

Potential for Entry of Gaza Shelter Materials May 2025

Targeting and Prioritisation

Gaza SAG Position Paper

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Introduction

At 23 May 2025, in the last few days there has been approximately 130 trucks enter Gaza since the ongoing blockade of aid on 2nd March 2025 and the ending of the Ceasefire on the 18th of March. The few first trucks allowed through which commenced on the 19th May have been focused on Food and Health supplies so far, but it is hoped in future there will be the opportunity for shelter and household items to enter. Even if this is limited.

This rapidly prepared and concise position paper is only for the purpose of agreeing priorities for the next 4 weeks 26th May – 22nd June 2025 say, assuming limited shelter and NFI materials will be allowed through. This will feed into but is not connected to the output(s) of the TWG on Targeting and Prioritisation.

Information/key planning assumptions

- Understood that items will only be allowed in from the South via. the Kerem Shalom (KS) crossing. With items not only travelling through the Ashdod pipeline but also Egypt and Jordan pipelines. This then assumes the stocks of partners in the Egypt and Jordan pipelines will become accessible.
- At 30 May 2025, it is also believed that eventually some Shelter and Household NFI will eventually be allowed along the fence road. Currently only food, health and chlorine is prioritised along the fence road.
- Assumed Israel's planned Gaza Humanitarian Foundation will not be involved in the shelter and NFI material distribution.

- The number of trucks will be quite limited such that it could be 20 – 30 trucks with shelter and NFI items per week. There is huge uncertainty as to this number.
- As per recent Site Management Coordination (SMC) data, displacement from Khan Younis and East Deir Al Balah continues towards Mawasi. Displacement from the North of Gaza towards Gaza City continues.

Recommended Priority Items

This Since it is difficult to estimate the number of trucks that will be allowed into Gaza but it is assumed there will only be a limited number, there are phased recommendations.

Phase 1 – for the first 50 trucks it is recommended that the following are prioritised:

By number of trucks, 60% Tents and 40% Tarpaulins. Supporting Household NFI needs can be considered for the next phase. It may be appropriate to consider the first 10 trucks for tarpaulins where possible to better understand looting risk while still maintaining above agreed ratio of prioritised items, however, this is to be determined at the time when the first shelter items can enter.

This has been recommended to maximise shelter coverage while also serving framing needs. Note that full Sealing-off Kits (SoKs) with the additional plastic sheeting and fixings have not been recommended, and instead tarpaulin alone is recommended to maximise coverage (as sealing for weather protection is not a current priority). However, agencies should be issuing 2 tarpaulins per household, not one. This would result in approximately 3200 households served with tents, and 12000 households served with 2no. Tarpaulins.

Note that Phase 1 may be extend in terms of items to be prioritised and ratio of those items, this will be determined when it is clearer the rate of trucks per week of Shelter and Households NFI.

Phase 2 – for the next 50 trucks it is recommended that the following are prioritised:

By number of trucks, 30% Tents: 30% Basic ESKs: 30% Sealing off Kits, Relevant Household Items (see note below).

Note that full Sealing-Off Kits are recommended in phase 2. A Basic ESK kit (see [here](#), page 4), rather than the full ESK kit is recommended to maximise coverage of framing material. This would result in 1620 households served with Tents, 1600 households served with Basic ESKs, and 6480 households served with Sealing-off Kits.

While it is recognised that specific Household NFI has not been prioritised in the first phase the Shelter Cluster recognises that some rapid Shelter and NFI needs assessment data is required, which will be difficult to undertake under expected conditions. Shelter Cluster partners will be reliant upon observation and consultations to understand these household item needs to inform the decisions on Shelter and Household Items to be prioritised in the 2nd phase. At 25 May 2025 that bedding sets and kitchen sets have been highlighted as being most important (but that is to be checked in Phase 1).

Agencies should also look at ability to complete procurement, speed up pipelines, and be ready to apply for COGAT approvals to prioritise ESKs as soon as appropriate.

If access does not open up through other pipelines besides Ashdod, ESK to be replaced with tents i.e. 60% tents, 30% SoKs and 10% household items.

Recommended targeting

Prioritise the following

- 1) Phase 1 - Given access of items will be from KS crossing in the South – **Prioritise newly displaced with no or very sub-standard make-shift shelter in Mawasi displacement sites** in-coordination with Shelter Cluster and Site Management Coordination (SMC) Cluster.

Protection referrals with case validation by shelter partners. This may occur across Gaza.

- 2) Phase 2 - After first 50 trucks of shelter items the cluster should then start to prioritise those with no or very sub-standard make-shift shelter **across Gaza including Gaza city.**

The displacement from North Gaza is concentrated in Gaza city, with a high-degree of congestion and limited space to set up new tents. As there is a larger proportion of damaged buildings in this area, the needs could be more for SoKs and ESKs in Gaza city. In the south in Mawasi Khan Younis, there has been a huge wave of displacement from surrounding areas, and it is also severely congested with temporary shelter sites. Although there are land constraints here as well, households are still able to set up temporary shelters at the shoreline or at the fringes of existing sites. The recommendation is to provide tents and tarpaulins in Mawasi based on verifications and coordination with SMC and Shelter Cluster.

Considering the acute large-scale shelter needs, and the highly limited and fluctuating access of aid into Gaza, it is recommended that all shelter materials and household items are distributed through technical assessments and verification channels as far as possible. It may not be possible or limited for partners to carry this out given the current conditions, partners can verify needs through site administration, community leaders, and through protection referrals with validation from shelter partners.

Note that agencies may be limited on where they can operate by access constraints and also the difficulty of trucking through vulnerable areas. The recommendations in this document needs to be revised as observations and consultation take place, rapid needs assessments are undertaken and further displacement occurs during both phases.

Background

Discussion at SAG 22 May 2025 meeting

Lively discussion on how to prioritise, several points were brought up:

- We cannot prioritise only sealing-off kits (i.e. tarpaulins, rope and plastic sheeting) because displaced households are not able to find adequate framing material (such as from debris or their past make-shift/shelter), therefore we must consider the issue of framing materials
- Even if we think of tents as being expensive and less flexible than other options, they still have a role to play in this context given that they include framing material.
- Emergency shelter kits (ESKs) which includes framing material (timber poles) would be the best option if we knew we would get COGAT approvals and we had more truck access, but we don't and ESKs are also relatively bulky. In addition to this it would be better to undertake ESK programming with some orientation and potentially technical assistance and the context may not allow much movement of

agency staff to support this. However, this is partly overcome by the IEC material that already exists for the ESKs.

- Basic ESKs and not the full kits are possible. – this has 22no. 50x50mm (or 48no. 25x50mm) rather than 88no. 25x50mm 2.4m long timber
- We can not consider a cash response because there is no functional market and even if there are some shelter items in the market (e.g. Tents selling at 1000 ILS) there is no supply to meet increased demand.
- In the follow on SAG discussion on this topic on 22 May 2025 it was highlighted that there is a risk of looting and some agencies might consider tarpaulin trucks first before tents to see how what happens with looting, however, it was agreed we should not be choosing the items to be prioritised based on the risk of looting. Also highlighted that duct tape in SoKs does not last due to the humidity and just takes space for limited benefit. Finally, there was a discussion on prioritising the geodesic tent most favoured by households and then the standard family tents.

Discussion at Gaza Shelter Cluster Meeting 25 May 2025

This discussion was also had at the Gaza Shelter Cluster meeting 25/5/2025

- In the South (e.g. Mawasi) some agencies reporting that some newly displaced people are sleeping in the open air.
- Some agencies highlighted the need to focus on the newly displaced in the open-air rather than those in existing makeshifts or living in damaged buildings in the south
- In the North newly displaced to Gaza city may be going more to damaged buildings or host family or bring some of their shelter materials to establish on makeshifts or tents. In Gaza city there is very limited space to establish new shelters.
- Hard to go for blanket coverage, targeted assistance is recommended as far as possible.

Logistical considerations

Assuming 18 pallets per truck (since it is believed a truck can transport between 16 – 20 pallets):

Item	Estimated No. Per Truck	Estimated No. of Households
Family Tents	108	108
Sealing-off-Kit (2 Tarps + Fixings)	432	432
Tarps (without fixings)	1200	600 (2 Tarps needed per household)
Emergency Shelter Kits (ESKs) Includes framing materials of 56 pieces of 50x50mm or 88 pieces of 25x50mm	50	50
Basic Emergency Shelter Kits (ESKs)	80	80

Includes framing materials of 22 pieces of 50x50mm or 44 pieces of 25x50mm		
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Pipeline review considerations

Procurement complete

Sum of Quantity	Column Labels					
Row Labels	Egypt	Israel	Jordan	Not confirmed	via. Cyprus	Grand Total
Bedding set	21701		2060			23761
Blankets	196770	15000	236561	203351		651682
Cloths	13520		13500			27020
Framing Kit			1300			1300
Kitchen kit	50900	2000	73508			126408
Mats	339822		321117	13166		674105
Mattresses	1055474		298990	48664		1403128
Sealing Off materials	2900	2000	18850			23750
Tarpaulin	226258		232058		40000	498316
Tents	18892		17488			36380
Tool Kits	1000		1000			2000

Table above with pipeline data 30th May 2025. It is clear that there is limited stock in the Ashod corridor of all items, including no tents. There is also limited framing kits that have been procured and are ready to dispatch into Gaza via. the Jordan corridor.