

Greener Shelter Technical Sub-Community of Practice

GREENER SHELTER CONSULTATION REPORT

Interests and Expectations (July 2025)

I. DEFINITION

Based on the inputs from the Greener Shelter Technical Sub-Community of Practice, here's a proposed definition of **Greener Shelter** that integrates the key themes and suggestions:

Greener Shelter refers to a holistic approach to shelter and settlements design, construction, lifecycle management, and operation that prioritizes sustainability, climate resilience, and human dignity. It aims to reduce negative environmental impacts while enhancing the well-being of displaced populations and supporting local ecosystems and communities. A Greener Shelter:

1. Reduces Climate and Environmental Impacts

It anticipates, analyses, and mitigates negative environmental impacts and greenhouse gas emissions resulting from shelter and settlement solutions. It encompasses renewable resources and sustainable extraction, use, and disposal of materials, energy, water, and land, among other aspects.

2. Embraces Sustainable Design and Construction

Greener shelters consider all dimensions of sustainability – environmental, social, cultural, and economic – to ensure context-based and localized design and construction solutions. It encompasses local and traditional knowledge, frugal¹ technologies, local materials, and techniques. It encompasses passive design, nature-based solutions, and vernacular architecture as some of the strategies to be adopted.

3. Applies Lifecycle and Systems Thinking

Considers the full life cycle of the shelter and settlement solution—from planning and construction to maintenance, operation, reuse, and deconstruction—emphasizing durability, adaptability, and circularity. It encompasses incremental architecture, scenario analyses, and system thinking, including positive and negative economic impacts to ensure that financial, material, social, and environmental capital investments are long-lasting and integrated into existing and evolving systems, adapting and responding to new social needs through time. It also considers that settlements (including temporary settlements) evolve and could become or integrate into urban settlements.

4. Centers on Human Needs and Dignity

Ensures that shelters and settlements are safe, culturally appropriate, comfortable for long-term use, respecting the social dynamics and cultural contexts of affected communities, and directly contributes to human health (physical, mental and emotional). It encompasses participatory design and construction methods and invests in strengthening community-led solutions and ownership.

5. Invests in Adaptation to Strengthen Climate Resilience

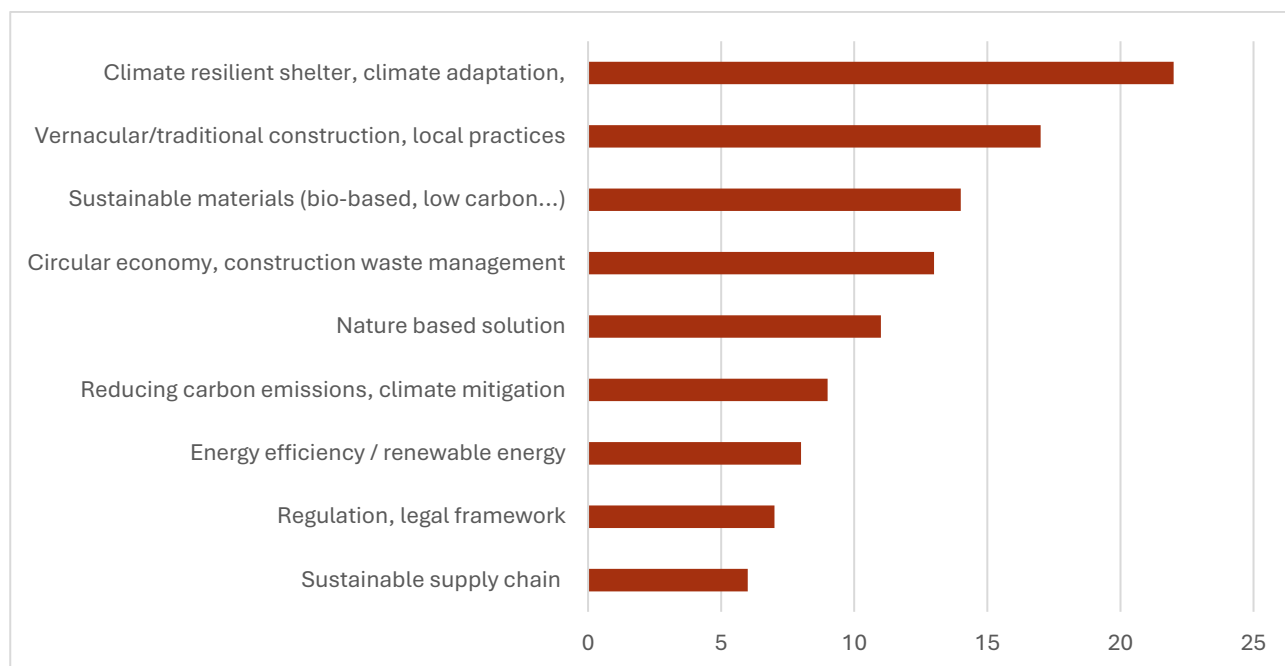
Greener shelters and settlements are designed and implemented based on climate risk analyses, incorporating climate adaptation, anticipatory action, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and management solutions to strengthen communities and system climate resilience, and local capacities to respond and recover from climate shocks and stressors autonomously. It encompasses build-back better, regenerative practices, and solutions to prevent risks of displacement, including those associated with livelihood practices. Therefore, the Greener Shelter Technical Sub-Community of Practice will strongly collaborate and coordinate with other Communities of Practice, such as the Environment CoP or the BBB² Technical Sub-Community of Practice.

¹ Underlined words are important concepts or topics related to greener shelter. However, some of them are not widely used and require explanations. Therefore, a webinar will be organised to explore those concepts with clear, useful and practical examples.

² Construction Good Practices / Build Back Better (BBB) / Permanent Shelter & Housing

II. PRIORITY TOPICS

The priority topics presented below were identified and proposed by the Greener Shelter co-chairs and refined through contributions from the community. These were captured via a Mentimeter exercise during the webinar held on 19 June 2025 and a survey circulated between 8 and 16 July 2025, where participants voted on which topics should be prioritised.



III. KEY EXPECTATIONS

During the webinar and through the survey, key expectations from the Greener Shelter Community were collected:

- **Knowledge Sharing:** Exchange information through webinars, trainings, and active platforms; raise awareness and basic understanding of greener shelter.
- **Technical Guidance:** Develop practical tools and guidelines on materials, lifecycle assessment, and sustainable debris management.
- **Advocacy & Alignment:** Promote greener shelter recommendations, align global frameworks with local realities, and address regulatory barriers.
- **Collaboration & Support:** Facilitate joint planning, expert collaboration, and country-specific training and documentation.

Some expectations will be considered for future prioritization based on evolving capacities of the group. For the moment, the Scope of Work of the Sub-Community of Practice is defined by the [Terms of Reference](#).