



# FLOOD 2015 SHELTER CLUSTER STRATEGY

Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2015

## 1 Background and Overview

### 1.1 Background

Since June 2015, heavy seasonal rains and cyclone Kamen have caused flooding and landslides. As the situation continued to evolve, on 31<sup>st</sup> of July, the President of the Union of Myanmar issued a statement declaring natural disaster zones in Chin and Rakhine states and in the Sagaing and Magway regions, stating “the following regions which are hugely affected by natural disasters and have challenges for rapid restoration to normality, are announced as natural disaster zones (1) Chin State, (2) Sagaing Region, (3) Magway Region and (4) Rakhine State.” The government indicated that it would accept international assistance.

In response, the authorities, local civil society organizations, international non-governmental organizations, UN agencies and the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) – supported by its International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners – responded on the ground, with provisions of relief and other assistance. The Shelter Cluster in Myanmar is led by UNHCR and has been activated for the past two and a half years. However, given the extensive damage IFRC has been asked, in its capacity as the Global Shelter Cluster lead for natural disasters as well as through discussions in country, to coordinate the Shelter and NFI response at the sub-national level (Chin, Sagaing and Magway).

### 1.2 Situation overview

As of end of October 2015, estimation of main shelter needs is as follow:

- a) Rakhine: Not only does Rakhine State face the pre-existing challenge of being the second poorest State in Myanmar but due to two spates of violence in 2012 it has almost seventy camps or camp-like settings housing around 140,000 persons in eight-unit temporary shelters.<sup>1</sup> These shelters were designed to last two years and most are over two years-old. As a result of the cyclone and flooding four townships that housed IDPs in these temporary shelters were affected: Sittwe, Pauktaw, Meybon and Rathedaung. Sittwe was most affected, approximately 2,350 family units had to be reconstructed or repaired. In Pauktaw the numbers were more modest but still sizeable; 1,200 family units reconstructed or repaired. The RSG stressed that other than the camps that suffered *this* damage; in all other affected areas the families returned to their homes within two to three days and the focus supporting self-recovery. In late September the RSG organised a flood response workshop, heavily attended by international actors operational in Rakhine State. The RSG is focused on nine sectors for flood response: health, education, livelihood, water supply, shelter, logistics, electricity, communication and “others”.
- b) Chin State: Access to all townships of this mountainous state with roads and infrastructures affected by landslides remains difficult. It can be estimated that 3,000 houses were severely damage. At the end of October, except for some remote areas, emergency shelter needs were covered through the distribution of more than 4,650 shelter kits or equivalent by the shelter partners. Main concerns are now for the 3,000 displaced HH throughout Chin State, specifically for the 1,000 HH living in camps. Upgrading of tents and improving living conditions during the temporary period, which may last a year before the construction of durable solutions by the local government and some shelter partners, is now a priority as the cold season begins. Prices of materials due to high

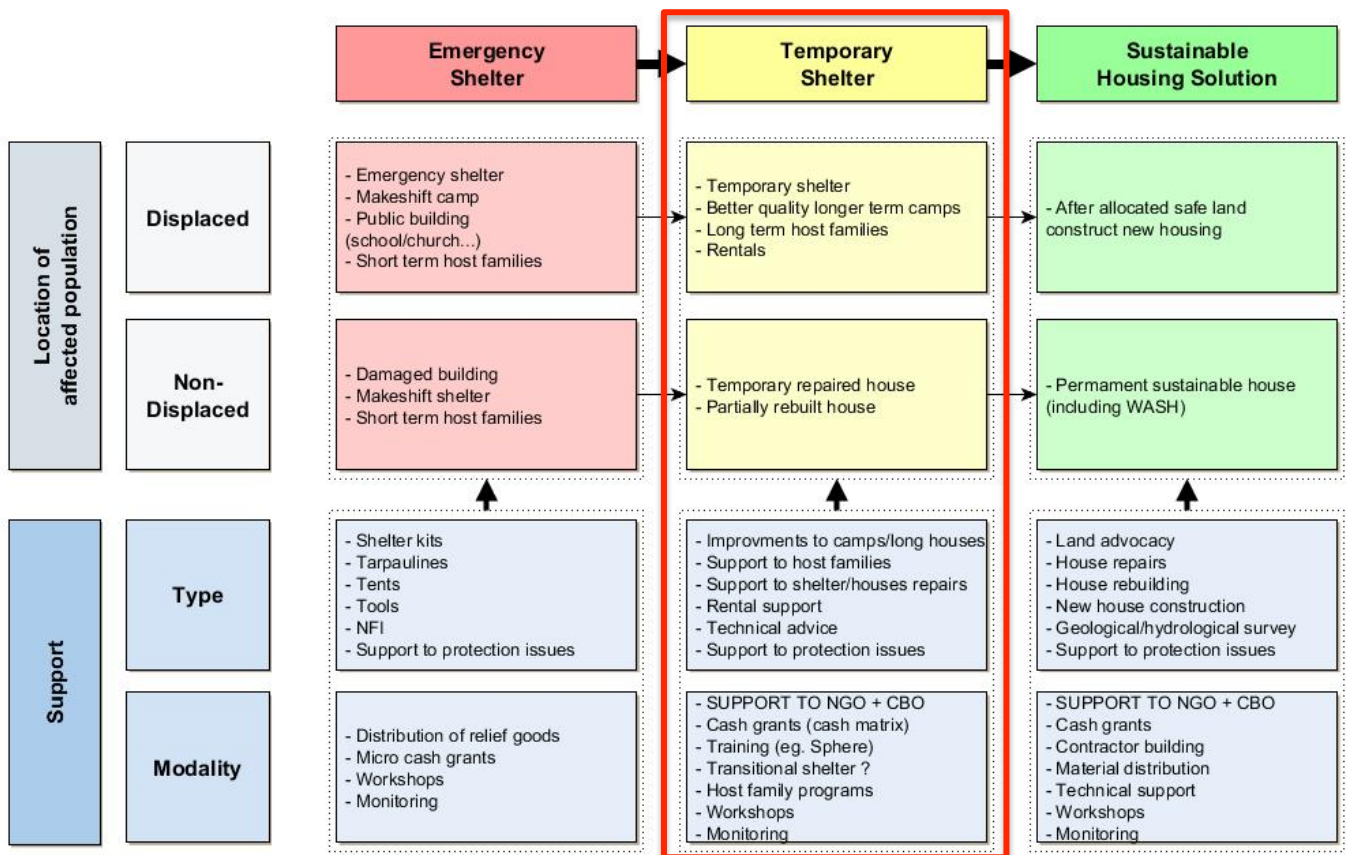
<sup>1</sup> The Rakhine State Government (RSG) appealed to the Union Government to allocate 44 billion kyats for the flood response. Their request reputedly higher than other affected regions, such as Ayeyarwaddy and Sagaing which requested 7 billion kyat.



transportation costs are a concern. A recommendation of the Shelter Cluster is to build Temporary Shelters for the most vulnerable families living in camps, and/or to provide in-kind materials in order to decrease transportation costs.

- c) Sagaing Region: Kale and Tamu townships were the most affected by fast floods and it can be estimated that 6,000 houses had minor to severe damages. More than 2,000 households had their houses severely damaged or need to be relocated to a safer location. Shelter partners covered emergency shelter needs through the distribution of more than 4,460 emergency shelter kits or equivalent. Main concerns now are for the 800 households living in camps in Kale and Tamu, and for the people waiting to be relocated to safer locations from the 12 most affected villages in Kale (approximately 2,600 families including those in camps in Kale and Tamu). Temporary shelters, cash for transportation cost and materials or/and in-kind materials for these people are now a priority.
- d) Magway Region: 1,714 houses had minor to severe damages. Out of this number 464 shelters were totally destroyed. Shelter partners covered emergency shelter needs through the distribution of more than 1,996 emergency shelter kits. In Magway Region, at least 5 villages – Ngale and Pwindauk (Sidoktaya Tsp), Htauk Shar Pin, Thirilay, and Kyat Htan Kone (Pakokku Tsp) were made uninhabitable long-term by the floods. A main concern for Magway is the relocation of those people who lost their land and shelter and need to be relocated. Just a few INGOs are working in the region and there is limited capacity for temporary shelter.

## 2 Strategy & Objectives



Acronyms: NGO - Non Governmental Organisation, CBO - Community Based Organisation

This document outlines the strategic directions in relation to shelter, developed in consultation with Shelter Cluster partners. Documents, maps and reports produced by the Shelter Cluster on the Myanmar Floods 2015 can be found at: <https://www.sheltercluster.org/response/myanmar-floods-2015>



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## 2.1 Strategic goal

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To deliver a shelter response that supports appropriate, flexible, progressive solutions to affected, vulnerable populations that leads to safer, more durable shelter, prioritising homeowner led self-recovery for all.

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## 2.2 Strategic objectives

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Short-term objective: 30,000 affected and most vulnerable households, are reached with appropriate emergency sheltering solutions prioritizing people who lost their house or need to live in a safer location.

Mid-term objective: 10,000 households are reached with appropriate temporary sheltering solutions.<sup>2</sup>

# 3 Methodology delivery & Principles

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## 3.1 Methodology

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**The shelter response should be prioritized in the following way:**

- Hard to reach areas (Chin State and floodplains with destroyed infrastructures).
- Displaced people living in camps and in unsafe location.
- Non-displaced people with severely damaged house.

With the following options

- Shelter interventions that support self-recovery and ownership.
- Capacity building through different means of trainings appropriate to the recipient.
- Key messaging promoting more resilient shelter.

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## 3.2 Principles

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All interventions should have the long-term objective as a primary motivation as long as the short-term life-saving objective of reaching those in hard to reach areas is not compromised.

“Appropriateness” will be understood as shelter interventions that align with best practices.

Appropriateness is based upon a factor of:

- Beneficiary selection
- Site selection
- Addressing the sheltering needs of an affected and vulnerable family
- Meeting relevant technical standards including cultural suitability
- Contributing incrementally to durable, safer solutions
- Respects guidance and recommendations on shelter and settlement approaches applicable to hard to reach-mountainous and floodplain areas/rural/urban
- Gender
- Agencies providing shelter interventions are accountable to both the beneficiaries that they support as well as the Government of Myanmar along with their respective donors.

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<sup>2</sup> 3,500 in Rakhine State – 3,000 in Chin State – 3,000 in Sagaing Region – 500 in Magway. Those numbers take into consideration HH displaced on their place of origin, HH who lost their houses and HH who need to be relocated. Some will be able to reuse materials from their damaged houses.



- Accountability of shelter implementers is underscored as a factor of quality interventions that support a process-driven, inclusive approach to sheltering rather than a product-driven menu of solutions.
- Affected families impacted by the landslides or the floods have unique pre-existing socio and economic vulnerabilities and geographical conditions. This means that their underlying needs for assistance are not homogenous and will require informed flexible approaches and a variety of considered solutions that involve affected people themselves through consultation in the planning, implementation and evaluation steps in delivering the assistance required.

## 4 Indicators & Monitoring

### 4.1 Outcomes indicators

- # of IOM style shelter kit distributed
- # of IFRC style shelter kit distributed
- # of international standard tarpaulins distributed
- # of Family style tents distributed
- # of Temporary shelter provided
- # of HH receiving cash
- # of HH receiving materials
- # of HH reached or targeted for training

### 4.2 Output indicators

- % of HH receiving a shelter solution that have increased safety and security
- % of HH that have a reduced risk to future disasters resulting from the shelter response
- % of HH in hard to reach locations that receive a shelter intervention that provides adequate protection from forthcoming winter (Chin State)

### 4.3 Monitoring

- Output level indicators to be collected via HH level, and community level (focus group/key informant).
- Outcomes level primarily collected via Shelter Cluster 4W reporting template

## 5 Coordination

### 5.1 Operational partners

There are eight operational partners in the Flood 2015 Shelter Cluster for Chin State, Sagaing and Magway regions: IOM, KMSS, Action Aid, World Vision, ADRA, UNHCR, UNHABITAT and MRCS/IFRC. The overall implementing capacity of this sector, even though still short of the needs for the temporary period, has at least covered most of the shelter needs during the emergency phase.

### 5.2 Inter cluster coordination

SCT participates to HCT, ICCG, Cash working group meetings and to Chin Recovery forums, and linked with the Protection working group.

### 5.3 Government

The Government has not been involved in the Shelter Cluster. At the national level the SCT participated to the PFNLA and



shared the plans of the Government with Shelter partners. The construction of permanent houses planned by the Government will be implemented at the local/regional level. Shelter partners are encouraged to link with the Government at the local level for planning the temporary and recovery phases in order to avoid overlaps and gaps.

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#### **5.4 Contact details**

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