

shelter centre

Annual Report 2008 – 2009



Shelter Centre

In 2008, through the support of Shelter Centre and its partners, the shelter sector gained:

- an online library offering the collective memory for the sector, combining key documents from the shelter sector and from complementary sectors;
- standardised training and support materials, which was used to train independent humanitarian shelter specialists and representatives from donors, UN bodies, members of the Red Cross Movement and NGOs;
- an online community linking shelter specialists around the world; and
- further guidance for the sector reflecting good practice, including 'Transitional Settlement and Reconstruction After Natural Disasters' (United Nations, 2008) and 'Selecting NFIs for Shelter' (Emergency Shelter Cluster, 2009).

Shelter Centre is a Swiss association which supports the sector of humanitarian operations that responds to the transitional settlement and reconstruction needs of populations affected by conflicts and natural disasters, from the emergency phase until durable solutions are reached.

All Shelter Centre activities are designed and maintained so that the maximum number of stakeholders participate in their development and benefit from their outputs.

Many activities are funded through a programme with the Department for International Development (DFID) of the British Government, 2006–2011, while others are funded bilaterally or multi-laterally.

As a sector support NGO, Shelter Centre builds collaboration, consensus and capacity through developing and maintaining:

- strategic and policy guidelines;
- technical guidelines and technical training;
- community of practice services; and
- the global forum for the sector.

Collaboration



Shelter Meeting



Field operations



Shelter Funding

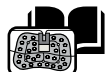
Consensus



Selecting NFIs for Shelter



Transitional Settlement and Reconstruction After Natural Disasters



Camp Planning Guidelines



Transitional Shelter Guidelines, Standards and Prototypes

Capacity



Shelter Library



Shelter Training



Shelter Community



Shelter Interns

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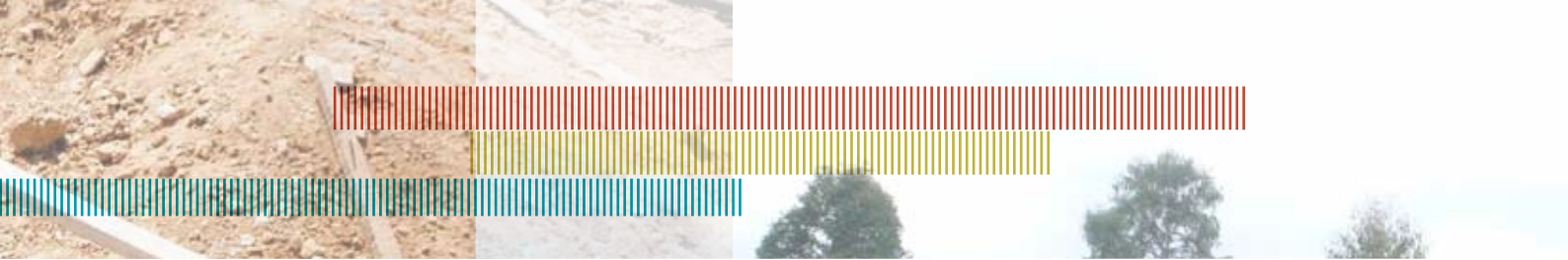
Honorary President's report

To mark the foundation of Shelter Centre as a Swiss Association, Shelter Centre invited Heiner Gloor to become the Honorary President of Shelter Centre. Formerly Head of Specialist Group for Construction of Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and formerly Construction Expert at Swiss Solidarity, Heiner has over 25 years of experience in humanitarian shelter, bringing to Shelter Centre unique skills spanning the response cycle from preparedness, through search and rescue, to reconstruction.

Is there clarity within humanitarian agencies over the needs of affected populations for shelter, transitional settlement and reconstruction, relative to the needs responded to by other sectors of humanitarian response? Does support by agencies reflect the priorities of those displaced, whether in urban displacement, host families or camps? For those who have not been displaced, or who return, are the priorities of tenants, owners and the landless fully understood, especially in terms of their community needs? Do the organisational structures, human and resource commitments of humanitarian agencies currently reflect the scale and nature of humanitarian shelter needs? Is sufficient attention being given by the humanitarian community to the appropriateness, funding and coordination of its interventions, from the emergency to the completion of reconstruction of both homes and community infrastructure?

Taking as an example the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, many housing reconstruction and repair projects came to a close in 2008, roughly four years after the disaster. IFRC reported that over 40% of expenditure for the response by the Red Cross Movement was on shelter, settlement and reconstruction, or over twice the size of expenditure presented on any other single sector. IFRC has a Shelter Department, however many other agencies with significant responses do not. Some agencies that made significant operational contributions to the response do not have permanent staff members dedicated to shelter, whether in the field or at their headquarters.

In any given response, it is difficult to determine the total resources expended by the humanitarian community for shelter, transitional settlement and reconstruction needs, commonly termed the shelter sector. Commitments by International Financial Institutions such as the World Bank are presented more clearly in budgetary terms; however challenges remain in better understanding implementation and coordination with humanitarian and governmental contributions. Following the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, for example, there are no figures consolidated between all humanitarian stakeholders, IFIs and the Government of Sri Lanka. In addition, other areas of reconstruction such as transportation networks, commercial buildings and public utilities were often included by the humanitarian



community in reporting by other sectors of response, including health, education, livelihoods and recovery. The consolidated expenditure by these other sectors on reconstruction is also difficult to determine.

Globally, the proportion of funds expended on the shelter sector relative to other sectors is reported. In 2008, a total of approximately USD 5 billion was raised for humanitarian action. According to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS) of OCHA, over the last few years the 'shelter and non-food items' sector has been increasing annually in the percentage of total funds it receives, representing roughly 1.2% of total funds received in 2006, 1.9% in 2007 and 3.5% in 2008.

Although the Red Cross Movement reported that 40% of its expenditure in response to the Indian Ocean Tsunami was on shelter, the proportion of total humanitarian funding spent on shelter in general, according to the FTS of OCHA, is less than one tenth of this. It is questionable whether shelter need relative to other sectors is, in general, less than one tenth of that in response to that tsunami.

It is also often difficult to determine the commitment to the sector within agencies, in terms of resources expended and technical capacity, both during responses and over the longer-term.

In 2009 the development of the sector faces further and new challenges, including changes in funding to the IASC clusters process and the competition for other resources from other better established sectors, as overall aid budgets are impacted by the global economic downturn.

Shelter Centre remains committed to supporting collaboration, consensus and capacity within the sector by the community of practice of all stakeholders.

Heiner Gloor

Honorary President





Directors' report

2008–09 saw significant progress by Shelter Centre on a number of activities in its programme supporting the community of practice of humanitarian transitional settlement and reconstruction. This programme is funded by donors including DFID, 2006–2011, with welcome contributions by project partners, including the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), IFRC and USAID.

Project progress

The twice-yearly 'Shelter Meeting' continued as the global forum for the community of practice to identify its priorities for developing the sector. The same forum was used by the community to review ongoing projects, ranging from operational checklists being developed by Swiss Solidarity to a review of funding mechanisms for transitional shelter led by CARE International. Shelter Centre contributions to these priorities included participation in the following example projects.

Policy

Shelter Centre and UN/OCHA launched the Field Edition for 'Transitional Settlement and Reconstruction After Natural Disasters' (United Nations, 2008). The final revision of this Field Edition will occur in 2009, prior to publication by the United Nations as their policy and operational approach to response to shelter, settlement and reconstruction following natural disasters;

Technical guidance

Shelter Centre coordinated a project group including UNHCR, CARE International and NRC for the development of 'Selecting NFIs for Shelter' (IASC Emergency Shelter Cluster, 2008), which provides guidance and technical resources for combining Non-Food Items (NFIs) into kits, complementary with other areas of response.

Services through the new Shelter Centre website

In October 2008, Shelter Centre launched a new website service that brings together the contributions of sector stakeholders into a one-stop series of information services supporting the community of practice.

A sector library

Shelter Library was updated and expanded to include over 1,000 key strategies, standards, guidelines, technical tools, case studies, evaluations and training materials. It has been accessed from 199 of the 204 countries and territories world-wide to-date.

A resource of sector training

Shelter Centre developed consistent Shelter Training materials which are free to use, share and modify by practitioners. These materials were used to train donor, United Nations, Red Cross Movement, International Organisation and NGO partners.



A membership community

The Shelter Community service allows humanitarian stakeholders to locate and contact each other. To-date, community Members include representatives from donors, UN bodies, Red Cross Movement, IOs, NGOs and especially independent humanitarian shelter specialists who constitute the majority of capacity in the sector.

Collaboration in field operations

Also launched in 2008 was the capacity of Shelter Centre to collaborate in field operations. The approach taken was to contribute to both direct operational impacts, as well as longer-term sector development. Collaborations included training in Cluster Coordination with the IASC Emergency Shelter and Early Recovery Clusters, in addition to operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Haiti with CARE International and the IASC Early Recovery Cluster, through UNDP.

Permanent relocation to Switzerland

In 2008–09, Shelter Centre relocated its base of operations permanently to the Canton of Geneva in Switzerland, after an initial and very productive hosting arrangement with the Secretariat of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The permanent relocation of Shelter Centre to Switzerland has been justified fully through increasing contributions to sector stakeholders and the humanitarian reform process, through the IASC. Shelter Centre is able to participate fully in the four clusters with which it partners: Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCM), Early Recovery Cluster (CWGER), Emergency Shelter Cluster (ESC), and the Protection Cluster.

The year ahead

As we look to 2009–10, we will continue to support our partners and the community of practice in this growing sector. While the cornerstone of this approach will be the revision of the consensus guidelines 'Transitional Settlement and Reconstruction After Natural Disasters' (United Nations, 2008), we will also present the first prototypes resulting from the collaborative input by operational agencies and manufacturers to the Transitional Shelter Standards project. In addition, the Shelter Library will expand further to include an innovative tool to inform operational technical decision making that will present standards, guidelines, evaluations and training next to geographically linked case studies from a wide variety of agencies.

Tom Corsellis, Co-Director

Antonella Vitale, Co-Director





Participants

In addition to numerous independent humanitarian shelter specialists, the following agencies have attended the twice-yearly Shelter Meeting since its inception in 2004.

Government representatives

Government of Maharashtra, India
Mission of Norway in Geneva

Humanitarian bi-lateral and multi-lateral donors

Department for International Development (DFID)
European Commission Humanitarian aid Office (ECHO)
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
United States Agency for International Development/Office of the United States Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation/Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SDC/HA)

International organisations

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Clusters

Camp Coordination and Camp Management
Emergency Shelter
Early Recovery
Logistics
Protection
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

United Nations bodies

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
United Nations Institute for Training and Research/ United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR/UNOSAT)
United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)
United Nations Joint Logistics Centre (UNJLC)
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA)
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)



Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
International Federation of Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
American Red Cross
Australian Red Cross
British Red Cross
French Red Cross
German Red Cross
Netherlands Red Cross
Norwegian Red Cross
Spanish Red Cross

Non-governmental organisations

AMURT International
Article 25
Architectes de l'Urgence
Architectes Sans Frontières (ASF)
Architecture & Développement
CartONG
Catholic Agency For Overseas Development (CAFOD)
CARE International
Caritas Austria

Caritas Switzerland
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
Centre On Housing Rights and Evictions
(COHRE)
CHF International
Cordaid
Engineers Without Borders UK (EWB-UK)
FinnChurchAid
GOAL
Habitat for Humanity International
Islamic Relief
Medair International
Médecins Sans Frontières, Belgium (MSF-B)
Médecins Sans Frontières, France
Médecins Sans Frontières, Netherlands
(MSF-H)
Médecins Sans Frontières, Switzerland
(MSF-CH)
Médecins Sans Frontières, (MSF-International)
Muslim Aid
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
Oxfam GB
Practical Action

Première Urgence
ProAct Network
ProVention Consortium
RedR
RESET
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors/
BuildAction
Save the Children Fund UK (SCF-UK)
Shelter for Life International (SFL)
The Sphere Project
Swiss Solidarity
Urbanistes Sans Frontières
World Shelters
World Vision International

Observing organisations

Benfield Hazard Research Centre, UCL
Coventry University
Lien Institute for Environment
Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
Queen's University Belfast
Southampton Solent University
TU Delft
Virje Universiteit Brussel



Shelter Meeting

Part of the DFID programme with Shelter Centre

The Shelter Meeting is the global forum for stakeholders in the sector, hosted each May and November, usually in Geneva. The Shelter Meeting is a regular global event for stakeholders to meet as a progressive community of practice responding to shelter needs following conflicts and disasters from the emergency response through to durable solutions.

Shelter Meetings in 2008 were attended by 15 independent humanitarian shelter specialists, and representatives of 48 different organisations, including UN bodies; members of the Red Cross Movement; NGOs; academic and research groups; and donors.

To maximise value for participants, complementary events are often held immediately prior to Shelter Meetings, which respond to their stated priorities. In 2008 these included Shelter Training events (see page 22) and the 'Humanitarian Shelter and Climate Change Conference'.

At the meetings participants:

- **identify and review collaborative projects**, which include the development of guidelines and operational tools and encompasses all Shelter Centre projects, although the majority are led by other agencies;
- **share good practice**, both in ongoing operations and in technical approaches to response, such as upgrading camps and the use of geographic information systems;
- **offer updates on related events and initiatives**, such as progress by Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Clusters, and other meetings or projects relevant to the sector; and
- **focus upon priority themes**, whether relating to a specific region of current operations, or to an emerging or neglected sector activity, such as reconstruction or cash assistance.

In addition to numerous independent humanitarian shelter specialists, agencies participating in Shelter Meetings in 2008 included:

Architectes de l'Urgence, British Red Cross, CARE International, CHF International, GOAL, Habitat for Humanity International, IFRC, MSF, Netherlands Red Cross, NRC, Oxfam GB, Practical Action, Première Urgence, ProAct Network, ProVention Consortium, RedR, SDC/HA, Swiss Solidarity, The Sphere Project, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UN/OCHA, World Vision International

Shelter Meeting 08a



15th and 16th May 2008

Hosted by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA), in Geneva

SM08a was attended by 56 participants and 20 observers, including 7 independent humanitarian shelter specialists and representatives from 5 UN bodies; 3 members of the Red Cross Movement; 22 NGOs; 4 academic and research groups; and 2 donors.

Contributions at SM08a included:

- the launch of the Field Edition for 'Transitional Settlement and Reconstruction After Natural Disasters' (United Nations 2008), by Shelter Centre and UN/OCHA;
- breakout groups on guidelines for asbestos removal, funding mechanisms for transitional shelter, ESC Non – Food Item (NFI) Standards Setting project, and links with academic institutions;
- presentations on transitional shelter good practice by CHF International; on applications for insurance in building back safer by the ProVention Consortium; and on shelter and settlement case studies by UN-Habitat.



In addition, over the three days before the meeting, Shelter Centre delivered a Shelter Training course for technical specialists. This event was open to all organisations meeting the participatory criteria of the Shelter Meeting. 17 participants attended the three-day event on behalf of 13 organisations.

Shelter Meeting 08b



20th and 21st November 2008

Hosted by Médecins Sans Frontières - Belgium (MSF-B), in Brussels

SM08b was attended by 58 participants and 4 observers including 8 independent humanitarian shelter specialists and representatives 1 UN body; 4 members of the Red Cross Movement; 18 NGOs; 4 academic and research groups; and 1 donor.

Contributions at SM08b included:

- a workshop on recent field level responses and coordination issues within the Emergency Shelter Cluster;
- breakout groups on key components of 'Transitional Settlement and Reconstruction After Natural Disasters', the feedback from which will be integrated into the final revision in 2009;
- breakout groups informing the drafting of the guidelines 'Selecting NFIs for Shelter' (ESC, 2008); and
- overview of the Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis tool (EMMA) by Oxfam.



As requested by participants at SM08a, the 'Humanitarian Shelter and Climate Change Conference' was held prior to Shelter Meeting. The conference highlighted the challenges for the sector in adaption, mitigation and response to climate change and participants proposed what action could be taken to meet them. Shelter Centre, in collaboration with several organisations, is looking to produce deliverables following on from this conference.



Another Shelter Training event was held, building on the success of the event at SM08a. 18 participants from 12 organisations attended over the three days preceding Shelter Meeting 08b.

Shelter Centre contributed to field operations of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Early Recovery (ER) Cluster and Emergency Shelter (ES) Cluster



Field Operations

Collaborations with the IASC ER Cluster and CARE International

Shelter Centre has established a new operations capacity, involving the availability of staff to engage in field collaborations and partnerships with other organisations participating in humanitarian operations.

Supporting the sector through field based collaborations

Shelter Centre continues with its approach of not implementing shelter programmes directly, so as to prevent any conflicts of interest with the services it offers the sector. However, Shelter Centre enters into collaborations with partner agencies in order to:

- contribute capacity to humanitarian operations;
- contribute to the development of innovative approaches and tools for the sector;
- field test the latest tools, resources and services developed by Shelter Centre and partner organisations;
- understand more fully the priorities of humanitarian stakeholders in operations, national and regional concerns, limitations and opportunities, identify good practice and innovations; and
- build institutional relations with collaborating organisations.

Training in 2008–09

Shelter Centre staff participated in the following training courses in preparation for field based collaborations:

- IASC Early Recovery Cluster Advisor and Cluster Coordinator Training;
- IFRC Early Recovery Surge Team Training; and
- IASC Emergency Shelter Cluster Coordinator Training.

Operations in 2008–09

Shelter Centre provided staff for collaborations in the following humanitarian operations:

- Haiti, in collaboration with the IASC Early Recovery Cluster, to conduct a Post Disaster Needs Assessment in cooperation with the World Bank, UN system in Haiti and the European Commission, in support of a government-led assessment and recovery planning process;
- Democratic Republic of the Congo, in collaboration with CARE International to set up a pilot programme in support of families hosting internally displaced people in North Kivu; and
- Kyrgyzstan, in collaboration with the Early Recovery Unit of the Office of the Resident Coordinator to develop an Early Recovery Rapid Needs Assessment Tool in support of the development of an inter-agency early recovery strategy.



Haiti: A collaboration with the IASC Early Recovery Cluster on the Post Disaster Needs Assessment of the population affected by tropical storms Gustav, Hanna and Ike.



Democratic Republic of the Congo: A collaboration with CARE International supporting host and hosted families with shelter assistance, Goma, North Kivu.

Agencies participating in Shelter Funding:

Department For International Development (DFID), CARE International, ProAct Network, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).



Shelter Funding

Part of the DFID Programme with Shelter Centre

Shelter Funding is a scheme of small awards administered by Shelter Centre to support collaborative projects that deliver practical tools which promote operational good practice.

Identification of projects

Project proposals are presented by participant organisations at Shelter Meetings and, if approved of by other participants, are subsequently reviewed, field tested, and disseminated by the participating agencies.

Eligible organisations and networks

Eligible organisations include UN bodies, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, and community-based organisations. Consideration is given both to applications from collaborative networks of eligible organisations, and to single organisations that can demonstrate wider impact within the sector.

Shelter Funding for collaborative projects has been agreed for 2008, with applications and expressions of interest received for 2009.

Activities in 2008

The participants of Shelter Meeting approved Shelter Funding for the following collaborative projects:

- to develop guidance on the use of asbestos in reconstruction, led by the ProAct Network; and
- to develop guidelines on the disposal of construction waste, led by the ProAct Network.

Developments for 2009

In addition, applications and expressions of interest have been received for the following projects:

- a study addressing opportunities for funding of transitional shelter programmes, led by CARE International; and
- guidelines for assisting urban Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), led by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).



Selecting NFIs for Shelter

Collaborative project with the ESC

The guidelines, 'Selecting NFIs for Shelter' (Emergency Shelter Cluster, 2008), represent the consensus of the sector on how to select and combine non-food items (NFIs) into packages for distribution as part of humanitarian operations. As a first within the shelter sector, specification catalogues of major humanitarian agencies, including IFRC/ICRC, Oxfam and MSF, are brought together on the CD resource that accompanies the guidelines.

The practical guidance provided covers topics including climatic considerations; combining NFIs into packages; typical NFI specifications; and integrating NFI distributions into wider shelter programmes.

This project contributes to the 'Common Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Standards' and 'Guidelines for climatic variations' components of the ESC 2007–08 Working Group Work Plan of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC).

The focal agencies for the project were Shelter Centre and UNHCR. The project partners were CARE International, IFRC, the Norwegian Refugee Council and UN/OCHA, of which IFRC, UNHCR and UN/OCHA offered their contributions to the project in-kind.

Activities in 2008

The guidelines were drafted and reviewed by a working group in 2008. The review process for this document was extensive, with comments and feedback received from: DFID, Oxfam GB, IFRC, the IASC WASH Cluster, IOM, ProAct Network, The Sphere Project, UNICEF, UNDP, UNITAR/UNOSAT, UN/OCHA, USAID, and World Vision International. Feedback was also received from numerous independent humanitarian consultants. Following the drafting process, the guidelines and CD resource were handed over to the IASC ESC for distribution.

Developments in 2009

An initial printing of the guidelines and CD resource will be distributed amongst the ESC and its partners.



NFIs booklet and CD





Transitional Settlement and Reconstruction After Natural Disasters

Part of the DFID Programme with Shelter Centre

These consensus guidelines will constitute the key operational guidelines for the sector when republished by the United Nations in 2009.

Activities in 2008

In advance of the 2009 edition, the Field Edition was released for field testing by operational organisations. Feedback from the testing has been received and will be integrated into the 2009 edition.

Parallel to the field testing, feedback was elicited from humanitarian practitioners through breakout groups, at Shelter Meeting 08b. These groups presented proposed revisions to and comments upon the key concepts put forward in the guidelines.

Developments in 2009

Through a dedicated working group, the guidelines will be revised in a manner consistent with feedback received on the Field Edition, as well as with new developments in operational good practice.

The guidelines will be republished by the United Nations and are due to be launched at Shelter Meeting 09b.

Five key concepts presented in the guidelines are:

1. guiding principles for the sector
2. activities comprising a strategic planning template;

3. six transitional settlement options for displaced populations;
4. six transitional reconstruction options for non-displaced populations; and
5. sixteen assistance methods to be combined in support of these operations.

Evolution of consensus guidance



'Shelter after Disaster' (UNDRO, 1982): guidelines that presented the consensus on good practice in humanitarian shelter response at the time.



'Exploring key changes and developments in post-disaster settlement, shelter and housing, 1982-2006' (UN, 2006): a scoping study to inform the revision of the 'Shelter after Disaster' guidelines.



'Transitional Settlement and Reconstruction After Natural Disasters, Field Edition' (UN, 2008): substantially revised guidelines produced through extensive consultation with a dedicated peer review group.



'Transitional Settlement and Reconstruction After Natural Disasters, First Edition' (UN, 2009 forthcoming): improved guidance following the integration of feedback from humanitarian shelter specialists on the Field Edition.



Camp Planning Guidelines

With funding from DFID and IFRC

Shelter Centre is developing the first ever step-by-step guidelines on establishing, upgrading and extending planned and self-settled camps for both refugees and internally displaced persons, following both conflicts and natural disasters.

In 2008, Shelter Centre undertook a wider consultation with sector practitioners and policy makers, and received funding commitments for the first phase of the project.

The guidelines follow the contour planning approach, whereby a camp is laid out to make use of natural gradients and topographic features, as is traditional in established towns and villages worldwide. In addition, guidance is offered on influx management through establishing waystations, transit centres and reception centres.

Activities in 2008

In 2008, Shelter Centre consulted with members of the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, as well as camp managers, to inform the next draft of these guidelines.

In addition, the Department for International Development (DFID) of the British Government and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) have agreed to co-fund the first phase of this project.

Developments in 2009

Shelter Centre will look to develop the draft Camp Planning Guidelines into a first edition for field testing.

Further Shelter Training modules will be developed to complement the guidelines. These modules will be available for download on our web site.

Agencies participating in the project:

CARE International, IFRC, IOM, MSF-B, NRC, ProAct, ProVention Consortium, Risk RED, SDC/HA, The Sphere Project, Swiss Solidarity, USAID/OFDA.

Agencies participating in the Shelter Standards Consortium:

CARE International, DFID, ECHO, IOM, IFRC, JICA, MSF-B, Netherlands Red Cross, Muslim Aid, Oxfam GB, Save The Children Fund, SDC/HA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UN/OCHA, USAID/OFDA.



Transitional Shelter Guidelines, Standards & Prototypes

Part of the DFID Programme with Shelter Centre and supported by a grant from USAID/OFDA

In 2008 participants of Shelter Meeting requested new guidance on transitional shelter as a priority for the sector. In addition, a collaborative dialogue was initiated between the humanitarian community and the tent manufacturing community on standards for transitional shelters, both locally built and stockpiled.

The aims of these three complementary and parallel projects are:



Transitional Shelter Guidelines

to develop practical guidance on the appropriate implementation of locally built transitional shelters in humanitarian response;



Transitional Shelter Standards

to develop, through a consortium, consensus standards and indicators for stockpiled family shelters, and the subsequent expansion of these standards to cover locally built transitional shelters; and



Transitional Shelter Prototypes

to engage the manufacturing community in the production of prototypes that comply with the Transitional Shelter Standards, demonstrating that it is possible to meet these standards in practice.



Activities in 2008

In addition to the Transitional Shelter Standards and Transitional Shelter Prototypes projects, participants of Shelter Meeting 08a requested that guidance be developed on good practice for locally built transitional shelters. This guidance, the Transitional Shelter Guidelines, is to comprise a concise and practical toolkit on developing and implementing a transitional shelter programme.

The drafting of the Transitional Shelter Guidelines is ongoing and Shelter Centre is receiving feedback from the field to inform this process. Contributions have been received and integrated from agencies including DFID, GOAL and World Vision International, which better allow the project to reflect the concerns and priorities of field operations.

In 2008, it was also agreed by the Shelter Meeting participants that the scope of the Standards be modified to include transitional shelters which are locally built and as well as those that are stockpiled, and this work is ongoing.

In January 2008 the draft standards were released to manufacturers at the annual 'Aid and Trade' commercial fair in Geneva. In April 2008, UN/OCHA circulated the standards at the Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development commercial fair.

Shelter Centre invited manufacturers to present initial feedback on the draft Transitional Shelter Standards to the participants of Shelter Meeting 08b, November 2008, in Brussels.

Developments in 2009 to 2011

Interested manufacturers will produce and present prototypes meeting the Transitional Shelter Standards to participants of the Shelter Meetings in 2009.

The project will later develop and agree winterisation standards, supported by the Transitional Shelter Prototypes project which will act as a test bed. The final Transitional Shelter Standards will be published in 2011, after conclusions from field testing have been integrated.

Two complementary projects for family tent specifications

Decades of experience in specifying ridge tents for humanitarian response are being consolidated into two projects, one by DFID, and the other by IFRC, ICRC and UNHCR. The specifications for the two tents that result will have been developed through consultation with multiple stakeholders.

The Shelter Centre-led projects in Transitional Shelter will seek to be consistent, to the greatest extent possible, with the work being undertaken by ICRC, IFRC, UNHCR, and DFID.

Shelter Centre has been invited to comment on progress made in both initiatives.





Shelter Library

Part of the DFID Programme with Shelter Centre

Shelter Library offers a collective memory for the sector in the form of a single searchable digital collection. It includes guidance, policy, and good practice resources that have been put in the public domain by United Nations bodies, the Red Cross Movement, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, and research groups.

Shelter Library contains over 1,000 publications in support of the shelter sector from more than 170 organisations. In the six months since its launch in October 2008, the new Shelter Library has been accessed from 199 countries and territories worldwide.

Activities in 2008

In 2008, the existing Shelter Library service was updated alongside the launch of the new Shelter Centre web platform.

Key features of the new Shelter Library include:

- a more sophisticated search engine;
- a 'related content' facility which suggests complementary documents to the user; and
- new types of media resources, including video.

The development of these features was guided by feedback received in interviews with humanitarian practitioners.

At the time of its launch the Library had just over 500 documents. It now contains over 1,000, thanks to contributions from the shelter sector, and from external collaborations, for example a project working with a group of architecture students from the University of Sheffield.

The screenshot shows the Shelter Centre website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Library', 'Training', 'Community', and 'Meeting'. Below this is a search bar and a list of related content. The main content area displays 'Shelter Standards' as a document with a PDF icon, a preview, and a size of 420.32 KB. Below the document information, there are details about the resource, including the date (2008), page count (23), and a thumbnail image of the document cover. The 'Related Resource' section includes links to 'Go to the Project page' and 'Shelter Centre', and lists the language as English and the type as Guidelines.

An online library search will provide the requested document in PDF format and suggest other related documents available.

Developments in 2009

Case studies continue to be generated by agencies using multiple formats spread across a variety of web sites. Though useful individually, the real value of case studies is in comparing them, and linking them to relevant standards, technical guidance and evaluations.

Following requests from humanitarian shelter practitioners, a case study component is due to be added to the Shelter Library in 2009.

Global inter-agency shelter case study tool

Shelter Centre will develop a tool to bring these case studies together and link them to related resources.

This new component of the Shelter Library will allow users to compare case studies according to a number of criteria, whether it be, for example:

- comparing all natural disasters in Indonesia, all responses in the Great Lakes region of Africa, or all earthquake responses in Pakistan, or
- comparing different types of seismic-resistant housing.

The case study tool will be specified by humanitarian practitioners at Shelter Meeting 09a.

The proof of concept web site due to be launched at Shelter Meeting 09b.

Shelter Library features publications from organisations including:

ALNAP, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, CHF International, COHRE, DFID, IAPSO, IOM, IRP, IFRC, MSF-B, NRC, ODI, Oxfam, ProVention Consortium, Refugee Studies Centre, SKAT, SDC, The Sphere Project, UN-HABITAT, UNDP, UNEP, UNHCR, UNISDR, UN/ OCHA, UNDRO, UNOHCHR, USAID.

Agencies that sent trainees to Shelter Training events include:

British Red Cross, CHF International, EWB-UK, German Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity International, Medair International, MSF, NRC, Oxfam GB, ProAct Network, RESET, Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors/ BuildAction, Save the Children Fund UK, UN-Habitat, UNHCR.



Shelter Training

Part of the DFID Programme with Shelter Centre

Shelter Training builds capacity in the humanitarian shelter sector both through the development of modular training courses, and through supporting these materials as a freely available resource for adaptation and use by non-specialist and specialist trainers.

2008 saw the launch of the first downloadable and consistent training for the sector, which was used to train independent humanitarian shelter specialists and representatives from UN bodies, members of the Red Cross Movement and NGOs.

These materials are free to use and can be modified and shared by users.

Activities in 2008

Shelter Centre ran and contributed to several major training events in 2008, including:

- IFRC Shelter Technical Training: Shelter Centre made a three-day contribution to this training course for the Shelter and Construction Delegates of Red Cross National Societies, based upon the ESC training, which was also run twice; and
- Shelter Training: Shelter Centre ran two three-day courses as part of the DFID programme, at the request of participants of Shelter Meeting, which were attended by 35 participants from 20 organisations. These training courses were endorsed by the IASC Emergency Shelter Cluster as Technical Specialist Training.

Throughout 2008, Shelter Centre continued to build upon the foundations laid in 2006 and 2007, refining the basic training developed with partners over the years. The result has been a thorough set of consistent and replicable materials, all supported for field adaption.

The training events held in 2008 were central to the development of these materials. The events provided the opportunity to meet with practitioners to ensure the materials continue to reflect operational priorities.

In addition, the Shelter Training web service was launched in October 2008, making the modules freely available and supporting adaptation by both non-specialists and specialists.

Prior activities 2006–2007

The one-day Shelter Training workshop before the November 2006 Shelter Meeting, which was well attended by shelter sector and training specialists, identified a clear need within the sector for:

- at headquarters and regional levels, the ongoing development of training delivered regularly; and
- at national and operational levels, modules which can be adapted easily to different operational considerations, and which are also in support of monitoring and coordinating the implementation of strategic plans.

Shelter Centre facilitated the 'Technical Specialists' Training Workshop' immediately prior to Shelter Meeting 07a, May 2007.

Also in October 2007, Shelter Centre contributed technical

sessions to the IASC 'Emergency Shelter Cluster Coordinators' Training' in Bangkok.

Developments in 2009

Shelter Centre will look to consolidate all shelter training materials from the IASC clusters into a unified, consistent and interchangeable resource.

New materials will also be added to the repository of modules, such as those on Camp Planning that are being developed with DFID and IFRC.



Shelter Training 08b

Agencies that are members of the Shelter Center Web Community include:

Architectes de l'Urgence, British Red Cross, CARE International, Caritas Austria, CHF International, German Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity International, Medair International, Merlin East Africa, MSF, NRC, Oxfam GB, ProAct Network, RESET, RICS/BuildAction, Save the Children Fund Mexico, Spanish Red Cross, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, WVI.



Shelter Community

Part of the DFID Programme with Shelter Centre

Shelter Community is a web service that supports agencies in recruiting available shelter specialists, as well as facilitating communication between sector specialists and their career development through:

- a register of shelter sector specialists as Members of the Shelter Community, enabling each Member to access support information specific to their needs;
- professional and social networking through the sharing of location and contact details of each Shelter Community Member, if they choose to make this information available to other Members;
- sharing the interests in and opinions about projects that each Shelter Community Member is involved in reviewing, if they choose to make this information available to other Members;
- sharing the availability for work of each Shelter Community Member, if they choose to make this information available; and
- a listing of shelter sector vacancies, filtered from sector resources, in addition to the opportunity to post vacancies.

Activities in 2008

The Shelter Community services were launched in October, along with the other Shelter Centre web services.

When Members log on to the website:

- their current location is updated on the map;
- they can contact their colleagues and peers; and
- they can search and post job adverts.

Developments in 2009

Shelter Centre will integrate a forum for discussion into the Members' area of the website, allowing practitioners to ask questions of their peers, share information with one another, and comment on recent developments.

The 'Sector Projects' section of the website will continue to be used for collaborative projects; for example, NRC will use this feature to develop their case study database. NRC will elicit feedback from interested Shelter Community Members. Members choose for themselves whether or not they participate in any individual sector project.



Community member location map



Shelter Interns

Part of the DFID Programme with Shelter Centre

The Shelter Interns programme aims both to increase the number of appropriate first mission candidates available to the humanitarian shelter sector, as well as to increase capacity within Shelter Centre to support the sector.

In 2008, Shelter Centre interns went on to work for organisations such as Save The Children and NRC.

Shelter Interns contribute their existing skills to Shelter Centre projects; these include the development of guidelines, the expansion of web services, the design and testing of shelter NFIs, and the facilitation of meetings and reviews.

Interns develop a broad understanding of sector principles and practice, as well as a detailed knowledge of their project areas, through their project work and access to the participants of the Shelter Meeting and review panels.

Activities in 2008

In 2008, 13 interns, 6 supported by EWB-UK and 7 through other funding, contributed to the Shelter Meetings, 'Selecting NFIs for Shelter' guidelines, Transitional Shelter Guidelines, Transitional Shelter Standards, Shelter Library, and Shelter Training projects.

In addition, under the supervision of Shelter Centre, a group of 11 architecture students from the University of Sheffield researched, identified and uploaded over 450 documents to the Shelter Library.

Strong interest from former Shelter Interns in continuing to contribute to the sector has led to the development of a project management structure that will link current interns with past interns. This adds capacity, continuity, and the continued input skills gained by former interns.

Developments in 2009

Initially, the focus will be on building up the Information Technology capacity within our organisation, to better support the sector through our online services

Shelter Centre will continue to forge links with external organisations and institutions with the aim of increasing capacity within the sector.



Shelter Centre Intern: Nigel Vaz

“During my internship I have worked on two major projects: the IASC Emergency Shelter Cluster ‘Selecting NFIs for Shelter’ guidelines; and the revision of the ‘Transitional Settlement and Reconstruction after Natural Disasters’ guidelines, to be published by the UN later in 2009. My project responsibilities have included drafting and editing content for guidelines, assisting with conference organisation and project management.

I have had the benefit of absorbing best practice approaches, principles and techniques and have gained real insight into humanitarian operations through collaboration with field and HQ-based professionals. As the next step in a career in humanitarian relief and development, I will apply this understanding practically through a field internship with ACTED and Engineers Without Borders UK, working on a disaster risk reduction project in Nias, Indonesia”.



Shelter Centre Intern: Laura Heykoop

“Through working on the Transitional Shelter Guidelines, Standards and Prototypes projects I have had the opportunity to take on a variety of responsibilities including restructuring, drafting and editing content, project management and assisting in the organisation of conferences and consortium meetings.

I feel this internship has given me an insight into the humanitarian sector and the role of shelter within a comprehensive emergency response. I plan to build on skills and knowledge gained by pursuing operational experience and a career in the humanitarian shelter sector.”



The new Shelter Centre web platform

Launched in October 2008, the new web platform supports the sector by integrating information available publicly from a variety of sources with existing and new services offered by Shelter Centre. Since the launch, the web site has been accessed from 199 different countries and territories.

Sector News

Sector News provides automatically updated news items relevant to the sector from several appropriate sources and displays these geographically on a world map. Sources include ReliefWeb, Reuters, and the Integration Regional Information Network (IRIN).

Sector Events

Sector Events is a global listing of shelter sector events, including meetings, workshops and training events, which is updated daily. Events listed range from IASC global cluster meetings, to regional initiatives such as the Australian Earthquake Engineering Society Conference and the UK Shelter Forum.

Sector Projects

Sector Projects lists projects on which Members of the Shelter Community can review and collaborate. For example, in 2008 these included the Transitional Shelter Guidelines, Camp Planning Guidelines, Transitional Shelter Standards and Transitional Shelter Prototypes.



Shelter Training

Shelter Training offers training materials developed by Shelter Centre which are free to use and modify, to assist in the development of training materials for delivery at headquarters level, or in support of humanitarian operations. In 2008 it was expanded to include image and diagram libraries, and is due to be further developed to include training developed by other organisations.

Shelter Community

Shelter Community is an online global community of sector specialists, with representatives of all major agencies worldwide and many independent humanitarian shelter specialists. Members may contact each other; post and find jobs; review projects; and share expertise and good practice.

Shelter Library

This searchable online library containing over 1,000 publications provides a collective memory for the sector. Shelter Library collects guidance, policy, and good practice resources published by United Nations bodies, the Red Cross Movement, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, and research groups.

Shelter Meeting

The Shelter Meeting section provides the facility to search or browse presentations and information from past Shelter Meetings, including work on best practice, guidelines and training.



Participation in other initiatives during 2008

The support of Shelter Centre to the sector extends beyond the projects described on the previous pages. Participation with wider sector and inter-sector initiatives connects these other initiatives with the projects described previously, optimising collaboration, consensus and capacity. For example, support includes participation in the activities listed below.

Activities of the IASC Cluster process

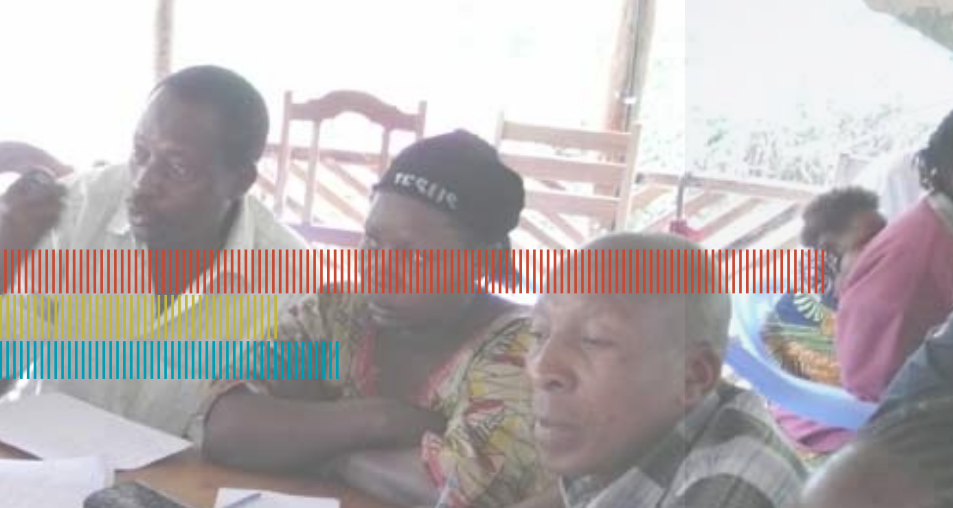
Shelter Centre is a partner in four of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Clusters: the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCM); the Early Recovery Cluster; the Emergency Shelter Cluster (ESC); and the Protection Cluster. Shelter Centre participated both in the development of work plans and specific projects.

Other sector fora

In addition to the twice-yearly Shelter Meeting, Shelter Centre participated in other sector fora, including the fourth and fifth meetings of the UK Shelter Forum, held in February and September, 2008. Shelter Centre presented its collaborative activities, as well as eliciting feedback from participants on its online services for the sector.

Sector guidelines

Shelter Centre contributed to the revision of the 'Camp Management Toolkit', led by NRC; to the draft of the World Bank guidelines 'Home Again': A Handbook for Reconstructing Housing and Communities After Disasters'; to the draft of 'Humanitarian timber: field



guidelines on timber as a construction material in humanitarian operations', led by IFRC, UN/OCHA and CARE International; and to the 'Shelter Projects 2008', compiled by UN-Habitat. Shelter Centre will continue to contribute to sector guidelines in the coming year, including the revision of The Sphere Project 'Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response'.

Collaboration with academic and research institutions









Shelter Centre supported the Humanitarian Centre with the International Development Course, held at the University of Cambridge. Also, as part of the festivities marking the 800 year anniversary of the University, Shelter Centre gave a lecture to students and faculty on transitional shelter and reconstruction activities. In the coming year, Shelter Centre will contribute to the teaching programme at the University of Geneva and will look to harness the capacity of academic institutions for the humanitarian shelter sector through demand-led research.

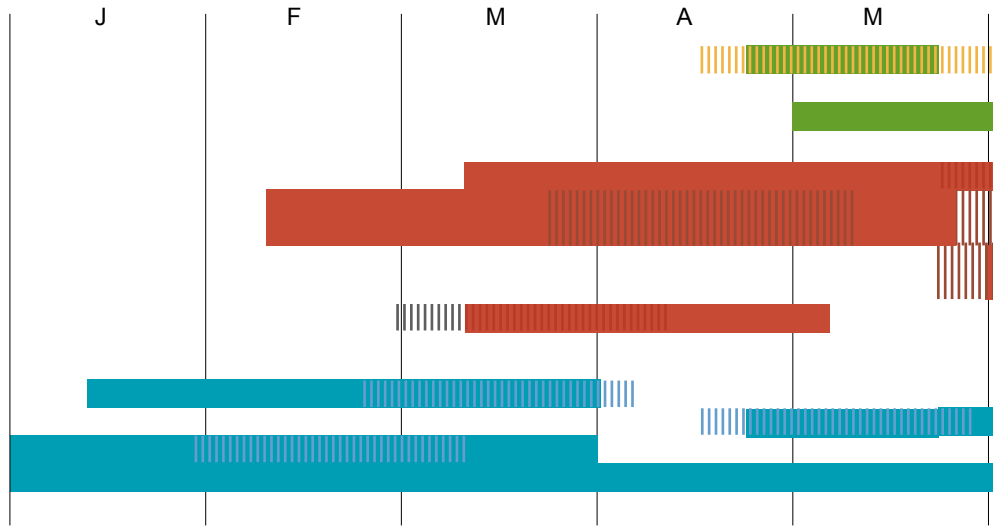
Development and testing of equipment

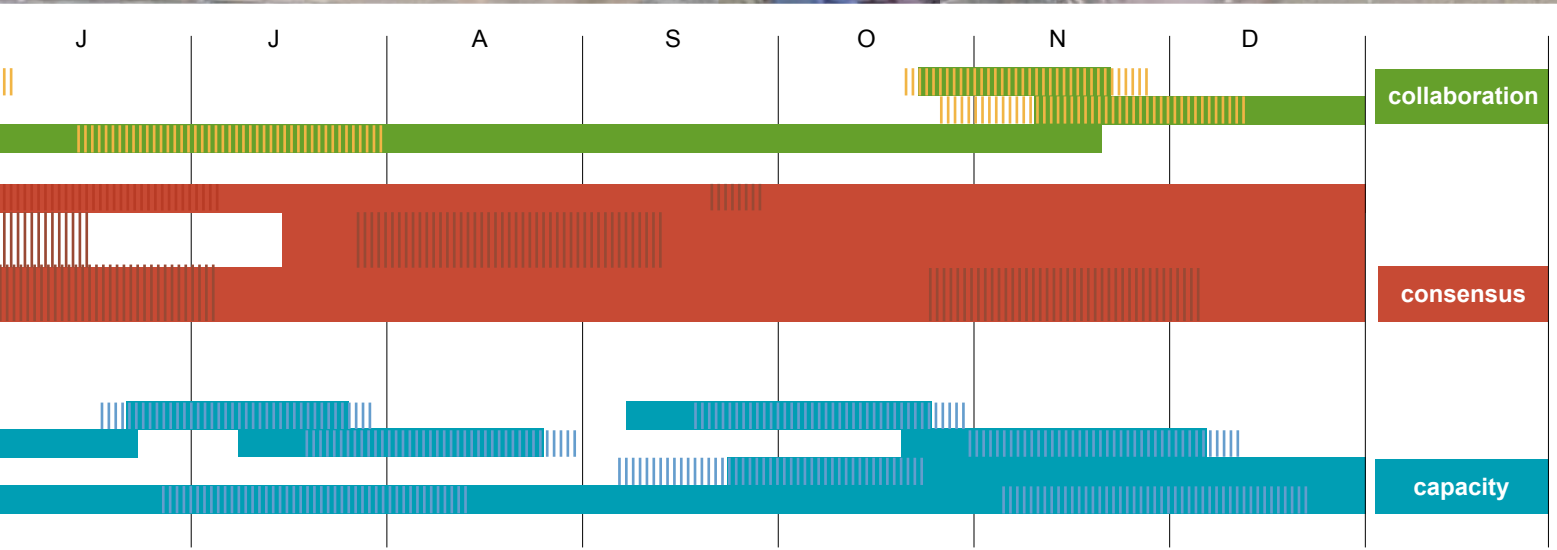
The activities of Shelter Centre in this area included taking part in the testing and evaluation of winter tents developed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), as well as those winter tents used by SDC.



Shelter Centre's activities in 2008

-  Shelter Meeting
-  Field Operations
-  Shelter Funding
-  Selecting NFIs for Shelter
-  Transitional Settlement and Reconstruction After Natural Disasters
-  Transitional Shelter Guidelines, Standards and Module
-  Camp Planning Guidelines
-  Shelter Library
-  Shelter Training
-  Shelter Community
-  Shelter Interns







Shelter Centre finances in 2008

The activities undertaken by Shelter Centre in 2008 was financially supported by programme funding, through the Conflict and Humanitarian Fund of the Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department of the Department of International Development (DFID) of the British Government; and also through project funding from the following sources:

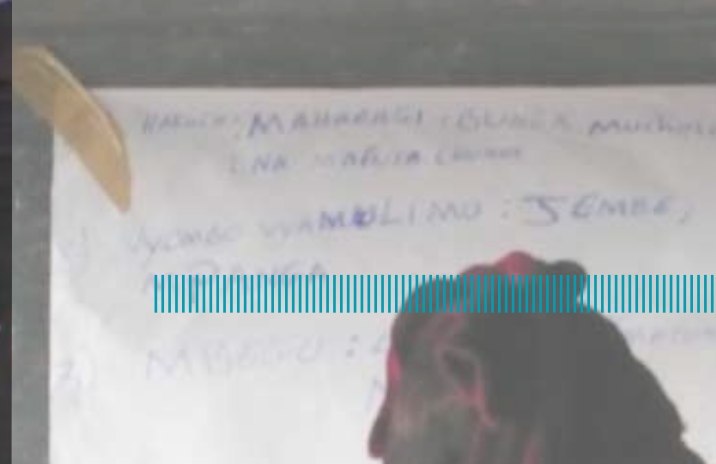
- the Norwegian Government;
- the Swedish Government;
- the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC);
- the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance within United States Agency for International Development (USAID) of the United States Federal Government; and
- the IASC Emergency Shelter Cluster, following appeals by partner agencies including Shelter Centre.

The generous support of these donors allowed Shelter Centre to implement and manage its programme of activities effectively throughout 2008.

Shelter Centre is a non-governmental organisation (NGO), registered as an association in Switzerland.



Total income	GBP	484,535.04
Capital expenditure		
Office equipment	GBP	17,867.73
Project expenses	GBP	41,164.66
<i>Subtotal</i>	GBP	59,032.39
Recurring expenditure		
Overseas travel	GBP	9,599.98
Staff and consultancies	GBP	316,406.10
Office consumables	GBP	74,158.27
<i>Subtotal</i>	GBP	400,164.35
Accounting and communication		
<i>Subtotal</i>	GBP	5,516.20
Total expenditure	GBP	464,712.94



Staff, interns and volunteers in 2008–09

Honorary President

Heiner Gloor

Staff

Tom Corsellis, Co-Director
Antonella Vitale, Co-Director
Hugh Earp, Office Coordinator
Carlo Gherardi, Policy Guidelines Author
Dani Torres, Web Communications Manager
Neil Brighton, Office Coordinator
Vénus Maroun, Office Assistant
Leo Vita-Finzi, Technical Author

Interns and volunteers

Christophe Arnold
Hugo Davies
Simon Golds
Laura Heykoop
Sarah Kent
Jennifer Milne
Sam Nelson
Alexa Nielsen
Dan Reader
Delia Richardson
Amelia Rule
Stephanie Smithers
Estelle Soh
Leonardo Solano
Chris Tolles
Sofia Ullinska
Valérie Verougstraete
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