



Global Shelter Cluster
ShelterCluster.org
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

2023 ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

FOREWORD FROM THE GLOBAL SHELTER CLUSTER COORDINATORS

Dear All,

We are delighted to present the 2023 Global Shelter Cluster Annual Achievements Report. This report recognizes the dedicated work of over 1,000 shelter and settlements partners in 42 countries across the world.

2023 was a challenging year with more people requiring humanitarian assistance than ever before. We all remember the major earthquakes that hit Türkiye, Syria or Afghanistan as well as other disasters caused by extreme weather events. While in 2023 conflicts like in Ukraine or DRC continued, the world also witnessed increased violence, conflicts and large-scale destruction in Sudan, Haiti and Gaza.

More than 92 million people urgently needed humanitarian shelter and settlement support in 2023. The humanitarian sector faced increased challenges to meet the affected people's needs, sometimes due to access constraints, but in many cases due to unmet funding requirements. Yet, shelter cluster partners worldwide were able to support over 20 million people with essential life-saving shelter, settlements and NFI assistance.

2023 was also a year of transition. First, the GSC is transitioning from its 2018-2022 Strategy to a new 2024-2028 Strategy. We have devoted much of 2023 to take a step back and listen to our partners and colleagues to design a new roadmap to collectively extend our impact and achieve optimal reach.

Second, the GSC leadership has also transitioned to new roles. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the former GSC Coordinators, Ela Serdaroglu (IFRC) and Brett Moore (UNHCR), both of whom have worked tirelessly over the last 7+ years to co-lead the Global Shelter Cluster. During their tenure, the GSC has continued to grow as a strong, agile, and reliable partnership of coordinators, agencies, responders, and donors. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Third, the GSC has transitioned to a new system to assess, analyse, monitor and evaluate shelter and settlements needs. The GSC Shelter Severity Classification system launched in 2023 constitutes a major milestone in our efforts to better capture the magnitude and severity of need, so that we can take more effective and accountable decisions to support people's own response and coping mechanisms.

While in transition, 2023 has also seen consistent progress in our collective work. The Global Shelter Cluster has continued to improve the evidence-base for cluster partners, with a particular emphasis on informing decisions on cash programming and moving from relief to recovery. We have also continued to raise awareness of the wider impacts of shelter and settlements, highlighting its critical contributions towards other sectors' outcomes. We have continued to support country teams to increase awareness and integration of environmental and climate change considerations. In addition to the life-saving, emergency support of Shelter Clusters, we have also increasingly explored avenues towards dignified, durable shelter solutions for displaced people in protracted situations.

The Global Shelter Cluster is as good as the partners who engage in it – and we are proud to have strong and dedicated partners around the world, working side by side to meet shelter and settlements needs.

There is little doubt the years ahead will bring more challenges, with tens of millions of lives depending on humanity and our continued support to achieve safe, dignified, and protective living conditions. Let us continue to strengthen our joint work, let us create new collaborations, and let us advocate together so that we can maximise our capacity to serve the world's most vulnerable populations.

*Pablo Medina
GSC Coordinator IFRC*

*Seki Hirano
GSC Coordinator UNHCR*



WHO WE ARE

The Global Shelter Cluster (GSC) is a coordination mechanism established by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to ensure that people affected by disasters and conflict-induced displacement have access to safe, dignified, and appropriate shelters and settlements.

The GSC facilitates effective collaboration among shelter and settlements actors, to deliver timely and quality assistance to those in need. The GSC and country Shelter Clusters work collectively with national response actors to support people affected by disaster and conflict with timely, effective and predictable shelter and settlement responses.

The GSC is a public platform co-led by UNHCR and IFRC at the global level and has 44 partners who actively contribute to discussions and outputs. IFRC leads the Shelter Cluster in disaster contexts, while UNHCR leads the Shelter Cluster in conflict situations.

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KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

More than 92 million people required shelter and NFI support in the 42 countries where clusters or cluster-like mechanisms were activated in 2023. In a year marked with multi humanitarian scale-ups, and despite the multi-faceted challenges, the Shelter Cluster partners managed to reach 20 million (22% of total in need) people with shelter and NFI assistance

The GSC provided country-level clusters with extensive support on coordination, information management, advocacy, and capacity-building, ensuring that cluster coordination team members were prepared to address ongoing and emerging challenges. The earthquake response in Türkiye and Syria was supported through a mission of the GSC Coordinator and the deployment of two roving coordinators (in person) and one information manager (remotely) shortly after the onset and during the first month of the crisis. The GSC also deployed a roving coordinator and information manager to Somalia while also providing long-term, remote support for information management. As per IASC humanitarian system wide scale-up activation protocol, the target to deploy appropriate coordination capacity within 72 hours, was met when the Shelter Cluster Haiti was formally activated in September 2023

In June, the GSC facilitated its annual Shelter Week, comprising of the GSC's Coordination Workshop and Annual Meeting, bringing together over 120 participants from partner organizations and other stakeholders for sessions on recovery and durable solutions, reducing environmental impacts, and explored the wider impact of shelter, advancing the global knowledge within the sector. The GSC also conducted two rounds of its Humanitarian Shelter Coordination Training course in May and November for over 50 participants.

Supported by ECHO and USAID, the GSC and its partners also increased its efforts [on “greening” the humanitarian shelter response](#) by building evidence, developing, holding trainings, and conducting advocacy. Achievements were presented to the wider public through a well-attended webinar held in December.

Furthermore, the GSC rolled out its [Shelter Severity Classification \(SSC\)](#) system, providing a standard, simple, robust and transparent approach for shelter needs analysis and improvements in the [Cluster Coordination Performance Management \(CCPM\)](#) system allowed clusters to gather more detailed feedback from partners to continuously improve performance. The GSC also finalized a guidance on [“Shelter Considerations for Minimum Expenditure Basket and Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance Program Design”](#) and advanced efforts on GBV risk mitigation including through a webinar and actively engaging in the 16 Days Against GBV campaign in cooperation with the CCCM cluster. New training materials and guidance on [Housing, Land, and Property rights](#) and [fire safety](#) were developed through GSC focal points and partners and disseminated throughout the year.

92M

PEOPLE IN NEED*

32M

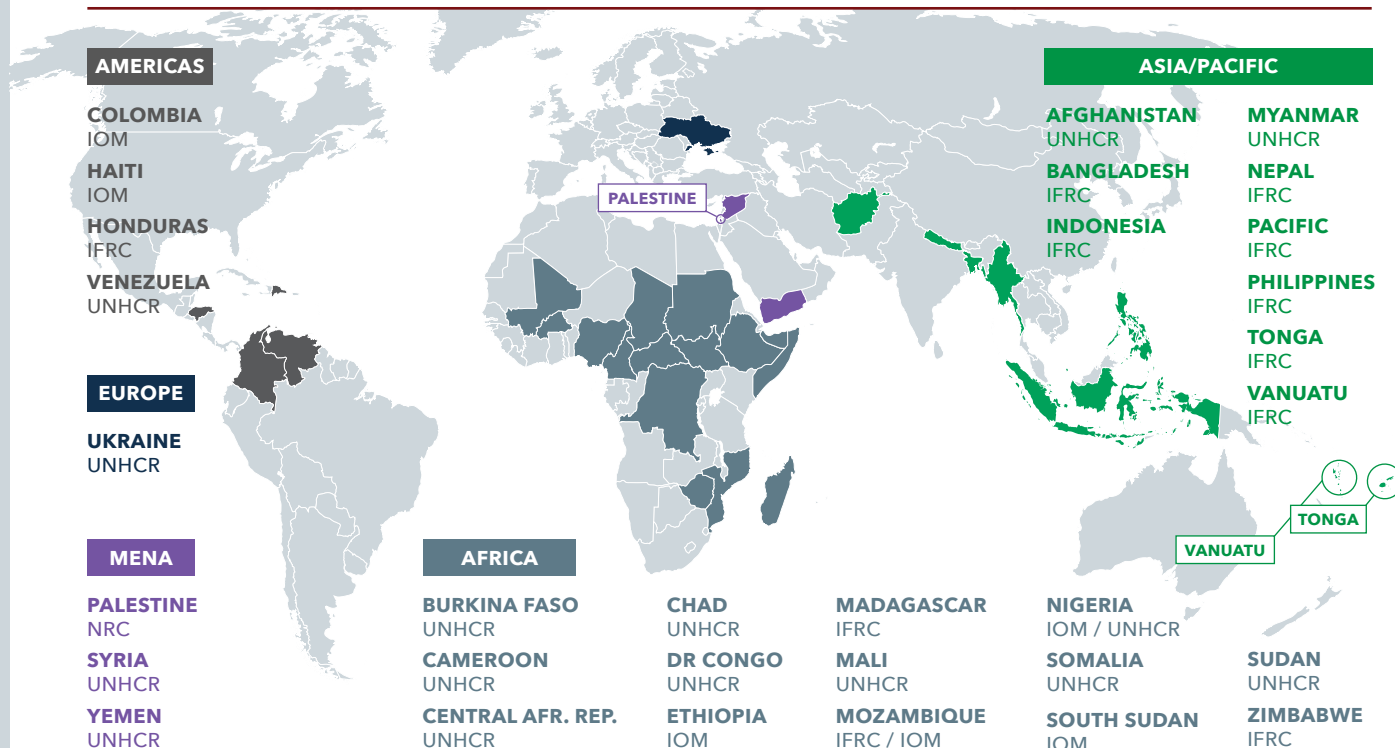
PEOPLE TARGETED*

20M

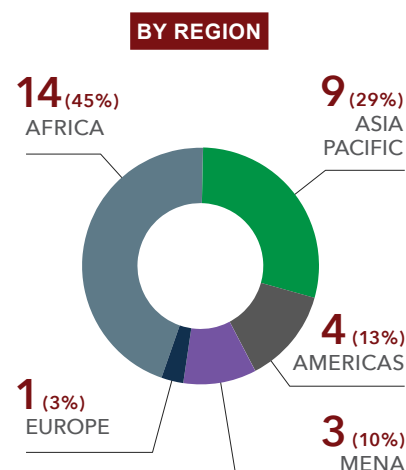
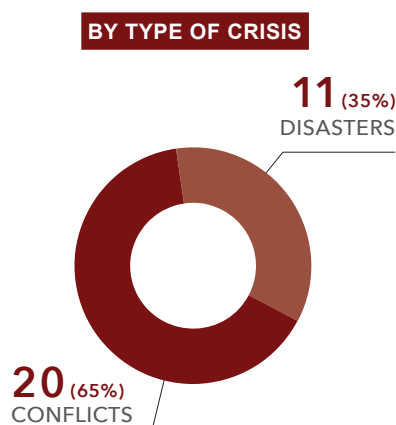
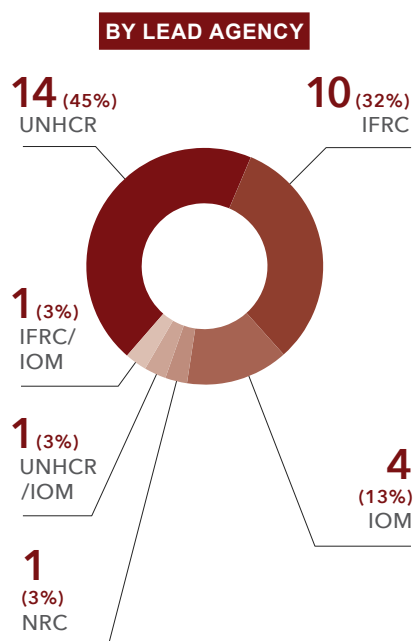
PEOPLE SUPPORTED*

31

ACTIVE CLUSTERS**



BREAKDOWN OF CLUSTERS



* The data presented here has been made available to the Global Shelter Cluster through factsheets. Achievements are from all cluster partners (not just the lead agency). Any form of shelter and/or NFI assistance is counted (except for distribution of single items). To avoid overlap, this is based on the highest number of beneficiaries for either NFI or shelter per country (if no total figure has been provided for the number of people reached).reached).

** 11 cluster-like mechanisms (or sectoral working groups) are also active: Americas region, El Salvador, Fiji, Libya, Malawi, Mongolia, Niger, Pakistan, Solomon Islands, Türkiye and Vietnam.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

20M*

PEOPLE SUPPORTED



7.3M

PEOPLE SUPPORTED WITH SHELTER INTERVENTIONS

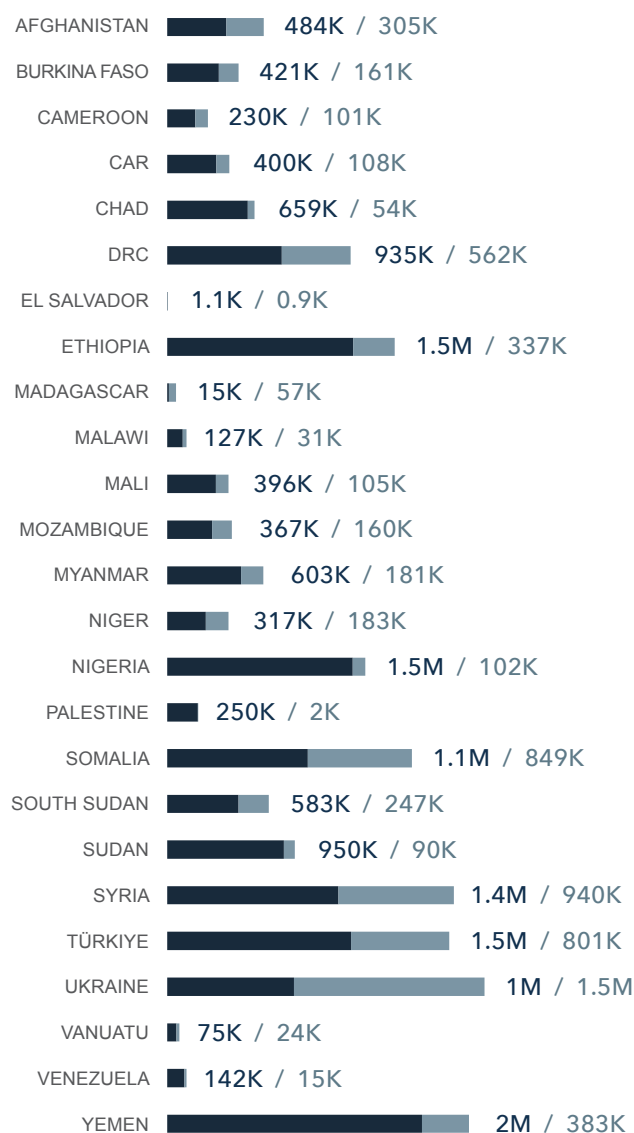


15.4M

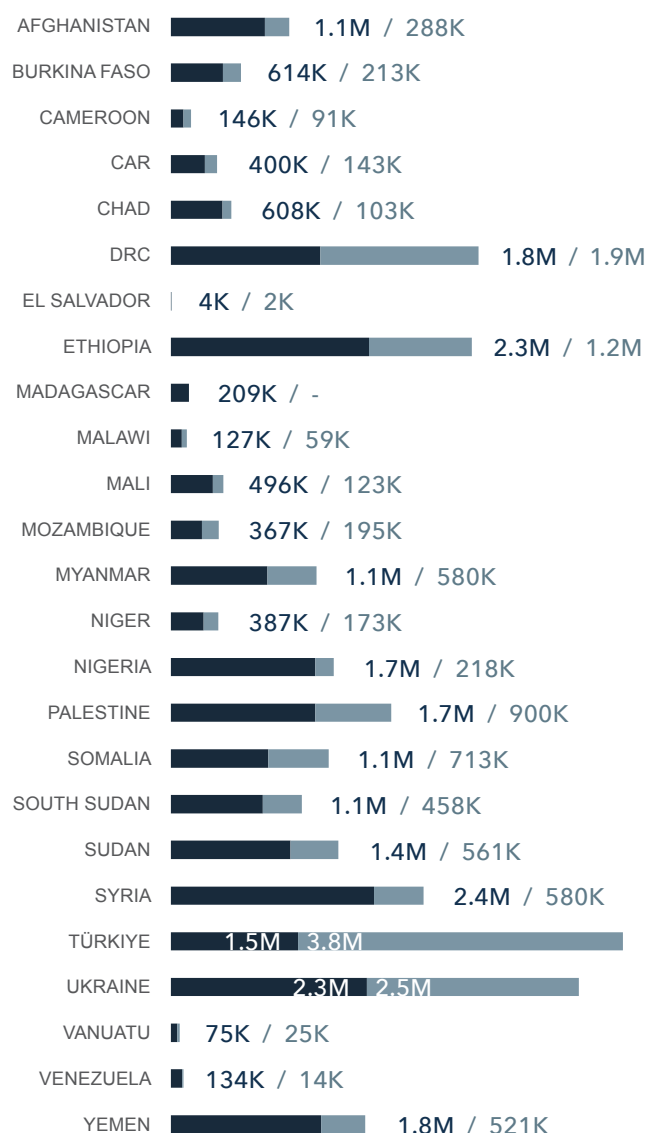
PEOPLE SUPPORTED WITH NFI INTERVENTIONS

The two graphs below detail, by country, the number of people** that were supported with Shelter (first) and NFI (second) interventions, versus the number of people that were initially targeted** for the response. Countries are listed by order of number of people targeted.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED WITH SHELTER/TARGET**



NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED WITH NFI/TARGET**



■ TARGET ■ REACHED

*The data presented here has been made available to the Global Shelter Cluster through factsheets. Achievements are from all cluster partners (not just the lead agency). Any form of shelter and/or NFI assistance is counted (except for distribution of single items). To avoid overlap, this is based on the highest number of beneficiaries for either NFI or shelter per country (if no total figure has been provided for the number of people reached).

**Does not include clusters in preparedness mode and active clusters for which data was not available.

*** Target not available

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

\$1.3B*
FUNDING RECEIVED

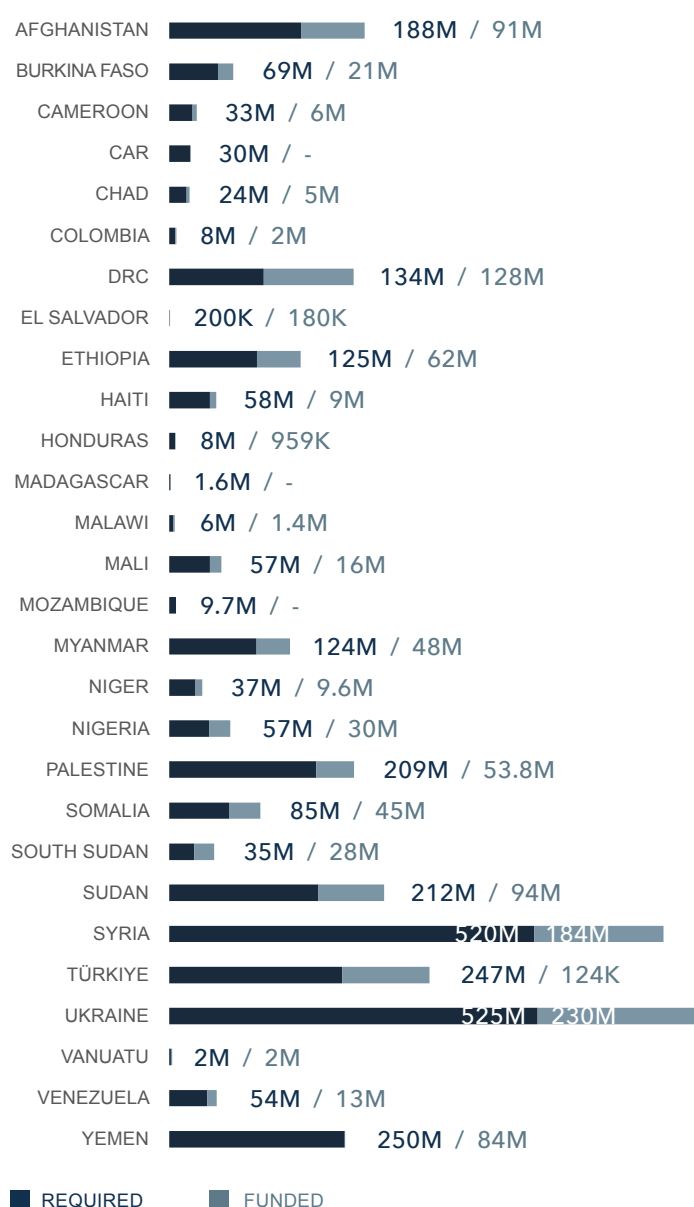
\$3.1B
REQUIRED*

41%
FUNDING ACHIEVED*

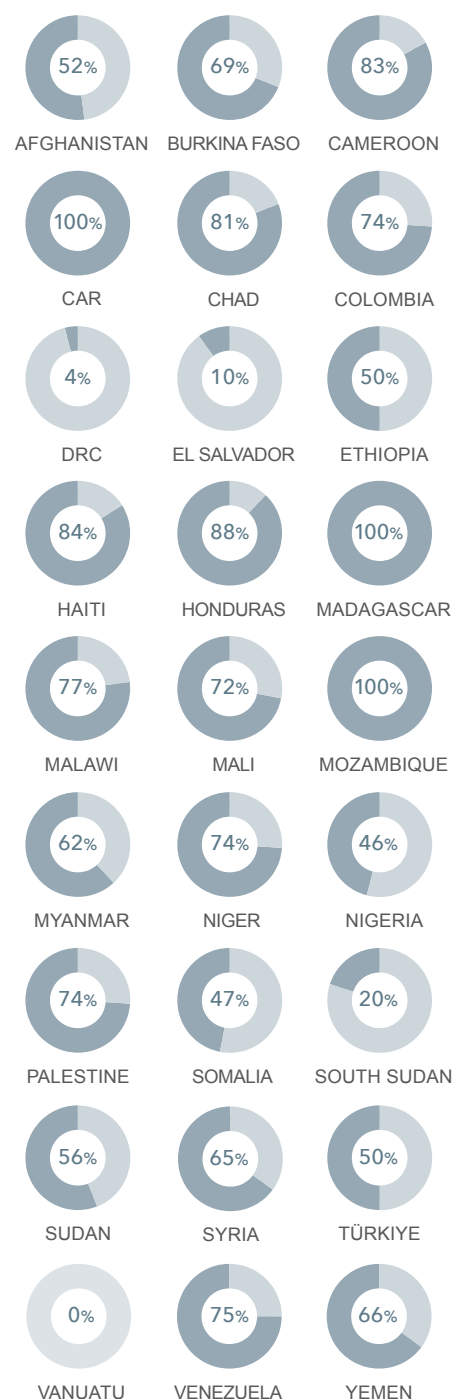
59%
FUNDING GAP

OVERVIEW OF FUNDING AT COUNTRY LEVEL**

The graph below details, by country, the amount of funding received vs. the total funding required. Countries are listed by order of the highest level of funding required.



FUNDING GAP



* Based on factsheets submitted by clusters and OCHA's Financial Tracking Service, all amounts are in USD. Funding is received by cluster partners.

**Does not include all clusters in preparedness mode and active clusters for which data was not available.

***Data on funding received during 2023 was not available



COORDINATION

OVERVIEW

As of December 2023, 31 clusters and 11 cluster-like mechanisms were active globally. In the same year, shelter, settlements, and non-food items (NFI) assistance was provided to nearly 20 million people through the dedicated support of 1100 partners. The number of “people in need” (PIN) and of “people targeted” has significantly risen from 2022, and in 2023, more than 92 million people were defined as being in need (PIN). This remarkable increase in the number of people in need and those targeted underscores the persistence of challenging humanitarian situations, leading to IASC system scale-ups* (in Türkiye, Syria, Haiti, DRC, Sudan), adding up to ongoing scale ups (Ukraine, Ethiopia, Somalia, Afghanistan). As various reviews and evaluations continually emphasize the crucial role of coordinated responses across sectors for life-saving interventions, recognition has grown regarding the impact of shelter on the outcome of other sectors such as health, social cohesion, livelihoods, seeing shelter as a sector for advancing cross-sectoral considerations and collaboration with stakeholders at settlements level.

Although there was an overall increase in global funding for humanitarian actions, the increased number of people in need resulted in a decreased percentage of individuals reached. For 2023, the funding required for shelter and NFI activities globally amounted to more than USD 3.1B, leading to a funding gap of 59% as only USD 1.3B was received.

The GSC proactively supported country cluster teams with surge capacity, both through on-site missions and remote assistance. Missions were conducted to support the Türkiye and Syria earthquake responses, in addition to missions in Somalia, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Vanuatu, and Myanmar. Furthermore, the GSC played an instrumental role in supporting country clusters, such as Myanmar, Yemen, and Haiti, in their communication and advocacy endeavors.

* [IASC Humanitarian System-Wide Scale-Up Activations and Deactivations | IASC \(interagencystandingcommittee.org\)](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/)

GSC STRATEGY

Throughout 2023, the GSC advanced in shaping its strategy for the coming five years. The strategy, which will be finalized in 2024, will highlight the importance of working towards the most effective, efficient and accountable ways to achieve extended impact and optimal reach with humanitarian shelter and settlement assistance. To extend the impact of shelter and settlement assistance, the strategy will incorporate considerations for integrated responses, reducing environmental impact, planning for recovery and durable solutions from the start, and support the creation of safe, secure and protective environments. In parallel, the strategy will outline the importance of timely and prioritized resource, to improve targeting of the most vulnerable people and increase coverage. The strategy will capitalize on enablers such as localization, accountability to affected populations and through widening collaborations.

SAG

The GSC's Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), consisting of representatives from the Australian Red Cross, Care International, Catholic Relief Services, Danish Refugee Council, Habitat for Humanity International, IFRC, IMPACT Initiatives, InterAction, IOM, Norwegian Refugee Council, and UNHCR, convened regularly throughout 2023 to discuss and support the strategic orientation of the GSC. This year's SAG retreat, held on November 29-30, 2023, focused specifically on advancing the GSC's next strategy, its implementation framework, and overarching methodologies to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian shelter responses.

SAG members also actively engaged with the GSC team on advancing topics like the environmental agenda through the statement on [“Reducing the Environmental Impact of Shelter and Settlement Responses”](#) or shaping the GSC's annual meeting agenda. The GSC Working Groups and Communities of Practice significantly contributed to the development of knowledge, guidance, and tools at the global level, bringing their high-level technical expertise but also fostering interagency dialogue.

IASC ENGAGEMENT

In 2023, GSC Coordinators actively engaged not only in participating in and contributing to global discussions led by the IASC and through the Global Cluster Coordination Group, but also provided substantial input into ongoing processes such as the “Independent review of the IASC response to internal displacement” and other global frameworks or guidance documents.

The GSC support team also continued to collaborate with interagency coordination fora on topics like cash assistance, cross-sectoral data collection and analysis, and mainstreaming environmental considerations in humanitarian shelter and settlements responses.

CLUSTER COORDINATION PERFORMANCE MONITORING (CCPM)

In response to valuable feedback from coordinators received in prior years, the GSC undertook a comprehensive review of the Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) process in 2023. Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring is a self-assessment exercise in which clusters assess their performance against the core cluster functions and accountability to affected populations. It is a country-led process that is supported globally. The aim was to enhance the efficiency of the process and increase understanding on localization efforts of country clusters. A key improvement included centralizing the analysis of CCPM results by the GSC, which not only expedited the analysis process, but also facilitated the development of global and country level dashboards for visualizing results. This strategic shift to a global-level analysis lightened the workload for country teams and enabled more systemic conclusions to be drawn.

In 2023, 83 percent of the clusters (19 out of 23 countries with a Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)) completed the CCPM process. Furthermore, six other cluster-like mechanisms (or sectoral working groups) initiated the process last year by surveying their country-level partners but did not formulate an action plan to address identified gaps. 414 responses were received from cluster partners and stakeholders.

Conclusions included the observation that “building national capacity in preparedness and contingency planning” scores lowest of the core functions (indicating additional actions are needed), while “informing HC/HCT strategic decision-making” scored the highest across all the clusters. Thanks to the additional questions added this year, the country cluster coordination teams had more qualitative information on the level of satisfaction of their partners regarding aspects such as the level of transparency of the project submission procedures, the cluster’s efforts on mainstreaming environmental considerations, and efforts on the prevention of GBV.





SPOTLIGHTS

SHELTER WEEK

The GSC's annual Shelter Week took place from June 19-23, 2023, hosted at the IFRC headquarters in Geneva. Comprising three key events – the [Coordination Workshop](#), the [GSC Annual Meeting](#), and the Shelter Meeting (organized by Shelter Centre) – the week provided a valuable platform for engagement and knowledge-sharing within the humanitarian shelter sector.

The [Coordination Workshop](#), held from June 19-20, brought together 67 participants, including cluster coordinators and information managers, representing 27 country-level clusters and the GSC support team. The workshop provided participants with updates of recently developed tools and guidance documents, fostering knowledge exchange on subjects such as Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), and addressing other topics prioritized by coordinators in preparation for the event.



The [GSC Annual Meeting](#) is a significant event for GSC partners, shelter and settlement practitioners and country cluster coordinators. This year's event, held on June 21-22, was conceptualized to foster exchanges on trends and topics relevant for shelter and settlements experts. More than 120 participants from over 40 countries discussed emerging trends in humanitarian action, learned more about GSC achievements and priority engagement areas. A comprehensive report of the GSC Annual Meeting is available [here](#).

GREENING THE RESPONSE

In 2023, the GSC implemented its “greening efforts” with financial contributions from the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). Both grants included components on advancing evidence-based and environment-considerate approaches at both global and country levels. At the global level, the focus was on developing guidance, tools, and capacity-building for environmental mainstreaming and coordination within the cluster system and with other networks. The grants also aimed to support country clusters to plan and implement greener shelter programming. In December, the GSC held a [webinar](#) to introduce the environmental components and outputs of the ECHO and USAID/BHA grants, sharing impacts and findings with a wider audience.

Outputs of the ECHO grant also included innovative market assessment approaches in Syria and Malawi, which aimed to understand the impact of cash assistance on environmental outcomes and the Solar Energy Advisory Tool (SEAT), an easy-to-use digital tool developed by the ETH Zurich Chair of Sustainable Construction for the GSC. The SEAT provided GSC partners with recommendations on the design of solar energy systems in early decision-making processes in internal displacement contexts. By the end of 2023, the GSC had facilitated the development of 10 Environmental Country Profiles (ECPs) and six Shelter Response Profiles (SRPs), all tailored to local contexts and developed through participatory processes. All of these GSC products can be found [here](#).

The GSC fostered global collaborations to advance the environmental agenda in the humanitarian sector and create synergies with other partners. With funding from the ECHO grant, the GSC strengthened global partnerships including with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to advance NRC’s global rollout of the NEAT+ (Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool) and conduct environmental screening trainings. The GSC also collaborated with the USAID-funded Joint Initiative for Packaging Waste Management joining to the Logistics Cluster efforts on reducing the carbon footprint of humanitarian assistance, and a Climate Action Accelerator project assessing ways to reduce the carbon footprint of humanitarian operations.

On the advocacy front, the GSC closely collaborated with partners, including those represented in the GSC Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), to endorse recommendations on “Reducing the Environmental Impact of Shelter and Settlement Responses” as mentioned above. Participation in global events such as the [Latin America and the Caribbean Shelter Forum](#), the Environmental Emergencies Forum (co-hosted by ECHO), the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks (HNPW), and the [UK Shelter Forum](#) highlighted the GSC’s commitment to knowledge-sharing and advocacy for greening efforts.





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COUNTRY SUPPORT

In 2023, the GSC provided surge capacity to shelter clusters in countries hit by disaster, conflict, or both, through in-person or remote deployments of cluster coordinators, information managers, and technical experts. In addition, the GSC continued to engage with all 31 active country clusters and other cluster-like mechanisms through regular follow-ups and ad-hoc tailored support on coordination, IM, advocacy, environment, and technical workstreams.

KEY STATISTICS

42 COUNTRIES SUPPORTED

(overall, including coordination, information management, environment, advocacy, other)

31

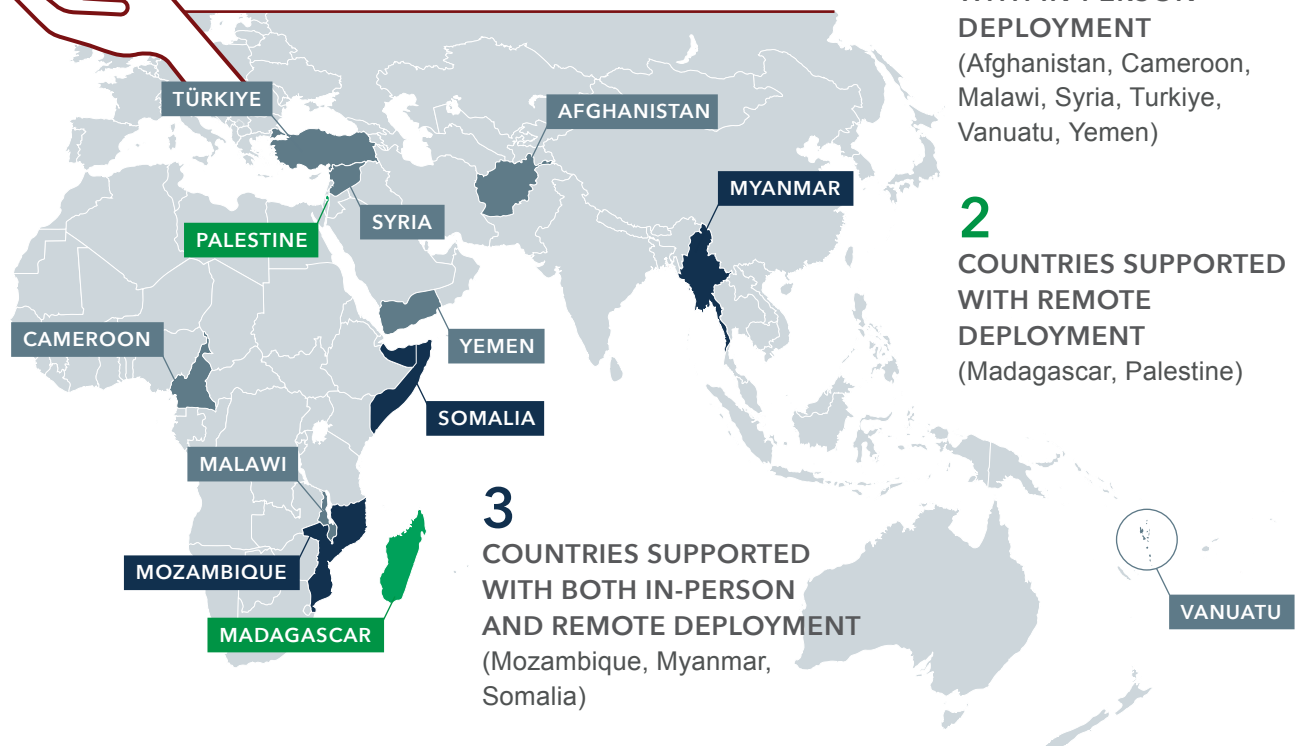
ACTIVATED
CLUSTERS

11

CLUSTER-LIKE
MECHANISMS



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





| *Enhancing capacity following disasters*

Cluster coordinators and information managers were deployed in Türkiye, North-West Syria, Madagascar, Mozambique, Vanuatu, Malawi, and Myanmar following several high-impact disasters, to reinforce coordination mechanisms and, in turn, ensure effective shelter relief across the various responses.

On February 6 and 7, 2023, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake affected Türkiye and Syria in the areas around the border between the two countries. The GSC deployed cluster coordinators and information managers to reinforce the existing response in North West Syria, set up a sectoral mechanism in Türkiye, and contribute to the Syria Emergency Response Needs Assessment. In Madagascar and Mozambique, the GSC deployed cluster coordinators and information managers in response to February's Cyclone Freddy to keep core coordination and IM functions running. In Myanmar, GSC deployments enhanced the capacity of the existing Shelter Cluster to address severe protracted needs compounded by May's Cyclone Mocha. Finally, GSC regional deployments in Vanuatu focused on preparing for looming cyclones in March and subsequently coordinating the shelter response.

| *Getting through the HNO/HRP season*

Over the course of August through November, the GSC provided dedicated assistance to country teams in fulfilling their Humanitarian Program Cycle (HPC) inter-agency requirements, both through remote support to most HPC-countries and through deployments to Somalia.

Overall, the GSC helped countries with implementing the [GSC Shelter Severity Classification \(SSC\)](#) system to calculate their shelter severity and people in need (PiN) figures, engaging in inter-agency processes including JIAF 2.0 and shifting towards a joint HNRP process in certain countries, and drafting shelter HNO, HRP, and HNRP chapters.

In Somalia, deployments focused on the HNRP process, both from coordination and IM perspectives. Other workstreams were also implemented, including building capacity of new staff and contributing to discussions on critical issues such as the emergency responses to El Niño-induced flooding and the cluster's role in supporting durable solutions in 2024.

Providing guidance and back-stopping during transitions and critical developments

On top of providing day-to-day regular and ad-hoc support to country-level clusters as requested, the GSC dedicated particular attention to shelter cluster teams in countries undergoing major developments and transitions, including system-wide scale-ups, escalations of violence, and shifts in human resources.

In 2023, [system-wide scale-ups](#) were activated for DRC, Haiti, Sudan, Türkiye, and Syria alongside ongoing ones in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Ukraine. In response, the GSC intensified its engagement with relevant shelter cluster teams to help them address the implications of these scale-ups in their countries (in parallel to the above-mentioned deployments to Türkiye, Syria, and Somalia). Following the October 2023 escalation of hostilities in Gaza, the GSC also provided back-stopping for all core cluster functions to Shelter Cluster Palestine, including coordination, IM, and advocacy. In Venezuela, Colombia, and El Salvador, the GSC assisted with developing strategies and advised on how to position the Cluster within the unique contexts of these countries.

Implementing environmental workstreams

In addition to coordination and IM deployments, the GSC doubled down on its commitment to accompany countries in implementing environmental considerations into their strategies, capacity-building programs, and overall responses. During 2023, this was done through the deployment of a GSC environmental focal point in Afghanistan, Yemen, Cameroon and Türkiye, support in recruiting country-level environmental advisors in Ukraine and Venezuela, as well as through regular remote support. (More information on the GSC priority “Greening the Response” workstreams is included earlier in the report.)

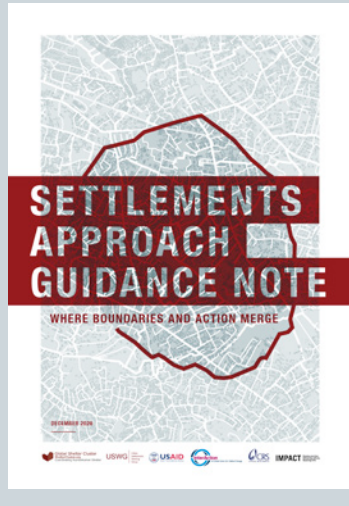




TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

1 INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN SHELTER PROGRAMMING

The “Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Shelter & Settlements Programming” Working Group supported pilots of the “All Under One Roof: Disability inclusive Shelter & Settlements in Emergencies”- training in Fiji and Bangladesh and based on feedback from these pilots, is preparing a streamline training package for wider dissemination and use. The “[All Under One Roof](#)” guidance hub on the Global Shelter Cluster website has been updated based on feedback from users, and a short 10 page version of the guidance is being finalised for quick use. As these final products are being completed, the WG will transition into the wider Gender, Diversity, and Inclusion Community of Practice in early 2024.



2 SETTLEMENTS APPROACHES IN URBAN AREAS

The “[Settlements Approaches in Urban Areas](#)” Working Group focused on identifying best practices and lessons in settlement approaches and urban responses. Throughout 2023, it continued consultations and facilitated webinars on localization and settlements approaches. To advance operationalization of the approach, the GSC is currently advancing an “Environmental Addendum to the Settlements Approach Guidance Note”, while GSC partners are working on the development of a Settlements Approach online training, which is expected to be launched in 2024.

3 SHELTER PROJECTS



SHELTER PROJECTS 9th edition

CASE STUDIES OF HUMANITARIAN SHELTER AND SETTLEMENT RESPONSES 2021-2022

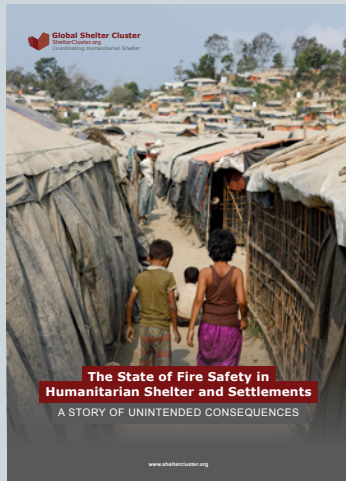
Global Shelter Cluster
Shelter Coordination
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

The “Shelter Projects” Working Group published the [9th edition](#) of its Shelter Projects publication on July 14 through online channels, [including a launch video](#). It is a comprehensive resource and overview of shelter and settlements responses in more than 20 countries and features projects implemented in 2021 and 2022 in conflict, disasters, and complex humanitarian crises settings. A printed version is available and will be distributed in relevant events throughout 2024.

These case studies delve into the challenges, broader impacts, strengths, weaknesses, lessons learned, and recommendations stemming from diverse approaches to shelter and settlements assistance. For the first time, case studies for this edition were submitted in English, French, and Spanish this year. Additionally, the edition features four overview pieces contributed by Shelter Clusters in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Ukraine, and by the Regional Coordination body for the Venezuela response (R4V). A new section, including three research abstracts provided by the Global Shelter Cluster Global Research Function, sheds light on some of the currently ongoing research initiatives. The 9th edition pays tribute to the legacy of Eng. Teddy Boen, who dedicated decades of work to the development of effective technologies aimed at retrofitting and enhancing the safety of dwellings in Indonesia.

The Shelter Projects team also ran a photo and video competition, held country-level workshops on lessons-learned from projects, and contributed to regional fora, the GSC Shelter Week, and other global events.





4 CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

The “[Construction Standards](#)” Working Group finalized harmonized non-technical standards for construction processes and published the [Construction Good Practice Standards](#) in multiple languages. Additionally, the group finalized its [State of Fire Safety Report](#) and [Fire Risk Reduction Guidance](#), produced with Kindling.

5 SHELTER VULNERABILITY CLASSIFICATION

In 2023, various working groups successfully concluded their projects, with some, like the Shelter Vulnerability Classification Working Group, completing their tasks and therefore then being deactivated. [The Shelter Severity Classification](#) (SSC) system was launched in 2023 to address shortcomings in assessing shelter needs and advance towards full implementation during the year.

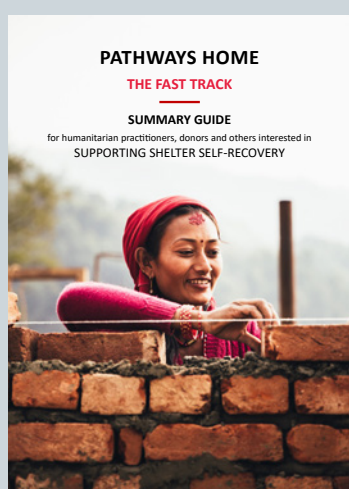




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COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

The GSC serves as a hub for fostering collaboration through its Communities of Practice (CoPs), voluntary bodies comprising experts in various thematic areas related to humanitarian shelter response. Throughout 2023, several active CoPs shaped the discourse and practices within the shelter and settlements sector, such as the CoPs on Shelter, Cash and Markets; Environment; and Information Management.



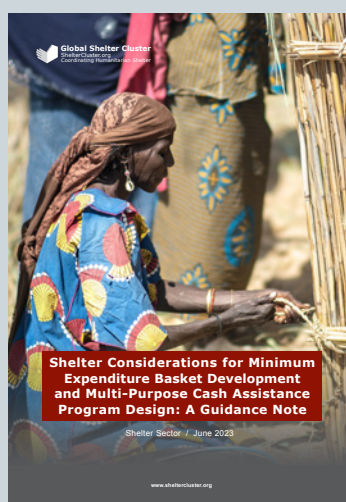
RECOVERY CoP

The [Recovery CoP](#) (RCoP) is a dedicated platform that provides guidance on recovery from disasters and crises. It engages in substantive discussions on aspects of shelter programming that provide an enabling environment towards recovery. It is co-led by CARE, CRS, CRAterre and CENDEP. The focus extends beyond the immediate provision of emergency shelter and NFIs to encompass longer-term resilience, development, and durable solutions. The RCoP's endeavours align with broader GSC priorities, such as localization and advocating for integrated approaches to humanitarian shelter responses.



The release of [Working Together](#), a report on the 2022 learning event, underscored the advantages of integrating efforts between shelter and settlements, WASH, and MHPSS for the well-being and health of crisis-affected populations. The Pathways Home: the Fast Track Summary Guide was translated into [French](#) and [Arabic](#) (in addition to the [English](#) and [Spanish](#) versions). Additionally, the Recovery CoP hosted an online learning event entitled “Evaluating Impact in the Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements Sector” in May 2023 which culminated in the report [Building Impact](#) collating all the findings from the learning event, literature reviews and other contributions and interviews from the wider network.

SHELTER CASH AND MARKETS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE



The [Shelter Cash and Markets Community of Practice](#) finalized its [Guidance Note on Shelter Considerations for MEB Development and MPCA Program Design](#) to assist country coordination teams in the costing of shelter components when calculating a Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) as part of a multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) approach. The guidance note provides information on how shelter practitioners can advocate for the most suitable option in their context by listing some of the key considerations and questions when engaging in the MEB development process and the MPCA transfer value calculation process. The CoP also contributed to the GSC research initiative on decision-making around the use of cash in Shelter and Settlement programming (final report pending release). A short pilot introductory session on cash coordination was also included in the Shelter Cluster Coordinators training workshop in November 2023 supported by the CoP facilitators.

ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

The [Environment Community of Practice](#), in addition to strongly supporting the GSC for the implementation of the two grants (ECHO and USAID/BHA; please see above) for their environmental components, also provided emergency and ad-hoc technical support to various countries, including Türkiye and North-West Syria following the February 2023 earthquakes, Afghanistan after earthquakes in Herat, Myanmar for ongoing operations and planning, and Ukraine for addressing asbestos hazards in shelter and settlements and conducting an environmental review of the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam. A summary of the work can be found [here](#).



ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION

Throughout the reporting period, the Shelter Cluster demonstrated a robust commitment to supporting country teams with advocacy and communications. In addition to new tools, 17 country teams received tailored support, including for producing advocacy notes, social media posts, and audiovisual materials. To foster inter-cluster cooperation, Shelter Clusters produced joint advocacy notes with different clusters, among them the Protection and Education Clusters in DRC and Palestine, and the Protection Cluster in Myanmar. Additionally, country teams such as Northwest Syria, Yemen, and Haiti were supported in their efforts to tailor advocacy notes on context-specific issues.

At the global level, the Global Shelter Cluster engaged in broad advocacy initiatives, sharing country cluster highlights or relevant development in cluster countries. The GSC also supported the dissemination of the work of WG, including promoting fire safety and advocating for disability inclusion including in cooperation with other clusters. At the global level, advocacy was undertaken to support the work of the GSC Green Team, efforts against gender-based violence, fire safety promotion, disability inclusion, and more.

Seventeen Shelter Cluster country teams furthered their advocacy and communications efforts in their countries of operation, resulting in more proactive and streamlined outreach to donors and the production of advocacy notes, social media posts, and audiovisual materials. In particular, joint advocacy notes were produced with the Protection and Education Clusters in DRC, the Protection Cluster in Palestine, and the Protection Cluster in Myanmar. Northwest Syria, Yemen, Haiti also produced their own advocacy notes. At the global level, advocacy was undertaken to support the work of the GSC Green Team, efforts against gender-based violence, fire safety promotion, disability inclusion, and more.

AIDEX

The GSC had a strong presence at AidEx, held in October, where it collaborated with eight other clusters to produce the “Clusters Corner”. The nine participating clusters developed an exhibit showing the clusters’ work at the country level and also organized a panel event on the impact of clusters in forgotten crises.

HUMANITARIAN NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS WEEK (HNPW)

The GSC had a strong presence at HNPW 2023, where it organized sessions on the environmental sustainability of local procurement, improving disability inclusion in shelter programming, and cash assistance.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The GSC worked closely with country teams to produce a strong campaign for the annual #16Days event. Videos featuring the Global Shelter Cluster Coordinators and the GFP for Research were shared, as well as video and photo contributions from nine countries showcasing their efforts against gender-based violence.

SOCIAL MEDIA



(TWITTER)



324 POSTS



81,330
POST IMPRESSIONS*



5,192 FOLLOWERS



LinkedIn



5,417 FOLLOWERS
(including 2,519 new followers in 2023)



155 POSTS



320,335 POST IMPRESSIONS*



7,399 REACTIONS



144 COMMENTS



560 REPOSTS

GLOBAL UPDATES

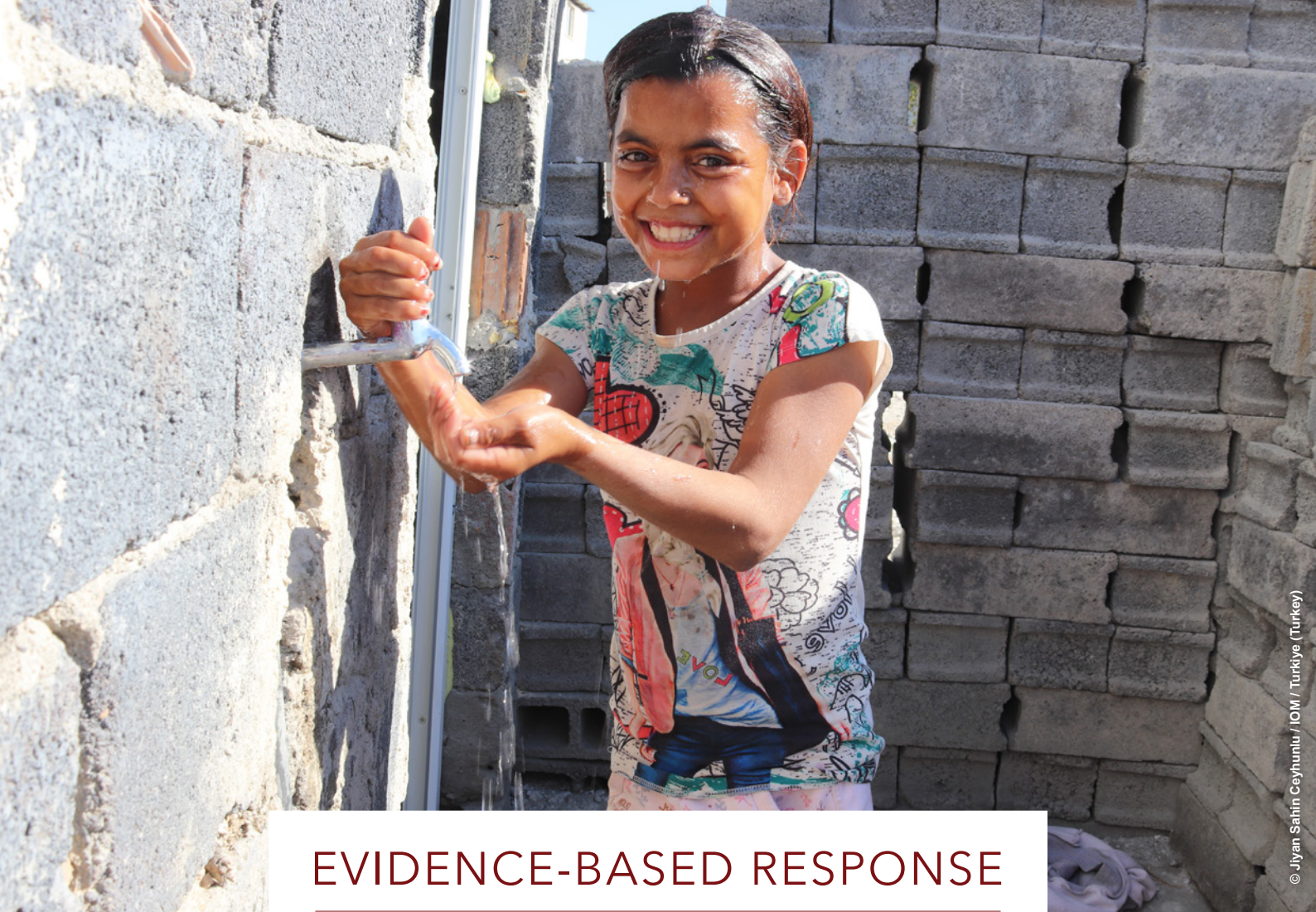


32 GLOBAL UPDATES



912 SUBSCRIBERS

* The amount of times posts were viewed)



EVIDENCE-BASED RESPONSE

SHELTER SEVERITY CLASSIFICATION (SSC)

In May 2023, the [Shelter Severity Classification \(SSC\) system](#) was launched in response to a recognized need to improve and standardize how the severity of shelter needs is measured across shelter responses and to improve evidence-based decision-making and, in turn, advocacy and funding for the sector. The SSC standardizes the approach to measuring the severity of shelter needs for a comprehensive understanding of the shelter situation in a particular humanitarian context. It follows other initiatives in the humanitarian sector such as the IPC, WSC, and JIAF.

After launching with a webinar and the publication of the SSC guidelines in May, the GSC held training courses between June and September to provide an overview of the system and exploration of key technical components of the SSC. Throughout the rest of the year, the SSC was implemented, at varying degrees, in 14 countries to inform the 2024 HNO process, including severity and PiN calculations.

In addition to providing a thorough methodology for shelter clusters to deliver on their inter-agency requirements (primarily the shelter component of the JIAF), the SSC received positive feedback from shelter cluster coordination teams for enabling improved analysis of shelter severity of needs. The SSC was particularly appreciated for its conceptual simplicity, adaptability to any context, and for triggering reflections at the country level on shelter severity of needs. Overall, 2023 was a successful launching pad for the SSC to continue to be improved over the coming years and for even stronger evidence-based responses shaped through people-centered analysis of shelter needs.

RESEARCH

The Global Function for Research, aiming to support the development of the evidence base for informing shelter and settlements programming, contributed to research on humanitarian responses in Ukraine, Türkiye, and Syria. Throughout the year, the GSC's research work was disseminated widely, contributing to the knowledge-sharing initiatives of key entities such as Interaction, BHA, the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW), the UK Shelter Forum, GSC's Shelter Week, the Global CALP Working Group, and the UK Alliance for Disaster Research.

The completion of the Global Priority Study on Cash Assistance for shelter and settlements, titled "Informing Decisions on Cash Programming Approaches," was finalized in 2023, in collaboration with the Cash and Markets Community of Practice (CoP). The comprehensive study on cash, a topic which is currently under exploration across the humanitarian system, will be disseminated in 2024, helping to guide practitioners in decision-making processes on cash.

Collaborating with the Shelter Projects working group, the Global Focal Point (GFP) for Research introduced a new research section in [Shelter Projects 9th Edition](#). This section included the following three articles: "Constructive Ambiguity: Supporting Recovery from Humanitarian Crises," "Influences on the Decision to Use Cash Assistance to Support Shelter and Settlements," and "Addressing adequate housing for Venezuelan refugees in LAC."

The GFP for Research promoted global priority themes as the research agenda of the GSC, reaching out to academic institutions and donors. This strategic approach aims to provide focus and direction for the research endeavors in the upcoming year.





CAPACITY

May Training course

HUMANITARIAN SHELTER COORDINATION TRAINING (HSCT)

The GSC Humanitarian Shelter Coordination Training (HSCT) equipped participants with the skills required to coordinate shelter responses in humanitarian crises caused by disasters, conflicts, or a combination of both. The course is accredited by Oxford Brookes University, and participants who successfully complete it are included in the shelter coordination surge capacity roster.

In 2023, two training courses were held: one in May with 22 participants from 19 countries (including nine of them national staff), and the second in November with 28 participants from 25 countries (including 12 national staff). Participants represented UN agencies, NGOs, and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.



September Training course

REGIONAL FORA

Regional fora serve as crucial platforms for fostering regional collaboration, discussing context-specific challenges, and promoting effective strategies in humanitarian shelter and settlements.

In February, the Global Shelter Cluster actively engaged in two regional fora, facilitating collaboration and knowledge-sharing within distinct geographical contexts.

[The Latin America Shelter Forum](#) took place in Bogotá, Colombia on February 7-8. The GSC, through its regional focal point and the GSC support team, actively contributed to the planning, organization, and facilitation of the two-day event. Following the Forum, a two-day cluster coordination training for regional shelter experts was conducted on February 8-9.

On February 22-23, the [MENA Shelter Forum](#) was held in Amman, Jordan. This event received support from the Global Shelter Cluster through the USAID-BHA grant for the period 2020-2023. Organized by InterAction in collaboration with key partners, including IFRC, IOM, CRS, DRC, AVSI, NRC, and UN-Habitat, the forum focused on climate and environmental adaptation. Discussions focused on regional challenges such as the water and energy crisis, introduced region-specific shelter projects and settlements approaches, and shed light on the role of local leadership in humanitarian responses.

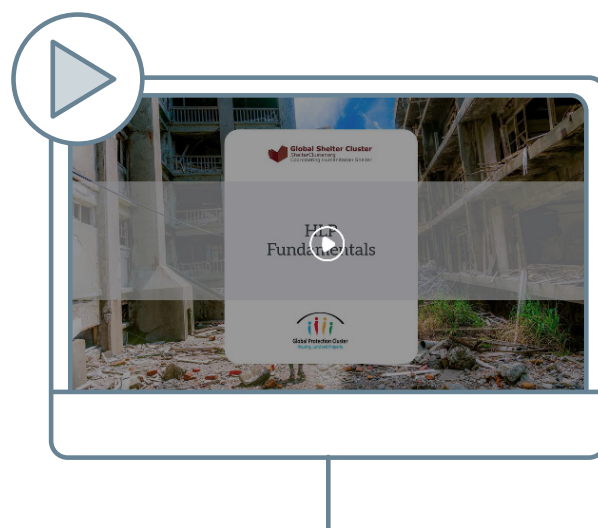
HOUSING, LAND, AND PROPERTY (HLP)

In 2023, the GSC continued its commitment to supporting country clusters on Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) rights through a range of initiatives aimed at capacity-building and technical assistance. The efforts included missions, development of training materials, guidance, and toolkits. Technical assistance was provided via remote as well as in-country support, including deployments to South Sudan, Mozambique, and Yemen.

The GSC started consultations on the HLP-Shelter and Settlements Toolkit, a comprehensive compilation of resources and tools addressing HLP and Shelter & Settlements. This toolkit will be published in 2024 and will serve as a valuable resource for shelter actors, providing assistance in troubleshooting HLP issues at various stages of shelter programming.

The Land Rights and Due Diligence standard underwent a revision and update, with the new guidelines scheduled for consultation and review by the Global Shelter Cluster and HLP Area of Responsibility (AoR) during 2024.

To enhance awareness and understanding of HLP Due Diligence and HLP responses, the GSC introduced four [HLP e-course learning modules](#) on the GSC website. A fifth module, focusing on Protection and Climate Change, is expected to be published in 2024.



GBV

The Shelter Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) analysis, encompassing 17 country clusters, revealed that 51% of respondents assessed their respective country clusters' performance in gender-based violence (GBV) mainstreaming as either 'very strong' or 'strong.' Additionally, a GBV risk mitigation analysis of shelter chapters in the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs) and Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) indicated an upward trend in the integration of GBV risk mitigation by country clusters.

To enhance the integration of GBV risk mitigation in HNOs and HRPs at the country level, the Global Shelter Cluster organized a dedicated session on this topic for country clusters, focusing on findings and recommendations from the 2022 HNO and HRP review, providing country-specific examples, and addressing associated challenges.

The introduction of the Shelter Severity Classification system in 2023 further supported clusters in tailoring shelter responses, particularly in the context of GBV risk mitigation. This involved a thorough analysis of the context, considering factors such as over-crowdedness, levels of privacy, and sectoral vulnerabilities and capacities at the household level.

To raise awareness on the importance of GBV risk mitigation within the humanitarian response context, the GSC collaborated with the CCCM cluster on the 16 Days of Activism against GBV campaign, featuring videos and examples highlighting the many ways GBV risk mitigation is integrated into the clusters' work.

Initial discussions started in 2023 for establishing the [Gender, Diversity, and Inclusion Community of Practice | Shelter Cluster](#), which expands the work of the GSC from GBV towards broader gender-and inclusion-issues and will increase interagency cooperation on this topic.





LOCALIZATION

At the country level, there was a strong increase in the recruitment of national staff for cluster teams in both coordination and information management functions. More clusters are now being co-coordinated by national staff or co-led by national organizations or government bodies, demonstrating a shift towards greater local involvement.

To address language barriers, the GSC collaborated closely with SAG members and partners to enhance capacity-building activities specifically for Francophone countries. This included the development of training and networking opportunities tailored for French-speaking shelter and settlements practitioners, which will be held in February 2024 and setting up a webpage compiling guidance and tools in French. Other languages will follow suit.

Efforts to promote the participation of local actors in Humanitarian Shelter Coordination Trainings have been successful, with 21 national staff participating in the training cycles conducted in May and November 2023. The GSC increased efforts to meaningfully include national staff to pave a way for improved engagement of national actors in humanitarian responses.

Specialized training events, such as the Latin America Coordination Training in February 2023 and the MENA Shelter Forum, provided valuable platforms for building local capacity on cluster coordination. These events, with support from organizations like the Canadian Red Cross, InterAction, Habitat for Humanity and others, facilitated networking and peer-to-peer learning focusing on the theme of localization.

Throughout 2023, the GSC organized webinars covering diverse topics in Information Management, GBV, and greening, reaching country-level actors more effectively and reducing travel. Translation efforts were also prioritized, with several GSC documents now available in French, Spanish, and Arabic, ensuring wider dissemination in regions where English may not be widely spoken or read.

Through monthly calls and in-person missions, the GSC provided country support on coordination and information management topics to 42 clusters or shelter sector coordination groups. Strong linkages for advancing localization have been established through the development of Environmental Country Profiles and Shelter Response Profiles, fostering collaboration between international actors and local entities for increased ownership of recommendations.

GRANTS

BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (BHA)



The GSC implemented two grants from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. The first grant, from October 2020 to April 2024, aims at enhancing shelter and settlements responses to effectively address emergency and transitional humanitarian needs arising from crises. Aligned with the GSC Strategy 2018-2022 and implemented through IFRC and selected GSC partners, the grant builds upon past achievements while contributing to the development of the new GSC strategy.

Originally designed with two main results, a November 2022 award modification expanded the program's scope to include an additional environmental and climate result, along with additional information management activities. This modification extended the implementation period by one year and three months through December 2023, and included a budget increase of USD \$500,000. An additional no-cost timeframe extension until 30 April 2024 was approved in November 2023.

The second grant, from October 2023 to September 2025, aims to advance the GSC capacity and advocacy workstreams, by supporting country clusters to effectively meet their core functions, and increasing coverage of shelter and settlements needs. The grant reflects a commitment to adapt and respond to evolving challenges in the humanitarian landscape, ensuring that the GSC remains a key player in effective crisis response.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION HUMANITARIAN AID OFFICE (ECHO)



Humanitarian Aid
and Civil Protection

In 2023, the GSC successfully concluded the two-year implementation (July 2021-June 2023) of the grant "Mobilizing collective efforts towards a greener and climate-smart humanitarian shelter and settlements response," financially supported by DG ECHO. This funding, complemented by matched contributions from UNHCR, IFRC, and implementing partners, facilitated the execution of activities in a wide range of countries affected by conflicts and disasters.

The grant empowered the GSC to actively engage in global discussions and offer support to country teams in advancing the "greening agenda" within humanitarian shelter and settlements responses. Specifically, it enabled the GSC to enhance its environmental support capabilities in addition and close collaboration with the Environment Community of Practice (ECOP). This augmented capacity significantly broadened the GSC team's ability to assist country clusters in integrating environmental considerations into their activities.

The outcomes of the GSC efforts funded by ECHO are diverse, encompassing the development of tools, guidance, and capacity-building measures for shelter partners through technical assistance and training. Moreover, the grant has facilitated mainstreaming of environmental considerations into emergency responses, as exemplified in the earthquake responses in Türkiye and Northwest Syria. The grant's impact extended beyond the funding period, leaving a lasting imprint on the GSC's ability to contribute to sustainable and environmentally conscious shelter and settlements practices. More information on projects and products funded by this grant is available [here](#).



Global Shelter Cluster
ShelterCluster.org
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

CLUSTER LEAD AGENCIES



SAG MEMBERS



DONOR CONSULTATION GROUP MEMBERS



Humanitarian Aid
and Civil Protection



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

OTHER PARTNERS



BUILD CHANGE
Build Disaster-Resistant Buildings
Change Construction Practice Permanently



**CANADIAN
RED CROSS**



**German
Red Cross**



Save the Children





Global Shelter Cluster
ShelterCluster.org
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

