this year's meeting in April, this group has decided to hold virtual meetings each quarter, in addition to the annual face-to-face meeting which has been the tradition up until 2012. The group was convinced that this would be an improved way of keeping each other updated and to take the commonly agreed priorities forward.

In accordance with its shelter cluster lead role, the IFRC has developed, and is utilizing a performance management system to appraise the coordination service and the impact of the cluster during an emergency. Independent reviews of each deployment of a Federation shelter coordination team are commissioned and publicly shared. The most recent review carried out this year has been the Philippines Washi operation. The review of the El Salvador deployment from later 2011 will also be made public very soon. Recommendations are appraised through a standardized global consultation process and an annual workshop involving shelter coordination team personnel and cluster advisors. At the global level, the IFRC has established thematic reference groups co-led by cluster partners to promote greater ownership of, and accountability for, global preparedness activities.

Given the scale and significance of the Haiti operation, it is very important for the shelter team that the lessons learned from this experience are properly capitalized on. In addition to the Lessons Learned Workshop organized in April which included an independent evaluation, field visits and a workshop attended by all national societies present and operating in Haiti, there will be a further capitalization of good practices through a planned consultancy to develop a “shelter programming toolkit”, consisting of shelter coordination, support services to shelter and shelter assistance methods. This toolkit will provide the basis for and dovetail into the planned shelter programming guidelines for decision-makers and shelter project management guidelines.

Looking ahead

The confirmed funding from the Swedish Red Cross and the tsunami unit that came half way through the year will allow for a number of activities that have been on the work plan of the department to start in the second half of 2012. The rest of the year will also see a high level of involvement from the team in highly visible sector-wide events, such as the World Urban Forum in Italy and the Americas Housing Forum in Colombia, both in September. The shelter team of IFRC will host and facilitate sessions at both events and share experiences on Haiti, PASSA, etc., providing RCRC greater leadership in the areas of urban risk reduction, violence prevention, and sustainable urban response.

The first shelter delegate for Africa Zone will assume his position at the beginning of September. This position will be essential in providing the national societies in Africa with the required technical and programmatic support in sheltering, as well as taking the capacity building activities up to a new level. The new shelter delegate for Asia Pacific will also start in mid-September and the replacement of the departed Americas shelter coordinator remains a priority for the remainder of 2012. An operational support position, embedded in the Colombian Red Cross' newly established shelter unit is under discussion.

IFRC Shelter Coordination Workshop will take place in the last days of October in Geneva. This workshop is open to all individuals who have been deployed as part of IFRC-led Shelter Coordination Teams (from IFRC, Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies, and IFRC partner agencies), and the individuals who are responsible for overseeing such deployments from the different agencies. This event will be followed by the Global Shelter Cluster meeting. At this annual two-day meeting the agenda points will be to review issues arising from country level clusters in 2011-2012, to gauge progress on key actions and priorities identified for 2012 and to look at the development of 2013 priorities. Similar to last year's cash and shelter sessions, a half-day training module on shelter and livestock will be piloted in this week, in collaboration with LEGS.

The renewed shelter section of the IFRC website will be online and contribute to improved information sharing and better understanding of IFRC shelter programs and results among a wider public (donors, partners, general public).

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\)](#) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

Contact information

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