# Shelter Meeting 14 Breakout Technical Sector Priorities

## Group 3 Hardware, tools and guidance

**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 breakout session for Technical Sector Priorities was meant to examine technical priorities within the shelter sector to come to a better understanding of those priorities and ways forward.

**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 breakout group 3 ‘Hardware tools and guidance’**

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Breakout session participants:

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*This discussion covered the hardware, tools and guidance within the context of training and guidance in the shelter sector. These discussions included targeting trainings and having them have a clear focus. The suggestions from the group included identifying other breakout groups that may be beneficial to partner with in order to move forward in the agreed direction. 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.*

**3.1 General group discussion surrounding workshops and trainings specific to hardware, tools and guidance with the objective of achieving different levels of training.**

**3.1.1** Content for workshops and trainings should be targeted towards the specific targeted group. Understanding people are coming from different technical backgrounds, we need to creating trainings for people coming from non-technical backgrounds and respect people coming from different language backgrounds.

**3.1.2** Different level of expertise should be targeted; with training of technical experts, emergency response teams, beneficiaries and coordinators. Moreover, there should be clear definition of the target groups, and what technical tools and guidance need to be targeted to them.

**3.1.3** Trainings should focus on clear technical topics (e.g. CGI, timber, bracings, foundation, site planning winterization).

**3.1.4** Basic modules need to be agreed upon so as to consolidate clashing resources between groups.

**3.1.5** More attention should be given to NFIs in training, such as in quality controls put into place and having more coordination between the clusters around NFIs. Training messages should be consistent. Publishing open source material is a way of ensuring consistent messaging.

**3.1.6** Methods and key messages should differ depending on the recipient’s level of expertise including people with little expertise. In addition, there should be a clear difference ( in wording and complexity) in documents that target them. This way different levels of expertise should receive different levels of technical training.

**3.2 Group discussion on guidance in the sector**

**3.2.1** A key concern is the lack of technical and capacity (workshops) training is that it is not clear in which technical working group that it belongs.

**3.2.3** An increase in consultation and an open forum with a particular emphasis on the inclusion of independents would be desirable to have.

**3.2.4** The question was posed of how do we, as sector actors, draw on and effectively use the technical expertise of independents. This point led to further discussion on how independent humanitarian consultants are not currently allowed into formal IASC meetings; they have no institutional access points, and they have huge amount of valuable experience.

**3.2.5** There was a suggestion for improvements to the Shelter Library in relation to tools. There needs to be a clear, structure and taxonomy so content is easy to locate.

**3.2.6** Shelter-related NFIs are still a black hole...always on the periphery of different clusters, NFIs do not fall into a particular cluster and therefore do not have sufficient quality control (both physical quality and quality of quantity).

**3.2.7** The group discussed who else should be involved or consulted in these discussions. Potentially, for NFIs, the national clusters with large NFI sections, and for technical guidance, technical experts (independents), NGOs with technical focus should be involved.

**3.2.8** More coordination is needed between the cluster groups on the subject of NFIs.

**3.2.9** There was a suggestion for the development of shared quality control methodology for NFIs and tents shelter items and materials.

**3.3 *Suggestions by the group***

**3.3.1** Interest in the group was expressed to follow up on the following points.

**3.3.2** A suggestion was made to involve other sectors in this process.

**3.3.3** It was also discussed which other breakout groups were related to this topic of NFIs and hardware. Capacity building and training; Knowledge sharing and learning, and fora partnerships were the groups identified as being related and potentially helpful.

**3.3.2** A series of individuals within the group offered to pursue these next steps, with another group member offering to follow-up.