

Build Back Safer Technical Working and information Group (BBS TWiG)

TC PAM - Guidance note on Building Back Safer awareness and training framework

Introduction:

Recognizing that Government and agencies encourage wherever possible community resilience and shelter self-recovery, the Shelter Cluster agreed to include *Building Back Safer* at the core of its response and disaster risk reduction strategies to support affected population in their shelter & housing recovery process.

This guidance note is setting out a proposed framework for the future of *Build Back Safer* building awareness and training and awareness in Vanuatu. This guidance note is based on earlier documents produced by the Shelter Cluster Vanuatu (SCV), the discussions held during its regular meetings and specific meetings of the SCV, such as the Shelter Cluster Lessons Learned Workshop¹ (held on 28 May 2015), meetings and discussions of the TWiG, that has been formed to discuss the issues around *Build Back Safer* awareness and training, with related programs for Vanuatu following Cyclone Pam that hit the country on 13 March 2015.

Background

1. Category 5 Cyclone Pam struck Vanuatu on 13 March 2015 causing widespread damage to many government and community buildings, infrastructure, forests, agriculture, water supply systems, and especially housing, not to mention households' livelihoods and the various social and economic sectors of the country that have been severely affected.
2. The Shelter Cluster was rapidly deployed to address the needs for emergency shelter and NFI materials.
3. On 21 March 2015, during the relief phase of the response to Cyclone Pam, the Shelter Cluster identified a need to further support strengthening awareness on safer building in affected communities.²

¹ Report can be found at
http://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/vanuatu_sc_II_final_report_v2_22062015.pdf

² Butterfly Trust, who is part of the Shelter Cluster, proposed a "Build Back Safer" Housing Reconstruction Programme Draft Concept Note, which can be found on
http://sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/2015.04.21_butterfly_trust_-_rebuilding_team_concept_note_draft.pdf

4. Since 21 March, the Shelter Cluster, through the BBS TWiG, has further developed its thinking about how to provide quality building education and awareness to communities, builders, and education providers in Vanuatu.
5. Some members of the Shelter Cluster have been providing community with safe shelter awareness and trainings on an ad-hoc basis since the cyclone. The effectiveness of those trainings is currently being evaluated.

Proposal

1. All awareness and training programmes on building in Vanuatu should strive to integrate the basic principles of *Building Back Safer* at all and different levels, i.e. individuals, community, building practitioner, and building trainer levels of the learning cycle.
2. Each stage of *Building Back Safer* related programmes should be coordinated with, and linked to, the other stages so that students at one stage can use what they learn as a 'stepping stone' to the next stage.
3. It is envisaged that all education programmes at the community level may not be accredited, but some, although not all, of the training or courses provided to building practitioner and building trainer level may be accredited.
4. Building training and courses at all levels should integrate traditional and modern building systems, as well as hybrid forms of both systems so to reflect and respond to the reality of Vanuatu.
5. Building education providers, including humanitarian and development agencies, Vanuatu Institute of Technology (VIT), Regional Training Centres (RTCs), Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Australia-Pacific Training College (APTC), will be encouraged to collaborate together to integrate the *Building Back Safer* principles in such a way that ensures consistency in their approach.
6. Building education curricula should follow any relevant new or existing building guidelines, standards and codes in Vanuatu.
7. The development and implementation of a coordinated and integrated building education curricula could be facilitated by the Shelter Cluster/Housing Sector Working Group under the leadership of Public Work Department (PWD) and support of the Department of Local Authorities (DLA), without replacing the need to respond to, be assessed based on, criteria developed by, and authorised by relevant authorities, such as the Vanuatu Qualifications Authority (VQA), where applicable.
8. Funding for building education programmes will be provided by, or through, the entities providing each programme. The Shelter Cluster and Housing Sector Working Group may, wherever possible, explore further funding avenues.

Recommendations

1. The Shelter Cluster had discuss and refine the contents of this framework so it is acceptable to all stakeholders before 31 July 2015, to be at the core of the Housing Sector Working Group coordination's scope.
2. The Housing Sector Working Group should strive to obtain the written agreement of the building education providers to commit to a coordinated and integrated approach to building education in Vanuatu before 31 July 2015.

List of agencies and institutions who were part of the BBS TWiG:

Public Work Department, Department of Local Authorities, National Disaster Management Office, IFRC, UN Habitat, Butterfly Trust, IOM, Vanuatu Red Cross, Care International, IRCNH, LDS, TVET, APTC, VIT, Dep Ed, UniTec NZ, and CRATERRE.

For further information

All documents related to Building Back Safer TWiG can be found on
<http://sheltercluster.org/library/twig-build-back-safer>

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