

Global Shelter Cluster Meeting

1st NFI Working Group of 2021

Energy and Environment Linkages and Environmental Sustainability

The Global Shelter Cluster NFI Working Group held its first meeting on the 19th of January 2021. The meeting brought together 39 practitioners from agencies and country-level Shelter Clusters. The chair introduced the topic of the meeting and mentioned that her co-chair from IFRC is currently on a contract break, and that [Pablo Medina](#) had graciously volunteered to cover for her during the absence. The chair recapped the purpose of Global Shelter Cluster working groups as task-oriented and time-bound working on items that benefit the practitioners that are implementing at country-level. The NFI Working Group had largely focused its work on the development of a training curriculum, and the request was made for country-level clusters to make more contextual guidance. Therefore, meetings were largely organized around topics from the proposed training curriculum with country-clusters and practitioners presenting their lessons learned on the topic. Today's speakers were a result of discussions that arose during the Global Shelter Cluster meeting and during meetings held in 2020. The relevant actions point decided in this meeting include the following:

Action Point	By Whom	By When
Partners can subscribe to the GSC NFI WG for updates on the activities of the Working Group	Partners by clicking subscribe on the NFI WG Page	No deadline but to get all updates, don't forget to subscribe!
Take feedback on 2021 priorities and solidify their prioritization in a Survey	NFI WG Chairs	January 29
Partners to reply to Survey on Priorities for WG plan	Partners	February 10
Partners wanting support on energy issues or to share practices to reach out to Aimme Jenks from GPA/UNITAR	Partners	Ongoing
Review the energy indicators shared by IOM by putting your name and organization in a comment section or reaching out to Project Lead Adam Ostaszewski	Partners	As soon as you are able
UNHCR and FCDO to exchange about details on testing on fire retardant plastic sheeting.	UNHCR and FCDO	
UNHCR to share with NFI WG ToR for PM for Innovation Norway Project to be circulated to NFI WG members	UNHCR	NFI WG will then publish it on website and circulate to relevant networks
Partners and Country-level Shelter Cluster teams to consider sharing NFI specifications with GSC Environmental Community of Practice	Partners and Shelter Cluster teams	Ongoing basis
Global Shelter Cluster paper on Energy linkages with Shelter and Settlement Programming: Partners to contact NFI WG Chairs about participating in the finalisation of this paper	Partners and NFI WG chairs	ASAP

Recap of 2020 Activities

COVID19 and the deployment of the two co-chairs to respective emergency situations interrupted many of the original plans for the working group during the 2nd quarter of 2020. Nevertheless, activities from partners continued, and the working group was particularly busy during the 3rd quarter. A recap of the activities was presented in a simple timeline:

Date	Activity
21 January 2020	GSC NFI WG Chairs Launch Survey on Priorities for NFI Training Curriculum
30 January 2020	GSC NFI WG: Assessment and Data Collection in hard to access areas
01 February 2020	GSC NFI WG IFRC Chair mission to Mozambique
08 March 2020	GSC NFI WG UNHCR Chair Mission to Gaziantep, Turkey
12 March 2020	COVID19 causes disruption to original working plan
03 June 2020	Discussions with Global Shelter Cluster Coordinators on research relevant to NFI WG with Hanken University
06 August 2020	NFI WG Session on Fuel for Cooking and Winterization
10 August 2020	IOM works on compendium of IEC materials
01 September 2020	IOM publishes its work on Good Distributions on Disaster Ready
06 October 2020	GSC NFI WG Meeting on Modalities for NFI Distribution
26 October 2020	GSC Environmental Community of Practice during GSC NFI meeting asks for great involvement of NFI WG in energy
28 October 2020	GSC NFI WG updates through websites on NFI-related activities of country-level Clusters
09 December 2020	Useful links on energy added to the GSC NFI WG page
18 December 2020	December updates on activities of country-level Shelter Clusters

Partners were reminded that there are many new ways of communicating to partners about resources from country-level Shelter Clusters and from partners. Please [subscribe to the GSC NFI WG](#).

2021 Planning

As 2021, was a new year, the Chair invited partners to answer a question in order to start planning for the year ahead. Participants responded on Mentimeter

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 4418954

Based on trends observed in the field, what would you say are the priority areas of work for the GSC NFI WG in 2021?



Press 5 to hide image

Responses included the following:

1. Localization: Local and contextualized capacity building, community-based approach
2. Recommendations/Guidelines on Standards of Minimum Quality of NFIs; Distribution Guidance
3. Defining new packages of NFIs that consider new trends (COVID19 for example) (innovation, local materials, cost, environmental impact)
4. Environmental impact of NFIs and looking into the question of reuse/recycling
5. Needs assessments for NFIs and measuring and monitoring effectiveness of NFIs; linking data collection and analysis to decision-making
6. Fire risks around plastic sheeting
7. Use of cash and vouchers

Participants explained some of their choices behind their responses.

FCDO mentioned that they have been working on a Specification Deviation Tracker to work on this issue of standards. They would see if this tool could be shared with the NFI Working Group. Another issue for **FCDO** is the frequent observation of fires that have broken out in settlements and therefore there was a need to look at NFIs and particularly plastic sheeting as an accelerator of this risk. **FCDO** has conducted a study comparing the performance of different plastic sheeting. This report is available only upon request, so please contact [Phil Duloy](#) if you are interested.

Humanitarian Logistics of Hanken University mentioned that they had thought that this need to invest strongly in capacity building at the local level is a current pertinent trend particularly on the logistics side. Due to COVID19, increased obstacles in the area of distributions, supplying materials were observed. This in turn reinforced the need to procure locally while ensuring that local materials met the necessary specifications and standards for the response.

UNHCR mentioned that they were working with **IFRC** and **ICRC** on a project on testing fire-retardant plastic sheeting to develop more resistant materials. Minimum standards for the response are therefore a critical piece of work for the NFI Working Group to establish. This requires looking at not only the NFIs but where it falls in relation to the shelter response and the settlement in which it is found. For this reason, **UNHCR** has also been looking into the concept of Life Cycle Sustainability Analysis, reflective of the fact that materials chosen for the shelter response should not only perform to minimum standards but also must have environmental considerations to be sustainable in that context. It is hoped by February that the agency's work of 18 case studies will be published on this topic for the shelter response.

FCDO mentioned that they are considering a similar project and suggested that **UNHCR** and **FCDO** should discuss the plastic sheeting project.

The Chair of the **Shelter Cluster's Environmental Community of Practice** mentioned that **USAID** was looking at the content of packaging and how that is disposed in humanitarian environments. A link was provided by the **UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit** after the meeting:

<https://www.eecentre.org/2019/07/15/https-www-eecentre-org-2019-07-15-sustainable-humanitarian-packaging-waste-management/>

The Chair of the NFI Working Group noted other topics that were mentioned such as cash that could be done in synergies with other communities of practice of the Global Shelter Cluster.

As a follow up to this discussion, the chair would review the submissions and start to work on the draft of the work plan for the NFI Working Group. This could also come in the form of a survey in preparation for the future meetings to further elaborate on the themes raised.

Global Plan of Action (GPA) for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement

Based on the [open session at the Global Shelter Cluster Meeting on energy linkages with local actors](#), **UNITAR** as host of the GPA took a great deal of interest in the work of the Global Shelter Cluster's NFI Working Group in 2020 and wanted to connect with country-level Shelter Clusters on this theme. The Plan of Action's scope is quite broad and touches on areas including humanitarian facilities management, cooking applications, and all forms of energy; however, the major emphasis has been on electricity. A [webinar series](#) touches on some of the field case studies that they have collected.

In order to reach out for support or to exchange on specific instances, please contact Aimee Jenks at aimee.jenks@unitar.org. A [self-paced training on humanitarian energy access](#) is also available on the website of the Plan of Action and may be of interest to GSC NFI WG's partners.

Energy Evidence-base and inclusion of Energy in Displacement Settings

NORCAP has deployed several colleagues to **IOM** to work on the evidence base for energy in displacement settings. As part of IOM's Data Tracking Matrix, the colleagues are attempting to establish the indicators that are required to monitor and identify needs for energy. The energy indicators relevant for Shelter Cluster partners are grouped into several categories: electricity, cooking, heating/cooling, and transport. The [energy indicators they have compiled are available through a google spreadsheet](#).

The IOM Energy Needs Assessment Framework

Fuel Sources	Fossil fuels (diesel, kerosene, etc.) Renewable sources (solar, wind, etc.)	
Services	Electricity	Cooking Heating / Cooling Transport
End Users	Household Community Facility Institutional (IOM) Facility Enterprise	
Objectives	The objectives of the Framework are to support and operationalise IOM's commitment to assess energy needs in displacement settings. Collecting energy needs data in a harmonised and standardised way enables: - to track the progress towards SDG7 for displaced people; - for host governments to better understand the energy use of displaced people and to incorporate these needs into national energy access planning and targets; - for humanitarian agencies and partners to more effectively plan, resource and align their energy programmes; - inter-agency comparison of datasets and analyses; - to inform programme and project design (facilitate a better-tailored design of energy interventions); - to inform evidence-based fundraising as well as to support humanitarian needs overviews, humanitarian response plans and any other relevant appeals; - to ease the process of data sharing among organisations and institutions, leading to collaboration on joint project development.	
Global-level Framework	Phase I: Information used to provide a snapshot of energy access, track changes over time and prioritize displacement settings with the biggest (sustainable) energy access gaps Methods: Secondary data review + Key Informants Interviews & Direct Observations by Enumerators	
Project-level Framework	Phase II: Information used to support project and programmes development, engage private sector, and unlock financing opportunities Methods: Secondary data review + interviews with key informants (community and institutional facilities levels) and individuals (household interviews) & Direct Observations by Enumerators	
Key Indicators	⇒ Selection of standardized and harmonized energy indicators Sources: UNHCR, GPA, MTF, UN SDG7, etc.	

UNITAR shared that they have developed a dashboard of current stakeholders working in country, national energy regulation policies, etc. The [dashboard is available here and is a work in progress](#). Feedback can be provided on the dashboard. In order to provide feedback to the dashboard, please contact [Sadiq Zafrullah](#).

The **Iraq Shelter Cluster Coordinator** shared that the issue of indicators and monitoring of impact of energy on the displaced is quite relevant for their overall Shelter Strategy implementation in country. However, the challenge was on the issue of standards. She queried whether **Sphere** or the **Global Shelter Cluster** could define these standards for energy. **UNITAR** replied that they had had several conversations with **Sphere** about including energy indicators and minimum standards in the next revision of **Sphere** or alternatively to create compatible guidance for measuring energy in displacement settings.

The **Yemen Shelter Cluster Coordinator** inquired about the inclusion of winterization programming and indicators as this was a critical aspect of many programs in the Middle East and Europe. These types of programming go beyond immediate distribution of energy products or even of installing energy infrastructure. This stems from the shelter type and the type of insulation in the shelters which displaced people are taking shelter. Do the indicators consider insulation? **IOM/NORCAP** colleagues requested to review the indicators under the heating/cooling component of the existing matrix in order to see if that was consistent with guidelines created for winterization by country-level Shelter Clusters. The Iraq Shelter Cluster Coordinator complemented the contribution from the Yemen Shelter Cluster Coordinator and shared a link to the **World Health Organization's [Housing and Health Guidelines](#)**.

The Shelter Sector Coordinator for Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh inquired if the [indicator compilation](#) would come up with some minimum standards in the area of lighting or electricity. **IOM/NORCAP** and **UNITAR** colleagues shared several resources with the group:

- 1) **World Bank Group** Initiative on [Lighting Global](#): has produced [a technical note for humanitarian aid organisations](#) on procurement of off-grid energy products.
- 2) **World Bank** [Energy Sector Management Assistance Program \(ESMAP\)](#) has produced a [Conceptualization Report Beyond Connections Energy Access Redefined](#) which establishes some standards and criteria for energy needs.

IOM/NORCAP would welcome feedback on the indicators shared with the group. So please contact [Adam Ostaszewski](#) and [Anais Matthey-Junod](#).

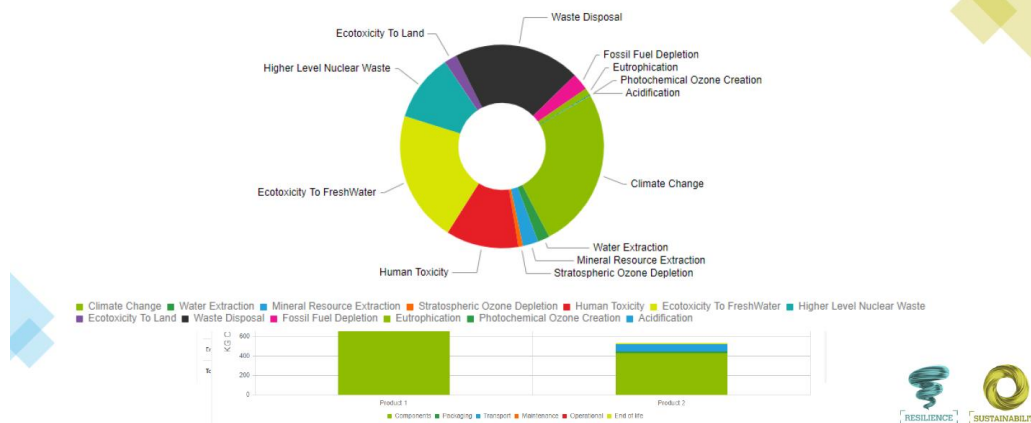
Life Cycle Analysis – BRE TRUST and Environmental Community of Practice of Global Shelter Cluster

BRE Trust had presented on the concept of Life Cycle Analysis at the Global Shelter Cluster meeting. For more information on that meeting, [please visit the event page on the Shelter Cluster web page](#).

BRE Trust presented their [LIST tool and explained their goal of developing a life cycle analysis tool for the shelter sector](#). Partners asked if the tool was available to experiment with, and it was clarified that there are some tools on this web page to try for free and some with paid access; however there are not yet any tools that are created for humanitarian programming.



Percentage Ecopoints awarded per environmental indicator



HUMLOG shared that there is an interesting publication done by [Aalto University School of Arts, Design, and Architecture on Carbon foot printing in humanitarian construction](#) that has 10 case studies.

The Chair of the Global Shelter Cluster's Environmental Community of Practice suggested that it may be useful to look at the impact of NFIs as these are a major aspect of distributions within settlements. In order to do this, it would be good to collect specifications from country-level Shelter Clusters and from implementing agencies, to better be able to define the carbon elements of NFIs.

UNHCR mentioned that it had just received a grant from Innovation Norway to review packaging of NFI items. This would be in cooperation with **WFP** who would investigate packaging for food distributions and **ICRC**. UNHCR said that it was working on recruiting a dedicated project manager for this role and they would ask the NFI WG partners to distribute it through their networks.

Partners suggested to not only look at the materials for the distributions but also the modalities and methods of distributions. Cash and Vouchers for example could be explored. The **Chair of the Environmental Community of Practice** mentioned that this issue had been studied in a work done by the London School of Economics with the Joint OCHA-UNEP Environment Unit and the Shelter Cluster in 2018. This report was called [Cash Transfer Programming: Looking through an Environmental Lens and Implications](#).