



GLOBAL
SHELTER CLUSTER

Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

GSC Achievements Report

2024

Key Achievements

- GSC Strategy 2030
- Emergency deployments and systematic country support
- Wider network of partnerships, Working Groups and Community of Practice
- Above all, supporting 17M people, 7M with Shelter and 11M with NFIs

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Key Figures

- Coordination System Overview
- Achievements
- Funding

Coordination System

TYPE OF COORDINATION SYSTEM

28 FORMALLY ACTIVATED CLUSTERS / SECTORS

*Coordination mechanism activated
at global level, sometimes called
sector within the country*



4 SECTORS ACTIVATED BY HCT

*Coordination mechanism
activated by the Humanitarian
Country Team*



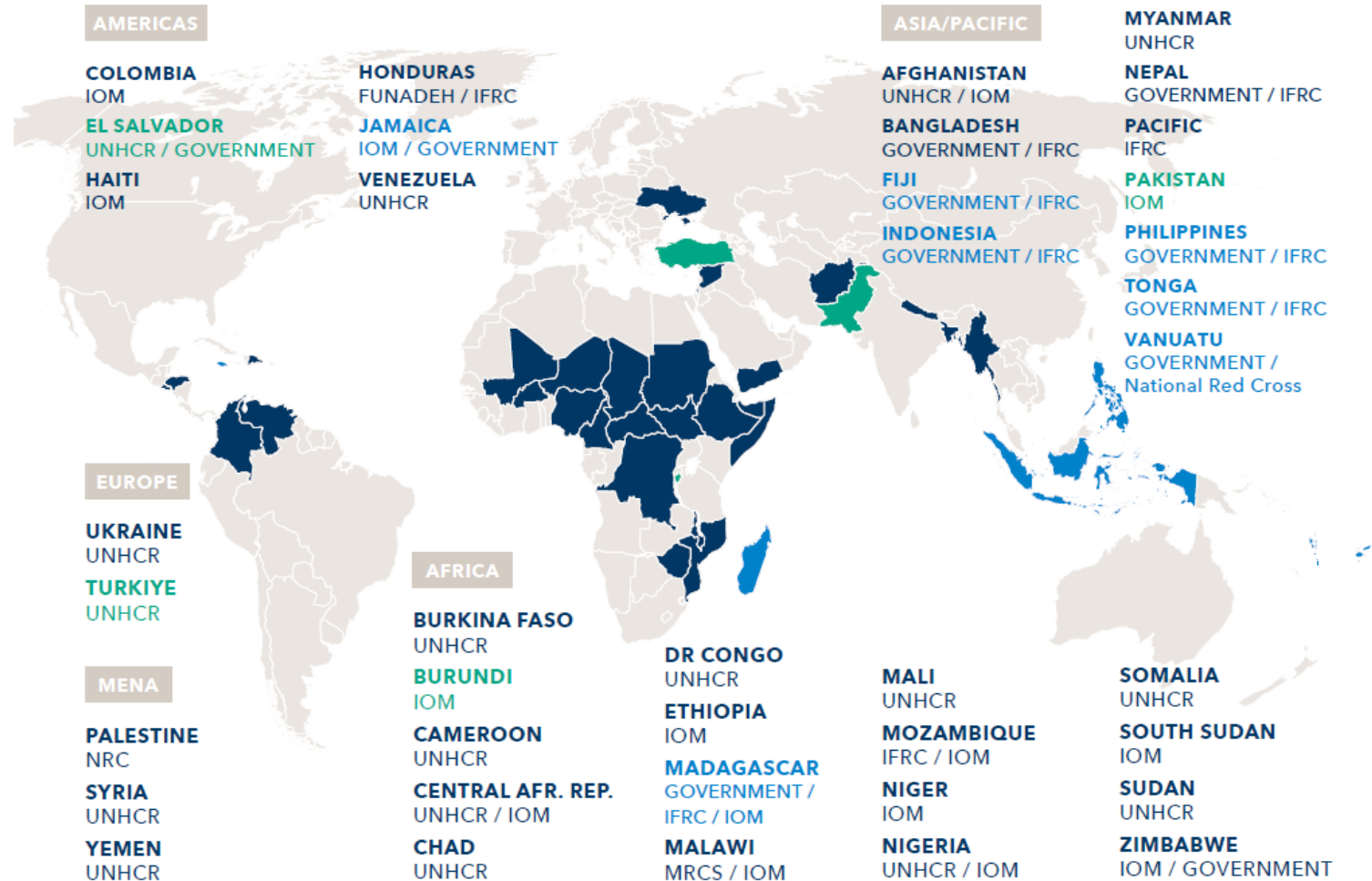
7 GOVERNMENT-LED COORDINATION SYSTEM

*Coordination mechanism established
by the government in a permanent
or temporary basis*



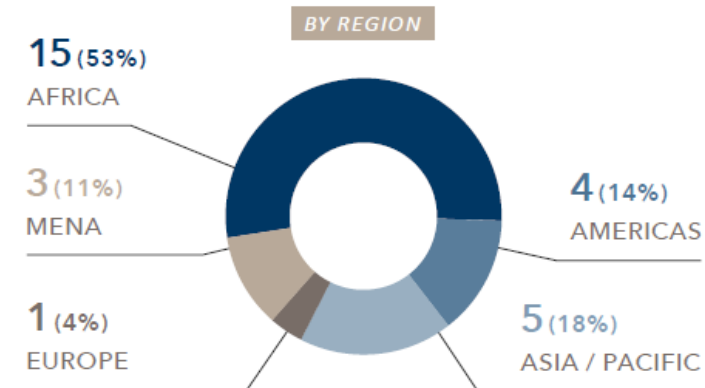
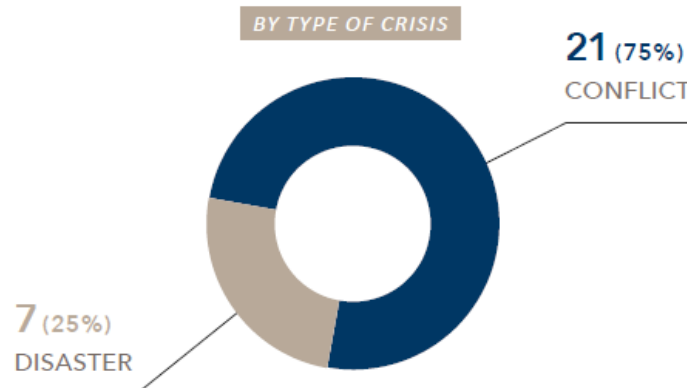
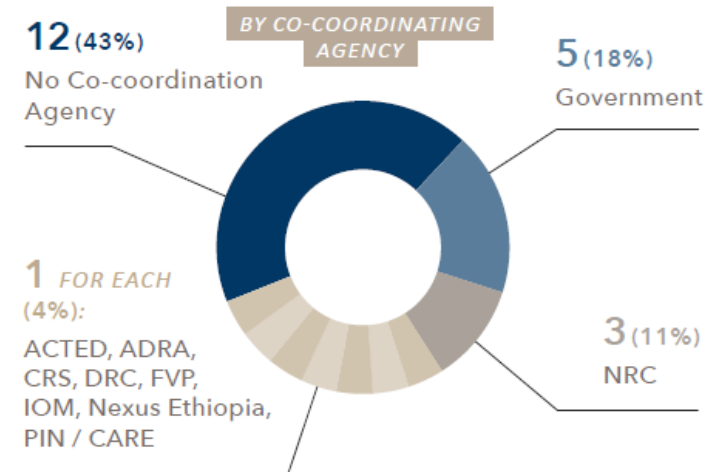
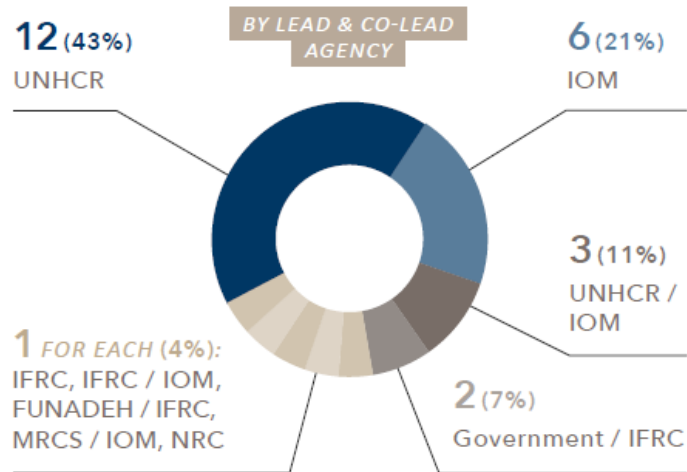
Coordination System

COORDINATION SYSTEM



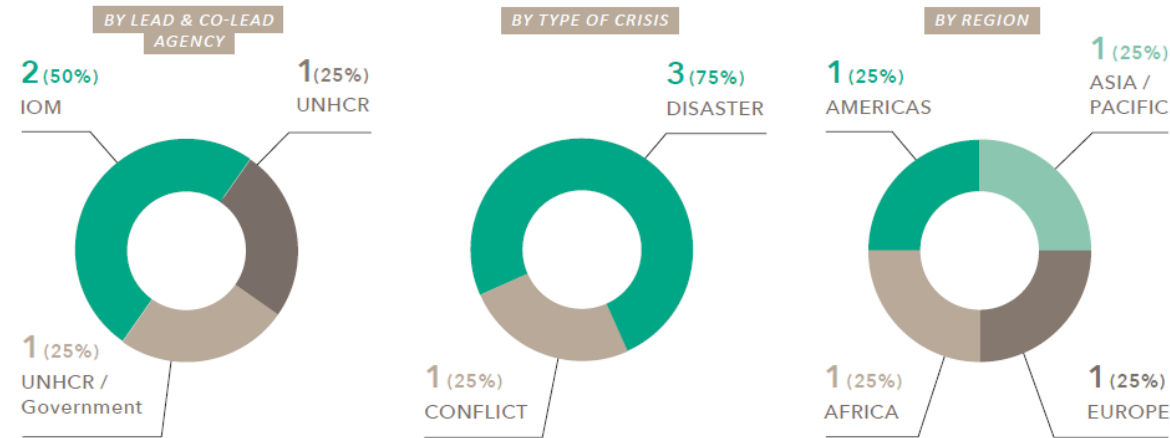
Coordination System

BREAKDOWN OF FORMALLY ACTIVATED CLUSTERS/SECTORS

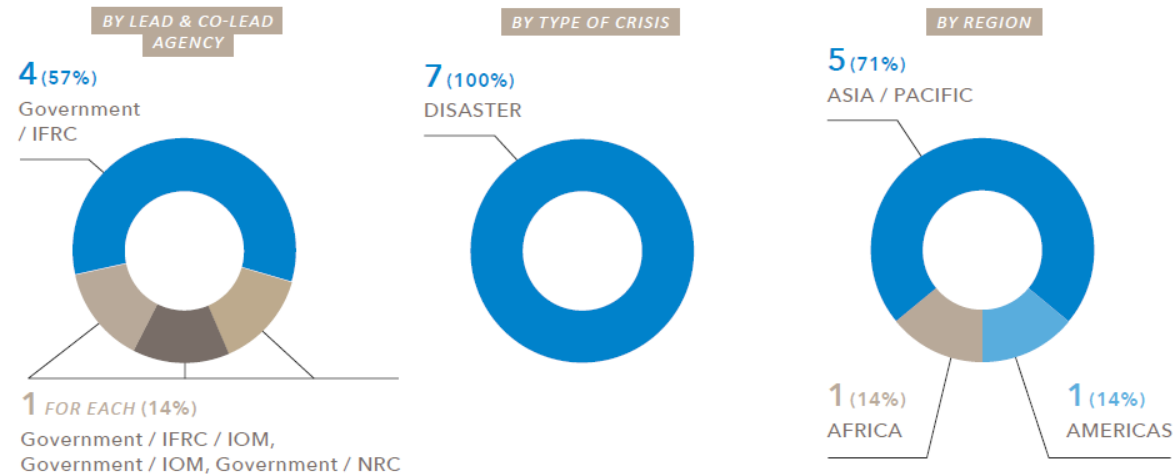


Coordination System

BREAKDOWN OF SECTORS ACTIVATED BY HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY TEAM



BREAKDOWN OF GOVERNMENT-LED COORDINATION SYSTEM



Achievements

93M

PEOPLE IN NEED

33M

PEOPLE TARGETED

39

TOTAL # OF SHELTER
COORDINATION SYSTEMS

17M*

PEOPLE SUPPORTED



7M

PEOPLE SUPPORTED WITH
SHELTER INTERVENTIONS



11M

PEOPLE SUPPORTED
WITH NFI INTERVENTIONS

1.2BN

FUNDING RECEIVED

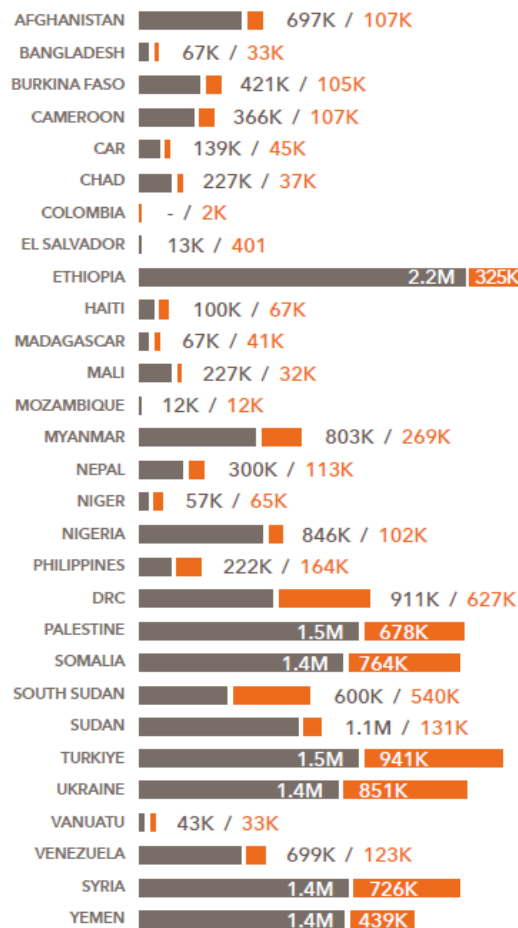


3.5BN

FUNDING REQUIRED

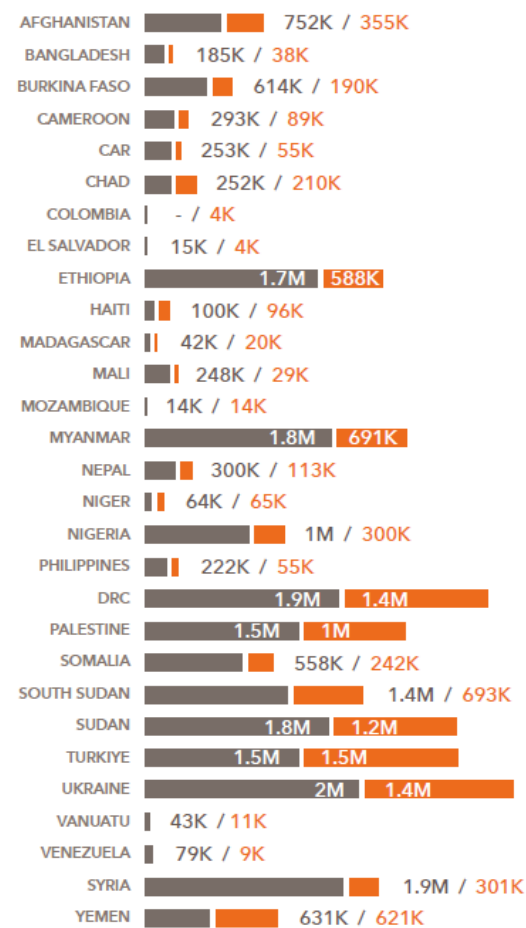
Achievements

NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED WITH SHELTER/TARGET**



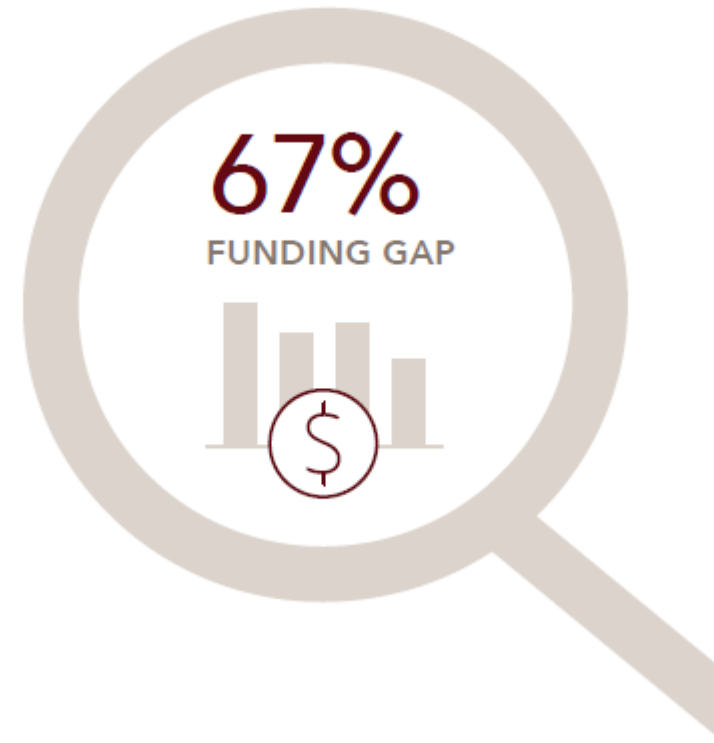
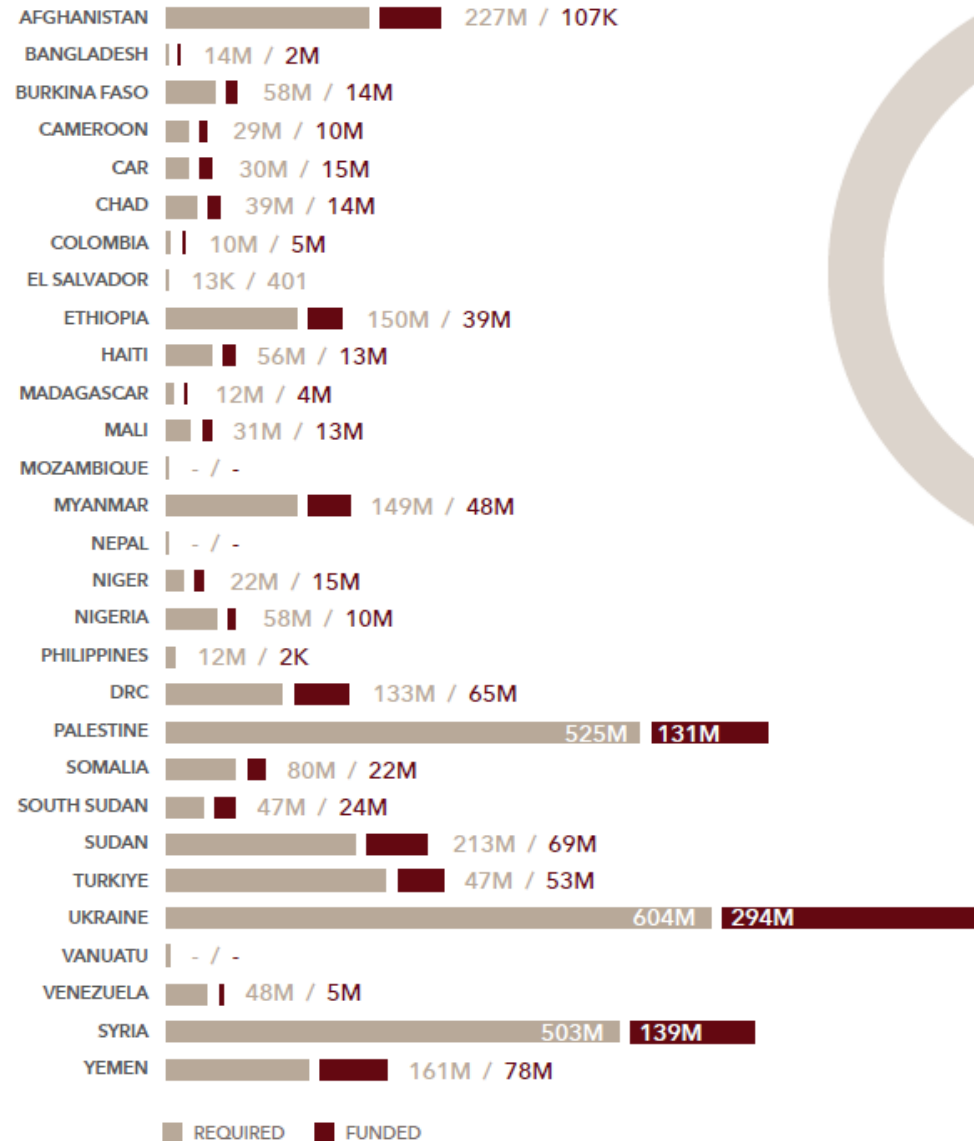
TARGET SHELTER REACHED SHELTER

NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED WITH NFI/TARGET**



TARGET NFI REACHED NFI

Funding





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Global Overview

- GSC Strategy 2030
- Strategic Advisory Group
- Donor Consultation Group
- IASC Engagement

GSC Strategy 2030

- **GSC Strategy 2030 Draft Launched**
 - Developed through an inclusive, consensus-driven process involving UN agencies, NGOs, donors, and field actors via workshops, surveys, and meetings.
- **Soft Launch at Shelter Week 2024**
 - Enabled partner engagement and refinement of the draft strategy through interactive sessions.
- **Vision and Priorities**
 - Aims for timely access to safe, dignified shelter, with seven strategic priorities focusing on integrated preparedness and response, environmental impact, protection, durable solutions, and expanded coverage.
- **Enablers and Commitment**
 - Coordination, localization, evidence-based decision-making, and accountability underpin the strategy, reaffirming the GSC's commitment to sustainable, effective shelter solutions.

Strategic Advisory Group

- **Strategic Oversight and Governance:** The SAG provided direction and coordination support, held regular meetings, and a December retreat to review 2024 progress and set 2025 priorities.
- **Governance Improvements:** Revised Terms of Reference to clarify voting rights and include three elected country-level coordinators.
- **Contributions to Strategy 2030:** Integrated over 60 partner feedback inputs to align global priorities with field needs.
- **New Initiatives Endorsed:** Launched the Gender, Diversity, and Inclusion CoP and Heat and Humidity Working Group to enhance field operations and environmental response.
- **Donor Engagement and Partnerships:** Briefings on key crises contributed to securing multi-year funding; initiated work on private sector partnerships.
- **Looking Ahead:** Priorities include Strategy 2030 rollout, local leadership, contingency planning, and enhanced governance and accountability.

Donor Consultation Group

- **Strengthened Donor Engagement:** Held quarterly meetings and a dedicated session at the GSC Partners Annual Meeting to discuss funding trends, coordination challenges, and the Strategy 2030.
- **Governance and Transparency Improvements:** Finalized DCG Terms of Reference, increased consultation frequency, and enhanced transparency on funding needs.
- **Impact on Funding:** Initiatives contributed to securing multi-year funding, particularly for regions facing climate-related risks.
- **Key Contributions:** Reviewed GSC's funding gap analysis, highlighting a persistent 59% shortfall in humanitarian response plans.
- **Future Focus:** Continued emphasis on resource mobilization, coordination effectiveness, and strengthening donor-partner communication.

IASC Engagement

- **Active Role in GCCG:** GSC consistently represented shelter priorities in all 2024 Global Cluster Coordination Group (GCCG) meetings and inter-cluster decision-making.
- **Policy and Planning Influence:** Advocated for shelter integration into humanitarian planning, raising its profile in multi-sectoral responses.
- **Key Contributions:** Presented on climate impacts and Area-Based Coordination, influencing inter-agency guidance on sustainability and localization.
- **Support to Field Operations:** Shared updates on capacity-building and advocated for adequate donor funding to strengthen shelter coordination.
- **Commitment to Coordination:** Reinforced shelter's role in protection, recovery, and meeting basic needs through active IASC engagement.

Events

- Shelter Week 2024
- HNPW
- World Urban Forum
- AidEx
- Regional Fora

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Shelter Week 2024

- **GSC Coordination Workshop (10–12 June):** Brought together 74 participants from 34 countries to address shelter response challenges, foster collaboration, and strengthen peer networks.
- **GSC Annual Meeting (13–14 June):** Engaged 206 participants, including donors and stakeholders, to review achievements and shape future priorities.
- **Key Outcomes:** Commitments to boost preparedness, sustainability, local leadership, innovation (e.g., cash and digital solutions), inter-cluster synergies, and capacity building.
- **Impact:** Reinforced GSC's role in delivering effective, timely, and sustainable shelter responses.

GSC and Partners Events

- **HNPW 2024:** Organized/co-led sessions on heat and humidity, environmental aspects of settlements, HLP rights, decarbonizing response, and the Research Agenda, including a roundtable with Elrha on clusters' role in research and innovation.
- **World Urban Forum 2024:** Participated in six events highlighting urban crisis response, HLP rights, integration of emergency shelter into national housing policies, collaboration with local governments, resilience, climate adaptation, and the settlements approach.
- **AidEx 2024:** Joined a panel on sustainable humanitarian impact, sharing challenges, solutions, and lessons from GSC initiatives to advance innovative shelter responses.

GSC and Partners Events

- **Africa Shelter Forum 2024:** Supported the 6th Africa Shelter Forum in Nairobi (9–10 July), which brought together over 170 participants in-person and online to discuss key topics such as localization, climate change adaptation, use of local materials, the role of academia in shelter, and connections between shelter and livelihoods.
- **Asia-Pacific Shelter and Settlements Forum 2024:** Held in Manila with 446 participants from 30 countries, the forum fostered collaboration among shelter actors, showcased innovations like DRR integration and green tech, emphasized inclusive and resilient communities, and concluded with a handover to Pakistan for the 2025 edition.



Coordination Overview

- Global Coordination and Reach
- Funding Gap and Consequences
- Operational and Regional Support
- Strategic Importance of Shelter

Coordination Overview

- **Global Coordination and Reach:** By year-end, 39 Shelter coordination systems were active globally, including 28 formally activated clusters/sectors, 4 HCT-activated sectors, and 7 government-led mechanisms. Shelter Cluster partners reached 17 million people with shelter, settlements, and NFI assistance, while the global number of people in need rose to 93 million—reflecting a continued increase and including a new system-wide scale-up in Syria alongside the ongoing one in Sudan.
- **Funding Shortfalls and Consequences:** Despite growing needs, funding decreased. Of the USD 3.5 billion required for shelter and NFI activities in 2024, only USD 1.2 billion was received, resulting in a 66% funding gap—an increase of 7% from 2023—which led to proportionally fewer people being reached.

Coordination Overview

- **Operational and Regional Support:** The GSC provided surge and remote technical support to country clusters in Ethiopia, DRC, Honduras, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, the Philippines, Syria, Timor-Leste, and Türkiye, and extended remote support to Palestine, Myanmar, Niger, and Ethiopia. It also strengthened regional coordination through the Pacific Shelter Cluster and REDLAC-Shelter Working Group.
- **Strategic Importance of Shelter:** Coordinated approaches proved essential for life-saving interventions, and the centrality of shelter to broader humanitarian outcomes—such as health, social cohesion, and livelihoods—gained greater recognition across the sector.

Country Support

- Global Support and Deployment
- Remote Support
- Regional Engagement
- CCPM
- HNO/HRP/HNRP
- Coordination Toolkit

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Country Support

- **Global Support and Deployment:** In 2024, the GSC supported 39 Shelter Coordination Systems through in-person missions, remote assistance, and regular follow-ups on coordination, IM, advocacy, environment, and technical areas.
- **Key Missions:** Conducted in-person missions in Jordan (Whole-of-Syria coordination workshop), Ethiopia (coordination), Mali (environmental assessment in Gao), and DRC (NEAT+ assessments in North Kivu).
- **Ongoing Remote Support:** Provided strategic guidance, capacity-building, and technical expertise on SSC, DRR, HLP, cash, advocacy, and partner coordination, especially during crises, scale-ups, or leadership transitions.

Country Support

- **Preparedness and Capacity Strengthening:** Supported national coordination, contingency planning, and tool development in countries like Bangladesh, Fiji, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nepal, Philippines, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu.
- **Regional Engagement (LAC):** Strengthened preparedness through focal point networks and accountability/rental support exchanges; focused on hurricane response and environmental considerations during June–November, with targeted IM and technical support for Hurricane Beryl in the Caribbean and ad-hoc support in Peru.

Country Support

12 COUNTRIES RECEIVED DEDICATED SUPPORT (IN-PERSON AND/OR REMOTELY)

7
COUNTRIES SUPPORTED WITH
IN-PERSON DEPLOYMENT
(Honduras, Madagascar, Mali,
Philippines, Syria, Timor-Leste,
Türkiye)

2
COUNTRIES SUPPORTED WITH
REMOTE DEPLOYMENT
(Palestine, Sudan)

3
COUNTRIES SUPPORTED
WITH BOTH IN-PERSON
AND REMOTE DEPLOYMENT
(Ethiopia, DR Congo, Mozambique)

HONDURAS

MALI

PALESTINE

SUDAN

DR CONGO

TÜRKIYE

SYRIA

ETHIOPIA

MOZAMBIQUE

MADAGASCAR

PHILIPPINES

TIMOR-LESTE

Country Support

- **CCPM:** 24 Shelter Clusters initiated the Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring process, with 17 completing it alongside action plans. Results showed strong performance in service delivery and strategy planning, but weaker areas in preparedness, capacity-building, and advocacy. Insights from 28 action plans revealed recurring constraints and informed peer learning at the June GSC Coordination Workshop.
- **HNO/HRP/HNRP Updates:** In response to evolving HPC processes, the GSC developed a new HPC Guidance Package to support coordinators in creating evidence-based, shelter-specific chapters that integrate climate, DRR, GBV, and inclusivity considerations.
- **Coordination Toolkit Review:** The GSC launched a comprehensive review of its Coordination Toolkit in 2024 to align with updated coordination mechanisms and response approaches, with implementation recommendations planned for 2025.

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Thematic Areas

- Greening the Response / DRR
- Addressing Floods in Conflict-Affected Countries
- Localization
- HLP
- Settlement Approach
- Advocacy and Communication

Greening The Response / DRR

- **Operational Support and Assessments:** The GSC Environment Team supported 15+ countries, including NEAT+ assessments in DRC and site improvements in Mali, with spatial analysis in Kalemie highlighting long-term environmental impacts of displacement.
- **Tool Development and Training:** Advanced tools like NEAT+, SEAT, and Environmental Country Profiles (Afghanistan, Philippines, Myanmar) were finalized, with integration into GSC trainings in Geneva and Honduras.
- **Guidance and Innovation:** Launched a Thematic Annex and tools with IMPACT and the Urban Settlements WG to mainstream environmental concerns into the Settlements Approach.
- **DRR Mainstreaming:** With UNDRR, issued global guidance and updated 2025 HPC inputs; supported DRR strategy development in Madagascar and flood mitigation in Yemen.
- **Advocacy and Outreach:** Promoted environmentally sustainable shelter responses at HNPW and regional forums.

Floods in Conflict Zones

- **Addressing Floods in Conflict Zones:** In 2024, floods affected 9.16 million people and displaced 1.3 million across 13 conflict-affected countries. The GSC led data collection, convened discussions, and published the advocacy paper Flooding in Conflict Situations – Impact on Shelter, along with resources like lessons learned, mitigation measures, and climate/DRR mainstreaming guidance.

Localization

- **Strengthening Localization in 2024:** The GSC advanced localization as a core enabler of Strategy 2030 by promoting national actor leadership in coordination and decision-making, with active local participation in forums, research, and cash programming.
- **Country-Level Leadership:** Local actors led key initiatives in DRC, Yemen, Madagascar, and the Philippines, while in countries like Ethiopia, Haiti, Malawi, Nepal, and Vanuatu, coordination was co-led by national authorities or Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies.
- **Regional and Global Support:** The REDLAC-Shelter Working Group enhanced local leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean, and GSC's role in the GCCG Localization Task Force strengthened inter-agency advocacy and global alignment on localization.

- **Advancing HLP in 2024:** The GSC expanded its HLP work with a new e-course on climate-related HLP risks, remote support to Lebanon, Colombia, and Somalia, and a context assessment in Afghanistan. The Shelter-HLP Toolkit was launched to integrate HLP across program cycles, and a joint HNPW session with the HLP AoR explored pathways from emergency shelter to durable solutions.

Settlements Approach

- **Scaling Up the Settlements Approach:** In 2024, the GSC enhanced integrated response efforts through the Settlements Approach, appointing a Global Focal Point, mainstreaming it into tools and trainings, and launching skills-based training on environmental concerns.
- **Key Developments:** Added a settlements-focused pillar to the SSC tool, updated the HSCT ABC module, and contributed SA insights to global discussions on Area-Based Coordination and humanitarian system improvements.

Advocacy and Communication

- **Global and Country-Level Advocacy:** The GSC advanced global advocacy and supported country clusters through tailored communications assistance across 18+ countries. Activities included webinars (e.g. fire safety with Kindling), active presence at major events (HNPW, WUF, AidEx), and expert contributions to forums like the ICCG Sudan workshop.
- **Knowledge Sharing and Promotion:** Disseminated Shelter Projects publications and newsletters, supported strategic grant recipients in developing advocacy products, and used LinkedIn as the primary platform for outreach.
- **Capacity Building:** Delivered advocacy and communications modules during both HSCT sessions and supported DRR advocacy in Yemen, as well as communications efforts for the Asia-Pacific and Africa Shelter Forums.

Rebranding

- **New Visual Identity Launched:** In June 2024, the GSC unveiled a new logo and tagline—“Coordinating Shelter and Settlements”—emphasizing people-centered responses, whole settlements, and diverse contexts (urban, rural, informal) to better reflect the scope and inclusivity of its humanitarian work.
- **Shelter Cluster Website Redevelopment:** The GSC is overhauling its website to improve functionality, accessibility, and user experience, based on input from global and country-level users. Relaunch is planned for late 2025, aiming to enhance coordination, information sharing, and knowledge management across the shelter sector.



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Evidence-based Response

- Shelter Severity Classification (SSC)
- Research

Evidence-Based Response

- **Shelter Severity Classification (SSC):**
 - In 2024, the GSC refined the SSC tool to improve adaptability for sudden-onset disasters and contingency planning. Updates—shaped through workshops in the Philippines and Geneva—enabled integration of secondary data, enhancing its usability for country clusters and supporting more informed, evidence-based decision-making.

Evidence-Based Response

- **Research:**
 - The GSC launched two major reports—*Informing Decisions on Cash Programming Approaches* and the updated *GSC Research Agenda*—informing training and strategic planning. Collaborations with ELRHA and the Global Health Cluster advanced research on shelter-health links. Research fellowships in eight countries tackled topics from wildfire response to housing policy, with findings feeding into global platforms and the 2025 Shelter Projects publication. Remote research support also aided Colombia, Ethiopia, and Gaza.



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Capacity Strengthening

- Humanitarian Shelter Coordination Training (HSCT)
- Cash for Shelter Training – NW Syria
- Regional Coordination Training

Capacity Strengthening

- **Humanitarian Shelter Coordination Training (HSCT):** Two hybrid HSCT sessions were held in Geneva in 2024, equipping participants with essential coordination skills through simulations and multi-stakeholder collaboration. A review workshop in November evaluated outcomes and shaped improvements for the 2025 training cycle.
- **Cash for Shelter Training – NW Syria:** In response to partner requests, the GSC and Care International delivered a hybrid training combining online sessions and a two-day in-person workshop. Twenty-five participants explored scenario planning and cash-based shelter strategies using a localized case study, with unanimous support for replication.

Capacity Strengthening

- **Regional Coordination Trainings:**
 - The GSC supported multiple regional trainings, including a three-day session for sub-national coordinators in Somalia and a four-day shelter and coordination training in Timor-Leste. In Asia-Pacific, inclusive shelter data workshops were held with participants from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal, and the Philippines. A regional training in Honduras (in Spanish) engaged 28 participants from eight countries, covering a wide range of coordination topics and earning strong participant endorsement.



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GSC Strategic Initiatives

GSC Strategic Initiatives

- **Strategic Initiatives and Innovation:**
 - In 2024, the GSC supported 10 small-scale projects across nine country clusters through Strategic Funds, piloting priority interventions such as urban shelter needs assessments, IDP site environmental analyses, multisectoral geoportals, cash-for-shelter guidance, and DRR measures. These initiatives strengthened coordination and advanced cluster strategies with practical, context-driven solutions.



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Technical Working Groups

- Settlement Approaches in Urban Areas
- Shelter Projects
- PSEA
- Extreme Heat

Technical Working Groups

- **Urban Settlements Focus:** In 2024, the Urban Settlements Working Group led webinars on applying the Settlements Approach in urban contexts, while partners like CRS, IMPACT, and InterAction produced case studies, environmental guidance, and training modules to address operational barriers and strengthen urban response strategies.
- **Shelter Projects:** In 2024, the Shelter Projects Working Group prepared the 10th edition of its flagship publication (2025), released Lessons from Floods in English and French, ran a photo competition with 150+ entries, and showcased key resources at Shelter Week, regional forums, and the World Urban Forum.

Technical Working Groups

- **PSEA:** The GSC launched a PSEA Working Group to mainstream safeguarding and accountability in shelter programming. The group will integrate PSEA into the Coordination Toolkit and develop guidance in 2025, supporting risk mitigation and consistent implementation in line with Strategy 2030.
- **Extreme Heat:** In late 2024, the GSC launched the Extreme Heat Working Group to address rising temperatures in humanitarian settings, focusing on country-level needs, operational research, and closing key knowledge gaps.

Communities of Practice

- Coordination
- Technical
- Environment
- Gender, Diversity, and Inclusion (GDI)
- Recovery
- Francophone
- Cash and Markets

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Communities of Practice

- **Coordination Community of Practice (CoP):** In 2024, the CoP facilitated discussions on durable solutions, area-based coordination, and the impact of flooding in conflict settings. Insights from these exchanges shaped advocacy efforts and highlighted the importance of field-driven knowledge-sharing to improve shelter outcomes in complex emergencies.
- **Technical Community of Practice:** Established in October 2024, the Technical CoP began with a survey of 184 respondents identifying six priority themes. Fire safety (with Kindling) was integrated, and two webinars are planned for early 2025 to form working groups and launch a 2024–2025 work plan to address technical guidance gaps.

Technical Working Groups

- **Environment Community of Practice (ECOP):** In 2024, the ECoP provided remote support for natural hazard responses, sharing guidance on hurricanes, cyclones, and earthquakes in multiple languages. It also contributed to the establishment of the new Extreme Heat Working Group.
- **Gender, Diversity, and Inclusion (GDI) CoP:** Launched in 2024, the GDI CoP supports inclusive shelter programming by addressing cross-cutting issues. Building on past work—including finalizing All Under One Roof—the CoP surveyed 15 clusters to assess representation of women and persons with disabilities, informing actions to strengthen inclusion in coordination.

Technical Working Groups

- **Recovery CoP:** In 2024, co-hosted the 30th UK Shelter Forum, delivered a webinar on Earth Construction, and supported the BHA Shelter Review by CARE UK and CENDEP. A joint learning event with the ECoP on climate adaptation is planned for January 2025.
- **Francophone CoP:** Launched in November 2024, the Réseau Habitat d'Urgence Francophone aims to build francophone capacity through training, resource sharing, and research. Plans for 2025 include French-language webinars, a digital platform, and an in-person forum in Lomé (1–3 July), plus a potential capacity assessment.
- **Cash and Markets CoP:** Supported GSC research on cash for shelter, launched the final report, hosted three webinars, contributed to coordinator training, and provided targeted support to country and regional clusters.



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