

## PREFABRICATED SHELTER

The Shelter Cluster's priority is for people to regain their rights and live in their own homes, and there is some concern that any proposals to establish sites with prefabricated modules/containers has the potential to extend residents displacement and put at risk their housing, land and property rights.

### NO ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL SOLUTION

There is no one-size-fits-all shelter solution for Gaza, and the Transitional Shelter Technical Working Group is working with shelter partners to outline a range of solutions including housing repairs, collective center repairs, incremental emergency shelter kits, etc.

### SCALE OF DESTRUCTION

Due to the scale of destruction being so high, it will take a long time to repair and rebuild damaged buildings and some people may not be allowed to return to their areas of origin, hence these modules could have a role as part of prefab module sites but only as a last resort.

### COST CONSIDERATIONS

The cost of installing these modules is often substantial and can potentially be equivalent to repairing or rebuilding permanent housing, and therefore, their use is again only accepted as a last resort. As of August 2024, some partners are reporting between 3k to 12k USD costs for the prefab modules themselves (depending on type and logistical costs). However, for large sites for the cost of prefab module + all associated infrastructure, one partner reports costs of 22k USD/unit.

### RISKS

Should these modules be used in Gaza, they would only be designed as a temporary solution, but there are risks that their use could potentially continue indefinitely (past the design life of these modules), because of the deprivation of the right of Palestinians to choose where to live, and this further poses significant risks to life with dignity.

This shelter solution is difficult to maintain, not easy to fix compared to locally built shelters because of the difficulty of finding appropriate fixing materials locally.

This solution is rigid and hard to adapt to different household sizes and preferences. It is essential to have a system that allows for upgrades, expansions, and cultural customization. Communities often prefer incremental solutions that can be transformed into dignified shelters rather than fixed solutions.

While some prefabricated shelter solutions are very rigid, those that allow for upgrades and support the local market are preferable.

### CURRENT SITUATION

As of October 2024, as part of the recent October 2023 conflict response, no organization has introduced these prefabricated modules in Gaza, and there are no agreed designated areas for their installation.

Prefab module sites should not be established if there is no clear and funded exit strategy. However, in escalations pre-October 2023, there has been guidance issued by the authorities that prefabs may be placed on the land of people reconstructing. It is therefore still recommended that if these prefab modules are to be used that they are primarily placed on the land of those households who are reconstructing, or immediately adjacent to that land. Prefab module sites should be avoided, since, like camps in all contexts, there can be a range of substantial challenges.

If prefab models are deemed to be the most appropriate solution for a given situation, their design and installation should follow best practice, and guidance from the relevant cluster/organization in terms of location, infrastructure, size, material, utilities, etc.