

## **SOMALIA SHELTER CLUSTER**

### **Sustainable Solutions TWG**

**17 October 2024; Online**

The Somalia Shelter Cluster have re-activated the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) on Emergency and Sustainable Shelter Solutions in 2024, with an objective to continue responsibilities to foster time-effective and high-quality interventions for shelter responses tailoring to the needs of the different responses and catering to the growing needs of the affected populations. The TWG meetings will be held the second week of every month, alternating between the two topics of Emergency shelter or Sustainable Shelter solutions. This meeting was the first Sustainable Solutions WG meeting held, after reactivation.

**Correspondence:** Boshra Khoshnevis ([bkhoshnevis@iom.int](mailto:bkhoshnevis@iom.int)), John Kang'ethe ([kangethe@unhcr.org](mailto:kangethe@unhcr.org))

#### **List of Attendees**

1. Abdirizak Abdille / SSWC
2. Abdiwali Shukri Khalif / Shelter Cluster
3. Ahmed Abdi / Juba Foundation
4. Amina Arale / Ministry of Public Work
5. Anna Sobczak / UN-Habitat
6. Asha Abdikadir / HAPEN
7. Lina Baishya / IOM
8. Mohamed Arab Ismail / Mercy Corps
9. Mohamed Juma / Shelter Cluster
10. Marta Guilera / IOM
11. Melanie Hughes / Shelter Box
12. Nurta Mohamed Adan / Shelter Cluster
13. Waweru Ndungu / Shelter Cluster

#### **Meeting Agenda**

1. **Mapping of shelter typologies – Participation from ALL TWG members**
  - Understanding the different typologies constructed by the different agencies in Somalia, and the future shelter construction plans
  - Identify how the typologies minimize environmental impact, if applicable
  - Identify how the typologies contribute to withstand hazards in the area, if applicable
  - If agencies plan to construct with durable building materials in the near future to link programs to durable solutions
2. **AOB**

### Summary Points

- The Sustainable Solutions TWG could be used as a platform for members to align and harmonize the different shelter approaches in close coordination with the government towards more sustainable and durable solutions. Members to share slides/shelter designs/BOQs/supporting documents to share with the MoPW informing about ongoing and future shelter plans
- The agenda for the next meeting should consider sharing community preferences and comments on the typologies and their views on the shelter approaches. Capacity building initiatives are to be discussed for sustainable and to reduce dependency

### Meeting notes

Sl No.	Discussion Point	Action
<b>1.</b>	<b>Shelter Box's presentation of Transitional Shelter Construction</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In partnership with Juba Foundation, Shelter Box has worked on the following shelter typologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Type 2 ESK (plastic sheets) with additional bracings; Area: 4 x 3.5m, Baidoa</li> <li>ii. Transitional upgraded shelters with mudbricks in Doolow; Area: 6 x 3.5m, stone foundation, lime washed, CGI roofs (referred from IOM's incremental typology)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Upcoming:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Basic: 6 x 3.m shelters with low foundations, plywood/tarpaulin walls</li> <li>ii. Upgraded: 6 x 3.5m timber framed shelters with plastic sheets, stone foundation with an addition of plywood on the inside for thermal comfort and increased protection</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns of environmental impact and sustainable sourcing of the timber being imported, also does not want to build with local timber</li> <li>• Exploring CSEB blocks and interlocking blocks for environmentally friendly solutions, internal partitioning inside shelters</li> <li>• Rainwater harvesting</li> <li>• Incorporates UN Sustainability Tool in projects</li> <li>• Trainings given to the community on shelter maintenance and plastering, provided repair kits</li> </ul>	<p>To share shelter assessment results of the mudbrick shelters built in Doolow (whenever assessments are conducted)</p> <p>To upload the slides / supporting documents to TWG archive</p>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Mercy Corps's presentation of Emergency Shelter Kits</b>	
	<p>ESK size is 4.4 x 3.5m; ESK materials include timber and wood, plastic sheets for walls and roof, CGI doors and windows and nails for fixing</p> <p>Environmental impact of the ESK involves using timber which causes environmental degradation, and the walls of the plastic sheets which undergoes wear and tear, if not disposed properly contributes to environmental pollution</p> <p>Regarding withstanding hazards, the site selection is important to reduce the effects of the flood, and considering factors like the height and having a firm structural base would allow to withstand strong winds. Households also cover the walls of the plastic sheet with other materials such as old rags to decrease the effects of the sun</p>	To upload the slides / supporting documents to TWG archive
<b>3.</b>	<b>UN-Habitat's presentation of Permanent housing</b>	
	<p>Un-Habitat's permanent shelters/low-cost housing units are embedded in settlement plans and urban integration is established for economic integration and access to livelihoods. Securing land and permanent title deeds have remained a priority across all interventions. Projects presented are resettlement houses in Ayaha site, Hargeisa and Old Airport site, Garowe (2005-07), village in Xaafun (2005-07), permanent houses in Jowhar (2009-10)</p>	To upload the slides / supporting documents to TWG archive
	<p>Looking back at certain projects (Shelter Cluster Bosasso Plan of transitional to durable shelters) from 2006 which was built with an incremental shelter approach, households have not been able to expand shelters as planned due to lack of livelihood and other economic means</p>	
	<p>Other projects presented: Permanent houses built in Somaliland and Puntland on land allocated by the government, with a courtyard house typology reducing costs and embedded in a settlement / Integration of IDPs into host community in Bosasso, with construction of a core housing unit with a latrine with secured land titles</p>	
	<p>Observations made on ongoing projects: Over the years, land allocation became common practice and typology/settlement planning has reduced; IDP sites transitioning to permanent settlements</p>	
	<p>Under Saamyenta, NRC is implementing the agreed two-room typologies, UN-Habitat targets larger households, and households with disabled members. Agencies are</p>	

	looking at isolated plots and not the settlement as a whole	
	UN-Habitat’s future interventions look into rental housing systems, private sector partnership	
4.	IOM’s presentation on Transitional Shelters	
	For the need of further understanding of shelter typologies in Somalia, and also to move away from traditional wattle and daub shelters as it causes environmental degradation, IOM conducted several field assessments, collaborating with CRAterre on the development of the Shelter Response Profile	To upload the slides / supporting documents to TWG archive
	IOM showcased the different prototypes build with earth construction using mudbricks and CSEB using an incremental shelter approach which included feasibility assessments, provision of several trainings to local contractors and masons, assessment of technical capacities	
	Presented drafts of the Shelter Catalogue which consolidates different typologies and construction methods and the incremental shelter approach. This document could be used as a resource amongst the TWG for future collaboration towards a more durable shelter strategy	
	IOM presented the Improved Emergency Shelter (IES) which can be further upgraded when resources are available to CGI/mudbricks/concrete blocks. Previous collaborations with other agencies (NRC) have proven to be successful to take forward this incremental approach and also collaborations amongst other shelter actors	
	IOM presented the completion of 1,150 transitional shelters in Barwaaqo Phase 3 using different walling materials (CGI sheets and cement blocks) which has the potential to be upgraded and expanded over time	
5.	Harmonized Shelter Approach	
	The MoPW requested agencies (UN/INGOs/NGOs) to share ongoing and upcoming shelter activities to have an overview for 2025 to harmonize shelter/housing construction	With the support from the Government, the TWG will thus align the different shelter approaches moving forward
	The cluster agrees to not having “different shelter approaches/designs in the same place”. The cluster works closely with the government to ensure that the emergency, transitional and durable shelters meet the specification standards aligning to government strategies	

	and policies, also in terms of the design of the shelters avoiding discrepancies and any community biasness	
	The cluster emphasizes to have linkage between the shelter component with other sectors like health, livelihoods, education etc, which needs government support in mobilizing partners in other sectors to meet the components of complimentary sectors	
	IOM also highlighted on the importance for harmonization of the shelter approaches and commented that sometimes a transitional or a two-room shelter cannot be achieved in the initial phase of the response. Considering the already built transitional shelters in the country, how can the gap be bridged to move into more durable shelter solutions, and work in coordination with the government agenda, and also maintain the sustainability	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Engagement of the community</b>	
	The cluster emphasizes engaging the community in the shelter projects as it is the key factor and having an exit strategy. Training the community on maintaining and expanding the shelter in the future should be considered	Comments from community to be discussed in the next WG meeting on the acceptance of the shelters, capacity building etc.
	The MoPW emphasized the regular consultations with the community (before/during/after construction) as they know the kind of spaces they need, and the typologies they prefer, priority needs, how to maintain the shelters after construction and also foster ownership amongst the households	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Inputs for finalization of Shelter Strategy</b>	
	The Cluster kindly requested members for their inputs on the Shelter Strategy draft for its completion	SAG members to review document