# Shelter Meeting 14 Breakout Sector Response Options

**Group 2 Self-recovery, repair and retrofitting**

**Shelter Meetings**

*The Shelter Meeting is a global biannual conference for the humanitarian shelter sector, with participation in-person and online from around the world from governments, donors, IASC clusters, UN bodies, IOs, the Red Cross Movement, NGOs, independent humanitarian shelter specialists and academic research bodies.*

*Objectives of the Shelter Meeting include; engaging and supporting all stakeholders in the global shelter sector; linking all coordination that is supporting the shelter sector including IASC clusters; engage, linking and supporting other events and initiatives in the shelter sector; engaging in, linking and supporting the events and initiatives of other humanitarian sectors and cross-cutting issues; supporting consensus on policy, standards, specifications & operating procedures; sharing programmatic and technical good practice on on-going field operations; sharing information on project activities valuable for the global shelter sector; agreeing on and prioritising further project activities valuable for the global shelter sector; forming external working groups to support project activities; and reviewing project activities.*

**Shelter Meeting 14, 10th October 2014**

On 10th of October 2014, the Shelter Meeting welcomed participation in-person and online from over 25 countries by representatives from 44 different agencies. Hosted by the IASC Global Shelter Cluster, the meeting breakout groups covered the areas of ‘Response Options’ and ‘Technical Sector Priorities’.

Presentations from Shelter Meeting can be viewed [here](http://www.sheltercentre.org/shelter-meeting-14).

As a part of each Shelter Meeting, there are breakout groups, which are meant to begin a greater exploration of the topics relevant and important to current Shelter sector concerns. In Shelter Meeting 14 the theme was ‘Sector Response Options’ which worked to explore terms used by the sector that needed further discussion and definition.

**Next steps**

The conclusions of these breakout groups, including suggestions, will be first circulated in draft to the session chairpersons and team members for their comments. The final notes will inform broader and more formal discussions of these topics within the shelter sector, including through: comments made to the notes posted online on the Shelter Meeting 14 webpage; subsequent Shelter Meetings; related fora, such as the UK Shelter Forum; technical and innovation working group meetings of the IASC global shelter cluster and other IASC global clusters, such as the CCCM, Early Recovery and WASH clusters; as well as other national, regional and global fora, research and academic agencies.

**Notes summarising Group 2 - Self-recovery, repair, retrofitting**

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*In this discussion the group examined and agreed upon the overarching definitions of the terms below covering self-recovery, repair and retrofitting. Also covered was discussion about the urban/rural divide as it pertains to self-recovery and better understanding the types of assistance currently provided by agencies. These notes, along with the notes from the other groups in the breakout sessions from Shelter Meeting 14, will be taken forward through various fora, including the Technical and Innovation Working Group (TiWG) of the IASC Global Shelter Cluster.*

**1.1 Defining ‘self-recovery’, ‘repair’ and ‘retrofitting’**

**1.1.1** The group discussed ‘what is self-recovery?’. It was agreed at this point, there is no common definition or understanding across agencies of what self-recovery is. It was noted that some agencies, refer to every shelter intervention where they do not provide the whole shelter package is referred to as self-recovery.

**1.1.2** Part of the discussion about the definition of self-recoverycovered that it may include the notion of technical support or supervision by an agency that is providing a certain type of assistance. The notion of ownership by the affected populations may also be a part of the definition. Adoption of practices by affected populations (behaviour changes) should also be reflected in the definition of self-recovery. Havinga common definition of what self-recovery is will help to understand what the responsibilities of agencies are during self-recovery.

**1.1.3** Self-recovery can happen at the household level and at the community level.

**1.1.4** The group discussed the usage of the term ‘repair’and agreed when itis used when the goal is to make a shelter stronger, as part of DRR. There is an overlap with the definition of ‘retrofit’. There is a need to clarify the overlap with retrofitting.

**1.1.5** The term ‘retrofit’ is used to describe the improvement of a shelter that has not been damaged. In this case, there is an overlap with the term preparedness. There also need to be clarification between the terms preparedness and retrofitting. Habitat for Humanity International (HHI) uses term retrofit when engineering is required and repair when engineering is not required.

**1.2 Types of assistance**

**1.2.1** The group noted that it is important to distinguish between the types of assistance that agencies can provide to affected populations.

**1.2.2** This group agreed upon three broad types of assistance were agreed to be physical, financial and knowledge support.

**1.2.3** According to this typology, HLP support will be knowledge support.

**1.2.4** The cash support method can be considered to be self-recovery if cash is given to affected populations under conditions.

**1.3 What is meant by the term ‘self-recovery’?**

**1.3.1** The place of self-recovery should be better understood during the phase of transitional shelter.

**1.3.2** Transition is the period where affected populations are forming an understandings of their individual paths to full recovery and durable solutions.

**1.3.3** The question of how transitional shelter includes self-recovery was discussed by the group.

**1.3.4** Almost every intervention should enable self-recovery and it is important to integrate self-recovery into programming, with a full understanding of what this recovery means.

**1.3.5** The group asked up until which point do we use self-recovery in the phases of assistance: disaster, emergency, path to recovery and recovery?

**1.3.6** The group wanted clarity upon when different phases are reached by which groups of the affected population at which time and the relevance of these phases to programming. For example, in the Philippines, the affected populations were asked questions such as “Do you need help?” and “Do you have access to WASH materials?”. These questions offer a way of understanding what phase communities are in, but what is the value of this understanding?

**1.4 Urban/rural divides**

**1.4.1** It was discussed in the group that there is a need to recognise the different needs of urban and rural communities in order to efficiently assist them in self-recovery.

**1.4.2** The question was posed, what are the processes of self-recovery for urban and rural communities and how does one support them?

**1.5 Understanding drivers and barriers**

**1.5.1** There was discussion surrounding the importance of identifying drivers and barriers to the change of construction practices, both nationally and globally with the humanitarian community.

**1.5.2** How should this identification process, to identify drivers and barriers, be carried out?

**1.6 Literature review of existing definitions**

**1.6.1** The group agreed it would be valuable to have a literature review of the already existing definitions, including self-recovery, repair and retrofit.

**1.6.2** Once this review has been completed, common definitions can be worked towards to have more appropriate and more acceptable definition of the terms.