



Report

Best Practices and Lessons Learned Workshop on Shelter Responses in Flash Flood 2022

Shelter Cluster Bangladesh



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Bangladesh Institute of Administration Management (BIAM) Foundation



Shelter Cluster Bangladesh
ShelterCluster.org
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter



Islamic Relief
Bangladesh



Acknowledgement

The Shelter Cluster Bangladesh works with every shelter practitioner to work together better. The Shelter Cluster is a global mechanism that is supported by many different organizations. In Bangladesh, the Shelter Cluster is chaired by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) and co-chaired by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Shelter Cluster strengthens country-wide preparedness and technical capacity to respond to humanitarian shelter support through improved coordination at the national level.

The Shelter Cluster Bangladesh organized the workshop to bring the best practices and lessons learned on shelter responses in flash flood 2022 by shelter practitioners' experience. We are extending our sincere gratitude to our members; The Shelter Cluster acknowledges that without the active participation of cluster members, the event would be impossible to be organized. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), IFRC and Islamic Relief Bangladesh provided funding for the workshop; without their support, it would not have been possible. The Shelter Cluster, Bangladesh is extremely appreciative of the technical support that Caritas Bangladesh, Concerned Worldwide, the Norwegian Refugee Council, and Islamic Relief Bangladesh provided to organize the workshop.

Ms. Sanzida Yesmin, Senior Assistant Secretary, MoDMR, and Mr. Amit Debnath, Senior Assistant Secretary, MoDMR jointly facilitated the entire workshop. Both of them also provided the required leadership to carry out the workshop. The Shelter Cluster, Bangladesh acknowledges their significant contributions to the workshop. The Shelter Cluster Bangladesh also expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the workshop's organizers, participants and other contributors for making it successful.

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Overview of the workshop

Flash Flood 2022 in Bangladesh

Torrential and unrelenting downpours from the upstream region caused the most severe flooding in living memory in the north-eastern districts of Bangladesh. As reported by the Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC), Cherrapunji, a sub-divisional town in the Northeastern Indian state of Meghalaya, recorded its third-highest rainfall in 122 years on June 16, 2022. This, in turn, led to the catastrophic flash flood event in the northeastern part of Bangladesh. According to FFWC, around 94 percent of Sunamganj and over 84 percent of Sylhet were submerged by this flood. The impact was felt by more than 7.2 million people, with hundreds of thousands of households isolated by floodwaters. Some families sought refuge in open areas, the homes of their neighbors, elevated terrain, or designated flood shelters. The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) of the People's Republic of Bangladesh reported that a combined effort by the Army, Navy, Fire Services, and local authorities resulted in approximately 481,827 people being accommodated in shelters.

The flash flood caused significant damage, affecting 254,251 hectares of cropland and 663,534 head of cattle. Additionally, 106,000 ponds were inundated, and approximately 17,000 metric tons of fish were swept away. The total damage in the agriculture and livestock sector was estimated at US\$ 230.8 million. An estimated 4.2 million people experienced disruptions in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services due to damage to 106,727 water points and 283,355 latrines. The overall damage and loss in the WASH sector were estimated at US\$ 55.7 million. Agriculture, livestock rearing, and fisheries constitute the primary sources of income for the north-eastern population in Bangladesh. The flash flood left around 135,770 houses partially or completely damaged in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, and Netrokona districts.

As per the 'Shelter Damage and Needs Assessment' conducted by the Shelter Cluster, Bangladesh, a majority of the houses in the surveyed areas were severely affected by the flood. People are unable to repair their houses independently and require external support. Therefore, governmental and humanitarian agency assistance is crucial in these affected regions. Among the households with damaged houses, 99 percent of the respondents expressed an inability to financially rebuild their homes without external aid. According to MoDMR, the estimated loss in the housing sector amounts to approximately USD 176 million.

Rationale for the Workshop

The Shelter Cluster, Bangladesh organizes the workshop to compile and consolidate the most effective practices and insights gained from shelter responses during the Flash Flood 2022. These resources are intended to be utilized by the relevant stakeholders in future responses. Specifically, the objectives are to assess the following aspects:

- The appropriateness of shelter responses during the 2022 flash flood and areas where improvements can be made in both emergency and recovery periods.
- To gather recommendations from cluster members and analyze the efforts of cluster coordination, identifying areas that can be enhanced for future responses.

As follows the expected outcomes of the workshop:

- Relevant recommendations will be incorporated into future responses to improve the cluster coordination.
- Identifying and incorporating relevant recommendations on the capacity strengthening and preparedness activities into the cluster plan.

The workshop agenda was developed in consultation with MoDMR. Mr. Kamrul Hasan ndc, Secretary, MoDMR joined the event as Chief Guest, Mr. Ashraful Alam, Director General HBRI as a special guest and the workshop was chaired by Mr. Anjon Chandra Paul, Joint Secretary, MoDMR. After the introduction of all participants, the workshop was inaugurated.

Inauguration

Welcome Remarks

Dr. Kissinger Chakma

Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR)

Dr. Kissinger Chakma extends a warm welcome and heartfelt gratitude to each participant for their presence at the workshop. He also expresses his appreciation towards the workshop and exhibition organizers. He states, "This workshop holds the potential to enhance our capability in implementing shelter activities and responses across various contexts. The workshop will share the learnings from the shelter responses during the 2022 flash flood, strengthening potential future response strategies. This workshop serves as a platform to fortify the disaster management framework's capacity." Dr. Chakma kindly urges all participants to contribute their valuable recommendations to the shelter responses.



Special Guest's Remarks

Mr. Golam Motasim Billah

Country Director (acting), Islamic Relief Bangladesh (IRB).

Mr. Billah starts the speech by appreciating the organizing the workshop by the Shelter Cluster. He expects that the workshop will bring recommendations for the betterment of future response operations. He says, 'Islamic Relief Bangladesh (IRB) started working in Bangladesh in 1991 immediately after a devastating cyclone. IRB began with humanitarian work for vulnerable families affected by the disaster and have since extended the operations to 4 major areas with the aim to build a vibrant, thriving, and resilient Bangladesh. IRB has been providing emergency support in response to disasters as well as implementing development projects including the focus on disaster risk reduction. Ever since, it has strived to support and added to the efforts of the government in every disaster. The role of the clusters as a coordination platform is vital for the humanitarian architecture of Bangladesh, and the fact that we have been able to implement this cluster approach has proven to be successful for us. With the assistance of HBRI, the Shelter Cluster has been successful in developing context-specific shelter designs. IRB has responded by supporting 650 houses in the Flash Flood 2022 affected areas in the emergency period and in the recovery period IRB plans to support 166 houses by adopting HBRI recommended design under the STEP project. We know there are more support required to Flash Flood 2022 areas, however, resources are limited, and needs are unlimited. We should identify, how many people are able to reach and, how appropriate the interventions are being provided. Thanks, everyone.'



Special Guest's Remarks

Mr. Sanjeev Kafley

Head of Delegation, , International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Bangladesh Delegation.

Mr. Kafley initiates his speech by expressing gratitude to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) for their dedicated efforts in disaster management in Bangladesh, which have significantly improved the country's disaster management. He extends his appreciation to the honorable Secretary of MoDMR and the honorable Director General of HBRI for their presence at the event. Furthermore, he acknowledges MoDMR's role in chairing the Shelter Cluster Bangladesh.



Mr. Kafley notes, "Bangladesh stands as one of the nations most vulnerable to climate change, with cyclones, floods, earthquakes, and droughts being central potential disasters. Discussions like these are imperative post-disaster responses, as they chart the course for the collective action. The lessons learned from workshops are pivotal in guiding our reflections. The robust communication established among the Government, humanitarian agencies, and local actors during the Sylhet flood response was commendable. Disseminating information is paramount to alleviate anxiety among the people. Ensuring the proactive sharing of information before the flood season is a crucial preventive measure. Exploring avenues to integrate recovery efforts across different disasters is also essential. Thank you.

Special Guest's Remarks

Mr. Nazmul Abedin

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR)

Mr. Abedin initiates his speech by delving into Bangladesh's disaster situation. He remarks, "Bangladesh has consistently been vulnerable to natural disasters; each year, the country contends with a multitude of natural calamities across its expanse. However, Bangladesh now stands in a robust position to advance despite these challenges. Nevertheless, to enhance responses and mitigate the impact of disasters, domestic research assumes paramount importance."



He continues, "The Shelter Cluster and MoDMR must devise specific strategies for each flood occurrence. There is a crucial need to enhance the resilience of household structures. Lessons learned consistently provide fresh insights and avenues for refining future responses. With the collective presence of all shelter practitioners in the country, their perspectives are bound to shape forthcoming policies."

Special Guest's Remarks

Mr. Ashrafur Alam

Director General, Housing and Building Research Institute (HBRI).

Mr. Alam commences his speech by recounting the establishment history of HBRI: "In 1975, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, established the Housing and Building Research Centre to address the housing crisis among the large population. Subsequently, it evolved into an autonomous organization under the Government of Bangladesh, operating within the Ministry of Housing and Public Works as the Housing and Building Research Institute (HBRI). HBRI is dedicated to providing people with resilient, affordable, and sustainable housing designs."



He elaborates further, "In the face of looming climate change concerns, the adoption of more suitable and environmentally friendly technologies becomes imperative. Traditional clay-fired bricks pose numerous issues and directly impact the environment. They lead to the depletion of topsoil from agricultural lands, contribute to greenhouse emissions, and necessitate substantial amounts of natural coal and gas consumption. The nature of coal requires vast swaths of trees to be cleared, leading to deforestation. In response, HBRI has introduced alternative solid blocks produced by compressing dredged sand from rivers with cement. These materials are not only safer but also stronger than conventional bricks."

"HBRI collaborates with development agencies to research and promote environmentally friendly materials. Recently, in conjunction with Friendship and with the assistance of development agencies, HBRI published Standard Guidelines for Rural Housing in Disaster-Prone Areas of Bangladesh. The objective of these guidelines is to offer direction on constructing higher-quality and resilient shelters. As a pilot initiative, four affordable and protective housing models have been constructed in four Upazilas of the coastal belt: Bagerhat, Satkhira, Assasuni, and Mongla. These models also aim to provide shelter during cyclones. During Cyclone Sitrang in 2022, these models demonstrated their sustainability against high wind speeds, providing shelter to around 40-50 individuals. Efforts are ongoing to enhance the structures for greater resistance."

"HBRI's scope extends beyond flood-related disasters; it has developed guidelines for assessing resilient homes, earthquake risk assessment, and more. During the 2022 Flood, the Shelter Cluster and HBRI collaborated to create Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials. These housing designs will aid marginalized communities in constructing flood-resilient homes. HBRI's expert team engaged with communities and flood-affected individuals to devise these models. Currently, IRB and Cartias are implementing these materials at the community level."

"We commend the organization of the best practices and lessons learned workshop by the Shelter Cluster. It's imperative to disseminate the findings of the workshop to the relevant stakeholders for the initiative's genuine success. HBRI is proud to contribute to the improvement of shelter programming in Bangladesh, alongside humanitarian agencies."

Chief Guest's Remarks

Mr. Kamrul Hasan, ndc

Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR)

Mr. Hasan commences his speech by drawing a connection between the country's history and its experiences with disasters. He highlights how, in 1970, the nation fought for independence while grappling with the aftermath of one of the most severe cyclones to ever strike the country. He remarks, "In 1972, Bangabandhu initiated the process of rehabilitating the displaced and landless. In fact, the first Guccho Gram was established in Char Porgacha, Ramgati Upazila, Lakhshmipur District, Noakhali. This marked the inception of sheltering activities, a path that has remained unbroken since then."



"Similarly, in 1997, when the honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina witnessed the devastating impact of a cyclone on St. Martin's Island, she called upon the nation to unite in alleviating the cyclone's impact on people. A local politician donated land, and thus, the first Ashrayan Project came into being. Since then, 5,700,224 families have received shelter assistance. Bangladesh has achieved a significant milestone by reducing the death toll from disasters from seven digits to a single digit."

"Recent events underscore this achievement. Cyclone Mocha struck the coastal areas of the country with a wind speed of 195 km/h, yet it did not directly cause any deaths. In contrast, a cyclone of similar magnitude in 1970 resulted in around 1,000,000 deaths. This progress is a result of timely preparation and government-led evacuations. To respond to Cyclone Mocha, the government engaged with Union Parishad Chairmen, mobilized trained workforces, identified potential evacuation centers, and utilized available infrastructure as temporary shelters."

"Today's lessons learned workshop pertains to the Flood of 2022, deemed the most devastating in the region. The flooding began before June 12th. On June 20th, a National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) meeting chaired by the Prime Minister was convened, leading to immediate resource mobilization on June 21st. Despite the dire flood situation, the government's response was swift and organized."

Mr. Hasan also emphasizes the need for housing models to align with the culture, context, and environmental characteristics of a region. He adds, "Designing a housing structure appropriate for Satkhira may not suit the Sylhet region. For instance, in Bandarban, the design of tribal homes with open spaces beneath the houses is the typical approach. Furthermore, material selection must be carefully considered."

"In a broader perspective, the government program 'Amar Gram, Amar Shohor' can be explored, integrating housing structures into the wider regional infrastructure. Additionally, it's vital to ensure that housing is constructed in ways and areas that allow people to stay in their homes during subsequent disasters. Repeatedly abandoning homes every year takes an emotional toll." Mr. Hasan concludes his speech with words from Rabindranath Tagore.

বহুদিন মনে ছিল আশা
ধরণীর এক কোণে
রহিব আপন-মনে;
ধন নয়, মান নয়, একটুকু বাসা,
করেছি আশা।

Chairperson's Remarks

Mr. Anjon Chandra Paul

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR)

Mr. Paul commences his speech by expressing gratitude to all the participants for their attendance at the workshop. He elaborates, "Shelter plays a pivotal role in human life, providing not only safety but also dignity. The loss of one's home in any situation constitutes a significant financial and material setback. Bangladesh has successfully achieved the Millennium Development Goal and is committed to attaining the Sustainable Development Goal by 2030. Among these goals, the 17th goal pertains to Partnership, which underscores our commitment to working collaboratively."



"For the holistic development of our nation, it's imperative that we establish a shared objective and collectively progress towards it. Today's workshop serves as a platform for us to unite our efforts in ensuring secure and resilient homes. I am confident that the workshop's discussions will yield recommendations to guide us in our collective advancement. I extend my best wishes for the workshop's success and express my gratitude to the Shelter Cluster Bangladesh for initiating this important endeavor."

Key Notes

Humanitarian Coordination and Collaboration Strategy in Bangladesh

Mr. Kazi Shahidur Rahman

Humanitarian Affairs Specialist, Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, Bangladesh.

Mr. Rahman presented the humanitarian coordination and collaboration strategy in Bangladesh. He highlighted the following areas of his presentation:

- Risk reduction and humanitarian action and principles. Disaster Management Actors and Bangladesh Disaster Management- Structure, Policy and Plan.
- Bangladesh Disaster Management-Structure, Policy and Plan. Humanitarian coordination in Bangladesh. Promote the Area-based DMC Coordination Model for a common collaboration model. Proposal for HCTT review.
- The HCTT Nexus Strategy (2021-2025) Humanitarian-Development Collaboration for Climate-related Disasters in Bangladesh.



Here is the presentation [link](#).

Shelter Responses in Flash Flood 2022

Mr. A K M Zahirul Alam

Coordinator, Shelter Cluster, Bangladesh, IFRC.

Mr. Alam highlighted the shelter responses in Flash Flood 2022 and some basics of the Shelter Cluster, Bangladesh. The key points of the presentation are as follows:

- Overview of the Shelter Cluster, Bangladesh including the core functions
- Damage information caused by Flash Flood 2022
- Government and humanitarian agency's response in Flash Flood 2022
- The Shelter Cluster, Bangladesh coordination efforts

Here is the presentation [link](#).



Mr. Moyen Uddin Ahmmed
Program Manager, Islamic Relief Bangladesh

Islamic Relief will be executing a shelter project aimed at assisting the vulnerable community affected by flash floods in the Chatak and Derai sub-districts of Sunamganj district. This initiative is set to span 19 months, starting from May 1, 2023, and concluding on November 30, 2023. The project, titled "Strengthened Community Resilience and Enhanced Protection in Flash Flood Affected Areas of Bangladesh (STEP)," is generously funded by Islamic Relief Canada. The central objective of the project is to provide lasting shelters to 166 families who bore the impact of the 2022 flash flood.

Within the framework of this project, IRB will undertake the construction of specific shelters meticulously designed by HBRI. The execution of the project will be coordinated by the Shelter Cluster. Mr. Moyen Uddin Ahmmed, in an official announcement, marked the inception of the project. This kickoff serves as an invitation for the Shelter Cluster, Bangladesh to become an integral part of this journey, offering their invaluable support and guidance to ensure the project's success. In conclusion, Mr. Ahmmed extended an invitation for anyone requiring assistance or information concerning this project to reach out to him or IRB.



Key Findings and Recommendations



The workshop collected recommendations from participants by organizing them into three working groups. The facilitator of each group summarized the key aspects of their respective discussions, covering topics such as housing, sustainability, approaches, lessons learned, and future steps.

Group works facilitator : Mr. Iqbal Hossain, Humanitarian Programme Manager, Concern Worldwide.

Group Topics:

Group 1 : Appropriateness of materials used during emergency responses and areas of improvement

Group 2 : Appropriateness of activities in emergencies and recovery period and areas of improvement

Group 3 : Shelter Cluster Coordination effort and area of improvement for future responses

Group 1: Materials used during emergency responses and areas of improvement



Group Facilitator : Mr. Moyen Uddin Ahmmed, Program Manager, IRB.

Group Presenter : Mr. Farid Ahmed Sagar, Deputy Director, Friendship.

Culturally appropriate and locally available materials are essential: Ensure the usage of culturally appropriate and locally sourced materials in the response efforts. A prior consultation with local residents before distributing materials is of utmost importance. Without this consent, the materials might not suit the preferences of the people, and they might never feel at ease with them. The materials should be accessible within the local area. If they are not, the transportation of materials could become costly and time-consuming.

Items should be identified based on needs and capabilities: Conduct a detailed household-level assessment to identify the families' most pressing needs and their ability to independently manage essential resources after a disaster. This assessment should consider a family's unique needs and capabilities since each family differs in terms of requirements and self-sufficiency and giving more consideration to the items being provided.

Promote the use of environmentally friendly local materials: There should be a strong focus on utilizing environmentally friendly local materials, particularly green options like sun-grass, vetiver, gool pata, sun-dried bricks/blocks, etc. Research endeavors should be undertaken to enhance and prolong the lifespan of these materials.

The Shelter Cluster, Bangladesh has developed an [“Environmental Country Profile for Shelter Response”](#) that informs environmentally sustainable shelter programming by making key information about environmental considerations, impacts, concerns, and opportunities relevant to

shelter and settlements programming available and accessible to the Shelter Cluster partners. This profile covers the country-wide context and is intended to provide a quick basic understanding of the country-wide context and the most crucial factors that are relevant for environmentally sustainable shelter related operations. The information in this document can serve as a baseline of environmental issues facing the country of relevance to humanitarian shelter and settlements interventions.

Giving more consideration to the items being provided (or excluded): In the response to the 2022 flood, tents were not provided to the affected families. Typically, floods have a prolonged duration. During this period, many families find refuge on higher ground. Consequently, the inclusion of tents in relief packages could serve as a practical shelter-related support, alleviating the suffering of those affected. Additionally, along with other emergency provisions, floor mats should also be included in the packages.

When distributing tarpaulins, each family should receive two pieces, and the necessary installation items should be included in the packages. Moreover, considering prefabricated frames for the community and incorporating them into the cluster standards as a response option could be beneficial.

As an alternative to Corrugated Galvanized Iron (CGI) sheets, Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) sheets can be used temporarily in areas where CGI sheets are unavailable.



Adhere to HBRI and Cluster recommended guidelines: Establishing the package standard requires careful consideration of family size. Hence, it is imperative to adhere to the cluster guidelines for setting this standard. HBRI has introduced several eco-friendly material innovations, such as RCC pillars, bricks, corrugated ferrocement sheets, which demand increased attention during the design of new shelters.

The [Standard Guideline for Rural Housing in Disaster Prone Areas of Bangladesh](#) by HBRI is the minimum standards for shelter and housing projects in rural Bangladesh. The house designs examples included in these guidelines show how the standards of the guidelines can be realistically and provide a source of inspiration to help housing actors save time on the design phase. The varieties of examples are meant to promote adequate, context-specific technologies, materials and approaches.

Non-Food Items (NFI): In the response to the 2022 flood, it has become evident that the provision of NFI support to affected individuals was insufficient. There should be a heightened focus on supplying suitable NFI items to households and formulating response packages based on the family's priorities, ensuring that these are long-lasting, environmentally sustainable, and of multipurpose use.

Group 2: Activities in emergencies and recovery period and areas of Improvement



Group Facilitator : Mr. Mainul Islam, Head of Programs, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

Group Presenter : Ms. Fahmida Shukria, Head of Programs, Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh.

Emergency and Recovery Response: The context and requirements vary at the household level during both emergency and recovery periods. In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, affected individuals consistently struggle to meet their urgent needs. Therefore, it is recommended that, before extending recovery assistance to households, we ascertain that their immediate emergency needs have been addressed. Additionally, it is essential to establish a connection between the emergency and recovery phases.

Rationale for support: In some cases, the cash and materials provided for recovery were not adequate and appropriate for the beneficiaries. Following a disaster, impacted communities invariably encounter difficulties in restoring normalcy, which can sometimes take an extended period. In cases where cooperation is not fully realized, having loans exacerbates their vulnerability. Thus, at the program's outset, a community-level assessment should be conducted to ascertain the requisite amount of cash needed by the affected individuals for housing construction and to determine their priorities.

Consider Cross-Cutting Perspectives: Make certain that cross-cutting concerns are taken into account throughout the implementation of shelter responses. For instance, include WASH facilities in shelter design, address protection issues in shelter program design, and ensure child safety in shelter designs, among other considerations.

The Minimum Standards for Protection, Gender and Inclusion in emergencies by IFRC provides practical guidance on how to mainstream these four principles in all sectors, based on a consideration of gender, age, disability and other diversity factors. This includes limiting people's exposure to the risks of violence and abuse and ensuring that emergency programs 'do no harm'. The standards address protection, gender and inclusion concerns by providing practical ways to engage with all members of the community, respond to their differing needs and draw on their capacities in the most non-discriminatory and effective way.

Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action by Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) sets out essential actions that humanitarian actors must take in order to effectively identify and respond to the needs and rights of persons with disabilities who are most at risk of being left behind in humanitarian settings.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities highlights the importance of the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life including in situations of risk and emergencies. It is therefore timely to ensure that the post disaster shelter and settlement assistance adequately reflects the specific needs of people with disabilities and older people. All Under One Roof aims to bridge the gap between good intentions and practical implementation by offering technical guidance for disability-inclusive shelter and settlement support in emergencies.



In-Depth Community Consultation: Thorough community consultation is imperative prior to initiating any program. Given that contexts and needs vary according to geographic location and socio-demographic groups, support should be tailored to the community's specific requirements and circumstances.

Including Transportation Costs in Shelter Support: During the 2022 flood, the transportation expenses for materials proved exceedingly high, causing affected individuals to encounter challenges in bringing their aid to their households. NGOs also faced difficulties in addressing this situation within the affected areas. Consequently, it is advisable to incorporate transportation costs into the Non-Food Items (NFIs) packages.

Appropriate technical support to the type of assistance provided: Prior to distributing shelter materials, organize an orientation program within the community. This step will ensure the optimal utilization of materials. To enhance this process, pre-construct model shelters within the communities. This approach will aid community members in comprehending the crucial characteristics of shelters required for disaster protection. While adhering to a standardized structure, houses should allow flexibility for residents to customize key features, such as the

positioning of kitchens or washrooms. Local carpenters play a pivotal role in constructing community-level shelters. Hence, integrating capacity-building training into program activities is essential. This integration will empower the community to sustain the program approach and the shelter model.

Define partially and fully damaged houses: There is a system for classifying damage into 'partially damaged' and 'fully damaged'. Partially damaged are provided with support often for only the damaged parts. e.g., a damaged roof. This is dangerous because partially damaged houses might be 'invisibly' fully damaged. The damaged roof may undermine the structural integrity of the entire house. In such cases to provide the support for partially damaged houses a detail assessment is required before supporting with/distributing any house/shelter related materials.

Instead of the partially-fully-damaged dichotomy, we should adopt the paradigm of 'resilient recovery,' e.g., even if there is no damage, we need to at least raise the plinth of houses in flood prone areas.

No Alternatives to Awareness: Communication channels for awareness messages need to be synchronized. Local people are more likely to listen if local representatives are part of the message dissemination channels.

Activities in Emergency and Recovery: To prevent conflicts, the same shelter design should be consistently used for the same community or area during the construction of full shelters. The design should be established through a consultation process involving the community.

Group 3: Shelter Cluster Coordination effort and area of improvement for future responses



Group Facilitator : Mr. Ratan Kumar Poddar, Adviser, Homes and Community, Caritas Bangladesh.

Group Presenter : Ms. Antara Das Tithi, Senior Officer, Humanitarian, Save the Children Bangladesh.

MoDMR is leading the Shelter Cluster: MoDMR is leading the Shelter Cluster and this collaboration among government and non-government is essential to coordinate the response.

Shelter Damage and Needs Assessment: Following the flood, the Shelter Cluster and its partners conducted a community-level assessment to uncover detailed information regarding [shelter damage and the needs](#) of the affected communities. Such a comprehensive assessment is essential for understanding the true situation within the community after a disaster.

Shelter Standard Guidelines for Emergency and Recovery: The Shelter Cluster has updated the [shelter standard guidelines](#), which now serve as a reference document for agencies when formulating packages for both emergency and recovery periods.

Development of Information Education and Communication (IEC) Materials: HBRI and the Shelter Cluster have collaborated on creating context-specific IEC materials focusing on low-cost flood-resilient shelter models. These materials aim to disseminate housing designs tailored to marginalized populations. The models, which cluster members are implementing at the community level, have garnered positive feedback.



Knowledge Sharing at the Partners' Level: The [Shelter Cluster, Bangladesh](#) consistently shares situation updates with its partners and also arranges periodic meetings to discuss response progress, needs, and gaps.

Best Practices and Lessons Learned Workshop: Lessons learned workshops consistently convene participants to discuss the insights gained from responses and identify areas for improvement. The recommendations generated from this workshop will contribute to enhancing future responses, thereby ensuring improved support for shelter needs.

Coordination: Each organization has its own strategy to work, and understanding is different within the stakeholders. Thus, it is necessary to develop a particular guideline for organizations on how to work as a cluster and how to involve the different stakeholders in the cluster platform.

Updating Information Periodically: The Shelter Cluster is sharing the information based on response; however, many organizations are working throughout the year on shelter program. A report is required on these activities.

Common Database: It is necessary to share who is working where, which organization works with which beneficiaries. For this, we need a common database to know the organizations' working areas and beneficiaries' details. Consequently, the information will be updated systematically.

Contextualization of Government and Cluster Standardization: Government institutions have specific delineated responsibilities. Similarly, non-governmental organizations require a similar list to guide the provision of services and roles, ensuring comprehensive coverage. Additionally, there is a need for a well-contextualized guideline for both cash and in-kind support. Integrating anticipatory actions into shelter support is feasible, such as raising plinths, conducting capacity building, and disseminating awareness messages.

Documentation of Best Practices and Dissemination: Presently, there are gaps in the dissemination of shelter-related lessons, research, and practices. Thus, a platform is necessary for shelter practitioners to exchange and distribute such information.

Closing Remarks

Mr. K M Abdul Wadud

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR)

Mr. Wadud delivers his speech during the concluding segment of the workshop and affirms, "Bangladesh stands as a global exemplar in disaster management. The commendable initiatives undertaken by the nation in this field garner international recognition. Regrettably, while we cannot prevent disasters entirely, we confront diverse challenges each year, resulting in damages. Thanks to the timely measures implemented by the government and adherence to international commitments, the scale of destruction has been significantly curtailed."



"The significance of homes cannot be overstated; they constitute the cornerstone of families' assets. Their loss equates to the forfeiture of a vital and cherished possession. The unprecedented nature of the 2022 flood deviated from past patterns, catching people off guard. However, the government swiftly provided essential aid, thereby alleviating the suffering of the affected populace. Moreover, the collective efforts of global and local organizations, corporate entities, and even individuals have extended a helping hand to those in need."

"I extend my gratitude to all the participants, each of you engaged in shelter-related activities. Your insights hold immense value for us and will undoubtedly enhance our future endeavors. Special thanks to the Shelter Cluster, Bangladesh for orchestrating this invaluable workshop."

Mr. Anjon Chandra Paul

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR)

Mr. Paul, serving as the Chairperson of the Shelter Cluster, Bangladesh, delivers the concluding remarks of the workshop. He articulates, "In our pursuit of crafting policies, we often overlook the wealth of experience at our disposal. While we strive to formulate policies and devise programs based on theoretical insights, they don't always seamlessly align with the practical realities in the field. It is imperative that the knowledge garnered from our hands-on experience finds its way into our policies and programs, ultimately leading to tangible benefits for those affected by disasters and marginalized populations."



"I believe that this workshop has provided us with a deepened understanding of on-ground experiences. This understanding, in turn, will empower us to critically evaluate our existing

programs and collaborations, all of which are geared towards aiding populations struck by disasters. To ensure continuous improvement, we recognize the need for more workshops that facilitate the exchange of real-world experiences and insights. We earnestly welcome your suggestions as we embark on this journey. Your unwavering commitment throughout the day, your insights, opinions, and recommendations, are deeply appreciated. We will diligently compile all the feedback received and make every effort to incorporate them into our endeavors. Once again, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you."

Contributors

Photograph

Mr. Al Shahriar Rupam, Senior Officer- communication, IFRC.

Mr. Mr. Tanmoy John D Costa, Senior Officer, Operations, Caritas Bangladesh.

Report

Ms. Raisa Binte Huda, Intern, IFRC.

Mr. Sayed Ehsanul Haque, Officer, Monitoring and Reporting, IFRC.

Report review

Mr. A K M Zahirul Alam, Coordinator, Shelter Cluster Bangladesh, IFRC.

Md Tauhidul Islam, Manager, Disaster Management, IFRC.

Mr. Robert Dodds, Roving Focal for Shelter Cluster Coordination (Asia Pacific), Australian Red Cross/IFRC.

Ms. Sanzida Yesmin, Senior Assistant Secretary, MoDMR.

For any queries, please drop a mail: coord1.bd@sheltercluster.org;

ANNEX 1: Agenda of the Workshop

Shelter Cluster Bangladesh

Best Practices and Lessons learned workshop: Shelter Response in Flash Flood 2022
and,
Shelter Activities and Building Materials Exhibition

Date : 29 May 2023

Venue : Multipurpose Hall, Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM) Foundation, 63 New Eskaton Road, Dhaka 1000.

Objectives:

- To generate key lessons learned related to shelter response in flash flood 2022 that can be used by stakeholders in future contexts.
- Appropriateness of shelter activities in response of flash flood 2022
- Improvement of shelter response in emergency and recovery period
- Exhibit the shelter activities

Expected deliverables:

- Relevant recommendations will be adopted in future responses.
- Final lessons learned report publish by Shelter Cluster Bangladesh.
- Proposed relevant capacity strengthening and preparedness activities will be incorporated to cluster plan based on the recommendations.

Schedule

Time	Topics	Facilitator/Presenter	Remarks
09:30-10:00	Registration	Self	
10:00-10:15	Introduction	Self	
10:15-10:20	Welcome speech	Dr. Kisinger Chakma Deputy Secretary Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR)	
10:20-10:30	How humanitarian coordination works in disaster responses	Mr. Kazi Shahidur Rahman Humanitarian Affairs Specialist, UNRC Office.	
10:30-10:40	Shelter response in flash flood 2022	Mr. A K M Zahirul Alam Shelter Cluster Coordinator IFRC.	
	Islamic Relief Bangladesh's shelter launching program briefing	Mr. Moya Uddin Program Manager Islamic Relief Bangladesh (IRB)	
10:40-10:45	Speech by Special Guest	Mr. Golam Motasim Billah Country Director (Acting), IRB.	
10:45-10:50	Speech by Special guest	Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Kafley Head of Country Delegation, IFRC.	
10:50-10:55	Speech by Special Guest	Mr. Ashraful Alam Director General, Housing and Building Research Institute (HBRI).	
11:55-11:05	Inauguration and speech by Chief Guest	Mr. Kamrul Hasan, ndc Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR).	

11:05-11:10	Speech by Chairperson	Mr. Anjon Chandra Paul Joint Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR).	
11:10-11:20	Group work objectives and guidance	Mr. Iqbal Hossain Humanitarian Programme Manager Concern WorldWide	
11:20-11:30	Opening of Shelter activities exhibition	Mr. Kamrul Hasan, ndc Secretary, MoDMR, Mr. Ashraful Alam DG, HBRI.	
11:30-11:45	Tea break		
11:45-12:30	Group work	Group Facilitators: Mr. Ratan Kumar Poddar Adviser (Homes and Community) Caritas Bangladesh. Mr. Mainul Islam Head of Programs Norwegian Refugee Council. Mr. Moyen Uddin Ahmmed Programme Manager Islamic Relief Bangladesh.	
12:30-01:00	Group work presentation and discussion	Group members	
01:00-01:20	Closing remarks	Mr. Anjon Chandra Paul Joint Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR).	
01:20-02:00	Lunch and prayer break		
02:00-03:00	Shelter exhibition visits by participants	Participants	

Annex 2: Participants

Sl	Name	Designation	Agency
1.	Mr. Kamrul Hasan ndc	Secretary	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
2.	Mr. K M Abdul Wadud	Additional Secretary	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
3.	Mr. Anjon Chandra Paul	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
4.	Mr. Asif Ahasan	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
5.	Mr. Mohammad Nazrul Abedin	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
6.	Dr. Kisinger Chakma	Deputy Secretary	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
7.	Ms. Sanzida Yesmin	Senior Assistant Secretary	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
8.	Mr. Amit Debnath	Senior Assistant Secretary	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
9.	Mr. Ashraful Alam	Director General	Housing and Building Research Institute
10.	Mr. Ibnul Warrah	Research Engineer	Housing and Building Research Institute
11.	Mr. Ismail Hossain	Assistant Architect	Housing and Building Research Institute
12.	Mr. Muktediv Abedin	Asst. Architect	Housing and Building Research Institute
13.	Mr. Prasanta Kumar Roy	Librarian	Housing and Building Research Institute
14.	Mr. Nafizur Rahman	Principal Research Officer	Housing and Building Research Institute
15.	Ms. Farhan Khandoker	Research Officer	Housing and Building Research Institute
16.	Ms. Marium Hossain Nurpur	Research Officer	Housing and Building Research Institute
17.	Mr. Areful Islam	Research Engineer	Housing and Building Research Institute
18.	Mr. Wahab Ali	Research Officer	Housing and Building Research Institute
19.	Mr. Jahid Shahshuji	Research Officer	Housing and Building Research Institute
20.	Mr. Monjur Parvez	Research Architect	Housing and Building Research Institute
21.	Ms. Nahid Ferdous Drsity	Research Architect	Housing and Building Research Institute
22.	Mr. Parvez Khadem	Principal Research Engineer	Housing and Building Research Institute
23.	Mr. Riajul Halim		Housing and Building Research Institute
24.	Mr. Golam Motasim Billah	Country Director (acting)	Islamic Relief Bangladesh
25.	Mr. Subir Kumar Saha	Coordinator	Gana Unnayan Kendra

26.	Mr. Sanjeev Kafley	Head of Country Delegation, Bangladesh	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
27.	Mr. Mainul Islam	Head of Programme	Norwegian Refugee Council
28.	Mr. Victor Boidya	Program Officer	Adventist Development and Relief Agency Bangladesh
29.	Mr. Kazi Shahidur Rahman	Humanitarian Affairs Specialist	United Nations Resident Coordinator Office
30.	Mr. Khademul Rashed	Senior Program officer	Islamic Relief Bangladesh
31.	Mr. Safiul Azam	Coordinator	Islamic Relief Bangladesh
32.	Mr. Jakir Hossain	Technical Coordinator	Islamic Relief Bangladesh
33.	Mr. Shakil Mridha	Programme Coordinator	SONNE International Austria
34.	Mr. Ratan Kumar Poddar	Adviser, Homes and Community	Cartas Bangladesh
35.	Mr. Moyen Uddin Ahmmed	Program Manager	Islamic Relief Bangladesh
36.	Ms. Sadika Yeasmin	Deputy Director	Integrated Development Forum
37.	Ms. Tahmina Tamanna	Shelter Specialist, a.i.	UNDP
38.	Mr. Forhad Hossain	Senior Program Manager	BRAC
39.	Ms. Juliet Rossette	Urban Program Policy Manager	Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh
40.	Mr. Moloy S. Mrong	Sr. Project Coordinator	Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh
41.	Ms. Antara Das Tithi	Sr. Officer- Humanitarian	Save the Children Bangladesh
42.	Mr. Isaac Rana Bonic	Program Manager	Heed Bangladesh
43.	Mr. Nahid Hasan	Assistant Manager	Association for Mass Advancement Network
44.	Ms. Tasnima Mukit	Program Officer	Center for Natural Resource Studies
45.	Mr. Hasan	DCAF	Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh
46.	Mr. Bidhan	OA	Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh
47.	Mr. Rubayet Mahmud	Communication Officer	Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh
48.	Mr. A Kawser Dipu	Emergency Response Specialist	Independent Consultant
49.	Mr. Farid Ahmed Sagar	General Manager	Friendship
50.	Mr. Asim Mankin	Program Officer	Caritas Bangladesh
51.	Mr. Daniel Dhritu Snal	Program Officer- DM	Caritas Bangladesh
52.	Ms. Yasha Mannan	Program Officer	Caritas Bangladesh
53.	Mr. Mottasim Billah	Technical Adviser H & C	Catholic Relief Services
54.	Mr. Abdullah Al Mamun	Programme Manager (Shelter & Settlements)	Catholic Relief Services
55.	Ms. Muad Abaa	Coordinator, GiHA Working Group	UNWOMEN
56.	Mr. Luke Chakma	Program Officer- DM	Caritas Bangladesh
57.	Mr. Tanmoy John D Costa	Program Officer- Operations	Caritas Bangladesh

58.	Ms. Silvy Rahman	Project Officer, CC & DRR Sector	Caritas Bangladesh
59.	Mr. Al Shahriar Rupam	Sr, Communications Officer	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
60.	Mr. Fahim Hasan Rakib	Intern	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
61.	Ms. Raisa Binte Huda	Intern	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
62.	Mr. Sayed Ehsanul Haque	Monitoring and Reporting Officer	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
63.	Mr. Mehedi Hasan Shishir	Manager, Livelihood and Cash	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
64.	Mr. Jatin Murmu	Jr. Program Officer	Caritas Bangladesh
65.	Ms. Irin Murmu	In charge, Homes and Community	Caritas Bangladesh
66.	Mr. Syed Shabab	Coordinator, Displacement Management Cluster	International Organization for Migration
67.	Mr. Iqbal Hossain	Humanitarian Program Adviser	Concern WorldWide
68.	Mr. Saiful Islam		Islamic Relief Bangladesh
69.	Mr. Abdullah Al Mehedi	Deputy Manager-Programs	Association for Mass Advancement Network
70.	Ms. Chhanda Rani	Project Support Officer	Christian Aid
71.	Mr. Sharif Al Kamal	Sr. Program Manager	Friendship
72.	Mr. Qudrati Rahmatullah		World Vision
73.	Mr. Ruhul Amin	Coordinator	UNICEF
74.	Mr. Khandoker Lutfor Rahman	Director	Polly Akota Unnayan Sangstha
75.	Mr. Arpon Das	Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteer	Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
76.	Mr. Raihan Rahman	Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteer	Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
77.	Ms. Maliha Binte Motin	Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteer	Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
78.	Ms. Sadia Akter	Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteer	Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
79.	Mr. A K M Zahirul Alam	Coordinator, Shelter Cluster Bangladesh	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Annex 3: Next steps of the Shelter Cluster Bangladesh based on the workshop recommendations

- The Shelter Cluster, Bangladesh is revising its Terms of Reference (Tor). Once the ToR has been finalized, The Shelter Cluster will develop a guideline for organizations on how the shelter cluster works and how involves different stakeholders. The document will be in English and Bangla.
- Contextualized shelter standards: The Shelter Cluster has been working to conduct the Pre-crisis data collection and assessment. This assessment will reveal the hazard-specific shelter needs of affected people as well as diversified groups. Based on the assessment the Shelter Cluster will update the Shelter Guideline and provide the standard packages.
- A platform for dissemination/exchange of shelter-related lessons, research, and practices: The Shelter Cluster is the platform for all shelter practitioners for sharing lessons, best practices, and research. Any shelter practitioners are always welcome on this platform. However, if any organization or forum comes to arrange shelter events for sharing the best practices, lessons, research work, shelter innovations, etc. the Shelter Cluster will provide technical support.
- Annual/Periodic report: The Shelter Cluster has already initiated publishing the annual shelter activities report of members. It is expected that the report will be published in December 2023. The Shelter Cluster has published its quarterly [factsheet of June 2023](#), the factsheet covers the period between January to June 2023.
- Define partially and fully damaged houses: The Shelter Cluster is looking to develop glossaries in the Bangladesh context which are relevant to the Bangladesh context. To accomplish this work The Shelter Cluster will develop a Technical Working Group (TWG) among the partners.
- Capacity Building Initiatives: The Shelter Cluster has a plan to conduct the Contextualized Shelter Coordination Training. However, it depends on the availability of funding.

Note: The Shelter Cluster is a coordination platform and doing all the activities collectively by getting partner's support. The Cluster cannot do anything without the involvement of its partners.