

EMERGENCY SHELTER CLUSTER

UNHCR is Cluster lead for Emergency Shelter in complex emergencies and IFRC has offered to provide leadership for natural disasters. The UN agencies participating in this cluster are UNHABITAT, UNICEF, WFP, UNOCHA and UNHCR. Involvement of the non-UN actors in the cluster has been strong and has included IFRC, IOM, NRC, DRC, Care International and CRS, representing ICVA / SCHR / Interaction. The ICRC is also participating in the discussions.

The cluster working group aims to improve effectiveness and predictability of service provision by;

- a. strengthening of stockpiles of shelter and related NFIs,
- b. developing an emergency shelter strategy and guidelines and tools for assessments, intervention and monitoring.
- c. increasing the number of qualified professionals available for rapid deployment

Since the meeting of 12 December 2005 where the final report of the emergency shelter Cluster was accepted by the IASC principals, the cluster working group has focused on its “implementation plan” in response to the above mentioned three points.

While our main concentration has been on the proceeding with the implementation plan, the cluster drawing lessons from the Pakistan experience by formulating a questionnaire and compiling the input from ten agencies assisting in Pakistan who were working with the emergency shelter cluster. This was done through the cluster lead in Pakistan.

The cluster has done the followings in accordance with the implementation plan of the cluster.

1. has compiled available assessment tools in the aide agencies in a main document to draw from;
2. has formulated a document with focus on emergency assessment;
3. has prepared the document related to the climatic conditions to be worked at by the cluster’s technical sub-working group;
4. has worked on standard setting which will be finalized through technical sub-working group;
5. cluster is in touch with UNOSAT and they had a presentation in the cluster working group. They will assist the cluster when there are needs for maps and satellite images;
6. held meeting with NRC/DRC regarding the secondment of the technical staff in countries required such assistance. This is in addition to SDC and RedR Australia where UNHCR already has MOU with for the same.

Non-Food Relief Items (NFIs) for Emergency Shelter Cluster

From the onset of cluster approach it was realized that provision of a shelter by itself is not sufficient to sustain lives and hence non- food relief items (NFIs) are required for assistance under this cluster. Therefore one of the concerns has been to have sufficient item in stockpiling as a global preparedness.

Emergency Shelter Cluster has come up with an agreed list for the requirement of 500,000 persons at an estimated cost of US\$ 32.00 Million. As such Emergency Shelter Cluster could use the UNHCR's Emergency Stockpile or other agencies at the outbreak of emergencies on replenishment basis.

The cluster's stockpile needs were not included in the IASC Cluster Appeal. But this is identified as a major gap along with availability of technical experts to support the operations.

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