

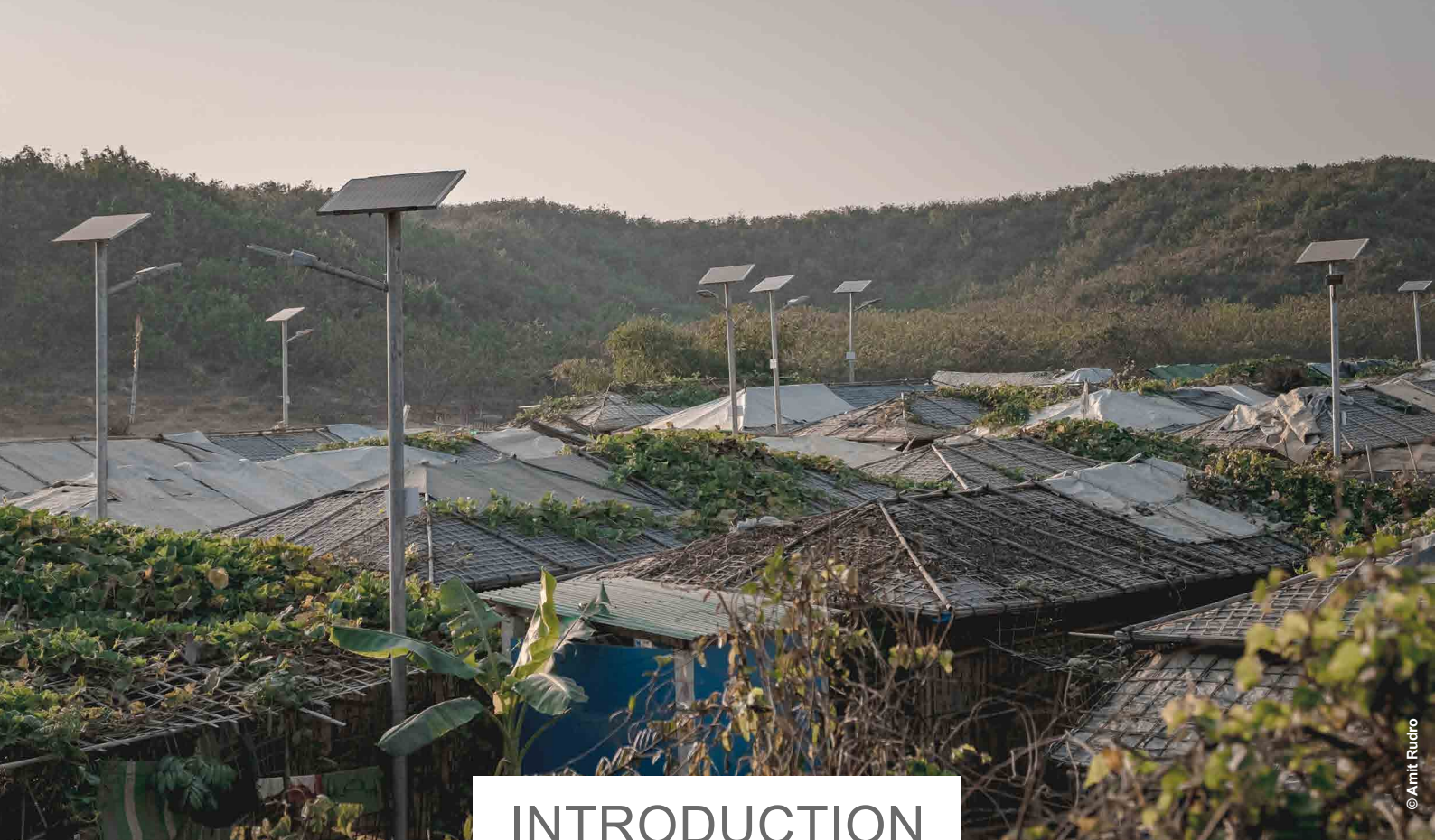


Global Shelter Cluster
ShelterCluster.org
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

HNO & HRP Environment and Climate Change Review

Shelter Sector / October 2022

www.sheltercluster.org



INTRODUCTION

Shelter and settlements programming carries one of the highest risks of negative environmental impacts in humanitarian response, as well as globally: 38 percent of CO2 emissions come from the built environment.¹ However it also represents an opportunity to minimise potential environmental impacts by thorough assessments and robust environmental management. Sector-wide, there are ever increasing commitments to reducing the negative environmental impacts of response while maintaining and improving the quality and sustainability of humanitarian action - for example through ECHO's minimum environmental standards,² the Environment and Climate Charter and the Sphere Standards which includes Shelter and Settlement Standard 7: Shelter and settlement assistance minimises any negative programme impact on the natural environment.

Greening of shelter and settlements response is a long term priority of the Global Shelter Cluster (GSC), lead agencies and global partners. For example, the Environment Community of Practice (ECOP) has held an active role for over ten years providing expertise and guidance at global and country level and GSC partners led in the development of Sphere Environmental Sustainability Shelter Standard 7. As of 2022, the GSC has three focal points for the environment (from UNHCR, IFRC and ECOP) and plays a key role in connecting greening shelter initiatives of lead agencies and global partners. The GSC is increasing its greening and climate smart efforts through funding from ECHO and USAID BHA to provide global advisory and country-level support to greening the shelter response. This review is conducted as part of the work to support country clusters' greening efforts.

Quality programming includes understanding, preventing and mitigating negative environmental impacts. If environmental issues are not taken into account, shelter and settlement programmes may ultimately be inefficient since short-term can cause new problems, requiring further investment. - Sphere handbook 2018

¹ When adding emissions from the building construction industry on top of operational emissions. See: United Nations Environment Programme (2020). 2020 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction: Towards a Zero-emission, Efficient and Resilient Buildings and Construction Sector. Nairobi.

² Required from 2023

Objectives of this analysis

The overarching objective of the analysis is to understand the scope of environment and climate change integration in the key strategic documents produced by Shelter Clusters. It consists of a review of the current status of environment and climate change mainstreaming in the Shelter/NFI (SNFI) sections of the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs), Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) and Flash appeals (FAs). HNOs, FAs and HRPs are overarching documents outlining a shared vision of how to respond to the assessed and expressed needs of affected populations. They inform prioritisation, decision making and resource mobilisation for emergency responses, and it is therefore important to understand the scope of environment and climate change integration in these strategic documents.

This analysis will:

- Assist the Global Shelter Cluster to understand the extent to which environment is currently incorporated into the humanitarian programming cycle (HPC) for the shelter sector
- Form the basis of guidance for clusters on mainstreaming environment into the HNO / HRP process
- Serve as a baseline to monitor the progress of the greening of shelter response and progress on environmental mainstreaming
- Share good practices and actionable experience
- Support and inform more sustainable and quality programming and coordination

Methodology

The analysis was conducted through a desk review of the SNFI sections of the 21 HNOs, 23 HRPs, three Flash Appeals and two other types of response plans from 2022.³ All available documents from 2022 with SNFI chapters were reviewed. Please see **Table 1** for a detailed list of all documents reviewed.

TABLE 1: DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

COUNTRY	HNO OR FA	HRP	COORDINATION MECHANISM
Nigeria	HNO	HRP	Shelter Cluster
Libya	HNO	HRP	Shelter Cluster
oPT	HNO	HRP	Shelter Cluster
Ethiopia	n/a	HRP	Shelter Cluster
CAR	HNO	HRP	Shelter and NFI / CCCM
Niger	HNO	HRP	Shelter Cluster

³ The “other types” of response plans are for Philippines Typhoon Rai and the Bangladesh Floods.

Iraq	HNO	HRP	Shelter Cluster
Burundi	HNO	HRP	Shelter Cluster
DRC	HNO	HRP	Shelter Cluster
Yemen	HNO	HRP	Shelter Cluster
Ukraine	Pending ⁴	Pending	Shelter Cluster
Myanmar	No shelter chapter	HRP	Shelter Cluster
Syria	HNO	n/a	Shelter Cluster
Cameroon	HNO	HRP	Shelter Cluster
Colombia	HNO	HRP	Shelter Cluster
Burkina Faso	HNO	HRP	Shelter Cluster
Somalia	HNO	HRP	Shelter Cluster
Sudan	HNO	HRP	Shelter Cluster
South Sudan	HNO	HRP	Shelter Cluster
Afghanistan	HNO	HRP	Shelter Cluster
Chad	HNO	HRP	Shelter Cluster
Guatemala	Combined HNO	No shelter chapter	No active cluster
El Salvador		No shelter chapter	No active cluster
Honduras		HRP	Shelter Cluster
Mali	HNO	HRP	Shelter Cluster
Mozambique	n/a	HRP	Shelter Cluster
Venezuela	n/a	HRP	Shelter Cluster
Haiti	HNO	HRP	Shelter and NFI / CCCM
Mozambique (country-wide)	n/a	HRP	Shelter Cluster
Mozambique (Gombe)	FA	n/a	Shelter Cluster
Madagascar	FA	n/a	Shelter Cluster
Malawi	FA	n/a	Shelter and NFI / CCCM
Philippines	Needs & Priorities ⁵	Needs & Priorities	Shelter Cluster
Pakistan		HRP	No active cluster

Although the bulk of the analysis is based on the SNFI sections, the entire HNO/HRP/Flash Appeal documents were scanned for environment/climate references⁶ to be able to compare how well the shelter chapters reflected overall environmental and climate needs highlighted.

⁴ Not available at the time of the analysis

⁵ De facto appeal and response plan in one

⁶ Including: environment, climate change, natural resources, sustainable, energy, waste



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The following set of quantitative and qualitative criteria were used in assessing the level of environment and climate change mainstreaming in the SNFI chapters..

1. HNO assessment criteria

- Number and breakdown of environment, climate change and DRR mentions [baseline]
- Type of environmental topics included
- How environment is mentioned - context vs needs⁷
- Number and type of environmental indicators
- Representation in SNFI chapter vs. Overall HNO and other technical chapters.

2. HRP assessment criteria

- Number and breakdown of environment, climate change and DRR mentions [baseline]
- Type of environmental topics included
- How the environment is mentioned (Context, Strategic objectives, Response Strategy, Response Activity, Indicators)
- Number and type of environmental indicators
- Representation in SNFI chapter vs. Overall HRP and other technical chapters.

⁷ Mentions of the context in which humanitarian actors operate v.s mentions related to the analysis of humanitarian needs

Key Findings

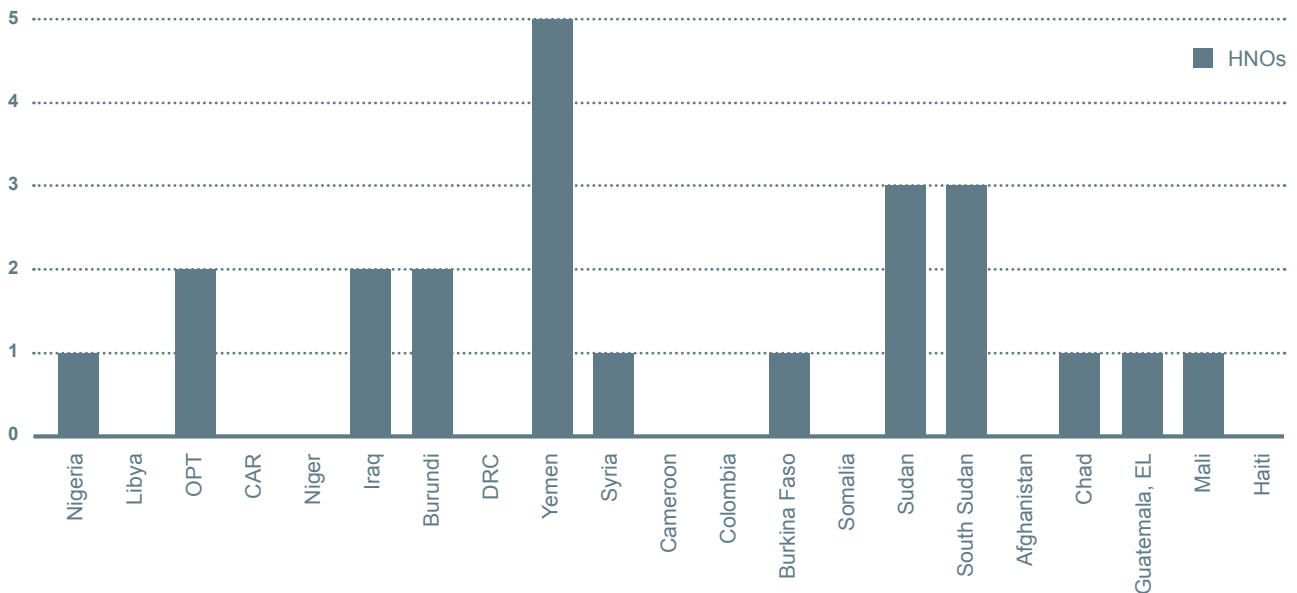
HNO ANALYSIS

NUMBER AND BREAKDOWN OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE MENTIONS

57% of HNOs include at least one mention of environment or climate change (12 of 21 HNOs).

Out of the 12 HNOs that do include environment or climate change, there are a total of 23 environment and climate change references. **Figure 1** shows this breakdown by country.

FIGURE 1: ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE MENTIONS



TYPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS INCLUDED

Mentions fall into the categories of environment, climate change and DRR. DRR is separated from climate change adaptation related DRR for the sake of understanding how many times climate change specific issues are mentioned. A breakdown of these is seen in **figure 2**.

Figure 3 summarises the type of **environmental issues** included in HNO SNFI chapters. Note that climatic and environmental hazards refers to inclusion of topics directly linked to shelter needs, and not general references to vulnerability to natural hazards. For example, the Iraq HNO cites that the most shelter improvements needed include insulation from cold and hot weather, rain leakage and protection from hazards.

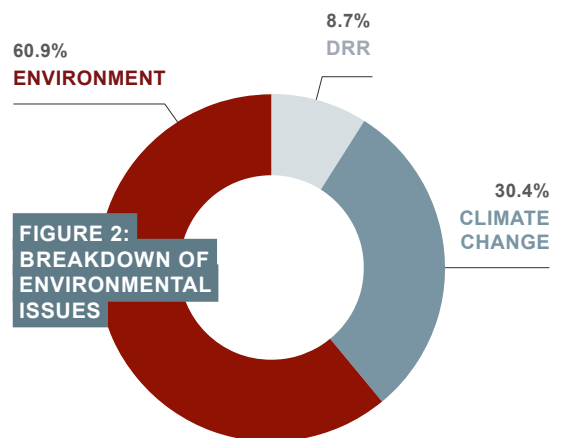


FIGURE 2: BREAKDOWN OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

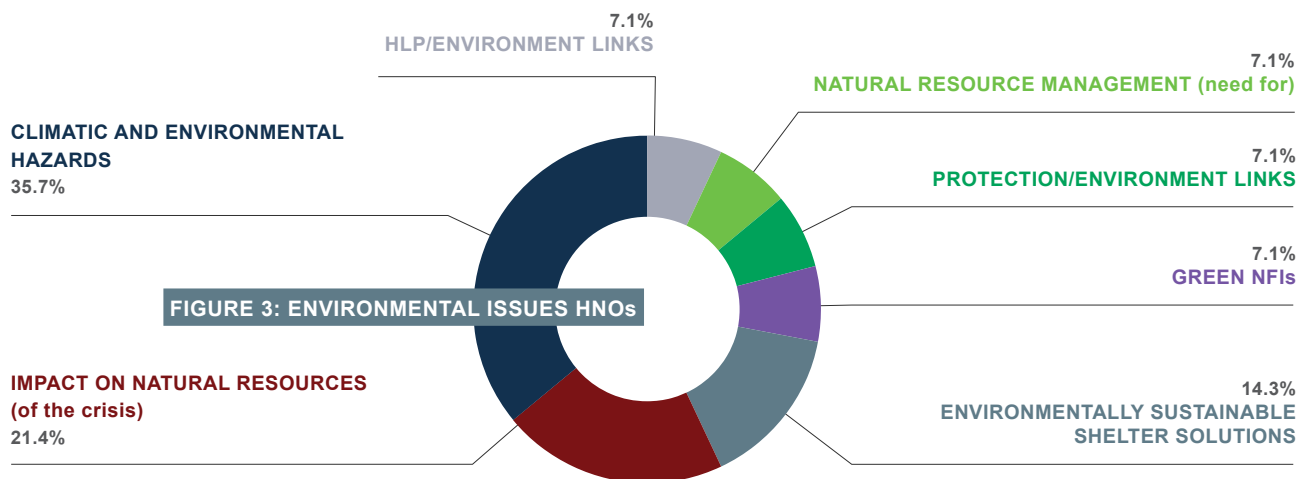
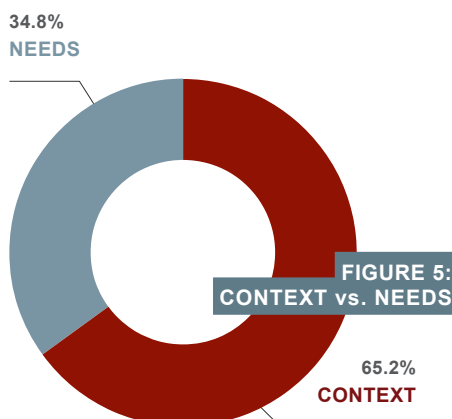
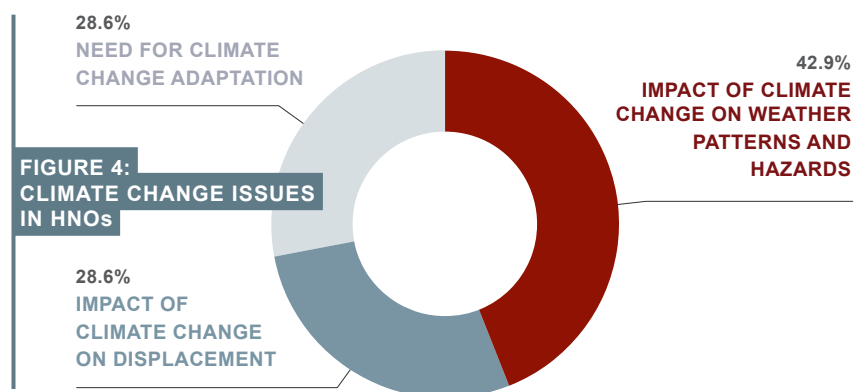


Figure 4 summarises the way that climate change is referenced in HNO shelter chapters.



Inclusions of environment and climate can be divided into two categories (see **figure 5**):

- 1. Contextual references** (relevant characteristics of the environment in which humanitarian actors plan and operate) - (8)
- 2. Mentions related to the analysis of humanitarian needs** (description of critical problems) - (15)

Contextual references include:

- Exposure to climatic and environmental hazards (e.g. people living with additional shelter needs due to hazard exposure)
- Negative impact of the crisis on natural resources (e.g. conflict over/competition for; depletion of)
- Impact of climate change on:
 - weather patterns and hazards (e.g. more severe flooding;)
 - displacement
- Green NFIs (e.g. unaffordability of solar panels)
- Climate change predictions (e.g. impact on urban populations)
- Protection/environment links (e.g. from scarcity of natural resources)

Issues related to the analysis of humanitarian needs include the need for:

- Climate change adaptation (e.g. to stop the cycle of displacement)
- DRR (e.g. linked to recurring catastrophes like flooding being exacerbated by climate change)
- Shelter improvements for better protection from weather conditions (e.g. shelters at risk of flooding in rainy season; the need for cold/hot insulation/winterisation)
- Environmentally sustainable (durable) shelter solutions (e.g. with sustainably sourced materials)
- Natural resource management (e.g. replenishing natural resources for shelter construction)
- Links between HLP and environment (e.g. over contested land use and natural resource management that can be driver of conflict)

The above issues provide a useful summary of topics to provide support to country clusters on when analysing needs and subsequently in response planning. It should be noted that the description of the context does not often lead to an analysis of how this impacts on the needs. There is a need for better translating the context into needs and subsequently into response objectives and actions in HRPs.

ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

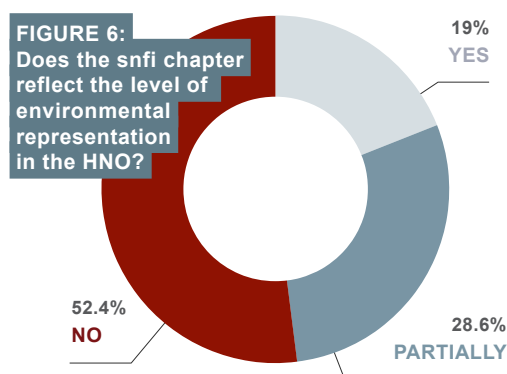
Only three environmental indicators were used in three of the 2022 HNOs. Of the three, only one is related to environmental issues above and beyond exposure to climatic hazards:



REPRESENTATION IN SNFI CHAPTER VS. OVERALL HNO

A brief analysis is conducted here to be able to compare how the SNFI sections reflect the overall humanitarian needs identified across the rest of the HNO documents (including other technical chapters). It is beyond the scope of this review to analyse in detail how environment and climate change are reflected across all sections of the HNO.

Environmental issues - both contextual and needs analysis - are included in all HNOs to some extent, with the least representation in the Libya HNO, and the most robust representation in Chad, Cameroon and South Sudan. A comparison of the overall inclusion of environmental and climate change issues with the SNFI sections shows that only four of the HNOs meet the level of environmental representation in the overall HNOs, and six partially, with the majority not accurately reflecting the level of environmental needs or context analysis of the HNO. Note that this does not necessarily mean that the environment is well integrated, just that the level of inclusion is consistent across the HNO.



The examples where this contrast is most acute are in HNOs where environment and climate change issues are given substantial space in sections 1.1 (Context of the Crisis) and 2.1 (Risk Analysis) but not mentioned at all in the SNFI section. For example, the Cameroon HNO integrates natural resource management, climate change, environmental degradation and conflict drivers into the needs overview and risk analysis, as well as in Protection, Early Recovery and HLP sections, but there is no mention of environmental issues in the SNFI chapter.

For a full list of environmental issues included across all HNOs, see the [HNO/HRP analysis matrix](#).

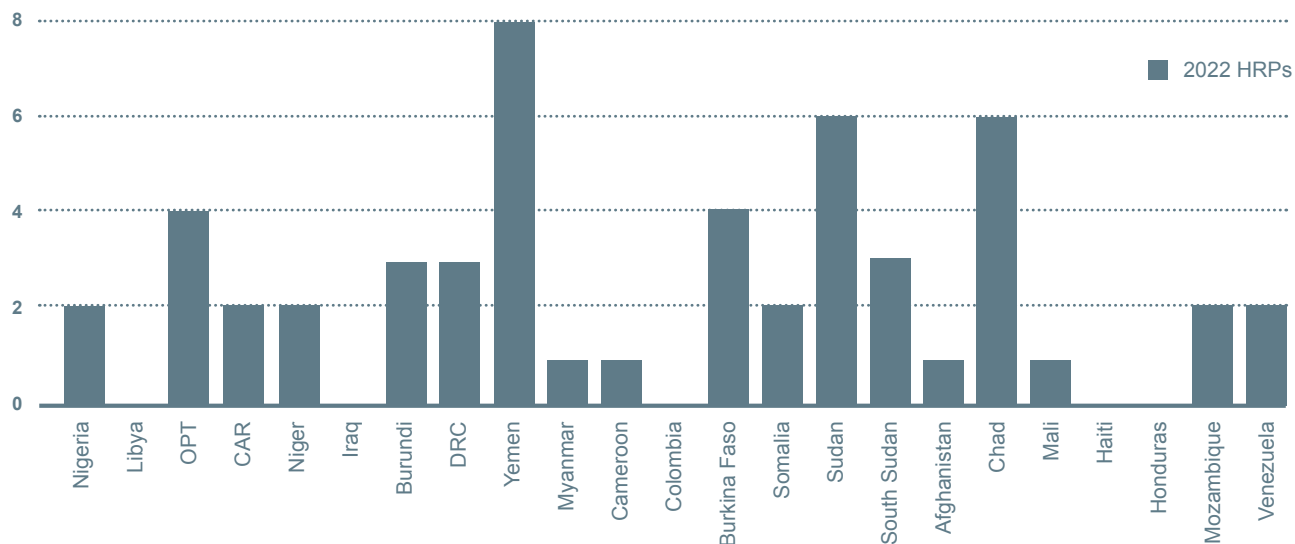


HRP ANALYSIS

NUMBER AND BREAKDOWN OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE MENTIONS

Of the 23 HRPs analysed, 78% (18) include at least one environment or climate change reference in the Shelter and NFI chapter. There are a total of 53 environment and climate change references across the 2022 HRPs. **Figure 7** shows this breakdown by country.

FIGURE 7: ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE MENTIONS IN 2022 HRPs



TYPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS INCLUDED

These fall into the categories of environment, climate change and DRR - see **figure 8** for a breakdown of these. DRR is separated from climate change adaptation related DRR for the sake of understanding how many times climate change specific issues are mentioned.

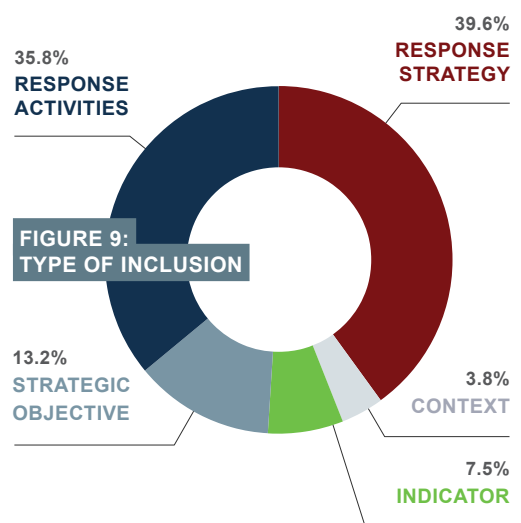
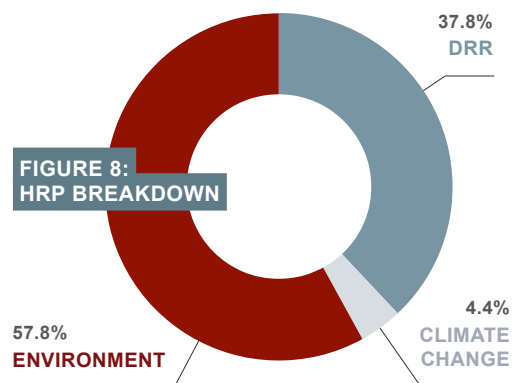
Inclusion of environment and climate change in HRP can be divided into five categories:

1. **Context** (descriptive mentions)
2. **Strategic Objective** (inclusion of an environmental, climate change or DRR-related component within cluster strategic objectives or within the narrative describing the strategic objectives)
3. **Response Strategy** (description of the response strategy)
4. **Response Activities** (specific response activities mentioned)
5. **Indicators** (outcome or output)

Response activities were the most common inclusion, followed by response strategy.

Note: In some cases it is difficult to differentiate between response strategy and response activities. Unless very specific activities are mentioned (e.g. planting trees) then the mention is listed under the category of response strategy.

Figure 10 shows the percent of HRPs that include the aforementioned categories, showing that:

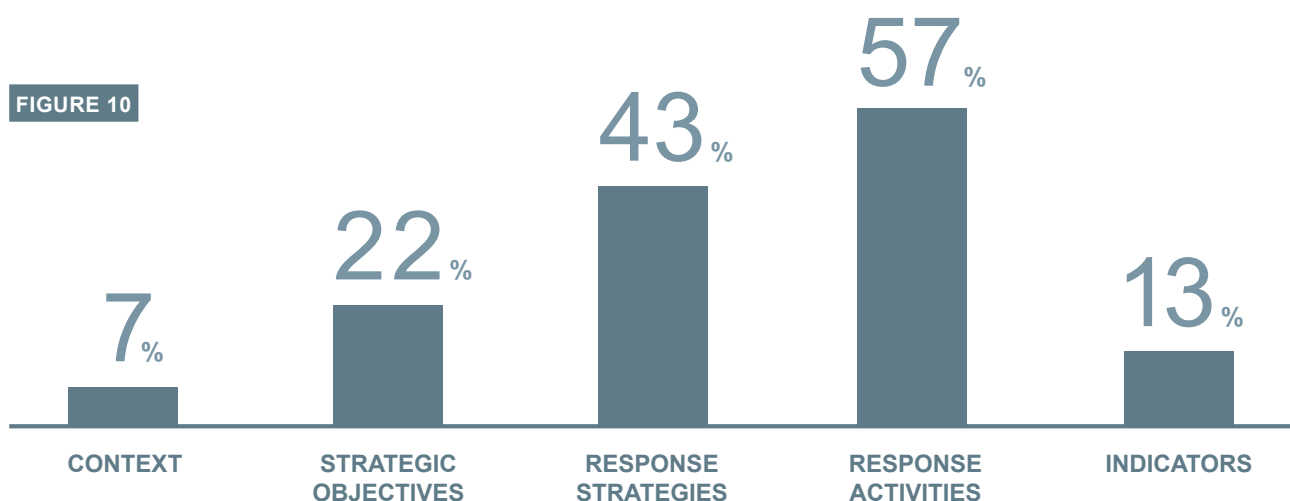


57% of HRPs include at least one environment, climate or DRR linked response activity

43% of HRPs include at least one environment, climate or DRR inclusion in the response strategy

22% include environment, climate or DRR in a strategic objective

Only **13%** include an environmental indicator



Examples of these mentions include:

CONTEXT

- Exposure to environmental hazards (as an ongoing source of vulnerability) (Nigeria)
- Prediction of further conflict and resource depletion as people compete over increasingly scarce natural resources and non-flood affected land (South Sudan)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (SO)

- *“The living conditions of 98,131 people are improved through housing solutions meeting standards, promoting an approach of local construction/rehabilitation and integrating an approach to reduce the risk of disasters”* (Burundi, SO2)
- *“The conditions of access to decent housing are improved with the consideration of cross-cutting themes such as protection, inclusion, AAP, HLP and environmental issues (contributes to specific objectives 1.1 and 2.1)”* (DRC, SO3)
- *“Vulnerable households exposed to harsh weather and protection concerns are supported to meet basic needs and enhance their coping capacity”* (OPT SO2)
- *“Improved living conditions for persons affected by protracted crises, returnees, and vulnerable host communities by providing sustainable shelter and NFI solutions and promoting a greener shelter response”* (Yemen SO2)
- *“Improve the living conditions of internally displaced persons and returnees through the distribution/ construction of emergency, transitional/semi-durable/durable shelters or through the rental system in a nexus vision with the consideration of environmental aspects”* (Chad, SO2)

Narrative of SOs:

- Strategic objective 3 aims to ensure the affected people are protected from climate-related and other environmental hazards, including winterization, natural hazard mitigation, and advance relative security of tenure (Yemen, SO3)
- To provide renewable energy to those in need of humanitarian assistance (Venezuela)

RESPONSE STRATEGY

- **Partner project selection criteria:** *Criteria #1 = they must be environmentally friendly* (Nigeria)
- **Budgeting for environmental mitigation activities:** *“cross cutting themes such as gender sensitivity and environmental mitigation were included.(in discussions around budgeting)”* (Mozambique)
- **Sustainable Shelter Materials:**
 - Use of sustainable construction materials: *“Partners will also aim to understand, prevent, and mitigate adverse environmental impacts by selecting sustainable construction materials to prevent over-exploitation, pollution, and degradation of the natural environment”* (Sudan)
 - Collaboration with research institutions to explore sustainable shelter materials (OPT)
- **Environmental mainstreaming into all shelter responses across the programme cycle:** *“All shelter responses should take into account account at each implementation phase the themes of mainstreaming protection, inclusion, environment, and housing, land and property”* (DRC)
- **Using environmental data to inform environmentally sustainable response:**
 - *“The Cluster will use information from various studies including environmental impact assessment to adjust shelter typologies to better serve the needs of displaced people and to support the shelter and NFI response in reducing CO2 emissions and deforestation”* (Burkina Faso)
 - *“Implementation of durable solutions will be based on assessments on various criteria including natural resources”* (CAR)
- **Considering environment/protection links** (Burkina Faso)
- **Considering HLP / environment links:** *“Special attention will be given to housing, land, and property (HLP) issues as competition for land and natural resources remain critical drivers of conflict and impediments to durable solutions.”* (Sudan)

- **Disaster preparedness and risk reduction:**

- Investment in infrastructure and flood prevention can reduce the need for emergency humanitarian shelter response (OPT)
- *"The Shelter/NFI Cluster also looks beyond the scope of this emergency and stresses the fact that climate shocks will occur more frequently and will have a bigger impact on Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa provinces by aligning with the Government's Contingency Plan, pre-positioning of stock as cyclones and heavy rains will be a trigger for IDPs to move to safer locations. The Shelter Cluster encourages more preparedness activities such as shelter support for relocations of people out of risk prone areas."* (Mozambique)
- DRR and resilience mainstreaming into the response (Yemen)
- Settlement planning for risk reduction (Somalia, Burundi)
 - *"With a view to better risk prevention, the sector will ensure that the locations identified for the construction of shelters are not subject to flooding, in order to limit the risks of future shocks, guarantee acceptable and dignified living conditions for the populations, preserve the environment, and gradually move towards the strategy of villagization advocated by the Government of Burundi."* (Burundi)
 - Decongesting IDP sites for risk reduction (Somalia)
- Shelter reconstruction for risk reduction (South Sudan, Mali, OPT)

- **Greening and localising shelter response in the supply chain:** *"A key consideration will be given to greening the shelter response in the supply chain and encouraging localised, and environmentally friendly solutions."* (Yemen)

RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

- **Conducting environmental assessments:**

- Environmental Impact Assessment (Burkina Faso)
- Natural resource assessment (CAR)

- **Green energy:**

- Clean energy provision: *"Solutions to provide clean energy from renewable sources such as solar energy, biomass and biogas, among others, will be included. Ovens and stoves will be delivered that improve cooking conditions and allow sustainable management of agricultural and forestry waste, promoting carbon sequestration and helping to reduce greenhouse gases."* (Venezuela)
- Installation of solar street lights (Myanmar)
- Solar lamp provision (Sudan)
- Cookstove provision: *"In order to reduce the excessive use of firewood, the distribution of improved or gas stoves will be encouraged."* (Chad)

- **Sustainable shelter materials:**

- Provision of sustainable construction materials: *"Distribution of shelter materials to reduce the impact on cutting trees and deforestation"* (Chad)
- Use of local materials: *"The use of local materials as an alternative to tarpaulins will be explored for the sake of preserving the environment."* (Chad)

- **Training in sustainable construction:** *"Technical training in construction of quality durable shelters and the safeguarding the environment (the protection of the ecosystem) in a community approach and highlighting the cash transfer modality will be organised for the affected communities, host communities and cluster partners"* (Chad)

- **Tree planting:** *"Seedlings of trees and fruit trees will be distributed to 72 households in host sites and communities for planting them to restore the environment damaged by rampant cutting down of trees."* (Chad)

- **Disaster preparedness and risk mitigation:**

- **Natural hazard mitigation support:**

- *"Partners will also provide natural hazard mitigation support for 329,000 people at the community level, including displaced people, to facilitate early warning, prevention, and response measures."* (Yemen)

- Shelter repairs for hazard resilience (Sudan)
- Household and community DRR interventions (Sudan)
- Winterisation support (Yemen)
- Training in risk mitigation (CAR, Niger, Burundi)
- Risk mitigation in site selection (Niger, Burundi)
- Natural hazard DRR and Contingency Planning (Burkina Faso)
- Capacity building of local authorities in DRR (Cameroon)

INDICATORS: See below

ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

Only 3 out of the 23 HRP (13%) include any kind of environmental indicator (DRC, Burkina Faso, and Yemen).

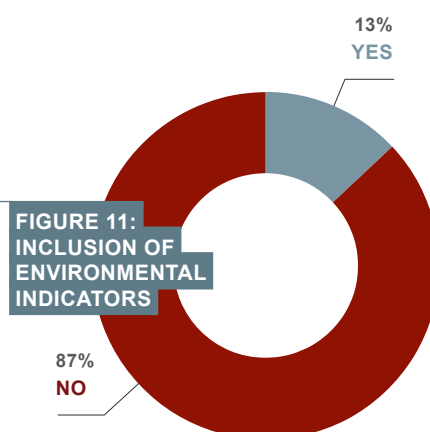
The three indicators used include two on minimising environmental impact, and one on hazard mitigation.

Minimising environmental impact:

- Number of people displaced/returned/host communities assisted in shelter integrating complementary activities to limit the negative impact on the environment (DRC)
- Number of activities that minimise environmental impact (Burkina Faso)

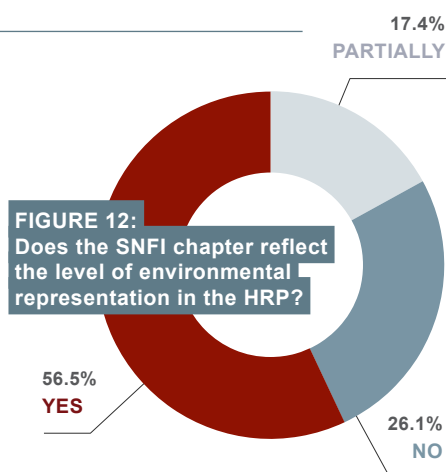
Hazard mitigation:

- Number of HHs assisted with natural hazard mitigation (Yemen)



REPRESENTATION IN SNFI VS OVERALL HRP

All but one HRP (Libya) includes at least one environmental reference in the overall HRP. There is a huge range of representation of environmental and climate change issues reflecting the wide range that exist, from HRP where there is only a brief contextual mention of the climate change and environmental situation (e.g. Haiti) through to HRP that mainstream environment and climate change throughout the document and in response strategies and activities (e.g. Sudan⁸, Mali). A comparison of the overall inclusion of environmental and climate change issues with the SNFI sections shows that 13 of the SNFI HRP chapters meet the level of environmental representation in the overall HRP; four partially, and six do not accurately reflect the environmental level of the overall HRP.⁹



In the case of Burkina Faso, the SNFI chapter improves the average of the overall HRP as there is much more environmental integration in the SNFI chapter than the rest of the document, including an environmental shelter indicator and the use of environmental impact assessment to inform changes in shelter typologies. This is likely because of an environmental impact assessment that was being conducted for the shelter sector at the time of writing the HRP.

For a full list of environmental issues included across all HRP, see the [HNO/HRP analysis matrix](#).

⁸ See Sudan example on page 15

⁹ Note that this does not necessarily mean that the environment is well integrated, just that the level of inclusion is consistent across the HRP.



OTHER RESPONSE PLANS (non-conflict contexts)

Three additional 2022 response plans were reviewed for sudden onset contexts (Bangladesh floods; Pakistan Floods; and Philippines Typhoon Rai response¹⁰). Two out of three mention the environment.

- The Pakistan plan has no mention of the environment in the SNFI chapter, and only one brief mention in the wider document (climate risk index).
- The Bangladesh plan has one mention (mainstreaming DRR into shelter response).
- The Philippines Needs and Priorities document mainstreams environment extremely thoroughly across the whole document, including the SNFI chapter. See case study on page 15 for more details.

FLASH APPEALS ANALYSIS

Three Flash Appeals (FA) for 2022 were analysed (Malawi, Madagascar and Mozambique). **None of the Flash Appeals make any mention of environment or climate change in the Shelter NFI chapters.** The Madagascar and Malawi FAs do mention climate change in the overall document but only briefly.

¹⁰ Note: The Philippines Typhoon Rai Needs and Priorities document is a combination of a needs overview and a response plan.

Good practice

MAINSTREAMING ACROSS THE HNO AND HRP

YEMEN

The Yemen shelter response has a strong focus on DRR and hazard mitigation through a greener shelter response. It is an example of good practice where the needs identified in HNO based on the environmental context translated into strong environmental mainstreaming in the HRP.

The HNO highlights the **environmental context** (competition over natural resources; the most vulnerable living in flood prone areas; climate change raising the risk of more severe flooding) and then **the environmental needs / critical problems** (including impact of natural hazards, in particular flooding, and the need for DRR; deteriorating dams and infrastructure increasing vulnerability to natural hazards and necessitating DRR responses).

The HRP then integrates environment/climate/DRR across all elements of the response plan: first in two of the **Cluster Objectives** (Shelter SO2: *Improved living conditions for persons affected by protracted crises, returnees, and vulnerable host communities by providing sustainable shelter and NFI solutions and promoting a greener shelter response. Shelter SO3: aims to ensure the affected people are protected from climate-related and other environmental hazards, including winterization, natural hazard mitigation, and advance relative security of tenure.*); secondly into the **response strategy** (which reference DRR and resilience mainstreaming across the response and giving key consideration to greening the shelter response in the supply chain and encouraging localised, and environmentally friendly solutions); thirdly in **response activities** (e.g. providing winterisation and hazard mitigation support) and finally including two **indicators** to measure the response activities.

SUDAN

The Shelter and NFI chapter of the Sudan HNO and HRP include a wide range of environmental issues. The HNO highlights the (**context**) impact of climate change on future humanitarian needs (likely to result in new patterns of displacement with flooding potentially forcing movement of people into new areas), as well as a range of **environmental needs/critical problems** (for example the need for durable solutions that are environmentally sustainable; HLP/environment links - including that special attention should be given to HLP issues such as contested land use and natural resource management).

The HRP then includes the environment in both the **response strategy and activities**. For example, it expands on the HLP/environment need of the HNO ("Special attention will be given to housing, land, and property (HLP) issues as competition for land and natural resources remain critical drivers of conflict and impediments to durable solutions") as well as the need for sustainable construction materials ("*Partners will also aim to understand, prevent, and mitigate adverse environmental impacts by selecting sustainable construction materials to prevent over-exploitation, pollution, and degradation of the natural environment.*"). Three specific environment related **response activities** are also mentioned: shelter repairs for hazard resilience, household and community DRR interventions and the installation of solar lighting.



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HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN

PHILIPPINES

By far the strongest example of environmental integration across a response plan in 2022 is the Philippines Typhoon Rai appeal and response plan (“Needs and Priorities Document”). A huge range of shelter and environment related issues are highlighted in the introduction section as well as in the Shelter and NFI chapter and other technical chapters.

In an environmental section applying to all sectors, multiple shelter related environmental issues are highlighted (opportunities and negative impacts):

- The need for environmental expertise and assessments
- Debris clearance and disaster waste management covering temporary storage/recycling and disposal
- Recovering, reusing and repurposing disaster debris
- Safe disposal of hazardous debris like asbestos roofing
- The extensive need for construction material will put a stress on already sensitive natural resources
- Reuse of fallen trees as building material
- Increased opportunity to use sustainable construction material and to reflect on environmental risks in reconstruction planning, including uncontrolled extraction of sand and gravel from riverbeds and seashores
- A suggested environmental framework to oversee all environmental aspects of the response, including (re) localization of built areas, the needs for construction materials and sustainable sourcing of these materials.

The Shelter and NFI section also mainstreams environment well across the chapter, including waste and recycling initiatives in one of the three sector objectives *“Settlement improvement through community/ neighbourhood interventions: barangays supported by IEC materials, rubble collection / waste disposal programs, construction materials salvaging / recycling programs, market and pilot interventions, technical assistance, improved infrastructure.”* The long-term environmental impact of proposed assistance solutions is then referenced in the sector overview, followed by specific activities under the Priority Response section, including Environmental Impact considerations for improving shelters and the mobilisation of community focal points for cascading and monitoring build back safer, inclusive disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction. Finally, the section on “What happens if we don’t respond” the impact of unmanaged debris and disaster waste is spelled out: *“If debris/disaster waste management is not properly implemented debris will be uncontrolled and spread out all over affected areas and be an impediment to recovery and reconstruction. Landfills and dumps will be at risk of being overfilled. Hazardous waste and municipal waste will be mixed with debris posing environmental risks and be an obstacle for efficient segregation and recycling of waste”.*



Conclusion

The majority of SNFI sections of HNOs, HRPS and FAs do not yet fully integrate environment and climate change into needs assessment, identification and response planning, though it is encouraging to see some examples of good practice that can be built on and replicated. This is also the case for the overall HNO and HRPs, however the majority of SNFI chapters do not fully meet the level of environmental needs or context analysis across the whole document. The SNFI sections of Flash Appeals for 2022, as well as the overall appeals, are the weakest on environmental mainstreaming, despite the strong links between the crisis and the environment both as causes and impacts. Overall, there is a need for better identifying the environmental context, translating this into needs and subsequently into response objectives and actions in HRPs.

To fully understand what factors contribute to stronger environmental representation across HNOs and response plans a more in depth study would need to be conducted by interviewing cluster coordinators and those contributing to the HRP and HNO SNFI sections. There does not seem to be a correlation between stronger mainstreaming and the severity of environmental issues in a country, as some country contexts with the most severe environmental impacts make no reference to the environment. However, in contexts where environmental impact assessments were underway at the time of producing the HNO/HRP (Chad and Burkina Faso) there is improved environmental representation across both the documents. It is also noticeable that in the contexts where cluster coordinators have a strong interest in the environment the issues are almost always better mainstreamed, regardless of the level of severity of the issues.

It is important to note that sector chapters are often restricted in size and amount of text allowed, and therefore cross cutting or thematic issues like environment and climate change tend to be cut if there are space constraints. In order to influence the stronger inclusion of the environment in the SNFI sections, including for example standard HRP environmental indicators to ensure consistency across responses, it is also therefore necessary to influence the overall HRP process to consider environmental/humanitarian links as fundamental to the response. Shelter sector strategies and plans that contribute to the HRP also offer more space for the inclusion of these issues.

Looking forward, the increased environmental advisory support to cluster coordinators, guidance being produced following this review, the development of environmental country profiles for shelter response, and the strengthening of the ECOP are all predicted to have a positive impact on the level of environmental mainstreaming across the HPC, including HNO, HRPs and Flash Appeals.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is a need for better identifying the environmental context, translating this into needs and subsequently into response objectives and actions in HRP
- The shelter sector can't do it alone: It is necessary to influence the overall HRP process to consider environmental/humanitarian links as fundamental to the response
- Increased environmental advisory support to cluster coordinators to support the needs assessment and planning process
- Produce tip sheets for HNO and HRP mainstreaming
- In addition to the tip sheets, the GSC will need to support country clusters in additional guidance or training to roll out some of the tips - for example around measuring environmental indicators and defining greener specifications
- In countries where environmental country profiles for shelter response (ECPs) are being produced, the HNO and HRP process should be linked to these
- Recognising the space limitations and nature of HNOs and HRPs, produce more detailed guidance for Shelter Sector strategies that offer more space for the inclusion of environmental issues, in particular more detailed activity planning and monitoring
- Tip sheet: Integration of environment and climate change in Shelter section of HNO
- Tip sheet: Integration of environment and climate change in Shelter section of HRP



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