**Global Shelter Cluster Strategic Advisory Group Teleconference**

**Participants:** CARE, World Vision, NRC, UNHABITAT, Acted, IOM, Habitat for Humanity, InterAction, IFRC, UNHCR. Excused: Oxfam GB

**Date:** Wednesday,12 December 2012

**Venue:** Teleconference - Geneva, IFRC Room 4

**Meeting Minutes**

1. **Update on recently activated clusters**

* **Conflict situations:**
* **Mali**: led by UNHCR and co-lead by IOM: a coordinator (UNHCR), and Information Manager (IOM) and assessment capacity (REACH) have been deployed.
* **Myanmar** : shelter cluster likely to be activated for the [Rakhine and Kachin Inter-community Conflict 2012](https://www.sheltercluster.org/Europe/RakhineAndKachinInter-communityConflict2012/). A cluster coordinator is being identified.
* **Disaster situations:**
* **Philippines**: shelter cluster activated in response to Typhoon Pablo (category 5)
* IFRC leads at the national level. IOM is leading shelter coordination hubs in areas that are considered conflict-affected by the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Assessments teams (REACH) have been deployed.
* Need to advocate to donors for funding to support shelter repairs and move towards repairs kit; a coordinated advocacy effort from members of different cluster partners should be more effective in raising funding for a shelter response that goes beyond tents and tarpaulins.

1. **Draft Priorities for 2013**

* A draft of the document prepared by the GSC Support Team based on the outputs of the Global Shelter Cluster meeting was shared before the meeting. The 2013 priorities include:
* Enhanced shelter cluster coherence
* Engagement with local and national actors
* Accountability
* Regulatory barriers to the provision of shelter
* Shelter in recovery
* This document gives a general direction to the Working Groups (WGs) but the WGs will have to determine the final scope and deliverables for 2013.
* Once the GSC 2013 Priorities document is approved by the SAG, it will be shared with the wider cluster and they will be invited to participate in the WGs as leads, members, or reviewers.
* WGs will then prepare their work plan to address the priorities in line with the Strategy 2013-2017. These work plans will then be revised and approved by the SAG
* **Action: All SAG members to revise the Priorities for 2013 document and provide feedback by Monday 17th**

1. **Draft Global Shelter Strategy**

* A draft of the document prepared by the GSC Support Team based on the outputs of the Global Shelter Cluster meeting was shared before the meeting. The strategy has 3 main pillars:
* An effective and well functioning Global Shelter Cluster
* A responsive and flexible operational support to country-level shelter coordination mechanisms.
* Increased recognition of the shelter and settlements sector as an essential component of the humanitarian response, through enhanced advocacy and communication.
* . The priorities do not necessarily need to mirror the three pillars of the strategy as some of the priorities are a continuation of last year’s priorities. However, the deliverables of the WGs will have to fit into and contribute to one or several of the GSC strategic aims.The strategy reflects the general functions of global clusters as established in the 2006 IASC Guidance on the Cluster Approach and is structured in a similar way as that of other clusters to ensure consistency.
* SAG members are asked to comment and provide inputs to this draft and to consult with other cluster partners on their views. It was reminded that SAG members do not only represent their agency in the SAG but they represent the whole cluster. They are encouraged to consult with other like-minded cluster partners and bring up their issues.
* **Action: All SAG members to revise the draft of the Strategy 2013-2017, share with other cluster partners and provide consolidated feedback by Monday 17th** December 2012.

1. **Fundraising on behalf of the cluster**

* It was agreed that the generic fundraising document prepared in 2012 by the WG on Predictable Resources should be used as the basis for any fundraising activity on behalf of the cluster. This document needs to be adapted to the new GSC strategy and can be found in sheltercluster.org [here](https://www.sheltercluster.org/Global/Global%20WG%20%20Predictable%20Resources/Predictable%20Resource%20Mobilisation%20WG%20FINAL.docx). The document is to be used as the basis in part or as a whole and should be adapted to the template, conditions, and guidelines of the different donor grants.
* Any fundraising possibility should be flagged to the SAG which would agree on the cluster partner that is best placed to fundraise on behalf of the cluster.
* The **ECHO Enhanced Response Capacity Fund** offers a good fundraising opportunity to the cluster. UNHCR is considered best placed to submit this proposal on behalf of the cluster as cluster lead.
* A concept note (2-3 pages) should be developed soon. A Letter of Intent should be submitted by the end of January and if it is approved, a full proposal shall follow.
* The proposal will focus on activities to support the cluster functions. It should not repeat any previous activities and should follow the guidelines established by ECHO that can be found in their website [here](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding/grants_contracts/capacity_en.htm).
* It is important to ensure coordination with any other shelter proposal presented to the ECHO Enhanced Response Capacity Fund.

**Actions:**

* **All SAG members to flag fundraising opportunities to the SAG and use the generic fundraising document as the basis, in part or as a whole, for any fundraising effort on behalf of the cluster.**
* **The Support Team to prepare an initial concept note of a proposal to the ECHO Enhanced Response Capacity Fund to be submitted by UNHCR on behalf of the cluster.**
* **All SAG members to alert the SAG of any proposal on shelter being proposed to the ECHO Enhanced Response Capacity Fund to ensure coordination.**