

# National Shelter Cluster Meeting

## Questions & Answers Notes

*Prepared for follow-up to the cluster presentation*

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The following Questions and Answers have been compiled from discussions during the National Shelter Cluster meeting to be shared alongside the presentation.

### **Q1. Are timber and framing kits approved to enter Gaza?**

**Answer:** The technical team clarified that 500 ESK framing kits recently entered Gaza through CRS. However, this does not confirm a clear or consistent approval pathway for timber materials. Timber is not approved in the same way as tents, and approvals continue to depend on the partner, the corridor used, and individual case-by-case approvals. There is currently no predictable process for timber entering shelter pipelines, including those managed by IOM. It was also noted that even when specifications appear to be approved in principle by COGAT, some partners still face rejection while others are approved for the same materials.

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### **Q2. Can flat-pack or Better Shelter RHUs be used in Gaza, and what is the current situation?**

**Answer:** It was confirmed that 1,700 RHUs have entered Gaza so far, with 570 already installed across three main sites and the remaining units under preparation. RHUs were described as more stable than tents and generally well accepted by communities. At the same time, key challenges remain, particularly the very limited space available per household and the high demand for complementary shelter materials such as tarpaulins, framing materials, and bedding.

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### **Q3. Are RHU sites meeting minimum safety and fire standards, including SPHERE guidance?**

**Answer:** In response to concerns raised by UNRWA regarding the close spacing between shelters, the Shelter Cluster explained that technical fire safety guidance has been issued recommending a minimum spacing of 5 meters between RHUs, based on Better Shelter guidance. However, in Gaza's current conditions, maintaining this standard is often not feasible due to space constraints. To reduce risks where spacing cannot be achieved, mitigation measures such as fire extinguishers and fire risk awareness measures are being promoted. The guidance remains clear, but full compliance is heavily constrained by the context.

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### **Q4. What is the most effective shelter solution for displaced people from West Bank camps?**

**Answer:** The discussion confirmed that return to the camps is considered the most appropriate and durable solution for displaced households from the West Bank camps. Current shelter interventions outside the camps are understood as temporary coping solutions only. It was also acknowledged that many displaced households have lost their homes completely and may face a long wait before reconstruction is possible. In this context, current support is intended to enable dignified temporary living conditions rather than replace the right or objective of return.

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#### **Q5. How can shelter partners use site sweep data to target households sleeping outdoors?**

**Answer:** The Site Management and Shelter IM teams clarified that partners should not directly access Site Management operational dashboards. Instead, Shelter Cluster IM should serve as the coordination entry point. The agreed process is that partners first inform the Shelter Cluster about their area of operation, after which the Shelter Cluster identifies priority sites and households and coordinates referrals in order to avoid duplication. Site Management data is therefore intended to support coordination and analysis rather than direct targeting by individual partners.

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#### **Q6. How often will site data be updated after partners respond?**

**Answer:** The Site Management Cluster explained that the current sweep is not a real-time system. At present, shelter response tracking depends primarily on Shelter Cluster 5W submissions and joint distribution reports. The longer-term objective is to establish regular service monitoring and site-level updates through cluster coordination. Until that is in place, updates will continue to be managed through Shelter Cluster IM.

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#### **Q7. Why is the shelter response slowing despite high needs?**

**Answer:** The Gaza team noted that shelter pipelines are being depleted, which is slowing the response despite the high level of need. Current stocks inside Gaza are largely limited to plastic sheeting and a small number of non-food items. Entry constraints remain a major issue, including the low number of trucks allocated for shelter supplies. It was highlighted that if current entry rates continue, it would take years for large-scale shelter solutions such as caravans to enter in sufficient numbers. Stronger advocacy is therefore needed to secure more trucks, approval for more durable materials, and increased approvals for shelter partners.

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#### **Q8. What is the CCPM survey and why should partners complete it?**

**Answer:** The Shelter Cluster IM team explained that CCPM stands for Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring. This is the first shelter CCPM exercise in two years. The survey is intended to gather partner feedback on the quality and effectiveness of coordination, and to identify areas where improvements are needed. The results will be used to inform cluster adjustments and shape a planned workshop in May.