

IN MEMORIAM

In the 18 years since the first edition of Shelter Projects was produced in 2008, untold thousands of people have lost their lives due to disasters or armed conflicts. Others have had their lives cut short, because of the inadequacy of the support which they have received, during their displacement as a result of those emergencies.

When a conflict breaks out or a disaster happens, the primary shelter responders are the affected people themselves. We recognize the work of the national authorities, the communities and the people themselves in finding shelter solutions. We would however like to take a moment to consider the contributions of those few people mentioned below.

The last 18 years have also seen significant increases in the numbers of aid workers killed worldwide. One database estimates 2443 aid workers killed between 2008 and 2024¹, whilst the under-secretary-general of UNOCHA has stated that as of April 2026, over 1000 aid workers have been killed in the last three years alone².

In this increasingly dangerous world, Shelter Projects remembers and gives thanks to friends and colleagues who worked on projects included as case studies, or who contributed to the work of Shelter Projects, and who have passed away in recent years:

MARK WERDMULLER (2009)

Mark was one of the earliest members of the Emergency Shelter Global support team, working for IFRC, and one of the first to combine field deployments with the development of the global tools which coordinator teams could use, to promote more effective and equitable humanitarian responses. Mark was part of the team which provided the backstopping to the creation of the first edition of Shelter Projects, in 2008.

STEVE BARKER (2015)

Steve was one of the GSC team who was both a practitioner and with significant work in research (including a doctorate whilst working at the same time in Rwanda after 1994) and teaching. Much of his work was in reconstruction programmes, where he could share his engineering skills and passion for their practical applications. Steve was a cluster coordinator in a number of countries where case studies have been based, ranging from Gaza to Malawi to Fiji.

¹ <https://www.aidworkersecurity.org/incidents/report>

² <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/with-over-1000-aid-workers-killed-in-3-years-often-at-the-hands-of-member-states-un-relief-chief-demands-accountability/>

GRAHAM SAUNDERS (2017)

Graham Saunders was for ten years, the co-lead of the Emergency Shelter Cluster and then the Global Shelter Cluster. Graham was one of the leaders in establishing Shelter Projects, and ensuring through its endorsement by the GSC, that Shelter Projects would continue as a series of editions, and develop many of the additional features which are now present. Graham was also actively involved in the editing processes for the introductions, opinion pieces, and other thematic pieces, as well as having been involved in supporting many of the projects which were covered as case studies.

GUILLAUME ROUX-FOUILLET (2019)

Guillaume was a freelance architect and humanitarian specialist known for his significant contributions to the GSC, as well as co-authoring Shelter Projects 2017-2018 and serving as a key evaluator for projects, focusing on improving humanitarian shelter standards in crisis zones. Guillaume was also noted for the contributions which he made to the graphics and visual language for conveying shelter knowledge.

FELIX DEVRIES (2020)

Felix worked on projects related to Shelter Projects case studies, mainly within the Red Cross movement, in countries across the Asia-Pacific and Caribbean region. Felix was also a contributor to a number of different guidance resources included in the Shelter Projects website³, and was also closely involved in humanitarian-led initiatives to better engage with the private sectors in reconstruction capacities.

WERNER SCHELLENBERG (2021)

Werner worked for UNHCR, as a coordinator, as a programme manager, and in a way which touched many lives, as a great mentor to many of the staff who he worked with. Werner contributed to the UNHCR programmes in Jordan and in Pakistan which have been covered as Shelter Projects case studies, and was also a key part of the team which developed the UNHCR master-plan approach to settlements planning, and which then informed the Shelter Projects thematic booklets on the same topics.

³ <https://shelterprojects.org/files/IFRC-ODHR-Guidelines.pdf>

PETYA BOEVSKA (2021)

Petya worked for the GSC both in Geneva and in the field, notably in Myanmar and Iraq. Petya also closely supported the development of the Global Shelter Cluster Strategy 2018-22, and was part of the Geneva team preparing the annual meetings and coordination workshops, during which the strategic support for the ongoing editions of Shelter Projects was developed and reaffirmed. Petya was also part of the team who developed the GSC 2018-2022 strategy, where research and evidence for the improvement of programming were first highlighted. Petra herself contributed two case studies to the Shelter Projects 8th Edition.

TEDDY BOEN (2023)

Teddy was an esteemed engineer, who contributed significantly to the development of knowledge and safety for the use of ferro-cement in seismic retrofits, mainly in Indonesia. Shelter Projects promoted his work to a wider readership, and included a separate memorial essay in honour of Teddy, in Shelter Projects 9th Edition⁴.

GIORGIOS PAPOULIAS (2024)

Giorgios was an extremely operational site planner and engineer, spending most of his time onsite overseeing works. Amongst many other projects he managed the drainage and site improvement for the POC sites in South Sudan featured in Shelter Projects. Giorgios was also a leader in training others in all aspects of site planning, from collaborative design, to working with heavy earth-moving machinery. Giorgios was also a shelter practitioner who was deeply involved in supporting camp management, and took a principled interest in how families actually lived in the camps and sites.

⁴ <https://www.shelterprojects.org/shelterprojects9/T-Teddy-Boen-SP9.pdf>

ANDREAS HAPSORO (2024)

Andreas held key leadership roles within Habitat for Humanity Indonesia and Habitat for Humanity International, and was closely involved as a programme manager and coordinator for a number of projects included in Shelter Projects, from 2008 until 2021, mainly in Indonesia, but also in other countries in the Asia-Pacific region, as well⁵. Through his expertise in civil engineering, he was a leader for large-scale post-disaster reconstruction and resilience programmes in those areas.

JOHN MCCUE (2026)

John was active in many of the projects which were covered as case studies in eastern and southern Africa. John was a champion of getting things done, finding practical solutions and turning plans into action. John was very active in many of the projects which were covered as case studies including Dadaab in Kenya, shelter across South Sudan, and Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh. The site planning and development of Bentiu IDP camp is one example of his audacious vision, ability to constantly push, and deliver on staffing and logistics in complex environments.

⁵ <https://www.shelterprojects.org/shelterprojects8/ref/A13-indonesia180821.pdf> and <https://www.shelterprojects.org/shelterprojects9/A.17-Indonesia-SP9.pdf>