

Terms of Reference

Technical Sub-Community of Practice

Construction Good Practice, Build Back Better & Permanent and Durable Shelter/Housing

October 2025 – V2

I. BACKGROUND

The **Global Shelter Cluster (GSC) Technical Community of Practice (TCoP)** serves as a platform for sharing and exchanging information, knowledge, and expertise on technical issues related to humanitarian shelter and settlements programs among shelter cluster partners at both global and field levels. The GSC TCoP allows for discussions and initiatives related to themes, including **Construction Good Practice, Build Back Better & Permanent and Durable Shelter/Housing (CGP-BBB-PDSH)**, which is the subject of these Terms of Reference (ToR).

It is a voluntary group of individuals with expertise and interest in technical aspects of shelter and settlements programming related to **Construction Good Practice, Build Back Better & Permanent and Durable Shelter/Housing**, which addresses topics such construction durability, resilience, inclusion, DRR, quality, project management, local context appropriateness, implementation efficiency and output effectiveness to name a few.

It is open to all interested individuals, regardless of agency or organization affiliation. The group's value depends on the active participation of its members, who may have some experience performing in a role or subject area of the TCoP, such as architects, engineers, planners, field officers, researchers, affected communities and are committed to discuss, collaborate, learn, and advance **Construction Good Practice, Build Back Better & Permanent and Durable Shelter/Housing thematic** to identify lessons learned, innovations, standards, reviewed and vetted documentation/resources .

II. OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

The **Construction Good Practice, Build Back Better & Permanent and Durable Shelter/Housing Technical Sub-Community of Practice (CGP-BBB-PDSH T.S-CoP)** provides a collaborative platform for exchanging knowledge, resources, technical support and identify innovations to enhance the collective knowledge and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of construction-related shelter and settlement programs. It connects individuals and agencies to share experiences and collaborate on initiatives that promote durable, resilient, safe, cost-effective, and contextually appropriate shelter and settlements construction-related solutions, ensuring humanitarian responses are both effective and impactful. Its objectives include:

1. **Facilitate collaboration and knowledge-sharing among shelter practitioners** by building a global network, convening regular member-informed technical discussions, and supporting the co-development of improved construction practices.
2. **Support knowledge management** by capturing and sharing lessons learned, project experiences, practical tools and innovations that improve shelter and settlement operations and construction-related outcomes.
3. **Support the development of a shared resource library and improve/ensure accessibility** to vetted/approved construction-related guidance documents, technical standards, contextualized methodologies and other key materials.
4. **Facilitate shared learning** among shelter cluster members through regular exchange of construction-related experiences, evidence, and technical insight.
5. **Identify common challenges** in construction quality, resilience, inclusion, shelter activities implementation and effectiveness.
6. **Support validation, and dissemination of best practices and standards** that support safer, more resilient, and more inclusive shelter construction and operations, aligned with the 'build back better' agenda.

III. STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The voluntary chair and co-chairs will coordinate and moderate the **Construction Good Practice, Build Back Better & Permanent and Durable Shelter/Housing Technical Sub-Community of Practice (CGP-BBB-PDSH T.S-CoP)** thematic. All individuals interested in **CGP-BBB-PDSH** technical issues are invited to join as members of the Sub-CoP and encouraged to contribute actively.

Responsibilities of the chair:

- Act as the focal point for communication with the GSC Technical CoP moderator
- Inform the GSC T.CoP moderator to seek approval for selected resources before publication on the [Technical Toolkit](#) webpage
- Organize and schedule meetings with the co-chairs
- Facilitate networking and thematic information sharing
- Ensure the creation of event announcements or news communication on the [Technical Community of Practice](#) webpage
- Fulfill all responsibilities assigned to the co-chairs

Responsibilities of the co-chairs:

- Collect, review, and approve resources
- Define sub-topics within the thematic area
- Organize or co-organize meetings and webinars for the broader theme community (recurrence to be defined in the work plan)
- Dedicate approximately 1 hour per week, 4 hours monthly, depending on the needs
- Contribute to sub-group thematic webinar presentations
- Share experiences and tools

Thematic	Co-Chair	Affiliation	Specialization	Contact
CGP	Liz Palmer (chair)	Save the Children	Construction management	liz.palmer@savethechildren.org
CGP	Shane Copp	Independent	Structural Engineering	shane_copp@yahoo.ca
CGP	Richard Dewhurst	Loughborough University	Construction Project Management	r.dewhurst@lboro.ac.uk
CGP	Chiara Vaccaro	Independent	Shelter and Settlements Expert	jasna.vaccaro@gmail.com
BBB	Olivier Moles	Craterre	Post disaster / Resilient Construction	o.moles@craterre.org
BBB	Pierre Paya	Build Change	Project Manager	Pierre@buildchange.org
BBB	Suyog Giri	Crouch Waterfall and Partners	Structural Engineer	suyoggiri316@gmail.com
BBB	Matthew	AECOM	Structural Engineer	matthew.penellum@aecom.com
PDSH	Mathieu Gamba (chair)	Independent	Shelter / housing Programming and coordination	Gambamathieu@gmail.com
PDSH	Sebastian Kaminski	ARUP	Structural and seismic engineering	sebastian.kaminski@arup.com
PDSH	Alberto Preato	Archimedia Trust - IIHA	Director (AMT) - Research Fellow (IIHA)	alberto.preato@gmail.com
PDSH	Phyllis Tsang	Every Shelter	Shelter Programming & Housing Development (Design & Construction)	phyllis@everyshelter.org
CGP-BBB-PDSH	Pascal Panosetti	IFRC / GSC	Construction Management and technical coordination	pascal.panosetti@ifrc.org

IV. MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

Active participation is encouraged from individuals who represent agencies and independents who are engaged in or interested in the technical aspects of these thematic.

To join the TCoP, you should do the following:

1. Create a GSC account on www.sheltercluster.org
2. Click 'Follow' on the left-hand side of the [Technical Community of Practice webpage](#)
3. You will now be able to create and reply to discussions within the TCoP and receive updates from the TCoP and invitations to TCoP events.

Option: *You can also register without an account; however, we strongly recommend that you create one to also receive discussion threads, which only work with GSC accounts.*

4. Click 'Subscribe without an account' on the left-hand side of the [Technical Community of Practice webpage](#).

Any registered member can initiate conversation threads pending approval by the moderator(s). Anyone who can contribute to and/or benefit from the , **Construction Good Practice, Build Back Better (CGP / BBB) & Permanent and Durable Shelter/Housing** sub-group and comply with humanitarian principles is welcome to participate. This may include representatives from:

- International and Local NGOs or community groups
- Private sector (e.g., eco-material suppliers, technical innovators, etc.)
- Academia (research partnerships)
- Donors
- Individual humanitarian workers / consultants

V. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

Monthly meetings with the Technical Sub-CoP committee's members of the **Construction Good Practice, Build Back Better (CGP / BBB) & Permanent and Durable Shelter/Housing** to brainstorm, define topics to propose to the broader community and prepare and conduct the regular quarterly general meetings.

Regular quarterly general meetings/webinars with the broader **Construction Good Practice, Build Back Better (CGP / BBB) & Permanent and Durable Shelter/Housing** Technical CoP members are proposed to share and exchange information and experiences. Based on membership interest and engagement, other activities and events, such as webinars, working groups, etc. would be scheduled as needed.

Technical CoP quarterly meetings with the other Technical CoP thematic sub-group co-chairs, organized by the GSC Technical CoP moderator, held to exchange updates on progress, workplans, sub-topics that may interconnect with other themes, and other relevant information.

VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATIONS

All sub-group meetings / webinars recordings and meetings notes are and available on the [GSC Technical Community of Practice webpage](#), and classified on the left menu under "Meetings"; [Construction Good Practices / Build Back Better / Durable Permanent Shelter & Housing T.Sub-CoP](#).

All technical documents related to the thematic discussions within the Technical CoP are published on the [Technical Toolkit](#) webpage, and concerning the [Construction Good Practices / Build Back Better \(BBB\) / Permanent Durable Shelter & Housing Resources](#) on the left menu section.

VII. ANNEXES

- Yearly Workplan (to be developed)