

shelter centre

| Annual Report 2009-2010



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Index

Foreword	2
Partners	4
Operations	
Shelter Centre involvement in Haiti	6
Other field operations	7
Resources	
Shelter Meeting	8
Shelter Training	10
Shelter Community	11
Shelter Library	12
Shelter Centre Project Assistants	12
Projects	
Shelter after Disaster	14
Transitional Shelter	15
Shelter Funding	17
Future	
Background	18
Objective	19
Implementation	20
Funding	21
Annex	
Accounts	22
Timeline of activities	23
Staff and Project Assistants in 2009-2010	24

Foreword



Foreword from the Honorary President

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 Gloor 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.

This year has seen the devastating results of increases in vulnerability from urbanisation. The catastrophe in Haiti, with the unfortunate loss of hundreds of thousands of lives, was compounded by earthquakes in Chile, China, Afghanistan and the volcanic eruption in Iceland.

While many debate over whether these are consequences of global warming, exacerbated by our lifestyles and habits, the reality is that millions of people have been affected, and the trend is that this number will increase, due to increased vulnerability.

The response to the earthquake in Haiti offered another opportunity for the humanitarian community to develop its coordination mechanism, revised through the humanitarian reform process of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

The Haiti response also offered another opportunity to link humanitarian activities for relief and recovery. Strategies referred to two new guidelines for settlement and reconstruction, one developed by the World Bank and the other by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA). Shelter Centre contributed to both publications, supporting operational consistency with guidance developed over the past three years, as a consensus, within our biannual sector forum the Shelter Meeting.

With the global urban population now just above 50 percent, the number of city dwellers is expected to rise to 70 percent by 2050 according to the United Nations.

This raises a growing concern for the shelter sector and our ability to provide aid and reconstruction in an urban context. As United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon

said recently "rapid, unplanned urbanization is expanding slums and informal settlements, and municipal authorities are struggling to cope". This highlights the importance of better urban planning during reconstruction and the importance of avoiding further creation of slums.

Rapid urbanisation and having a higher concentration of people is more likely to cause greater vulnerability, as hazardous land is often occupied, usually by the poorest groups in populations. Response to disasters is also complicated greatly. The humanitarian community has yet to draw fully upon its experiences in urban conflicts to inform its responses to urban disasters.

Through our work this year with the United Nations, World Bank and Inter-Agency Standing Committee, Shelter Centre continued support to developing consistent consensus guidance. Operationally in Haiti, my colleagues and I endeavoured to implement this consensus, and to learn from our experiences in order to inform our continued work. I understand that many challenges remain for the sector in offering consistent support throughout relief and recovery, even though everyone in the sector recognises that reconstruction starts from day one.

Heiner Gloor
Honorary President





Introduction from the Directors

Shelter Centre programmes are funded by donors including DFID, 2006–2011, with welcome contributions by project partners, including the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), IFRC and UNHCR.

During the year 2009–10, Shelter Centre has achieved significant contributions to the humanitarian community which responds to the settlement and reconstruction needs of those affected by conflicts and natural disasters, including through :

- policy-level guidance, with UN/OCHA, the World Bank and IOM;
- technical guidance, with the IASC CCCM Cluster;
- training toolkits, with the IASC Global Shelter Cluster; and
- equipment, with six manufacturers developing transitional shelter prototypes to standards agreed by a consortium of donors, UN agencies and NGOs.

In addition, Shelter Centre pursued its mission through supporting the community, promoting collaboration, providing consensus, and building capacity.

Collaboration

Two 'Shelter Meetings' offered the platform for global dialogue amongst the community of practitioners and promoting development of the sector. The Meetings included discussions on sector principles, the revision of the Sphere Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, as well as regional sector support initiatives.

Consensus

In addition to policy level guidance, tools were developed supporting transitional shelter, and projects were finalised on collective centres and supporting training globally.

Capacity

Staff was seconded and released in order to work with organisations in priority disaster operations, such as Haiti. The Shelter Centre Project Assistants Programme developed skills for assistants who went on to work with donors, UN agencies, the Red Cross Movement and NGOs worldwide.

In addition to the above areas of activity, Shelter Centre remains a member and contributing participant of various sector stakeholder initiatives, including the humanitarian reform process of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. Shelter Centre continues to participate fully in the four clusters with which it partners: Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCCM), Early Recovery Cluster (CWGER), Global Shelter Cluster (GSC), and the Protection Cluster. The Water Sanitation Hygiene Cluster (WASH) additionally participates in the Shelter Meetings.

Looking ahead to the upcoming year, Shelter Centre will redraft the Transitional Shelter Guidelines with additional input from the field, launch the final version of Shelter after Disaster guidelines, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and re-launch the Shelter Centre website.

Lastly, taking our attempts at a global level as a proof of concept for supporting the sector, we are hoping to introduce this at a regional level. Shelter Centre hopes to extend its capacity by supporting existing regional initiatives to create regional hubs of knowledge and learning.

Tom Corsellis
Executive Director



Antonella Vitale
Co-Director



Index	Foreword	Partners	Operations	Resources	Projects	Future	Annex
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Partners

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

6

Government representatives

- Government of Maharashtra, India
- The Norwegian Mission to the UN in Geneva

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Clusters

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

Humanitarian bi-lateral and multi-lateral donors

- Department for International Development Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs Department Operations Team (DFID CHAD-OT)
- European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation/ Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SDC/HA)
- Swiss Solidarity
- United States Agency for International Development/ Office of the United States Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)
- The World Bank

United Nations bodies

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- 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)



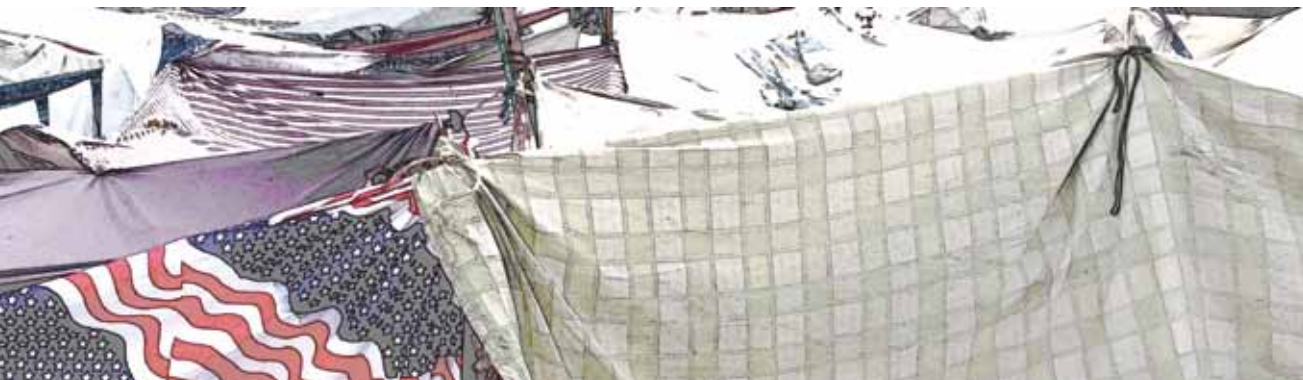
- United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

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
- Jamaican Red Cross
- Netherlands Red Cross
- Norwegian Red Cross
- Spanish Red Cross

Non-governmental organisations

- AMURT International
- Article 25
- Architectes de l'Urgence
- Architects for Aid
- 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)
- Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF)
- Cordaid
- Development Workshop France (DWF)
- Engineers without Borders UK (EWB UK)
- FinnChurchAid
- GOAL
- Habitat for Humanity International
- Handicap International
- Hilfe Zur Selbsthilfe e.V
- Institut Bioforce Development
- 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
- Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief (RedR)
- RESET
- Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
- Save The Children Fund (SCF)
- Shelter for Life International (SFL)
- Terre des hommes Foundation for Child Relief
- The Sphere Project
- Urbanistes Sans Frontières
- World Shelters
- World Vision

Academic and research institutions

- Benfield Hazard Research Centre, UCL
- Cambridge University
- Coventry University
- Eindhoven University of Technology
- Lien Institute for Environment
- London South Bank University
- Oxford Brookes University
- Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
- Queen's University Belfast
- Southampton Solent University
- TU Delft
- Université de Geneve (UNIGE)
- University of Keele Department of International Law
- Vrije Universiteit Brussels (VUB)

Index	Foreword	Partners	Operations	Resources	Projects	Future	Annex
-------	----------	----------	------------	-----------	----------	--------	-------

Operations



8

Shelter Centre involvement in Haiti



The 12th of January 2010 saw one of the most catastrophic humanitarian disasters in recent times. The 7.3 magnitude Earthquake was the worst to hit Haiti in the last century. Three million of Haiti's nine million strong population were affected and over 230,000 killed.

Shelter Centre as part of its responsibility to promote capacity in the shelter sector has released various staff members from their day-to-day roles to support various organisations. Below is a list of current and former staff members who are and have been involved with Haiti relief efforts.



Heiner Gloor

Shelter Centre's Honorary President, Heiner was in Haiti from February for just over a month. He was seconded from SDC/HA to the World Bank as a Technical Advisor contributing to Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) and Preliminary Damage and Needs Assessment (PDNA) processes of the World Bank and the IASC Cluster Working Group for Early Recovery.



Tom Corsellis

Shelter Centre's Executive Director, Dr Tom Corsellis, was in Haiti in February, seconded from DFID to IOM as Shelter Cluster Coordinator for the IASC Global Shelter Cluster.



Antonella Vitale

Antonella Vitale, Shelter Centre's Co-Director and Director of Field operations, supported the Shelter Technical Team of IFRC in its operational response. During her first mission she contributed to the development of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement shelter strategy and its related plan of action. Her second mission was targeted to the design of a pilot programme for shelter support to host families living outside the earthquake affected area and hosting displaced families coming from the most affected areas of Port au Prince and Leogane.



Hugh Earp

Former Office Coordinator, until 2009, Hugh has been working in Haiti for Save the Children since late January 2010.



Amelia Rule

Former Project Assistant in 2009, after her work in London with DFID, Amelia is doing Information Management under contract from CARE and IFRC.



Johanna Weststrate

Former Project Assistant 2009 - 2010, Johanna Weststrate, is currently working in Haiti for Cordaid.



Laura Heykoop

Former Project Assistant in 2009, Laura Heykoop, is currently working in Haiti with Habitat for Humanity.



Valerie Verougstraete

Former Project Assistant in 2009, Valerie Verougstraete, is currently working in Haiti for IFRC.



Other field operations



Shelter Centre is involved in field operations through collaborations and partnerships with organisations responding to humanitarian crisis, both in conflict and natural disasters. Shelter Centre staff provide support at different stages of the response based on need, from emergency to recovery.

This has been done in two ways: seconding staff to other organisations, or releasing staff for field operations with either implementing or coordinating organisations. Shelter Centre also seconds staff to the headquarters of humanitarian organisations, including two secondments to UNHCR in 2009 and 2010 and one short-term secondment to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in 2010.

Supporting the sector through field based collaborations Shelter Centre continues with its approach without implementing shelter programmes directly, in order to progress in parallel its provision of services to the sector as a whole.

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 during operations, national and regional concerns, limitations and opportunities, identify good practice and innovations; and
- build further relations with collaborating organisations.

Training in 2008–09

08-09

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

- IASC Early Recovery Cluster Advisor and Cluster Coordinator Training;

- IASC Emergency Shelter Cluster Coordinator Training;
- IFRC Early Recovery Surge Team Training; and
- IASC Water Sanitation and Hygiene Cluster Information Manager Training.

Field operations activities in 2009-2010

09-10

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

- 2009, Democratic Republic of the Congo, in collaboration with CARE International to set up a pilot shelter programme in support of families hosting internally displaced people in North Kivu.
- 2009, Kyrgyzstan, in collaboration with the Early Recovery Unit of the Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations to develop an Early Recovery Rapid Needs Assessment Tool in support of the development of an inter-agency contingency plan as part of the country's early recovery strategy.
- 2010, Haiti, in collaboration with IFRC, the IASC Emergency Shelter Cluster, the IASC Early Recovery Cluster and the World Bank, to support, with three senior staff, and in chronological order: the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement shelter response (IFRC); the Shelter Cluster coordinator in Haiti, over the period when the Shelter Sector Plan was agreed with government (DFID seconded to IOM); and the Post Disaster Needs Assessment in cooperation with the World Bank, the UN the European Commission and the Government of Haiti (SDC/HA seconded to the World Bank).

Shelter Centre has recently entered an agreement with the United Nations Joint Logistic Services (UNJLC) for the provision of services for the agreement of a shelter strategy in support of the Emergency Shelter Cluster in Northern Sudan. Shelter Centre will not be providing individuals, but a team of experts, who will be deployed to Sudan and supervised by the Co-Director in Geneva who directs Field Operations. This experience will contribute to further define the Shelter Centre models for field collaborations from 2010 onwards.

Index	Foreword	Partners	Operations	Resources	Projects	Future	Annex
-------	----------	----------	------------	-----------	----------	--------	-------

Resources



10



Shelter Meeting



Shelter Meeting is the global forum for the sector, facilitated by Shelter Centre and hosted by a different humanitarian agency for each Meeting in May and November, usually in Geneva. At the Shelter Meetings, governments, donors, UN bodies, IOs, the Red Cross Movement, NGOs, major aid agencies and academic and research bodies come together at global level with independent shelter specialists as a progressive community of practice.

To maximise value for participants, complementary events are often held immediately prior to Shelter Meetings, which respond to their stated priorities. 2009-10 these included a 'Transitional Shelter Day' and a meeting on 'Private Sector Engagement'.

At Shelter Meetings:

- participants identify and review collaborative projects;
- share best practices, both on ongoing operations and in technical approaches to response;
- offer updates on related events and initiatives; and
- focus upon priority themes, whether relating to a specific region of current operations, or to an emerging or neglected sector activity.

Shelter Meeting 09a

09-10

May 7th and 8th 2009, hosted by Swiss Solidarity, in Geneva SM09a was attended by 75 participants and 5 observers, including 6 independent humanitarian shelter specialists and representatives from 1 government; 3 donors; 4 UN bodies; 4 members of the Red Cross Movement; 1 International Organisation; 23 NGOs; 3 academic and research groups.

Initiatives announced at SM09a:

- IFRC Sphere shelter, settlements and non-food items chapter revision;
- WWF Sphere environment, DRR and climate change chapter revision;

- IASC Urbanization Task Force;
- IASC Housing, Land and Property Rights Group;
- WWF Green Recovery and Reconstruction Toolkit; and
- ProAct Network final review of 'A Brief Guide to the Asbestos in Emergencies'.

Projects reviewed at SM09a:

- the World Bank Handbook on reconstruction; and
- transitional settlement and reconstruction guidelines.

Publications and resources launched at SM09a:

- the website of the construction group of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid;
- the Built Environment Professions in Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Guide;
- the approach of 'Owner-Driven Reconstruction'; and
- a Sector Lecture, delivered by Heiner Gloor, entitled 'Shelter after disaster, lessons learned from Pakistan, three years after the earthquake'.

In addition, after the formal Shelter Meeting on day 1, Shelter Centre organised the Transitional Shelter Standards and Prototypes meeting. This event was open to all organisations meeting the participatory criteria of the Shelter Meeting along with manufacturers displaying their prototypes in view of informing manufacturers of the expected standards for shelter.

Shelter Meeting 09b

09-10

November 12th and 13th 2009, hosted by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in Geneva SM09b was attended by 72 participants and 7 observers, including 5 independent humanitarian shelter specialists and representatives from: 2 governments; 3 donors; 3 IASC clusters; 4 UN bodies; 4 members of the Red Cross Movement; 1 International Organisation; 19 NGOs; and 4 academic and research groups.



Initiatives announced at SM09b:

- NRC Urban Assistance Project;
- a proposal by Shelter Centre for 'Demand-led Research in Sustainable Regional Hubs'; and
- a proposal by Shelter Centre for the secondment of Project Assistants.

Projects under review:

- IASC Urban Task Force;
- UN-HABITAT Shelter Projects 2009;
- the revision of the Sphere Project Minimum Standards on Non-Food Items;
- World Bank reconstruction handbook;
- 'Transitional shelter and reconstruction after natural disasters' guidelines;
- Shelter Centre Transitional Shelter Projects;
- School Environments Assessment Tool (SEAT); and
- Dhajji construction development project.

Publications and resources launched:

- a 'Transitional Shelter Prototypes' booklet;
- 'Child Friendly Schools and Guidelines', published by the Rwanda Ministry of Education;
- from the NICEE, 'Confined Masonry for one and two story buildings in low-tech environments: A guidebook for technicians and artisans';
- ProAct Network - Quick Emergency Guides: Asbestos Handling and Building Waste Management; and
- Practical Action - Disaster Risk Management and Reconstruction in Latin America: A Technical Manual.

In addition, after the formal Shelter Meeting on day 1, Shelter Centre organised the Transitional Shelter Prototypes meeting. This event was open to all organisations meeting the participatory criteria of the Shelter Meeting along with manufacturers displaying their prototypes. There were discussions on the prototypes, on the standards they were designed to, and on the expectations for manufacturers, as well as for the shelter sector.

Index	Foreword	Partners	Operations	Resources	Projects	Future	Annex
-------	----------	----------	------------	-----------	----------	--------	-------



Shelter Training



Shelter Centre developed the core technical training for both the IASC Global Shelter Cluster and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC).

Shelter Centre builds additional capacity in the humanitarian shelter sector through modular training courses, consistent with the GSC and IFRC training, and also through supporting these materials as a freely available resource for adaptation and use by non-specialist and specialist trainers.

Training activities in 2009-2010

09-10

2009 saw the completion of the Training Resource Consolidation Project, undertaken by Shelter Centre on behalf of the IASC GSC, led by UNHCR in cooperation with IFRC.

The training resources comprise three folders, each of 250 pages with a trainers' manual, participants' manual, handouts, exercises and digital files. The consistent materials can be interchanged and adapted easily for different training needs. The three folders support three distinct roles within the Shelter Cluster, deployed as a team in cluster responses:

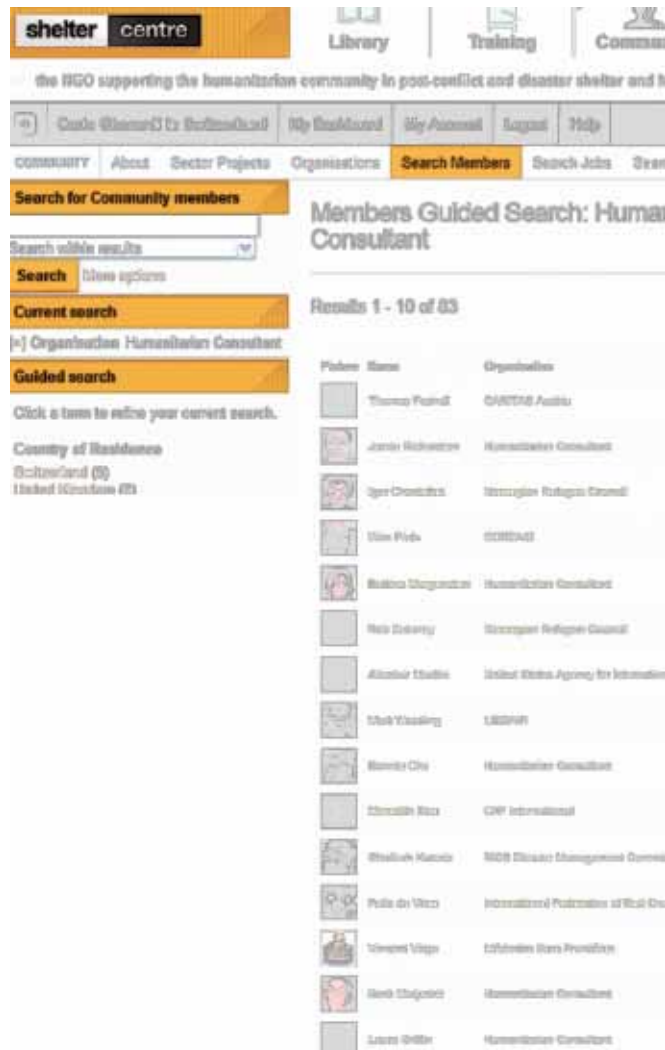
- Coordinators;
- Technical Specialists; and
- Information Managers.

Training developments in 2010-2011

10-11


With support from ECHO, and following discussions at sector fora such as the Shelter Meeting, Shelter Centre is developing a project for a global network of regional learning platforms, including a consistent basic training consistent with IASC GSC and IFRC training.

The basic 'Shelter Training' will comprise workshops which will additionally elicit regional priorities, capacities and resources. It will include elements supporting shelter, settlement and reconstruction activities in the IASC GSC, CCCM, Early Recovery, Protection and WASH clusters.





Shelter Community

 The hundreds of Members of the on-line Shelter Community web service are independent shelter specialists as well as staff of:

- donors;
- United Nations bodies;
- International Organisations;
- the Red Cross Movement; and
- International and National NGOs.

Shelter Community supports both 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, in addition to the opportunity to post vacancies.

Shelter Community activities in 2009-2010

09-10 2009-2010, the membership of the Shelter Community more than doubled. Members used the resources and services on the website.

Sector News service

Sector News selects shelter-related news hourly from the newsfeeds of organisations ranging from Reuters and Associated Press to ReliefWeb and UNHCR.

2009-2010, the Sector News service was developed to be more reliable and inclusive, drawing from more newsfeeds, such as GDACS and over 80 NGOs.

Sector Events service

Sector Events presents in a single calendar of events specific to the shelter sector, including training, conferences, workshops, and the review of projects, for example for the development and review of guidance.

2009-2010, the Sector Events service was expanded significantly from global events to include regional, national and operational events. An RSS feed was created for Sector Events, enabling individuals and organisations to read the Events and include them in other websites.

Sector Projects service

Sector Projects offers an on-line resource for all Community Members to present and review initiatives.

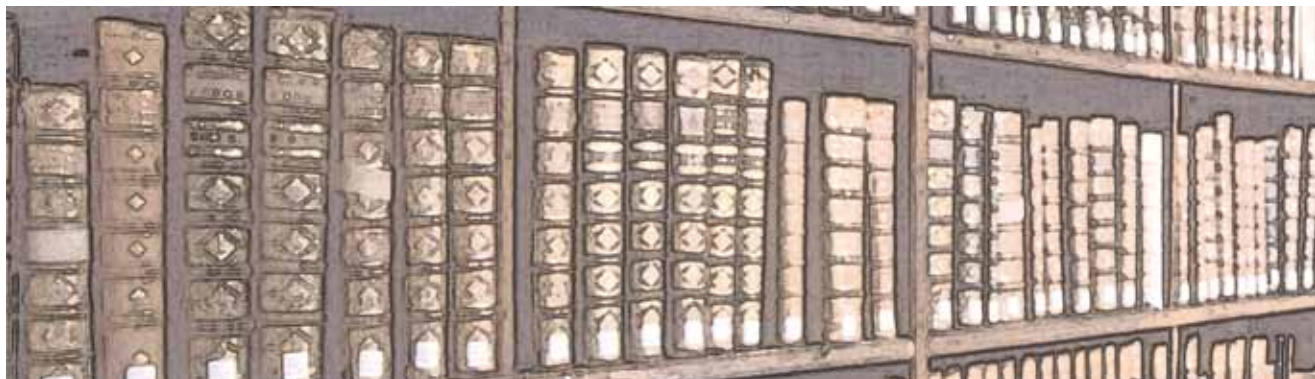
2009-2010, Sector Projects included initiatives on transitional shelter, involving manufacturers, and urban response, led by the Norwegian Refugee Council.

Shelter Community resources and services development in 2010-2011

10-11 The Shelter Community and other online services will be comprehensively upgraded, 2010-2011, involving:

- the further development of regional resources and services, building upon the ongoing assessment of regional organisations and initiatives;
- a global mapping tool, where Members can identify and contact other Members in humanitarian responses;
- an online discussion forum for Members, where Members may ask each other for technical advice, and share good practice; and
- an expanded Shelter Library, with material geolocated on a world map.

Index	Foreword	Partners	Operations	Resources	Projects	Future	Annex
-------	----------	----------	------------	-----------	----------	--------	-------



Shelter Library



Shelter Library offers a collective memory for the sector in the form of a single searchable digital collection. It includes guidance, policy, and best 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 300 organisations and over 500 authors.

Since its launch in October 2008, the Shelter Library has been accessed from 210 countries and territories worldwide.

Shelter Library activities in 2009-2010

09-10

New content was monitored and uploaded on a daily basis. Activities included the further collection, preparation and upload of literature.

There was an increased focus on including regional knowledge. The primary sources and repositories used to gather information have been widened as Shelter Centre is now tapping into new networks and institutions in order to document their collective knowledge.

Shelter Library developments in 2010-2011

10-11

Shelter Centre is hoping to improve the library's search function, which will allow a more precise thematic, regional and case search.

The website as a whole will be redesigned in order to echo the new overall design concepts which are emerging from Shelter Centre publications.



Shelter Project Assistants



The Shelter Centre Project Assistants 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.

Project Assistants are central to the functioning of Shelter Centre, where they provide the energy behind every project.

In 2009-10, Shelter Centre Project Assistants went on to work for organisations such as ACTED, Cordaid, DFID, Habitat for Humanity, IFRC, Merlin, Save The Children, UN-ESCWA and UNHCR. Many Project Assistants have specialist skills and interest areas, creating a dynamic and motivated working environment within Shelter Centre.

Shelter Centre Project Assistants contribute to Shelter Centre projects and collaborations, contributing capacity and many specialist skills, from graphic design to civil engineering.

Assistants 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 participants of Shelter Meetings and review panels.

Each assistant additionally becomes a focal point for a specialist topic, monitoring progress daily, and ensuring that their focal areas remain up-to-date in Sector News, Sector Events, and the Shelter Library.

Shelter Project Assistants activities in 2009-2010

09-10

In 2009, Shelter Centre engaged 22 Project Assistants, of which 5 were supported by the NGO Engineers without Borders UK and 13 through DFID and project funding.

In 2010, Shelter Centre signed an agreement with UNHCR to second to them experienced Project Assistants, involving two secondments to-date.



During a vote taken at Shelter Meeting 09b, an overwhelming majority of organisations showed their interest in participating in a secondment programme administered by Shelter Centre. Participants recognised Shelter Centre as a valuable resource for sector capacity.

Given the unprecedented crisis in Haiti, a number of organisations requested capacity from Shelter Centre through availability of former Project Assistants or those coming to the end of their Shelter Centre contracts.

Shelter Project Assistants developments in 2010-2011



Initially, the focus will be on building up the information technology capacity within our organisation, to better support the sector through the re-development of online services and resources. Graphic design and publication capacity will also be improved.

Following the engagement in 2009-2010 of five Swiss project assistants, more attention will be given to building local connections with initiatives and capacity in Switzerland, and specifically in the State of Geneva.

Project Assistant profile: Jonathan Le Mare



"In July 2009, I completed a degree in chemical engineering, which is a discipline that is traditionally associated with the commercial industries such as oil, gas and pharmaceuticals. Instead of taking this route post graduation, I was keen to find an opportunity that allowed me to use my skills in a more direct and relevant way that would be of social benefit. In essence, what I believe engineering to be, using science and technology to improve people's standard of living.

This opportunity came in the form of a six-month placement with Shelter Centre from September 2009 to March 2010. I was fortunate to be part of the team writing the revised UN guidelines 'Shelter after Disaster: strategies for settlement

and reconstruction'. As a result of this role, I quickly gained a comprehensive knowledge of the complex issues surrounding a shelter response following a natural disaster.

My time at Shelter Centre has opened my eyes to the humanitarian sector, and allowed the insight to encourage me to pursue a career within the area. Firstly, I will go back to commercial engineering and gain valuable experience in a related field, for example water and sanitation. This will put me in good stead to make a return, and valuable contribution, to the humanitarian sector at some point in the future."

Project Assistant profile: Liz Palmer



"After 10 years of working in the private sector as an architect, I developed a keen interest in working for the humanitarian sector. The time I spent at Shelter Centre was challenging, from a personal level of cycling to work in a foot of snow, to having to learn about a completely new profession.

The past 6 months with Shelter Centre in Geneva has raised my awareness of emergency response methods, post-disaster reconstruction, shelter options and assistance methods. I have assisted in the development of shelter training activities, by consolidating training materials for the IASC Emergency Shelter Cluster on behalf of UNHCR, and more recently, project managing the revised content of Shelter Training for a new 5-day regional workshop.

It has been a really positive experience. I hope to use my newly acquired skills and information gained whilst at Shelter Centre in my future career, either in the relief community or in sustainable development. I now feel adequately equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge required to continue my work in the sector."

Index	Foreword	Partners	Operations	Resources	Projects	Future	Annex
-------	----------	----------	------------	-----------	----------	--------	-------

Projects

16



Shelter after Disaster



The forthcoming guidelines 'Shelter after disaster: strategies for transitional settlement and reconstruction' are a revision of the 1982 guidelines 'Shelter after Disaster: guidelines for assistance'. The revision is a collaboration between Shelter Centre and UN/OCHA.

The Field Edition of the guidelines, published in 2008, have been restructured and desktop published following review by working groups and the Shelter Meeting. The revision process is a key deliverable for the Shelter Centre Conflict and Humanitarian Fund programme with DFID, 2006-2011.

Five key concepts presented in the guidelines are:

- guiding principles for the sector;
- activities comprising a strategic planning template;
- six transitional settlement options for displaced populations;
- six transitional reconstruction options for non-displaced populations; and
- sixteen assistance methods to be combined in support of these options.

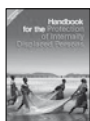
2009-2010, following the publication of the Field Edition, these concepts have been adopted in sector guidance and operations plans:



revision of the 'Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response' (The Sphere Project, 2010, forthcoming);



'Safer Homes, Stronger Communities: A Handbook for Reconstructing after Natural Disasters', (The World Bank, 2010);



IASC clusters, including the 'Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons', (Global Protection Cluster Working Group, 2008); and



the IASC 'Shelter Sector Plan' for Haiti, 2010, www.shelterhaiti.org.

'Shelter after disaster' activities in 2009-2010

09-10

2009-2010, Shelter Centre undertook a complete revision of the 2008 Field Edition, drawing upon a comprehensive review mechanism.

The revisions in 2009-2010 built upon a programme of development undertaken over four years, involving the following publications.



'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.

This process will conclude in 2010 with the publication by the United Nations of the following guidelines, which will be launched at Shelter Meeting 10b in November 2010:

'Shelter after disaster: strategies for transitional settlement and reconstruction' (UN 2010, forthcoming)



Transitional Shelter



A series of projects supporting transitional shelter are part of the DFID Programme with Shelter Centre. The development of standards were supported additionally by a grant from USAID/OFDA.

In 2009, collaborative dialogue continued between the humanitarian community and the shelter manufacturing community on standards for stockpiled transitional shelters. Significant progress was made in the development of prototype stockpiled transitional shelters, and on the test regime for the shelters.

The aims of the following 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.

Transitional Shelter activities in 2009-2010

09-10

Shelter Centre developed and published the draft Transitional Shelter Guidelines for review in May 2009, in response to requests from Shelter Meeting attendees. The guidelines clearly define transitional shelter, assist the reader in determining whether it is an appropriate response method in a particular scenario, and support them in identifying the best way to implement an effective transitional shelter programme. The development of the guidelines is ongoing, and comments are still welcome.

At the request of Shelter Meeting participants, Shelter Centre has explored how to include standards for locally built transitional shelter within its projects. Members of the transitional shelter projects consortium have suggested that separate standards be developed for stockpiled and locally built transitional shelter. Shelter Centre will further explore this possibility.

Since the release of the draft Transitional Shelter Standards in January 2008, Shelter Centre has published revised drafts in November 2008 and May 2009. Shelter Centre attended the annual 'Aid and Trade' commercial fair in Washington, and has since secured the interest of additional shelter manufacturers. At the moment eight manufacturers are involved in developing prototype transitional shelters.

Feedback from participating manufacturers on standards and prototypes projects have been continual. They presented sample prototypes at Shelter Meetings in May and November 2009 for discussion. In November 2009, Shelter Centre published a Transitional Shelter Prototypes booklet, displaying six of the manufacturers' latest designs.

Index	Foreword	Partners	Operations	Resources	Projects	Future	Annex
-------	----------	----------	------------	-----------	----------	--------	-------

Transitional Shelter developments in 2010-2011

10-11

Shelter Centre will be collaborating with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and DFID in order to finish these guidelines. This is part of a third phase project where phase one, the creation of the guidelines, is already complete. Phase two will consist of evaluation of shelter approaches in the field and it will be funded by IOM. Phase three is the conclusion of field evaluations and the re-drafting of these guidelines as a result of 'lessons learnt' from the field. This phase will be jointly funded by IOM and DFID.

The next steps in the remaining 18 months for the project are to finalise the test regime and comparison system, reformat and finalise the Transitional Shelter Standards, and assist the manufacturers in exploring winterisation options for their designs.

Shelter Centre has been developing a test regime and design comparison system for the transitional shelter prototypes. These are still under review and should be finalised by summer 2010. Previous to Shelter Meeting 10a, manufacturers are invited to bring full prototypes for a day of testing, followed by a discussion day with the projects Shelter Standards Consortium.

Agencies participating in the Shelter Standards Consortium:

British Red Cross, CAFOD, Canadian Red Cross, CARE International, Caritas Austria, CHF International, COHRE, Cordaid, CRS, DFID, ECHO, German Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity International, IOM, IFRC, JICA, Medair International, MSF-B, Muslim Aid, Netherlands Red Cross, NRC, ODI, Oxfam GB, Practical Action, ProAct Network, RedR, RICS, Save the Children Fund, SDC/HA, Switzerland Red Cross, Trócaire, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UN/OCHA, USAID/OFDA, Vrije University Brussels, World Vision International





Shelter Funding



Shelter Funding is a series of small awards, supported by DFID and administered by Shelter Centre, to support collaborative projects that deliver practical tools which promote operational best practices. Unless further funding is found, 2009-2010 is the last period that this programme will be in operation.

Identification of projects

Project proposals were presented by participant organisations at Shelter Meetings. Once approved by other Meeting participants, they were subsequently reviewed, field tested, and disseminated by the participating agencies.

Eligible organisations and networks

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

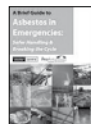
Shelter Funding activities in 2009-10

09-10

Shelter Centre funded four projects 2009-2010:

1. (completed) 'A Brief Guide to Asbestos in Emergencies: Safer Handling & Breaking the Cycle', developed by ProAct;
2. (completed) 'Planning Centralised Building Waste Management Programmes in Response to Large Disasters', developed by ProAct and DWR;
3. (to be completed) 'Shelter sector funding: a review of donor and NGO practice', funded jointly with IFRC and CARE International; and
4. (to be completed) guidelines on urban shelter response, in collaboration with the Norwegian Refugee Council.

Publications completed



'A Brief Guide to Asbestos in Emergencies: Safer Handling & Breaking the Cycle'

The booklet is a simple and practical guide for transitional settlement and reconstruction practitioners which aims to provide basic background information on asbestos and its associated health risks. It provides key recommendations for minimising the risks of dealing with asbestos in post-disaster transitional settlement and reconstruction operations, as well as suggesting further reading sources for more in-depth technical information.

<http://www.sheltercentre.org/library/DRAFT+Guide+to+Asbestos+in+Emergencies>



'Planning Centralised Building Waste Management Programmes in Response to Large Disasters'

This project is a collaboration between ProAct Network, Disaster Waste Recovery (DWR) and Shelter Centre. The booklet highlights key issues and priorities of disaster waste management in different settings. It provides simple examples of re-use and recycling of building waste materials in transitional and permanent shelter programmes.

<http://www.sheltercentre.org/training/material/A+Brief+Guide+Management+Building+Waste+Materials+Emergencies>

Index	Foreword	Partners	Operations	Resources	Projects	Future	Annex
-------	----------	----------	------------	-----------	----------	--------	-------

Future



Background

Shelter Centre is currently exploring with the Shelter Meeting the development with existing regional organisations of regional shelter hubs, which would offer:

1. regional learning platforms, supported by a global platform, supporting consistent basic training workshops, made sustainable by training trainers in regional organisations, which would recover costs through fees;
2. regional knowledge bases, capturing good practice and documentation from operations and organisations, adding to the regional memory of the sector; and
3. regional fora, where governmental, humanitarian, developmental and academic stakeholders can meet regularly in order to prioritise and review collaborations.

These hubs would develop regionally the Shelter Centre programme for supporting the global shelter community of practice, funded by DFID, 2006 - 2011.

Problem statement

While a global coordination framework exists through the humanitarian reform process that can be established in some larger emergencies, no similar consistent network exists at a regional level to capture knowledge and build capacity for regional stakeholders.

Needs assessment

Between 2004 and 2010, Shelter Centre conducted a number of assessments, involving a large number and variety of humanitarian agencies, to establish the need for local, regional and sector resources, knowledge capture, capacity building and training in shelter, settlement and reconstruction.

Shelter Meetings

The most recent assessments were undertaken through presentations, discussions, break-out groups and votes at Shelter Meetings.

Shelter Meeting 09a

Participants discussed the opportunities for demand-led research and identified that at a global level there are common priorities:

- identifying possible locations for regional shelter hubs;
- involving academia;
- identifying organisations to host and build hubs using existing capacity and communication channels; and
- incrementally building communication and cooperation, starting with small initiatives.

Shelter Meeting 09b

Shelter Centre presented the developed proposal for regional shelter hubs, which received unanimous support. Shelter Centre also initiated discussions with initiatives involved in Disaster Risk Reduction and climate change.





Objectives

Core proposed programme objective

Sustainable shelter sector capacity building through regional hubs supported by a common learning platform, offering accredited franchised core technical training as well as knowledge and resource capture, in order to improve the quality and effectiveness for humanitarian aid responses for aid workers and other relevant stakeholders.

1. Regional learning platforms

Challenges

- There is no internationally recognised training course in shelter, delivered worldwide.
- Training courses are often hosted in northern countries or ad hoc, in response to operational needs. This can constrain participation by regional staff.
- Many training emphasises imparting knowledge rather than sharing good practice and resources, lacking regional focus.

Proposal

Linked training platforms supporting regional training.

- New trainers act as nodes within the region to conduct franchised and accredited training, providing them with cost recovery.
- Benefits of research will be appropriately shared and featured in relevant training, to be piloted by this proposal, thereby embedding the results of research in a community of practice.
- New and existing educational and learning capacities, materials and resources will be presented in a learning platform, also supporting e-learning.

2. Regional knowledge bases

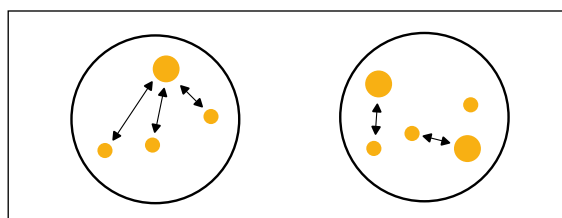
Challenges

- Following a disaster, only a small fraction of the knowledge and information generated is captured or retained, globally or regionally.
- Sector knowledge captured is not currently consolidated or presented so that it may inform the identification of good practice and development of tools.
- Regional research capacity is not informed by commonly-agreed priorities.

Proposal

Common services and resources, developed and maintained regionally, but linked and supported globally.

- A website, using open source software, will form the backbone of the Shelter research hubs, supporting South-South and North-South linkages.
- Resources including an events calendar and a library, such as for sharing building codes, zoning laws, technical tools, agency guidelines, common ownership documents, and situation reports.
- Each of these resources and services would be based upon common databases, allowing inter-hub views of resources and services.
- They would be maintained at hub levels, supported by skill trainings and global technical support.



Index	Foreword	Partners	Operations	Resources	Projects	Future	Annex
-------	----------	----------	------------	-----------	----------	--------	-------



3. Regional shelter hub fora

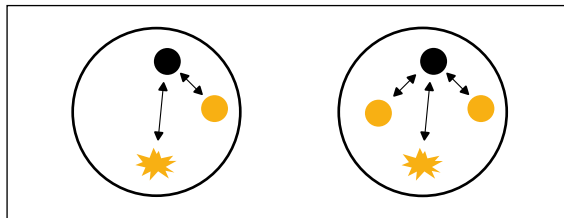
Challenges

Currently, there is no location for regional stakeholders to interact in and between emergencies, to share experiences and knowledge.

Proposal

The development with existing national and regional initiatives of regular events, bringing together governmental, humanitarian, development private sector and academic stakeholders in order to:

- prioritise their needs, which can help inform their individual and collective actions;
- share information, resources, tools and good practice; and
- develop together capacities and plans for integrated Disaster Risk Reduction, and practical approaches to climate change.



disaster zone



global coordination system



regional hub

↔ communication channel

Implementation

Phase 1, 2010-2011

For the first phase of implementation, 2010-2011, a pilot regional hub will be identified. Preliminary service and resource development, including of the training platform, will be undertaken based upon needs assessment within the region, involving regional initiatives.

Implementation will be in parallel to the completion of the DFID programme, in order that the services and resources developed to support the global community may inform the development of regional services and resources.

Phase 2, 2011-2015

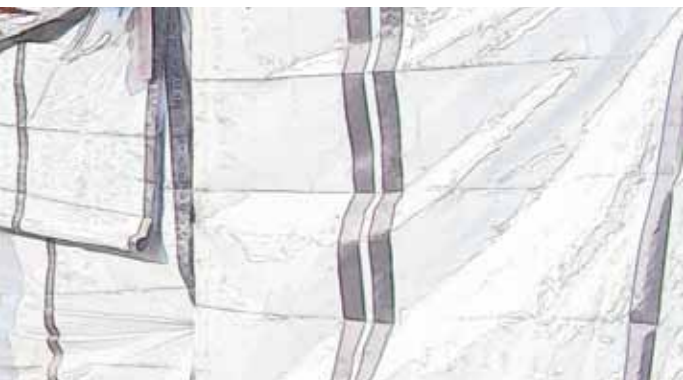
Phase 1 will pilot the design of both the content and implementation of the final roll-out of all five hubs, regionally and globally.

Regional learning platforms will be informed by undertaking the training and identifying regional priorities in capacity building.

Regional knowledge bases will be updated and monitored continually by the regional training workshops, which will continually identify regional and national resources, capacities, events and initiatives.

Regional fora will also add to regional knowledge bases, and additionally regional fora will be connected with each other, and with the global hub.

Key to the success of the shelter hubs will be supporting communication between the learning platforms, the knowledge bases, and the fora



Funding

Shelter Centre has developed with the Humanitarian Aid department of the European Commission (ECHO) a proposal for the training component of the first Phase.

Also for the first phase, partnerships and collaborations are being progressed with the academic community, concentrating for the first phase upon universities to backstop learning and knowledge. Preliminary conversations with Oxford Brookes University and the University of Cambridge will be taken further into funding proposals.

For the subsequent phase, positive preliminary approaches have been made to bilateral donors.

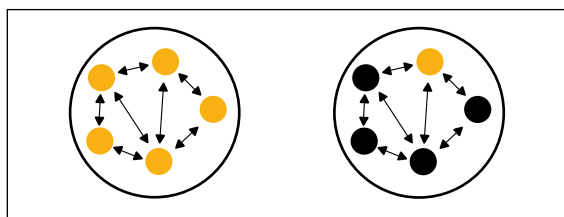
Funding the Shelter hubs

The phased project proposed is to have global coverage, finally forming five shelter hubs for capacity building:

- one global shelter hub; and
- four regional shelter hubs.

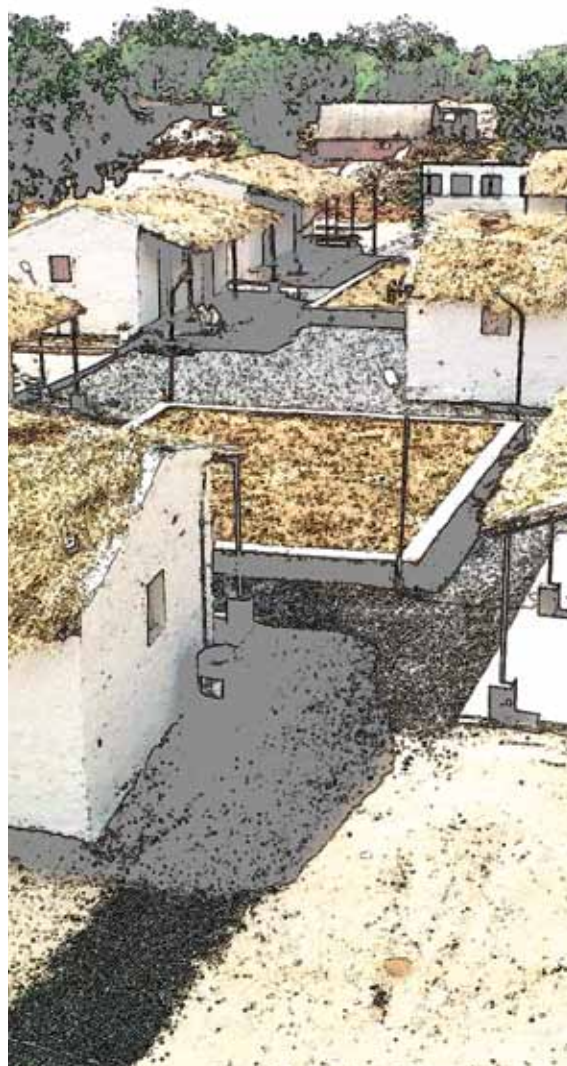
Following the first phase, which is funded, the four regional hubs will cover the following geographic areas:

- Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Middle East and North Africa;
- Sub-Saharan Africa; and
- Asia and the Pacific.



Infrastructure after 5 years

Black hubs - show handover
Yellow hub – global hub



Index	Foreword	Partners	Operations	Resources	Projects	Future	Annex
-------	----------	----------	------------	-----------	----------	--------	-------

Annex



Accounts

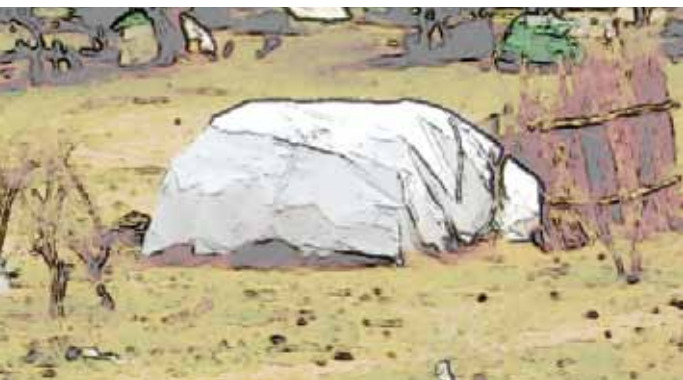
The sector support activities undertaken by Shelter Centre in 2009 were funded through the Conflict and Humanitarian Fund of the Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department, within the Department of International Development (DFID) of the British Government. Project funding was received additionally from the following sources:

- the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC);
- the IASC CCCM Cluster, via the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and offices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
- the IASC GSC, via UNHCR; and
- UNHCR.

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












N.B. The table below shows income and expenditure for the period 1st April 2009 to 31 March 2010. The figures from 1st January 2010 to 31st March 2010 are based on expected expenditure.

Financial income and expenditure	Total Income	GBP	451'180.76	CHF	729'794.94
Capital Expenditure	Office equipment	GBP	15'569.50	CHF	25'186.71
	Project equipment	GBP	6'526.92	CHF	10'558.00
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>GBP</i>	<i>22'096.42</i>	<i>CHF</i>	<i>35'744.71</i>
Recurring Expenditure	Overseas travel	GBP	10'554.01	CHF	17'072.24
	Staff and consultancies	GBP	371'939.15	CHF	601'600.09
	Support infrastructure	GBP	10'283.38	CHF	16'633.05
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>GBP</i>	<i>392'776.54</i>	<i>CHF</i>	<i>635'305.38</i>
Accounting and Communication	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>GBP</i>	<i>15'972.35</i>	<i>CHF</i>	<i>25'843.11</i>
	Total expenditure	GBP	430'845.31	CHF	696'893.20



Timeline of Activities

25

Activity		Quarter 2 - 2009	Quarter 3 - 2009	Quarter 4 - 2009	Quarter 1 - 2010
	Shelter Meeting				
	Shelter Training				
	Shelter Community				
	Shelter Library				
	Shelter Assistants				
	Field Operations				
	Shelter after Disaster				
	Transitional Guidelines				
	Transitional Standards				
	Transitional Prototypes				
	Shelter Funding				



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Mark Hopley

Fiona Kelling

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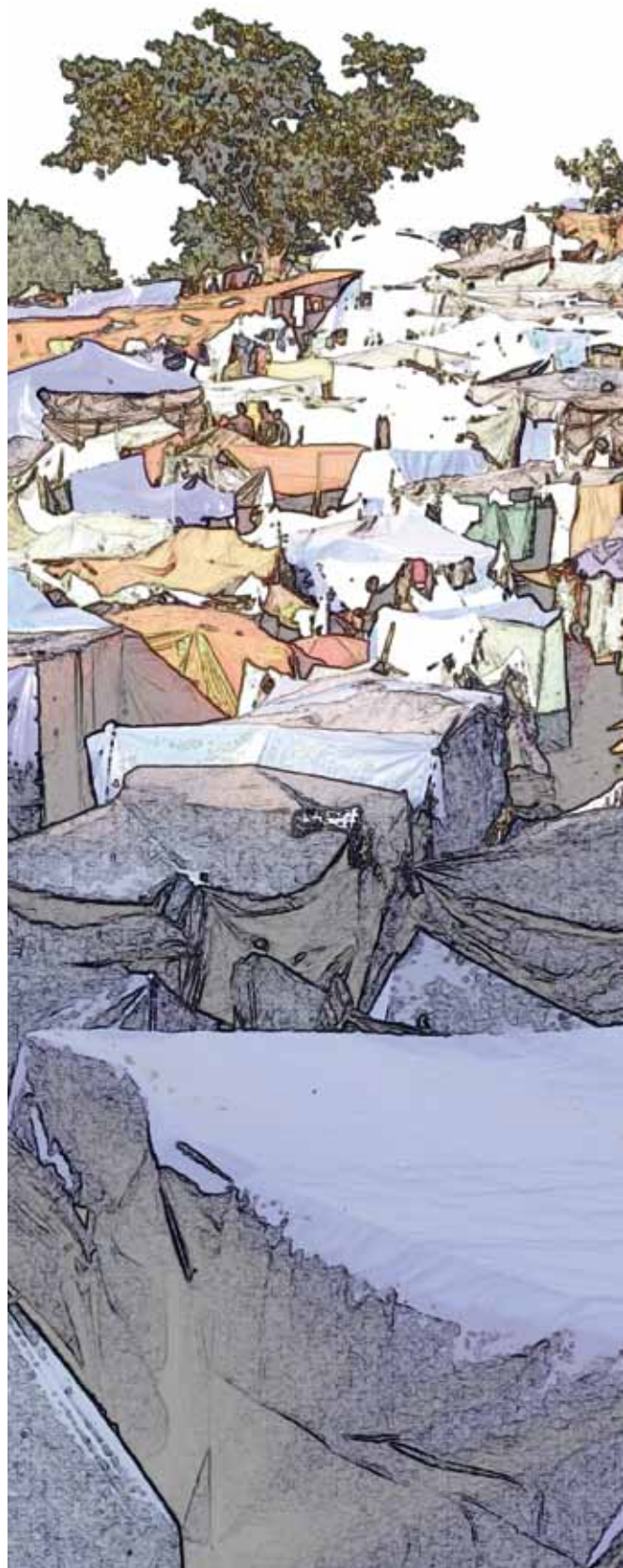
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