

Open Shelter Database

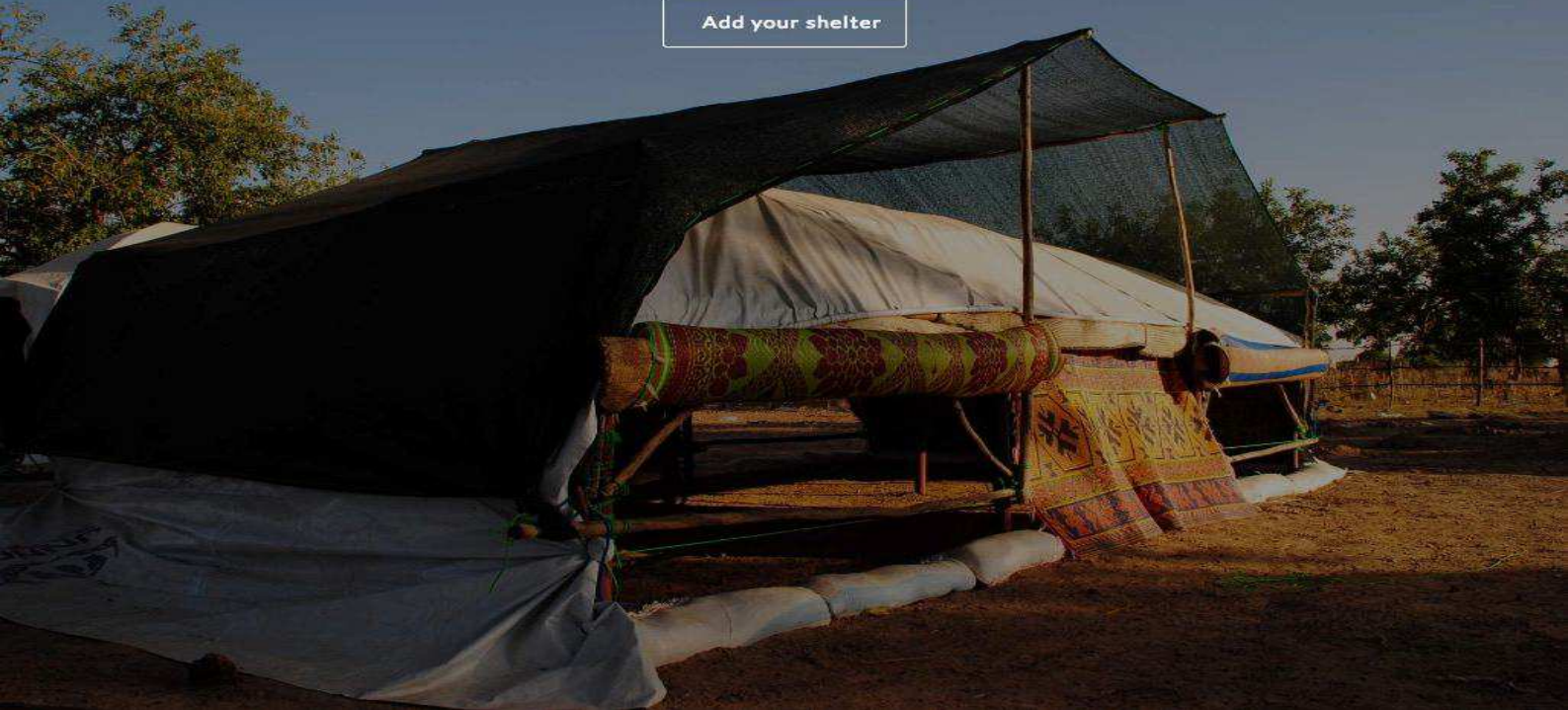
An overview of **162** shelters which have been built throughout the world in response to disasters

🔍 Philippines



- or -

Add your shelter



Mission Report Open Shelter Database dissemination and population

Philippines 5th -14th November 2018



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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1. General Information

Project/mission title: Open Shelter Database

Country: Philippines

Report date: 23.11.2018

Type of operation: Dissemination and population

Requesting Organizations: Belgian, Luxembourg and Australian Red Cross

2. Context

Shelter practitioners, within humanitarian operations, have gathered great experience in emergency and post-emergency sheltering. This knowledge is however poorly documented, shared or made accessible.

In order to support the recording of such precious institutional memory, IFRC-SRU developed and manages an open source web tool. The Open Shelter Database -OSDB- (<http://shelter-database.org>) currently hosts information on 160 shelters implemented by different actors in various countries. All shelters recorded in the database are presented in a comparable and standardised fashion in order to offer an overview of construction techniques, construction details, and materials used, which can be applied and adapted to future emergency responses.

In order to further disseminate the Open Shelter Database and promote its population, IFRC-SRU has undertaken a mission to the Philippines from 5th to 14th of November 2018.

3. Outcomes

The mission intended to record well-documented shelter solutions implemented during the response to typhoon Haiyan (2013) by PRC and local and international NGOs.

Focus has been placed on the design and the construction techniques adopted for each implemented shelter model.

4. Outputs

The following objectives were achieved during the mission:

- Introduction to the Open Shelter Database to PRC staff, shelter practitioners from IFRC, and other shelter actors presents in the country.
- Delivery of introduction/induction session to the PRC technical team.
- Population of the Open Shelter Database with Haiyan shelter response typologies implemented by PRC and other shelter actors
- Encouragement of further dissemination and population of the database to include previous and future shelter responses.

5. Activities

The following activities were performed in collaboration with IFRC and PRC and following the agreed ToR for this mission.

5.1 Introduction/presentation of the Open Shelter Database

The Open Shelter Database is conceived as an “open source tool” that aims to provide service to the wider humanitarian sector. Presentation, communication and dissemination are key actions intended to engage the interest of new users and make the tool an effective way to share the knowledge.

With the support of the Shelter Cluster and the IFRC team in country, a short list of cluster members to be contacted was defined.

The next table shows the list of the people who were contacted before the mission. All of them were implementing shelter programs during the Haiyan response and are currently still in the country.

Organization/partner	Contacted by	Date
CARE Philippines	e-mail	22.10.2018
CRS	e-mail	22.10.2018
Habitat for Humanity Ph	e-mail	22.10.2018
ICRC	e-mail	22.10.2018
IFRC	e-mail	22.10.2018
IOM	e-mail	22.10.2018
Islamic Relief	e-mail	22.10.2018
Medair	e-mail	22.10.2018
Philippine Red Cross	e-mail	22.10.2018
World Vision	e-mail	22.10.2018

Before the mission all the partners were contacted by email with the objective of introducing the **Open Shelter Database** project, web tool, and invite them for active participation.

The participation includes two possible modalities:

1. – The user can simply email the requested information to IFRC-SRU to be processed, record and, after a shelter visit, upload the shelter example to the **Open Shelter Database**.
- 2.- The second option is in autonomous format. The user creates their own account <https://shelter-database.org/login>, logs in, clicks on “add your Shelter” and starts recording the requested information in the **Open Shelter Database**.

Due to a missed flight connection the presentation of the Open Shelter Database scheduled for the Shelter Cluster meeting in Manila, on 7th November, couldn't be undertaken.

Face-to-face meetings were carried out during the mission to explain the concept of the Open Shelter Database as a free and open source tool. A quick demonstration and induction on the use of the tool, and its specificities were provided.

See Annex 1 for the list of the contacted people in country.

5.2 Induction session

The **Open Shelter Database** is designed to collect the technical information about built shelters in a pre-established format. The recorded information is organized in six independent groups in order to facilitate the uploading process, but also data analysis, and information exchange among users.

To facilitate this process an induction session was delivered to PRC staff at Tacloban Red Cross Chapter. The session focused on the uploading process of the **Open Shelter Database**. The profile of the participants was technical (engineers or managers).

Name	Organization	Position	email
Journel Torres	PRC	DMS Engineer	Journel.torres@redcross.org.ph
Ian Ted Barquin	PRC	Program Adviser Construction	Ted.barquin@gmail.com Ted.barquin.cons.prc@gmail.com
Ericson Feliciano	PRC	Team Leader	ericson.alarcon@redcross.org.ph

5.3 Recording implemented shelters

The Open Shelter Database provides the opportunity to share the design of shelter solutions in an open platform where worldwide experiences are gathered and organised to support humanitarian sheltering actors in the design of more efficient and effective interventions. Therefore, visiting, recording and documenting shelter types are key actions to increase the volume of recorded information and improve the future users' experience of the web tool.

IFRC-SRU's mission intended to record shelter solutions implemented during the response to typhoon Haiyan in 2013. Typhoon Haiyan swept across the Central Visayas region and damaged or destroyed more than 1.1 million homes and affected over 16 million people (info. Shelter Cluster "Making homes safer – One-year after Typhon Yolanda").

The time and duration of the mission were dictated by the availability of local actors, IFRC and PRC in particular. IFRC-SRU tried to tailor the mission around that, however, their initial availability was jeopardised by the landfall of typhoon Mangkhut in September and consequent response operations. The mission was therefore postponed until a possible slot was identified in coordination with the field.

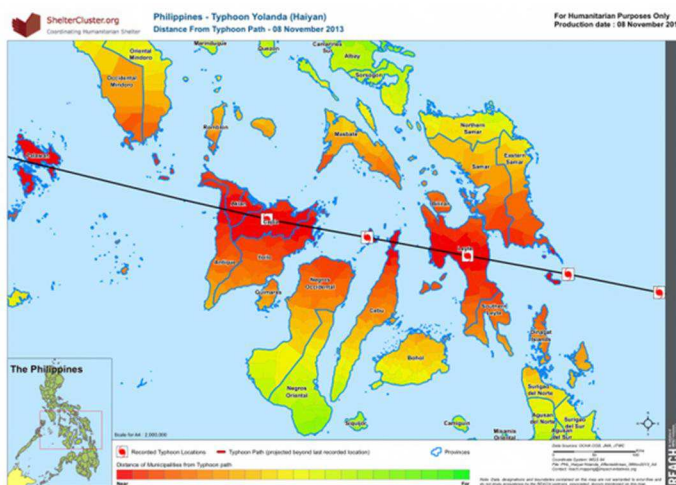


Figure 1: typhoon Haiyan's track through the Philippines and beyond and the intensity of impact along its route (Shelter Cluster).

Information gathering and documentation

In order to optimize the mission time, a prioritization based on zone identification, travel time, safety and donor's requirement was done.

Eastern Visayas (Leyte, Samar and East Samar) was selected as the zone to visit. Between November 9th and 12th, a field visit was conducted in the identified region to record information about the implemented shelter typologies. A set of individualized visits to implemented shelters was performed with the support of PRC volunteers and IFRC local staff in order to obtain the technical information to be uploaded on the database.

Information was collected based on the beneficiaries' interviews, measurements of the actual shelter, and extensive photographic recording of the selected samples.

GPS coordinates were recorded to facilitate the geo-localization and identification of each Shelter typology.

All information recorded on site, according to the same predefined format as required for the online version.

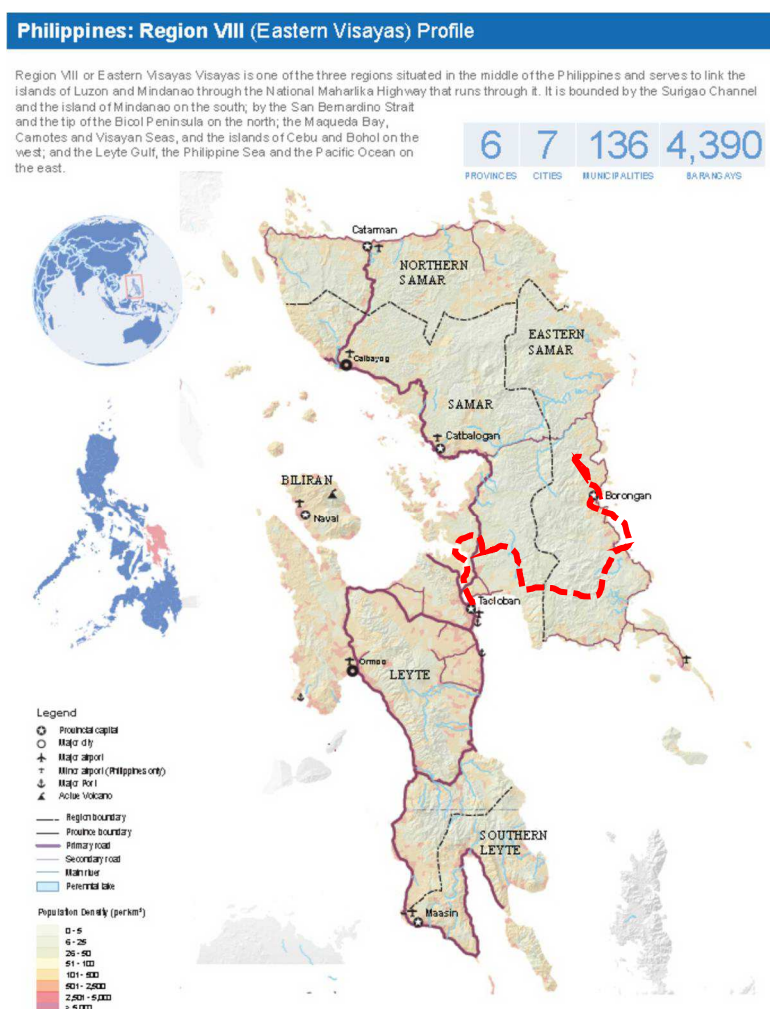


Figure 2: region where shelter information was recorded (source OCHA)

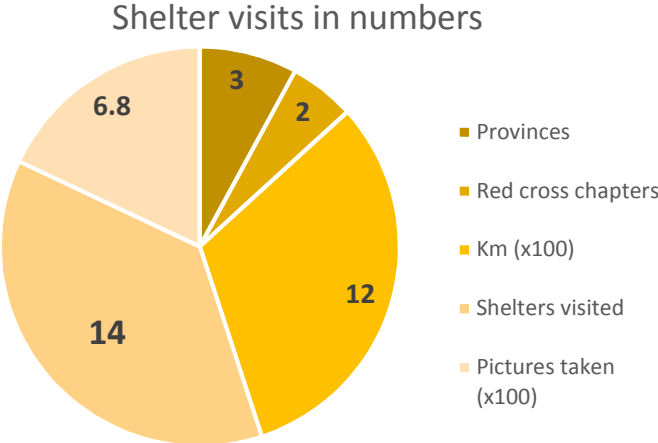
Visiting implemented Shelters

Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines 5 years ago and most of the organizations that participated in the shelter response have now finished their operations and closed their delegations.

This makes information gathering complex. In particular shelter’s identification and uploading of technical information were challenging during the mission.

PRC volunteers and the IFRC staff supported IFRC-SRU with the identification of shelters and facilitated the communication with beneficiaries. The support of the local team was crucial to locate the shelters in particular in rural areas and to run the interviews with beneficiaries in Tagalo, the local language.

The next graph provides a quick view of the shelters visited and the activities in numbers:



The field visit included 14 shelter types, 2 Red Cross Chapters, more than 1200km travelled and an average of 680 pictures recorded.

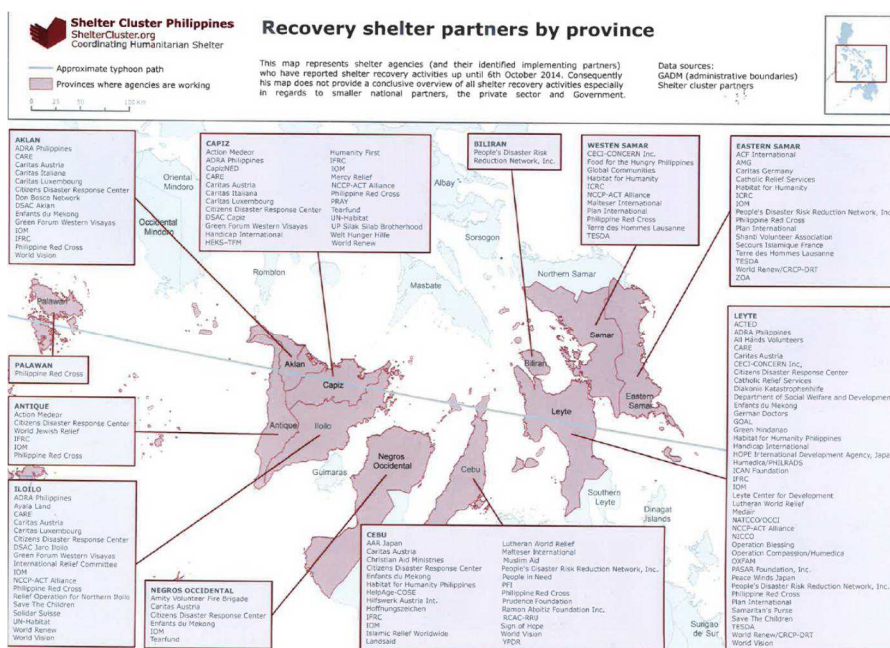
Permanent housing and temporary shelters from 12 different organizations where visited during the mission.

All the shelters will be uploaded in the **Open Shelter Database** pending individual authorization of the implementing organizations. The following table summarizes the visited shelters and provides a quick view of the recorded information.

Shelter	Visit day	Organization	Picture
1	09.11.2018	A.M.G. Philippines <i>Ang Mananampalatayang Gumagawa</i>	
2	10.11.2018	TZU Chi Foundation	
3	10.11.2018	TZU Chi Foundation	

4	10.11.2018	Habitat for Humanity	
5	10.11.2018	CARITAS + FMM	
6	10.11.2018	CARITAS + FMM	
7	10.11.2018	CARITAS + ASC	
8	11.11.2018	TDH	
9	11.11.2018	Korean international Relief	
10	11.11.2018	CARITAS	
11	11.11.2018	SHALOM/SAFE	
12	11.11.2018	ICRC	
13	11.11.2018	ICRC	
14	11.11.2018	CARITAS + Don Bosco	

The next image from the Shelter Cluster shows the Recovery Shelter partners organized by province.



6. Conclusions

6.1 Relevance of the tool/ and good acceptance

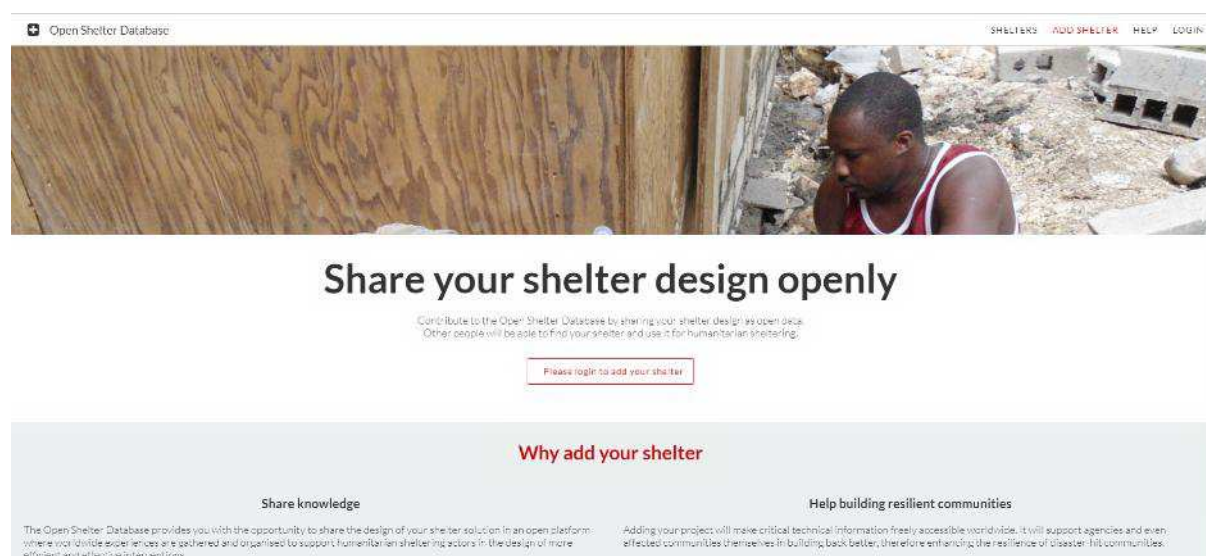
The general objectives of the mission were completed and 14 shelter typologies were uploaded. Induction sessions were given and a diverse group of shelter actors contacted and met. The collected sample is, however, about 12% of what was realised by various organisations during the Haiyan response.

Given the variety of shelter interventions available in the Philippines, from non-Haiyan disaster responses, and still unrecorded, IFRC-SRU will continue to elicit the interest of the organisations on the ground remotely. Similarly funds will be sought to complete an e-induction session on the Open Shelter Database uploading and online publication procedures.

6.2 Uploading shelters and new users in process

During face-to-face meetings the need became apparent to further explain the use of the web tool. Generally smaller actors are able to share immediately the information required. Larger international organisations face, however, larger restrictions when sharing information.

The **Open Shelter Database** was generally welcomed as a useful tool, and organisation representatives agreed to become new users in order to upload additional shelter typologies remotely. At the time of writing we are following up the uploading process of PRC, IOM and CRS.



7. Operational challenges

7.1 Getting users on board

The main challenge during the mission was to get the required information from shelter experts from different organisation, and to get them uploading such information on the Open Shelter Database as expected.

The potential identified users of the Open Shelter Database, were contacted by email/phone, ahead of the mission, in the hope to prepare the ground, and reduce time on the ground, however, they had to be contacted again during the mission, which proved challenging as well as time consuming

7.2 Face to face meetings

A set of personal meetings in the field were organised to explain the project and create awareness about potentials and future uses. Frequently questions on data protection or the benefit of the Open Source model came up in meetings. As during previous experiences (Mapping mission in Nepal 2016), personal interaction proved necessary to understand the concept of the **Open Shelter Database**, promote information exchange and increase the quality of the information uploaded. When planning future mapping and dissemination missions additional time for field activities should be considered.

7.3 Collecting information

Physically collecting information on shelters built 4 or 5 years before, allows to assess in parallel the durability of implemented shelter solutions.

To collect the required data, while ensuring the reliability of the information provided, can prove challenging. It is not always possible to verify the reliability of the information provided such as the dimension and composition of the foundations once they are covered.

Information like implementation, type of organization, price per unit, quantity of units. can be obtained through interviews with beneficiaries or local representatives, however, it can be partial or the person providing it biased.

7.4 Timeframe

The time of the mission, far from being ideal, was the result of long negotiations with IFRC in Manila and PRC, which unfortunately took us until the beginning of the typhoon season. Its duration was later based on availability of support staff in the field, who were either implicated in response operations or in their yearly regional conference.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Options to get on board

The **Open Shelter Database** is designed for a wide range of users, from field officers, to desk officers and decision makers. Information could be uploaded in future in the following ways:

Remote modality: the user provides general information about the shelter that can be complemented with drawings and BoQ (autonomous modality for independent users).

Field modality: field mission to record the current state of the shelter or identified groups of shelters. The information will be based on field and user's experience, beneficiary interviews, pictures that document the shelter and a package of concrete information that can be recorded in place (IFRC-SRU).

Institutional modality: users that actively contribute to the Open Shelter Database providing a complete set of information about the shelter typology and implementation program. This can be a mixed modality with autonomous upload of information complemented with punctual support/validation by IFRC-SRU.

8.2 Training packages

The design of the **Open Shelter Database** has changed from the first online version to the current format. The new interface focuses on the user's experience and makes it easier and more intuitive the access to the different and improved features of the web tool.

In order to further improve user's experience, face-to-face training packages should be developed to be delivered, and completed by online modules.

8.3 Data collection

The **Open Shelter Database** has 162 uploaded shelters and an additional 14 shelter typologies will soon be published. This creates a significant base to exchange experiences and support new operations around the world.

Experience shows that most of the uploaded examples were documented and uploaded during dedicated IFRC-SRU missions. Further increasing quantity and diversity of the examples offered on the **Open Shelter Database** will make the tool even more useful. To this effect, IFRC-SRU will seek funding to undertake additional missions to major disaster response areas.

8.4 Building bridges / information modelling

The **Open Shelter Database** aims to provide service to the wider shelter sector. The technical information on the database is well appreciated by the technical teams and desk officers.

A medium speed internet connection gives access to the entire **Open Shelter Database**, which could be tested in a country shelter cluster environment, as a coordination space during emergency response, where different stakeholders could upload their shelter and settlements interventions. IFRC-SRU would make capacity available to assist in the process.

Annexes

Annex 1 List of contacted people

	Date and type of meeting	Name and surname	Organization	Phone number	Email address
1	07.11.2018	Federica Lisa	IFRC	+6323282062	Federica.lisa@ifrc.org
2		Patrick Elliot	IFRC	09989612140	Patrick.elliott@ifrc.org
3		Byron Jay Nonatto	IFRC	09989729195	Byronjay.nonato@ifrc.org
4		Francisco Monteiro	GSC	+639989612139	coord1.phil@sheltercluster.org
5		Shir Shah Ayobi	ARC	+639989653520	Shirshah.ayobi@redcross.org
6		Marc Mauro	PRC	+639154003326	Markmauro.victorio@redcross.org.ph
7		Journel Torres	PRC	091173142492	Journel.torres@redcross.org.ph
8	08.11.2018	Manolito Agurlo	IFRC	09981621453	Manolito.aguelo@redcross.org.ph
9		Ms Maria Celsa Dala	PRC Chapter Samar		easternsamar@redcross.org.ph
10		Fr. Juderick Paul	CARITAS		tamboopag@yahoo.com
11		Donatella I. Abalo	TDH	09755004221	d.abalo@tdh.nl
12		Fr. Edward Villoidon	Don Bosco	09209206488	Broedsdb24@gmail.com
13	09.11.2018	Gisella Ramirez	CRS	+51952888310	Gisella.ramirez@crs.org
14		Pastor Noel Tenoso	AMG		Amg.phils.org

15		Randy Militante	TZU CHI Foundation	09953066694	Militanterandy82@gmail.com
16		Sr Zaida Villareal	FMM	09197095854	
17	12.11.2018	Neil Justino Arana	Habitat for humanity	09151559898	Neil.arana@habitat.org.ph
18		Julios sanchez	Don Bosco	Director of community DB	Br.julios.sanchez@gmail.com

Annex 2 Terms of Reference & mission itinerary

Open Shelter Database Dissemination and population – Philippines 5th–14th November

Shelter practitioners, within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, have gathered great experience in emergency and post-emergency-sheltering. This knowledge is, however, poorly documented, shared or made accessible.

In order to support the recording of such precious institutional memory, IFRC SRU developed and manages an open source web tool. The Open Shelter Database -OSDB- (<http://shelterdatabase.org>) currently hosts information on 160 shelters implemented by different actors in various countries. All shelters recorded on the database are presented in a comparable and standardised fashion in order to offer an overview of construction techniques, construction details, and materials used, which can be applied and adapted to future emergency responses.

In order to further disseminate the Open Shelter Database and promote its population, IFRC-SRU will undertake a mission to the Philippines from 5th to 14th of November.

Objectives

The mission is intended to record well-documented shelter solutions implemented during the response to typhoon Haiyan in 2013 by PRC and local and international NGOs.

Focus will be on the design and the construction techniques adopted for each shelter model implementation, however, additional information is sought on the integration of a specific shelter solution within a shelter response programme, such as information on the construction process, whether participatory, contractor or beneficiary driven, and on the support modality used, financial or material, cash or in-kind.

IFRC-SRU will seek, during and after the mission, feedback from PRC and others on user-friendliness of the tool, and will seek to elicit views on potential improvements of its function and layout.

Outcomes

- Introduce the Open Shelter Database to PRC staff, shelter practitioners from IFRC, ICRC, PNSs, and Shelter Cluster partners in Manila
- Offer introduction/induction in connection to the Shelter Cluster Meeting on the use of the open tool to interested shelter actors in country
- Populate the Open Shelter Database with Haiyan shelter response typologies implemented by PRC and other shelter actors
- Encourage further dissemination and population of the database to include previous and future shelter responses

Mission activities

Planned mission activities (5 th to 14 th November 2018)	
05.11	- Travel from Luxembourg
06.11	- Arrival to Manila in the evening - Overnight stay in Manila
07.11	- Introduction presentation of the OSDB by IFRC-SRU at the Shelter Cluster Meeting Min 30 min presentation at the 10am meeting in Manila (time slot to be confirmed) - Potential afternoon face-to-face meetings (PRC+IFRC+ICRC+NGOs) to collect shelter information in Manila if possible. - Possible evening travel to Tacloban (Based on security clearance) or overnight stay in Manila
08.11	- Travel to Layte (TACLOBAN)
09.11	- Presentations and courtesy visits PRC chapter in Tacloban and presentation of OSDB
10.11	- Visit of implemented shelter to record the information including GPS, pictures, measurements, etc. (Proposed shelter to be evaluated and organizations to be contacted below)
11.11	
12.11	- 5 nights in Tacloban or Samar depending on available transportation/flights back to Manila.
13.11	- Travel back to Manila - morning flight - Travel to Luxembourg - evening flight
14.11	- Arrival in Luxembourg

- The mission will have a duration of 9 days with 2 nights spent in Manila and 5 nights in Tacloban /Samar. Additional days may be required if we will finally include Panay.

Funding

Belgian, Luxembourg and Australian Red Cross support IFRC-SRU through the funding of this project.

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