



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### KEY CHALLENGES

#### SOIL TYPES

South Sudan has a variety of soil types that differ by region. When it rains, the black cotton soil typical in the northern parts of the country quickly become water logged, making movement of any type through the muddy grounds nearly impossible.

#### LOGISTICS AND ACCESS

Humanitarian access remains a challenge, as most areas are very remote and can only be reached by air due to both security and environmental factors. This will become more severe as the rainy season makes most roads impassable.

#### SITE DENSITY

Despite massive efforts to develop land within the UN bases to expand the space available to people residing within them, many sites are still so densely populated that shelter solutions fall below Sphere indicators\*.

### *How serious is the situation at this point in South Sudan ?*

The situation in South Sudan is deeply concerning. There are multiple crises in a number of key states resulting in significant humanitarian consequences and concerns regarding the protection of civilians. The number of people seeking refuge in UN peacekeeping (UNMISS) bases, or moved to other places of relative safety continues to grow. To date, an estimated **1,5 million people** have been displaced, including some **75 000** sheltering in UN bases. The Shelter NFI cluster is also worried about those whose whereabouts are not known. These people are in urgent need of emergency shelter.

**Limited access for humanitarians due to insecurity has affected the level of humanitarian assistance provided so far as well as ascertaining reliable information on to the scale of the crisis.**



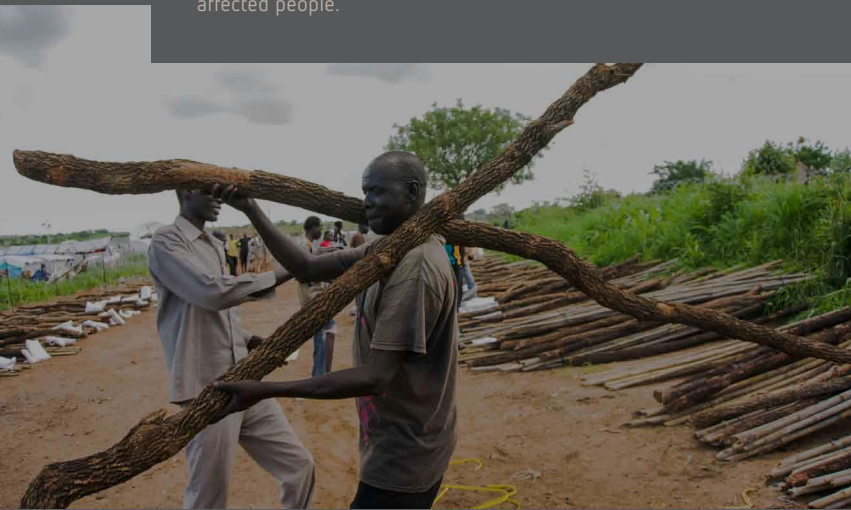
## What is the South Sudan Shelter NFI Cluster ?

The cluster system was established in South Sudan in 2010. The Shelter NFI Cluster lead is the International Organization for Migration (IOM), passed from UNJLC in January 2011. The cluster co-lead is World Vision International. The Shelter NFI Cluster is part of a global coordination mechanism that helps everyone work together better, so that the people who need shelter assistance get help faster and receive the right kind of assistance. The goal of the Shelter NFI Cluster is to provide people affected by violence and conflict with safe, dignified and appropriate living conditions, as well as access to essential services, while seeking durable solutions.

\* The Sphere Project was initiated in 1997 by a group of NGOs and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to develop a set of universal minimum standards in core areas of humanitarian response: the Sphere Handbook. The aim of the Handbook is to improve the quality of humanitarian response in situations of disaster and conflict, and to enhance the accountability of the humanitarian system to disaster-affected people.

## What are the main objectives of the Shelter NFI cluster ?

- **Ensure sufficient supply, transport and positioning** of standard packages of emergency shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI).
- **Ensure timely, targeted, and accountable distributions** of basic NFI and emergency shelter materials in acute emergency (including assessment, distribution and post-distribution monitoring).
- **Deliver locally appropriate emergency and transitional shelter solutions** (including site planning, construction support and shelter maintenance where appropriate).



## How is the Shelter NFI cluster responding to the unfolding humanitarian crisis ?

Given the continued deterioration of the situation, the complexity of the operating environment, and based on assessment and distribution reports prepared by cluster partners, the cluster continues to prioritise meeting immediate life-saving emergency shelter and NFI need as rapidly and efficiently as possible.

## What does the Shelter NFI cluster deliver to communities in concentrated sites ?

In addition to meeting basic NFI and emergency shelter needs in concentrated sites, the Cluster collaborates with other sectors such as Food Security and Livelihoods, CCCM and Protection to meet other urgent needs, including fuel efficient stoves, fuel and solar lamps in some locations to help keep women and girls safer from gender based violence.



## *How does the Shelter NFI cluster ensure that sites and individual shelters are going to resist heavy rains ?*

Shelters must be sufficient to protect during the rains: this means both adequate structure and sufficient elevation. Individual shelters will be elevated in different ways depending on what is available locally, but mostly using sandbags and backfill (sand, murrum and/or soil). Overall site elevation and drainage is also key. The Shelter Cluster is supporting site planning in coordination with other relevant sectors, including identification of high-risk areas within sites where shelters are in need of relocation or where site-wide drainage needs improvement.

## *What does the basic NFI and emergency shelter kit consist of ?*

The basic NFI kit includes plastic sheets, kitchen sets, blankets, mosquito nets, soap, buckets, sleeping mats, cotton cloth. The basic E-Shelter kit includes plastic sheets, wooden poles, bamboo poles, sandbags, locally produced rubber binding rope, nylon rope and metal pegs. Light kits have been designed for large-scale responses that rely exclusively on airlift.

## *How does the Shelter NFI cluster provide support to the communities ?*

The Shelter NFI cluster offers technical support to communities for the construction or reinforcement of shelters, to ensure they are strong enough to resist wind and rain. Extremely vulnerable individuals are prioritized for support and awareness raising campaigns on tarpaulin use, fire safety, and flood. The conflict is unfolding over vast, remote areas: in order to adequately respond to this complex emergency, the cluster has strengthened its mobile response teams. These teams can respond flexibly in coordination with other sectors and operational partners, and have the technical expertise needed in both shelter and NFI. These teams fill key gaps in the response where other partners are not present or require additional support, or where the situation is very fragile and requires solid expertise on the ground.

## *Who are the South Sudan Shelter NFI Cluster partners ?*

The South Sudan Shelter NFI active partners are: IOM, World Vision, Across, Acted, Caritas, Concern Worldwide, Catholic Relief Service, DanChurchAid, Danish Refugee Council, Global Communities, Humane Development Association (HDA - national NGO), IFRC, Intersos, Lacha Community and Economic Development (LCED - national NGO), Lutheran World Federation, Medair, Mercy Corps, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Oxfam, People In Need (PIN), Polish Humanitarian Organization (PAH), Plan International, Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children International, South Sudan Red Cross, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Welthungerhilfe/GAA.

