



RAPID MARKET ASSESSMENT GAZA

NRC Shelter team sealing-off kits distribution, enhancing living conditions of displaced families in Gaza.
Amjad Al Fayoumi/ NRC

Assessment Objectives

- Understand market functionality & capacity
- Identify critical gaps in shelter materials & labor
- Map skilled/unskilled labor availability & wages
- Analyze price dynamics vs. global costs
- Evaluate feasibility of market-based interventions (CVA, vouchers)
- Provide recommendations for humanitarian actors

Methodology

Desk Review

- global price benchmarks, secondary data

Vendor Survey

- 3 suppliers per item, cost & availability

Labor Mapping

- 3+ workers per trade, wages & tools

Data Triangulation

- validate trends & cross-check

Qualitative Notes

- challenges, substitutes, recommendations



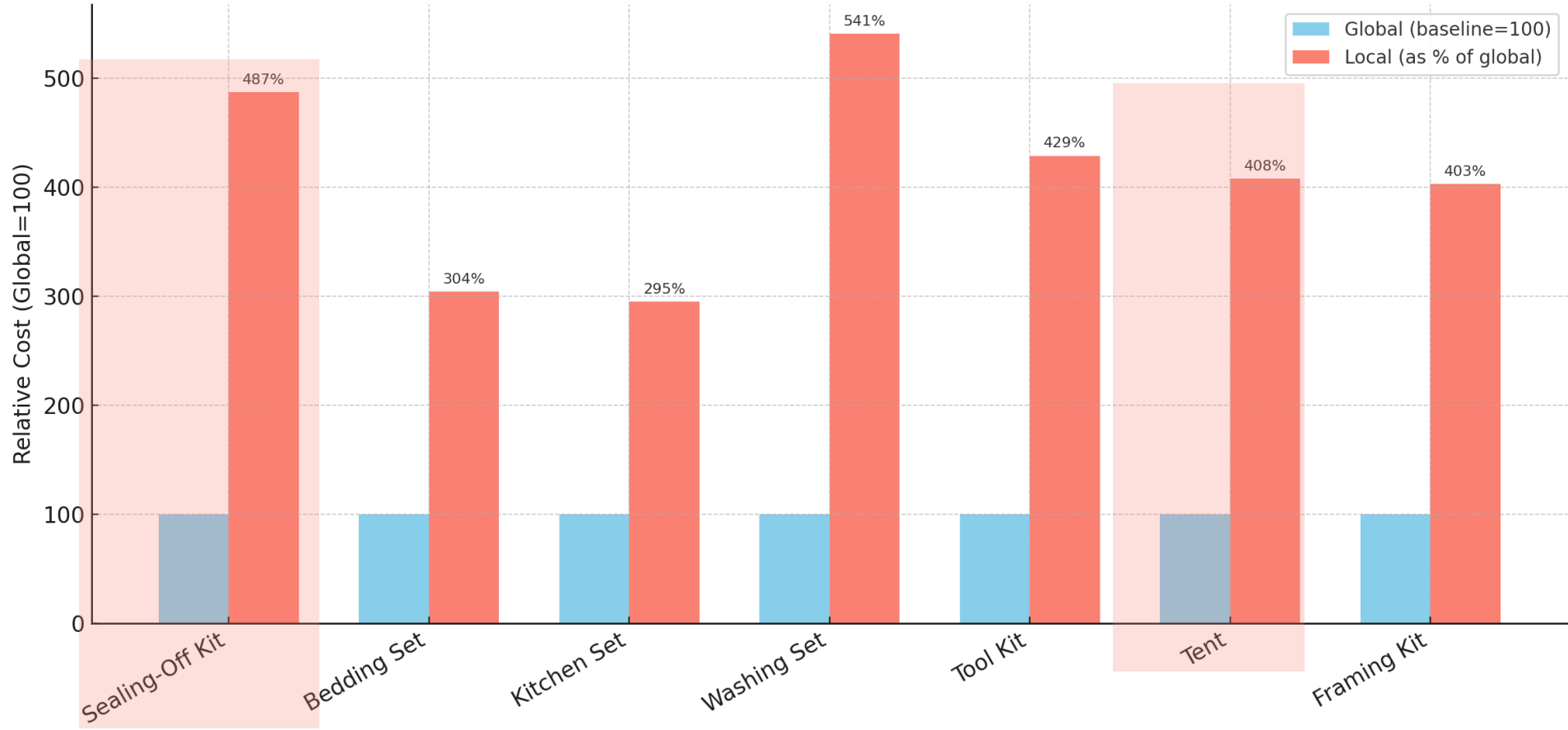
Key Market Findings

- Severe scarcity of essential shelter items (Tents, tarpaulins, essential NFIs)
- Many items are only available as humanitarian aid
- Hyperinflation: local prices 3–5x higher than global benchmarks
- Cash withdrawal/transfer commission: 40–55%, crippling CBIs
- Limited & overstretched vendors, risk of black markets

Price Distortions (Examples)

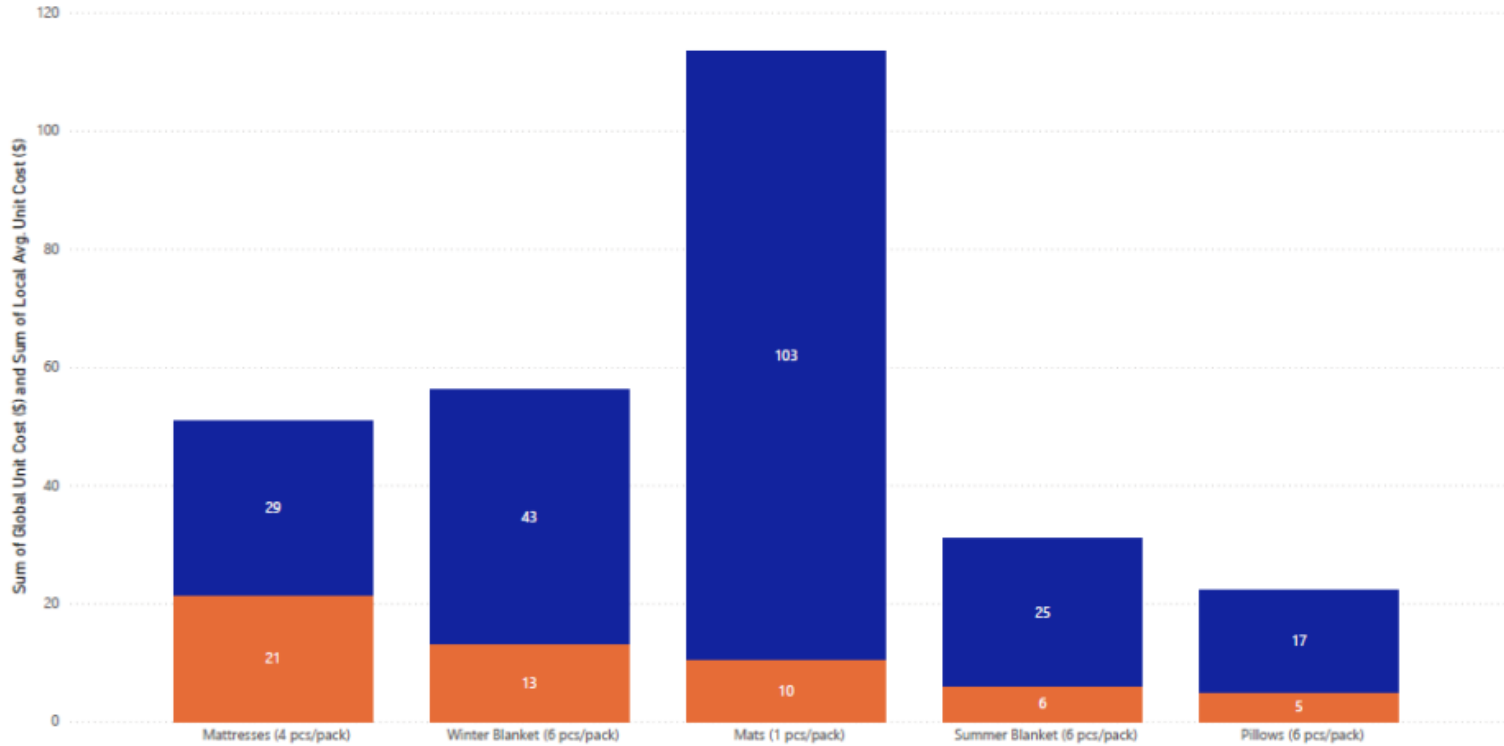
- Sealing-off Kit: 487% higher than global
- Winterized Tent: \$420 global vs. \$1,715 local (+408%)
- Tarpaulins & rope: 10–14x inflated.
- Tool Kit: 429% higher
- Washing Set: 541% higher than global

Global vs Local Costs of Shelter Kits (RMA Gaza, 2025)



Sum of Global Unit Cost (\$) and Sum of Local Avg. Unit Cost (\$) by Item

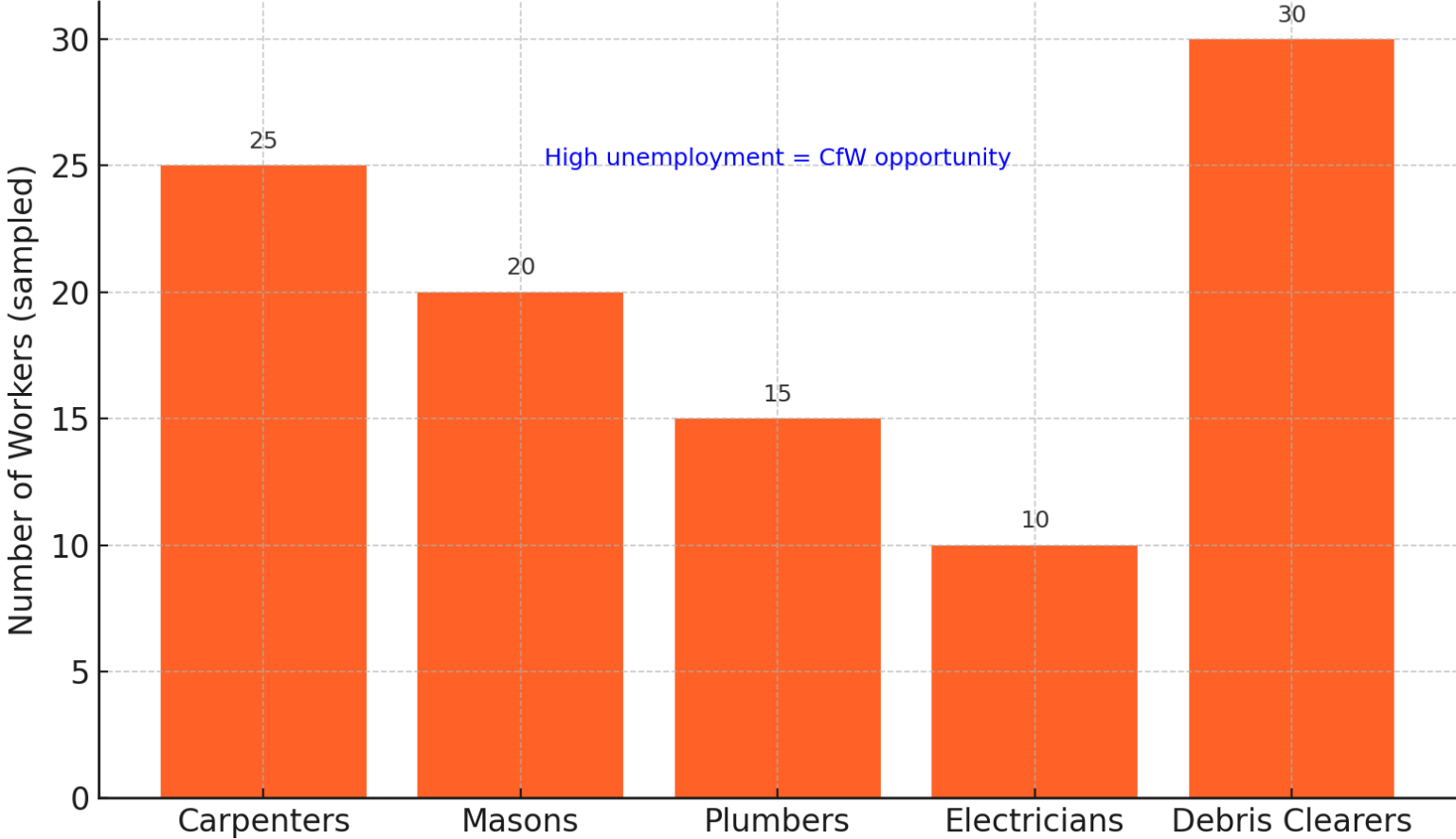
● Sum of Global Unit Cost (\$) ● Sum of Local Avg. Unit Cost (\$)



Labor Market Findings

- Skilled & unskilled labor mapped: carpenters, masons, plumbers, electricians, debris clearing
- Workers with own tools are scarce
- Wage expectations: aligned to CWG standard (~ILS 80/day)
- Pool of unemployed labor is high → Technical capacity is exist.

Labor Availability (Sample from RMA Gaza 2025)



Key Challenges

- Hyperinflation & market distortion
- Unreliable supply chains due to blockade
- Labor without tools → limited capacity
- High financial transaction costs (40–55%)
- Risk of market distortion if humanitarian actors procure heavily locally.

Implications for Shelter Response

- Local procurement = very costly & limited quality
- Cash-based interventions undermined by high commission rates
- Direct aid & imports remain essential to meet immediate needs
- Need to strategically blend: imports + local purchasing + community labor.

Recommendations

- Direct import & distribution for high-ratio items (tarpaulins, mats, tents)
- Bulk purchase agreements with vetted local vendors
- Explore alternative CVA delivery (minimize commission fees)
- Invest in local labor & training, provide tools
- Continuous price monitoring & info sharing across agencies
- Advocacy: → Reduce transaction fees
→ Allow entry of shelter items
→ Improve market access.



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