



Global Shelter Cluster
ShelterCluster.org
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks 2021
Thursday 28 April 2021

The background image shows a makeshift shelter in a dry, arid landscape. The shelter has a thatched roof and is partially covered with colorful, patterned fabric. In the foreground, there are green cacti and dry branches. The text "Towards a greener and climate smart humanitarian response" is overlaid in a red box.

**Towards a greener and climate
smart humanitarian response**

WELCOME

by

Ela
Serdaroglu,

GSC co-lead
IFRC

Karabo Ntisane, 18, stands in front of her home in Mafateng district, Lesotho. After her father passed away at a very young age and her mother left to find work, Karabo has had to become a parent to her two sisters too young.
Photo: Lesotho Red Cross



GSC – ECHO project **Greening** the shelter response



Women gather fuelwood in Virunga National Park, the oldest national park in Africa.

GSC-ECHO Project: Key data

Start date and duration: 1 April 2021 for 24 months

Total cost: 930,571 EUR

Contribution from ECHO: 650,000 EUR (70%)

Co-funding by UNHCR, IFRC, partners

Funding will be received by UNHCR on behalf of the Global Shelter Cluster.

Methodology similar to the one used in 3 past ECHO grants

Logic of the project

Result: Shelter responses become more environmentally sustainable at country and global level

Global

Activity 1: Shelter partners green their response

Activity 2: Environmental research and advocacy available to make country-level shelter responses greener and climate smart

Country

Activity 3: Country-level shelter clusters effectively design and implement greener and climate-smart shelter responses

Activity 1: Shelter partners green their response



Green specifications of the most purchased emergency shelter and NFIs: greener without a reduction in their performance.



Recycling and repurposing options of some of the main global shelter solutions (plastic sheeting, blankets, tents, shelter kits, Refugee Housing Units, and others) captured and shared.



Sustainable energy options, including solar, will be better understood and made available to global shelter partners in order to include them better in their responses.



Methodology to measure the CO2 equivalent & plastic footprint of shelter responses.



Link with the Global Logs Cluster and other clusters.

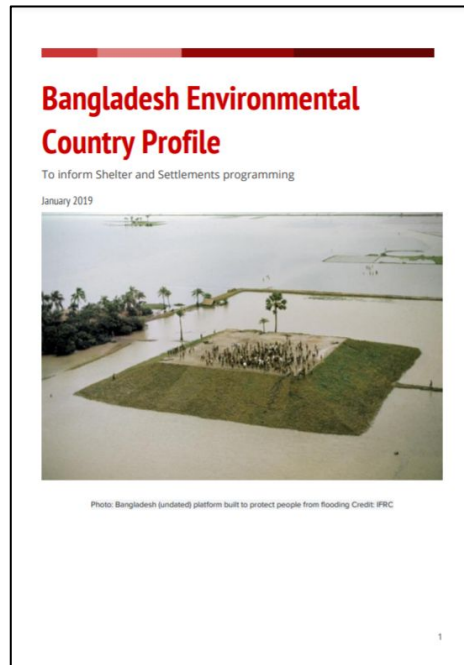
Activity 2: Environmental research and advocacy

Provide the global knowledge needed to help design greener and climate-smart country-level shelter responses.

- **Environmental profiles:**

- Overview of the main threats to the environment, key environmental focal points, an analysis of the different shelter options most-commonly used in country, environmental impact calculators, total life-cycle amount of CO2 produced by these interventions.

- **Advocacy tools**



Activity 3: Green country clusters shelter responses

Strengthen country-level clusters to use the materials developed in activities 1 and 2



Well-designed market interventions to empower affected population and reduce the environmental impact. Cash champions initiative: capacity and methodology to implement well-designed cash and shelter responses.



Appropriate local solutions and materials: CraTerre, local institutions, mason schools. Local building practices will be mapped and analysed for key responses.



Support countries to identify **options for reducing, reusing, repurposing and recycling** or other end-of-life alternatives, for local shelter solutions.



Collaborate with institutions with environmental expertise such as BRE to support countries with **methods for calculating CO2 emissions** of local shelter solutions.



Pilot innovative more environmentally sustainable shelter solutions or approaches.



Link with Logistics Cluster, and others at country level



Global Shelter Cluster

ShelterCluster.org

Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

THE PANEL

Moderated by:



Karolina Kalinowska

*Policy officer for
environment in
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THE PANEL



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DG ECHO's approach to reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid



Provide
clean energy
solutions



Choose
materials
with a lower
carbon
footprint



Avoid plastic
when possible



Green the
organisation's
logistics and
supply chain



Implement a
robust waste
management
system



Avoid
deforestation



Work more
closely with
local actors



DG ECHO's approach to reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid





DG ECHO's approach to reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid

Key deliverables for 2021:

- Best practices compendium: due April 2021
- Online training for partners: due Q3 2021
- Basic requirements developed: due Q4 2021
- Environmental Guidance on how to meet requirements: due Q4 2021
- Virtual 'classroom' training in line with the Guidance: due end 2021/beginning 2022 (TBD– still under discussion with consortium)

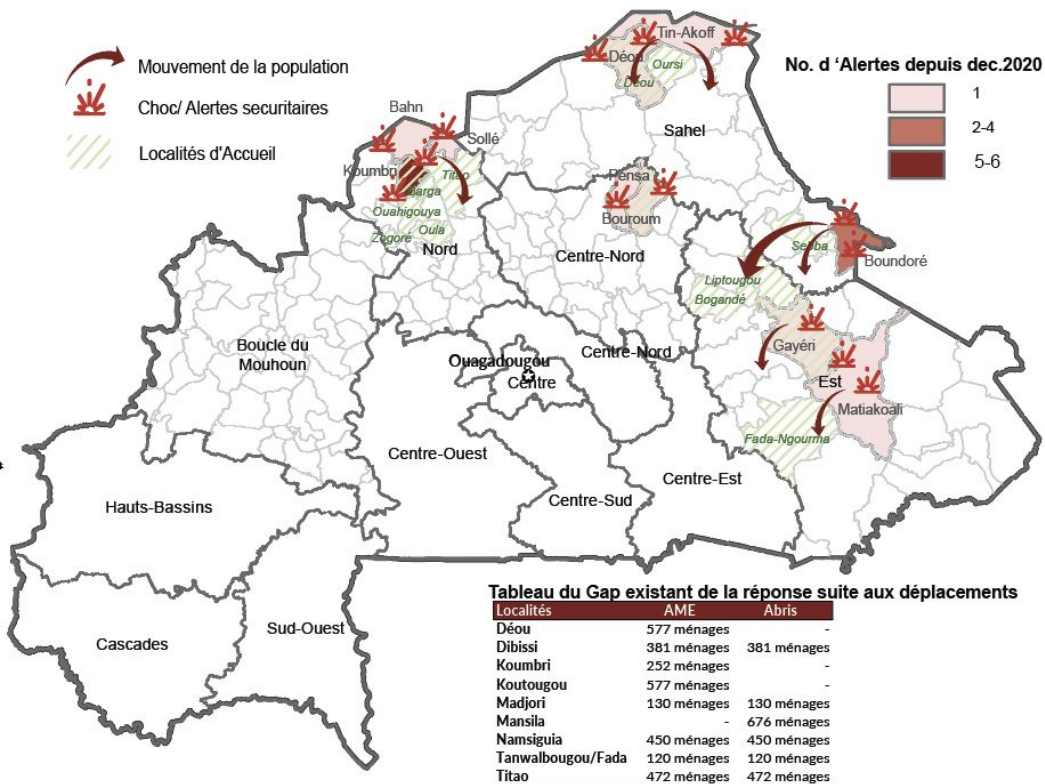
GREENING THE RESPONSE IN BURKINA-FASO



Cluster Abris Burkina Faso

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CONTEXT



The Northern Region of Burkina Faso is within the Sahara Desert and is part of the hottest part of the world.

The country is susceptible to recurrent droughts, a severe problem for a nation that is consistently hot.

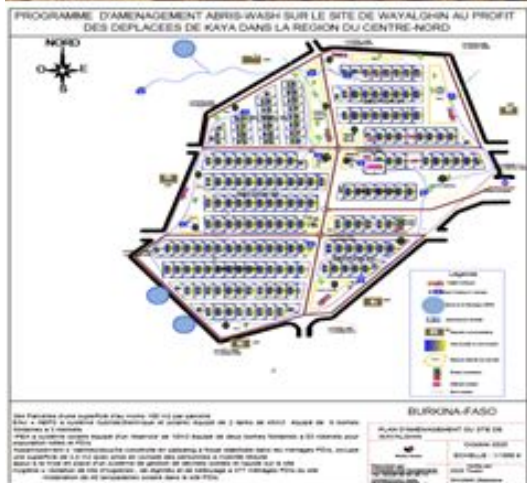
The Number of affected population is 3.533.773 and 5.264 number of ES has been provided plus 259 of Transitional shelters. 6.988 NFI (by March 2021)

Rapid unplanned urbanization city occupied by the majority of the displaced populations



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Shelter Response and Environmental impacts reduction



- Tree protection:
 1. *The Revised typology shelters combined with a proper market assessment considers locally available and non expensive construction materials this include the reduction of exported poles and mate*→Reducing the deforestation of the green southern part of the country and neighboring country
 2. *Considering planting trees in newly developed settlement and urban cities* →Reducing the deforestation of the green southern part of the country and neighboring country
- CO2 Mitigation:
 1. *Eco construction approach for transitional shelter solution*→Limited local material production with minimal transportation and deforestation: Voute nubienne, mud construction, Emergency shelters with iron poles, Use of Clay pot and kitchen in the NFI kits
 2. *Better site planning and improved Selter Design to improve the micro climate within the shelter and the settlements*



Challenges & Potential solutions

CHALLENGES

- The use of wooden poles which are transport from a range of 100 to 500 km . Charcoal and firewood are massively used for cooking stoves
- Lack of expertise to define the environmental profile and provide the context diagnostic to anticipate the appropriate mitigation measures
- The Emergency context of the response obliged most of the response partners to use plastic sheeting,

SOLUTIONS

- Green specifications of the most purchased emergency shelter and NFIs: greener without a reduction in their performance. The implementation of MOU with the Ordre des architects to design Shelter typologies for the response
- Sustainable energy options, including solar, will be better understood and made available to shelter partners in order to include them better in their responses.
- Identify expertise to define the environmental profile and train Shelter partners on the Methodology to measure the CO2 equivalent & plastic footprint of shelter responses.
- Recycling and repurposing options of some of the main global shelter solutions (plastic sheeting, blankets, tents, shelter kits, Refugee Housing Units, and others) captured and shared.90 % of the response is ES.Recycling will save the investment and ensure the continuity of existence of roof for many

Global Platform for Action (GPA) on Sustainable Energy in Displacement Situations

What is the GPA?

The **Global Platform for Action** (GPA) is the global initiative to **support the humanitarian sector in mainstreaming sustainable, affordable and reliable energy access** for crisis affected communities and humanitarian organisations.

- **Why:** Most displaced people lack cleaner cooking & electricity access; institutions run on diesel primarily
- **Focus Areas:** Improving energy access for households and communities; enabling infrastructure decarbonisation
- **How:** Building public-private partnerships, enabling more sustainable finance, supporting technical capacity and data collection/analysis, supporting policy change

Key Challenges



Multi-sectoral issue, falls between cluster & organisation mandates



Long term investment, short term funding (need new financing sources)



Limited Energy Data and Expertise

Improved energy for a greener humanitarian response

Reducing deforestation, CO2 emissions, e-waste

Emergency Response

Over time, transition to more development oriented approach to energy delivery

Protracted crisis

GREENER PROCUREMENT PRACTICES

- **Cost-benefit analysis** conducted?
- **Usability** - energy meets beneficiaries needs? Training included? Context appropriate (esp stoves/fuel)?
- **Quality and waste management** - Quality products? Waste management plan with supplier?
- **Energy efficiency** considered? **Monitoring** and evaluation planned?

TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE DELIVERY MODELS

- Can you partner with **private sector and development actors**? & **Cash programming**?
- Inclusion into **national energy planning**?
- Can energy be a source of **revenue/livelihoods** (agriculture, businesses)?
- **Business case** for switching to cleaner energy?

Multi-sectoral, holistic energy planning



Solar at household level → mini-grids / grid access at community level



Firewood and charcoal → briquettes / pellets → LPG → Electricity



Good Practice Examples

Product / Info Databases: [Clean Cooking Catalogue](#); [Off-grid solar products](#), [Energy in Displacement Dashboard](#)



Cox's Bazar - 800,000+ hh reached
with LPG ([webinar](#))

Enablers

*Inter-agency response & technical working group (WFP, FAO, UNHCR, IOM)
Feasibility assessment & cost-benefit done in emergency phase, multi-year
funding, expertise on the ground*



Bidi Bidi ([Mercy Corps](#)) & Kakuma ([SNV](#)),
Market-based energy service delivery by
energy companies

Enablers

*Smart subsidies (beneficiaries could pay)
Partnered with development & private sector for
energy service delivery*

Resources Available

→ Support to Shelter Cluster

- ◆ Training on Sustainable Energy Program Design for Humanitarians ([registration open until 7 May](#))
- ◆ GPA Secretariat - ad hoc technical support to clusters (email aimee.jenks@unitar.org)
- ◆ Need an energy expert? [NORCAP Energy Expert Deployment](#) (norcap@nrc.no)

→ Practitioner Exchange & Lessons Learned

- ◆ GPA [Webinar series](#), [Linkedin Group](#), GPA [Newsletter](#)
- ◆ [Clean Cooking Catalogue](#); [Off-grid solar products](#)

[Links to innovative delivery models and ongoing larger scale energy programmes in refugee contexts](#)

- Mercy Corps, Market-based Solar Energy Delivery, Bidi Bidi – [Lessons Learned Report](#)
- SNV, Market based Cooking and Lighting solutions, Kakuma – [Lessons Learned Report](#)
- UNHCR & IOM, Full coverage LPG program, Cox's Bazar – [webinar](#)
- Research on [Energy for Micro-Entrepreneurs](#) in Displacement Settings

- GIZ Energy Solutions in Displacement Settings (Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia) – [online here](#)
- Practical Action led Renewable Energy for Refugees Program (Jordan, Rwanda) – [online here](#)
- Smart Communities Coalition (Uganda, Kenya) – [online here](#)



Environmental Checklist for Shelter Response: Vanuatu



Shelter Cluster Vanuatu
ShelterCluster.org
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

Objective

To inform environmentally sustainable shelter programming by making key information about environmental considerations, impacts, concerns and opportunities available and accessible to Shelter practitioners as a preparedness measure

Background

- Developed to fill a gap in the knowledge base of the Cluster highlighted during past responses.
- Linked to the Cluster's technical guidelines
- Operational focus aligned to the programme cycle and Sphere Standards
- Supports Shelter Cluster coordination and program implementation
- Produced during preparedness time (standing cluster system in Vanuatu)



Process

- How to turn a large amount of environment and shelter related information into a practical tool? → Initial profile turned into checklist with annexes
- Influenced by Shelter Cluster Checklist and the NEAT+ & adapted for Vanuatu
- Technical Working Group established in May 2019 under the Vanuatu Shelter Cluster to ensure a participatory process & inclusion of local knowledge
- Country cluster supported by the Environment Community of Practice (ECOP) at the global level
- 6 months to create draft version
- Revised during Tropical Cyclone Harold response in 2020 - used by several agencies
- Post-response survey carried out





Contributing TWG Partners

- Shelter Cluster Vanuatu Lead - Public Works Department
- Co-lead IFRC
- GSC Environment Community of Practice (ECoP)
- IOM
- National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)
- Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS)
- CARE
- Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation
- Department of Forests

STRONG LOCAL SAVE MO RISUS BLONG BILIM
OL SEP - HAOS BLONG YUMI

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN SAFER SHELTER CONSTRUCTION
STRENGTHENING HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



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Structure: Checklist & Annexes

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Environmental Checklist for Shelter Response (FOR PILOTING)

Version 1.5 - April 2020

This checklist (with annexes) is designed to guide the shelter coordination team, program managers and field staff through the steps required to ensure that environmental considerations are adequately considered and implemented in humanitarian shelter programs. Following the steps of the humanitarian program cycle and aligned with the 2015 Sphere Humanitarian Standards, it is designed for situations where the population has not been displaced by the hazard event (sections 1-5), as well as displacement and resettlement scenarios (sections 1-6).

Shelter Cluster Vanuatu defines shelter as private and community housing and shelter related non-food items such as clothing, bedding, cooking and eating utensils and household lighting. Shelter excludes public buildings such as schools, medical centres and public service housing such as teacher, nurse and other public authority housing. These are the responsibility of the education and health clusters.

Assistance for private and community housing should encourage the self-help concept and promote adoption of effective preparedness measures by communities. As a result of their self-efficacy and resilience, if/when possible, start the self-recovery process immediately. Community, urban or rural, often quickly reconstruct shelter with building materials which are readily available. Therefore, shelter response strategies should encourage and support people in their own coping mechanisms, with the appropriate provision of non-food and shelter materials, tools, technical assistance and safe shelter awareness, targeting the most vulnerable.

For all recommended actions in the checklist:

1) Consult and engage actively with authorities at national, municipal, provincial and local levels, customary chiefs, and communities via Community Disaster and Climate Change Committee (CDCCC) who can provide local knowledge of key environmental concerns, potential hazards and natural resource availability in the area. Effective engagement with host and affected communities can also minimize social tensions often associated with situations of mass displacement. Secure community feedback mechanisms are in place, and

2) Coordinate with other shelter and environment stakeholders (annex 2) through participation in the Shelter Cluster at national, municipal, provincial and local levels.

For further information or to provide feedback on this checklist contact shcvt-vanuatuf@sheltercluster.org.

# Action	Shelter Coordination Team	Program Manager	Field Staff	Annexes
1. Inform yourself and your team				
Familiarise yourself with the country environment and disaster context and regulatory requirements (according to national law and policies) at national, municipal, provincial and local levels. Program managers to brief field staff on essential points, (i.e., etc.)	X	X	X	1.2, 3.4
2. Assessment and analysis				
Integrate environmental questions in to shelter sector and multi-sector assessments (or carry out a rapid Environmental Impact Assessment) to identify environmental impacts and practical local actions required. Key points include pre-existing building typologies and access to and use of local natural resources, extent of need and availability of resources post-disaster, and social, economic and cultural issues that may influence the sustainability of the response. Deployment team to comprise of DPCP and other relevant government agencies where possible.	X	X	X	8, 9
3. Planning, planning, and project design				
Develop a shelter and settlement plan in consultation with local authorities and community members responsible for environmental management and service provision	X	X	X	
3.1 Incorporate environmentally sustainable construction considerations in the project management cycle and larger-term environmental opportunities into recovery planning from the start of the response	X	X	X	7, 18
3.2 Consider the potential negative impact of certain types of activities such as cash-based interventions, on natural resources (e.g. a forested region)	X	X	X	13
3.3 If not already in place, support local authorities and communities to develop environmental management plans	X	X	X	6
3.4 Consider ways to increase level of security of land tenure as a part of the shelter program. Higher level of security of tenure can encourage long-term consideration for the local environment	X	X	X	11
3.5 Consider local hazards and climate conditions in building design, implementation timeline, and siting	X	X	X	5, 13
4. Implementation				
4.1 Ensure that the shelter response is designed to be environmentally sustainable and that the population has a secure level of tenure	X	X	X	22

	Shelter Coordination Team	Program Manager	Field Staff	Annexes
4 of disaster debris, waste, and emergency shelter materials	X	X	X	13, 17
4.1 Use through accurate bills of quantities and innovative design	X	X	X	13
4.2 Minimize energy consumption or potential environmental impacts	X	X	X	13
4.3 As a need, identify and mitigate the impact that energy interventions policies that involve the collection and sale of fuel	X	X	X	13
4.4 Energy allows that reduce carbon emissions to	X	X	X	13
4.5 Lighting with an LED lighting and solar energy	X	X	X	13
4.6 Materials and building practices where appropriate and able to locally sustainable supply chains. Encourage and engage	X	X	X	13
4.7 Building materials and consider material lifecycle, from acquisition or harmful substances	X	X	X	13
4.8 Household items which can be reused or recycled	X	X	X	14, 15
4.9 Ensure all waste generated is properly disposed of or recycled	X	X	X	15
4.10 (and supply chain) being used by communities to ensure extracted, regulated and/or certified	X	X	X	15
4.11 (and supply chain) being used by communities to ensure extracted, regulated and/or certified	X	X	X	15
4.12 (and supply chain) being used by communities to ensure extracted, regulated and/or certified	X	X	X	15
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- Outlines key actions for coordination team, program managers and field staff in each programme cycle phase
- Displacement and non-displacement contexts
- 18 annexes linked to checklist - live documents which users can query/update as needed
- Can be read individually or as a whole “profile” package



Next steps

- **Future revisions** to keep the tool current and to fill information gaps across Vanuatu's 6 provinces and 83 islands.
- **Further sensitization and promotion** of the checklist in country to encourage more agencies to use it.
- **Opportunity to develop similar context-specific tools in other countries** - please let us know if your national shelter cluster is interested in **greening** the shelter and settlements response!
- **Access the checklist:** <https://www.sheltercluster.org/ar/node/17317>
- **Contact:** Robert Dodds (rdodds@redcross.org.au); Mandy George (amandageorge@gmail.com); Environment Community of Practice: (helpdesk@sheltercluster.org)

GLOBAL LOGISTICS CLUSTER

Partnership for Global Action
Environmental Sustainability in Humanitarian Logistics



Environmental focus of humanitarian logistics



5 Partners



Save the Children



World Food Programme



Joining forces for all partners. Our vision:

*The humanitarian logistics and supply chain community
is aware of the sector's environmental impact
and implements a coordinated, scalable and sustainable approach to measure and reduce it*



CHALLENGES

Challenges to reducing unwanted environmental impacts from humanitarian logistics include:

- *Gaps in data* - Comprehensive quantification of the cumulative environmental impacts from humanitarian logistics does not yet exist. There is no reliable, sector-wide trace of the disposal or recovery of logistics' waste, nor of the pollution resulting from humanitarian transport.
- *Gaps in capacity* - As a crucial enabler of humanitarian action, logistics is where the risk of unintended impacts is high, but where current capacity to drive better environmental outcomes is low. Similarly, there is limited capacity or infrastructure in the local communities that humanitarians serve.
- *Gaps in expertise* - Humanitarian supply chain experts are not environmental experts and vice versa.

SOLUTIONS



Injection of dedicated environmental expertise

- The project will bring a “help desk” of environmental experts into the heart of the humanitarian logistics community, available for dedicated environmental support for the duration of the project.

Data that tells the whole story

- The project will fill data gaps to enable informed decision-making and to underpin up to date guidance and training on avoiding environmental harm.

Knowledge where it can make a difference

- The project will bring consolidated environmental knowhow, directly relevant for supply chain practitioners, to where it can make the most difference: humanitarian supply chain platforms.

A high-angle photograph of a circular stone well in a dry, arid landscape. A person wearing a red headscarf is visible, looking out from the top of the well. The well is constructed from rough, light-colored stones and is surrounded by a low stone wall. The ground is sandy and cracked, indicating a lack of water. The overall scene conveys a sense of hardship and the need for water.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS

CLOSING

by

Brett Moore,

GSC co-lead
UNHCR

Internally displaced people
have built their own
shelters using local
materials found in the
Lake Chad and have
found ways to share
household items. Magui
Village Liwa
subprefecture, Chad
Photo: Renee Wynveen
GSC/UNHCR.



CLOSING

by

Brett Moore,

GSC co-lead
UNHCR

This two-storey bamboo learning centre provides learning facilities to Rohingya children. A perfect example of environmentally friendly infrastructure incorporating local building culture.

Photo: Md. Arifuzzaman /
Friendship





Global Shelter Cluster
ShelterCluster.org
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

CLOSING

by

Brett Moore,

GSC co-lead
UNHCR

Brother and sister enjoy
the afternoon in a shelter
in Escuintla, Guatemala.
Photo: Jonathan Josué
Mazariegos Saavedra /
IOM

