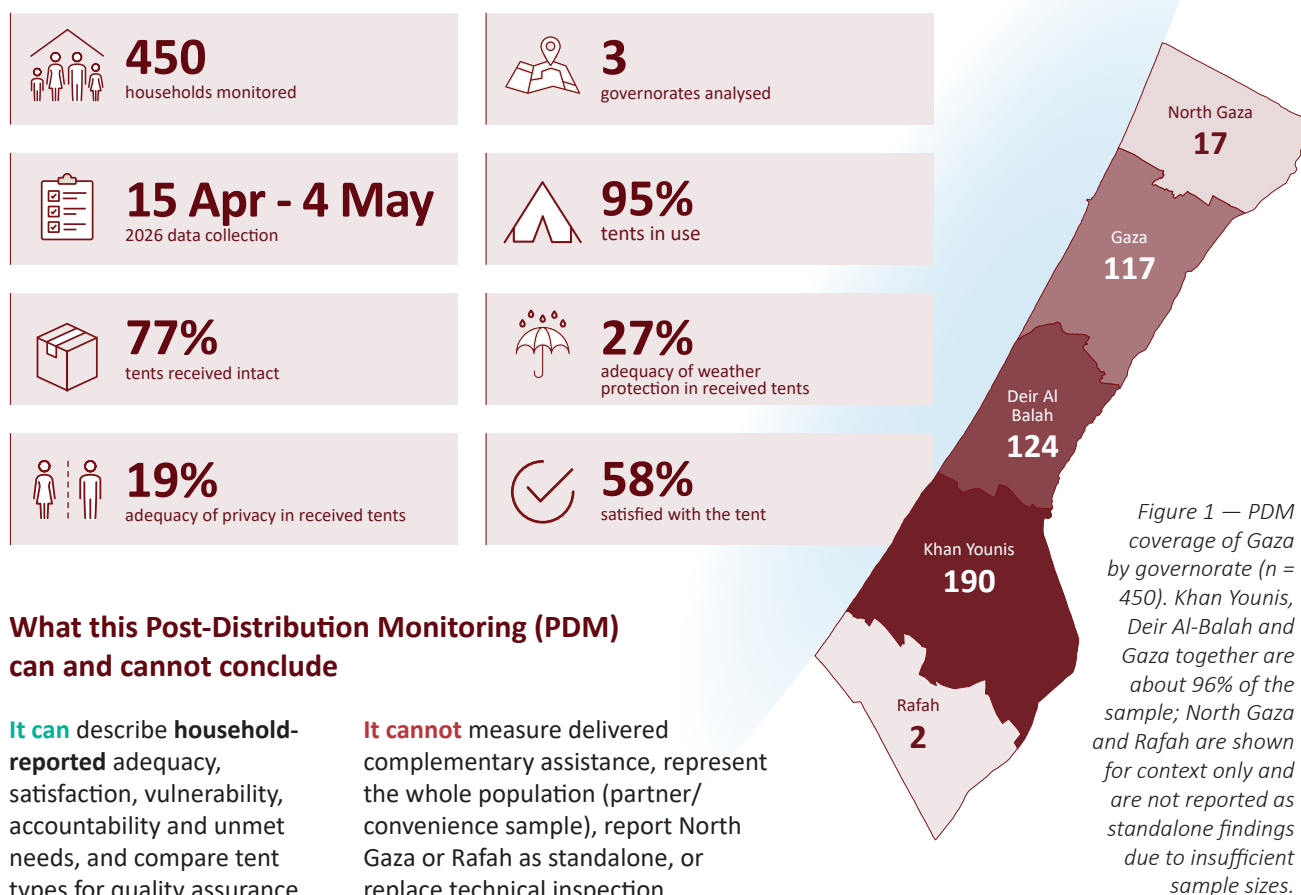

POST-DISTRIBUTION MONITORING OF EMERGENCY TENT ASSISTANCE IN GAZA

Household-reported findings, tent-type performance and recommendations



1. AT A GLANCE



What this Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) can and cannot conclude

It can describe household-reported adequacy, satisfaction, vulnerability, accountability and unmet needs, and compare tent types for quality assurance.

It cannot measure delivered complementary assistance, represent the whole population (partner/convenience sample), report North Gaza or Rafah as standalone, or replace technical inspection.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Why was this PDM conducted?

Between October 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026, Shelter Cluster partners reported distributing approximately 106,000 tents to displaced people across Gaza (Shelter Cluster 5Ws). Under the blockade on shelter materials, the Humanitarian-standard Family tents and Geodesic tents remain among the few feasible emergency shelter options approved for entry into Gaza. However, they are explicitly recognized as inadequate for protracted displacement.

Using the Shelter Cluster harmonized tent PDM tool through its Technical Working Groups, this assessment examines whether the distributed tents are usable, adequate, safe, and dignified, and identifies the additional shelter items required by households. A total of 450 households were monitored across Khan Younis, Deir Al-Balah, and Gaza between 15 April and 4 May 2026.

Main technical findings

How to read the evidence tags:

- [Confirmed by PDM]** household data is clear
- [Suggested by PDM]** indicative/associational matches a standard/guidance or market data
- [Not measurable]** not captured by this tool

- Most tents were received intact (77%, 352/450); 23% arrived with a defect. Reception condition strongly tracks satisfaction: 68% of intact-tent households were satisfied, versus 25% of defect-tent households. 
- Household-reported adequacy is low on weather protection (27%, 123/450), privacy (19%, 83/447), lighting (8%, 35/441), and pest protection (13%, 56/445), and higher on flooring (82%) and internal height (61%). 
- 62% modified the tent themselves and 59% needed extra items to install it (mainly an additional tarpaulin). These are unmet needs and household coping, not delivered assistance. 
- Accountability is weak: only 37% know how to raise a complaint, and 18% do not know how they were selected. 



Tent-type performance (quality assurance, not attribution)

The Humanitarian Geodesic tent consistently scores highest and requires the fewest household modifications. This is presented for quality assurance and technical learning, not to compare or rank partners.



Priority recommendations

- Tent distributions should include a defined complementary household items package, as applicable and based on assessments.
- Shelter Cluster partners should coordinate with Site Management and WASH clusters on site improvements and WASH facilities.
- Targeting and prioritisation should follow the [Shelter Cluster Targeting and Prioritisation Guidance Note Gaza Response](#).
- Agencies should consider providing support for tent transportation and installation to vulnerable households.
- Agencies should clearly communicate the selection criteria, time, and location of distribution.
- Distribution sites should be located as close as possible to people's shelters.
- Shelter partners should only distribute tents that meet humanitarian standards. If non-humanitarian tents are distributed, they should be accompanied by additional items to ensure waterproofing, structural stability, privacy, protection and other essential requirements. Please see the [Shelter Cluster guidance on tents](#).
- For tents that lack internal partitions and lockable closures, necessary adaptations should be made in future distributions to protect privacy and reduce GBV risks.
- In cases where tents have deteriorated, partners should replace them or report to the Shelter Cluster if they lack the capacity to do so.

 [Confirmed by PDM] household data is clear

 [Suggested by PDM] indicative/associational matches a standard/guidance or market data

 [Not measurable] not captured by this tool

3. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Almost three years of hostilities and repeated displacement have left a large share of Gaza's housing damaged or destroyed, leaving displaced households dependent on emergency shelter. Tents can be stockpiled, transported, and installed quickly, but they offer limited thermal comfort and weather resistance and have a short lifespan in Gaza (approximately 6-12 months, as indicated in the Technical Guidance). This report monitors the outcomes of tent assistance: whether tents reached households in usable condition, how they perform against minimum habitability expectations, how different household groups fare, how accountable the process was, and what households still need.

4. METHODOLOGY AND COVERAGE

Data were collected using the harmonized Shelter Cluster tent PDM tool by multiple Shelter Cluster partners between 15 April and 4 May 2026, resulting in 450 valid household records. Partners are anonymized in this report; comparison is by tent type/source. Findings are disaggregated by governorate, site type, planned versus informal sites, tent source, female- and older-headed households, large households (≥ 5 members), households with a Washington-Group functional difficulty. Every percentage in this report is reported on its valid (non-missing) base, with the denominator shown; group comparisons use two-proportion tests, treated as indicative given the non-probability sample. Coverage is concentrated in Khan Younis (190), Deir Al-Balah (124), and Gaza (117); North Gaza (17) and Rafah (2) are reported only within the Strip total.

5. DATA QUALITY AND LIMITATIONS

No technical duplicates were present. Twenty-one records share an identical content key (governorate, neighbourhood, site, tent source, household size, and headship); these were flagged for review and retained in the analysis. The export merged three form versions, which forked the SNFI-priority question (handled by using the version-common variable). The following limitations should be read alongside all findings:

- Partner/convenience sample, indicative of monitored distributions, not population-representative.
- North Gaza (17) and Rafah (2) are not reportable as standalone governorate findings due to insufficient sample sizes, which limit statistical reliability and increase the risk of misleading interpretation.
- Several indicators are household-reported, not technical-inspection findings.

Footprint and congestion: a key limitation carried throughout

The PDM asked whether households had 'sufficient space' of approximately **20 m²**. Note that this suggests "covered living space", which is separate from an installed footprint of **55m² (Geodesic) to 67 m² (Family)**, including guy-ropes (refer to tents technical guidance p.7). The 82% who reported 'sufficient space' are therefore measured against a very narrow threshold, which is well below the standard in a protracted emergency. This tool does not adequately detect site-level congestion and land pressure. This limitation recurs in the technical findings, recommendations, and tool-improvement sections. For more details: [Shelter Cluster's Technical Guidance on Tents Assistance in Gaza \(p. 7\)](#).

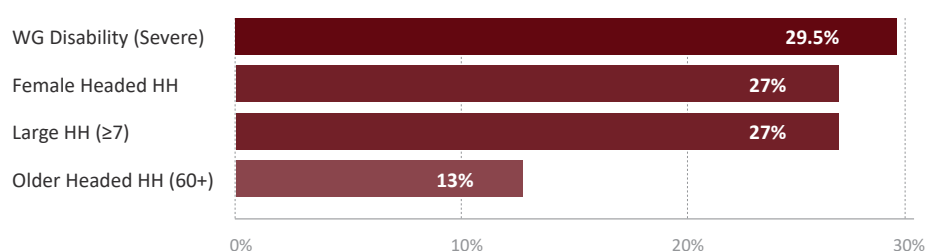
6. RESPONDENT AND HOUSEHOLD PROFILE

Households average 5.2 members (median 5; range 1–14; base 414). Most respondents are men (60.4%, 272/450), though women are well represented (39%, 176/450). About 69% of households are UNRWA-registered (311/449). Heads of household are predominantly men aged 18–59 (65%), with women-headed and older-headed households described in the next section.

7. VULNERABILITY PROFILE

Functional difficulty was measured using the Washington¹ Group Short Set. Around one in four monitored households falls into each major vulnerability category.

Figure 2 — Vulnerability profile (n=450).
WG severe 29.5% · Female-headed 27% · Large HH ≥7 27% · Older-headed 13%.

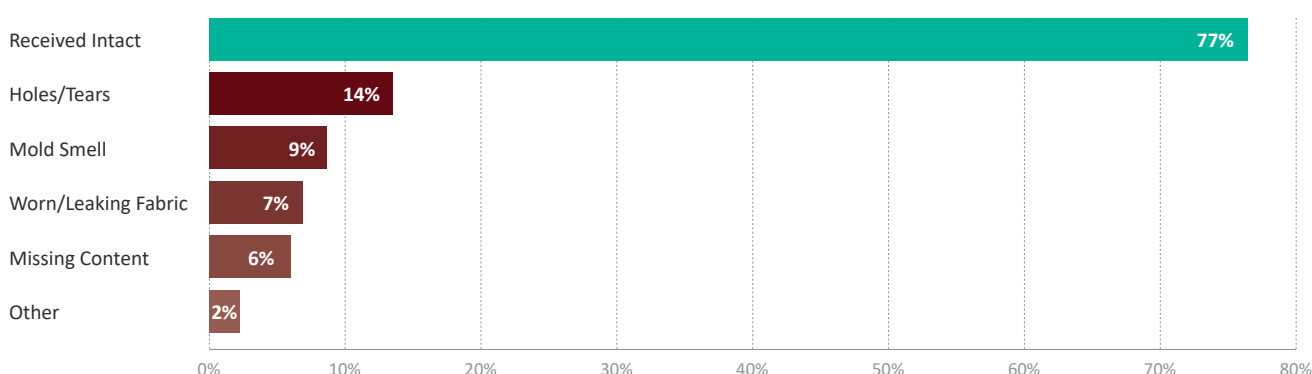


8. TENT CONDITION AT RECEPTION AND USE

Most tents (77%, 345/450) were received intact; 23% (105/450) arrived with at least one defect, most often holes/tears, mold smell from storage, or worn/leaking fabric. 🟢 Tent use is near-universal (95.1%, 425/447), predominantly for sleeping and daily activities.

92% respondents installed tents in land that is not their own, underscoring the need for HLP due diligence in emergency shelter distributions.

Figure 3 — Tent condition at reception (multi-select; base 450); 'received intact' 77% vs any defect overall 23%.



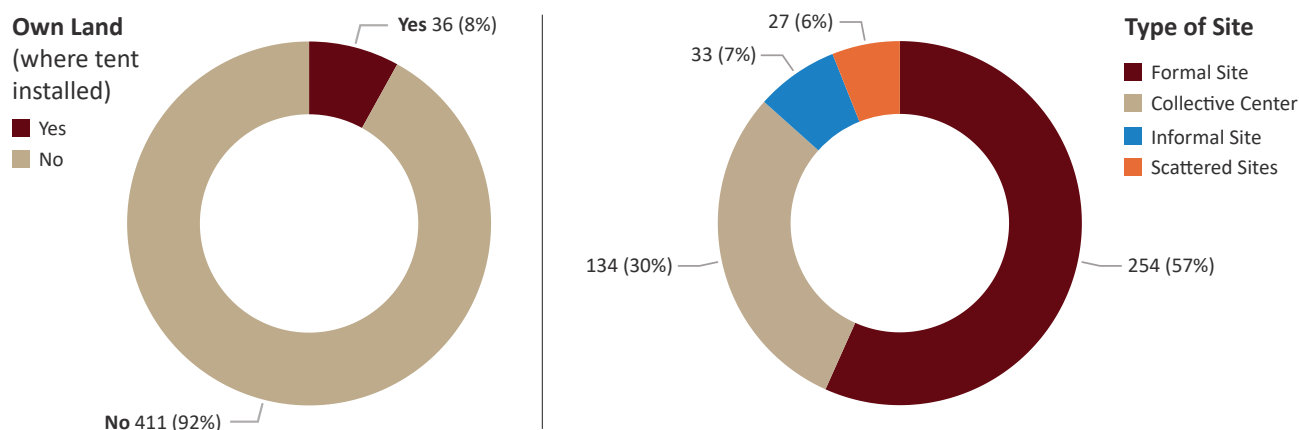
¹ The Washington-Group measure uses the stricter definition (at least one of six domains reported as 'a lot of difficulty' or 'cannot do at all'); the broader definition (including 'some difficulty'), 62.7%, is retained in the annex.

🟢 [Confirmed by PDM] household data is clear

⚙️ [Suggested by PDM] indicative/associational matches a standard/guidance or market data

🔴 [Not measurable] not captured by this tool

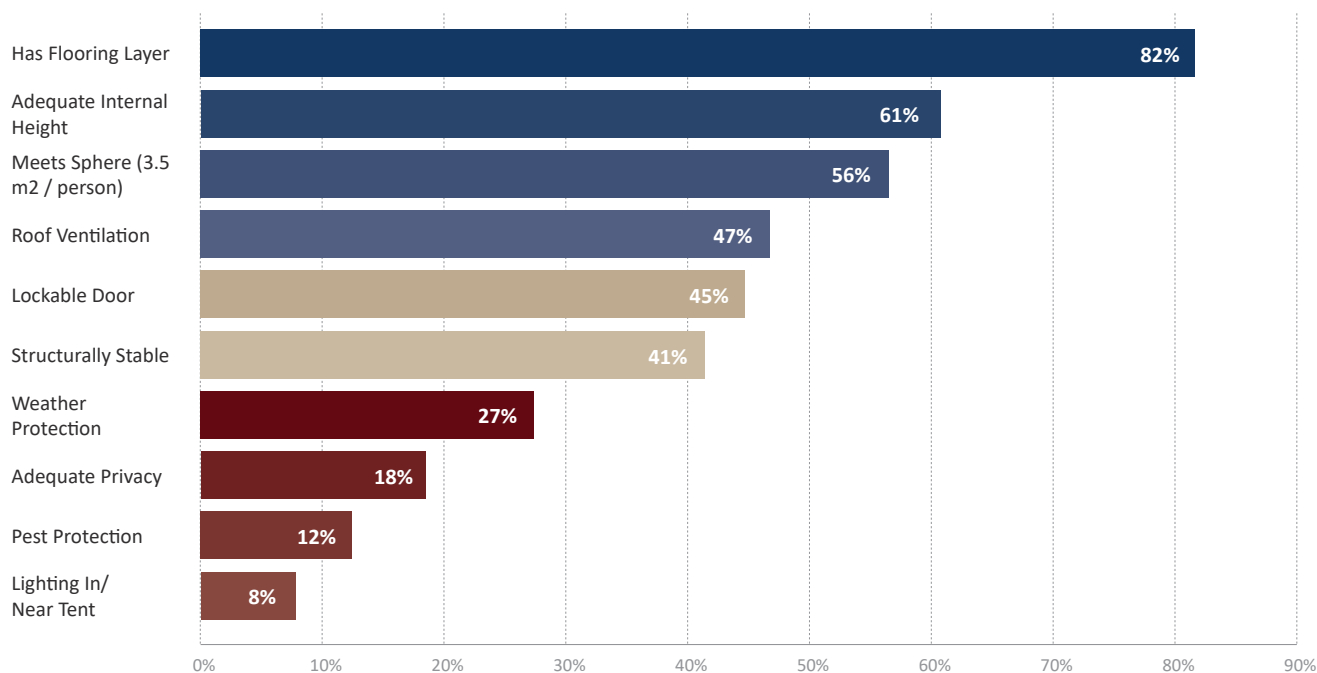
Figure 4 —Land Status - (where tent was installed (multi-select; base 450)



9. TECHNICAL ADEQUACY (HOUSEHOLD-REPORTED)

Households reported inadequacy in weatherproofing, privacy, lighting and pest protection in the tents. 

Figure 5 —Household-reported technical adequacy (% 'Yes'; valid bases 441–450).



Footprint mismatch (repeated)

People's responses indicate that only 56% of households meet the Sphere Standard of 3.5 m²/person. Congestion is likely greater than the data suggests.

 [Confirmed by PDM] household data is clear
 [Suggested by PDM] indicative/associational matches a standard/guidance or market data
 [Not measurable] not captured by this tool

10. TENT-TYPE PERFORMANCE SCORECARD

The scorecard compares tent sources on adequacy, satisfaction, modifications, and use. The Humanitarian Geodesic Tent leads across all adequacy dimensions and in satisfaction (80%) and reportedly requires fewer household modifications compared to other tent types. Non-Humanitarian tents score lower and show high rates of mold and household modifications.

Quality assurance, not attribution

This comparison is by tent type/source for quality assurance and technical learning only. It is not a ranking of partners and does not attribute performance to any organization.

Type of Tents Distributed



Figure 6 — Tent-type performance scorecard
(valid responses within each source; record n shown; green = better, red = worse; ‘–’ rows inverted).

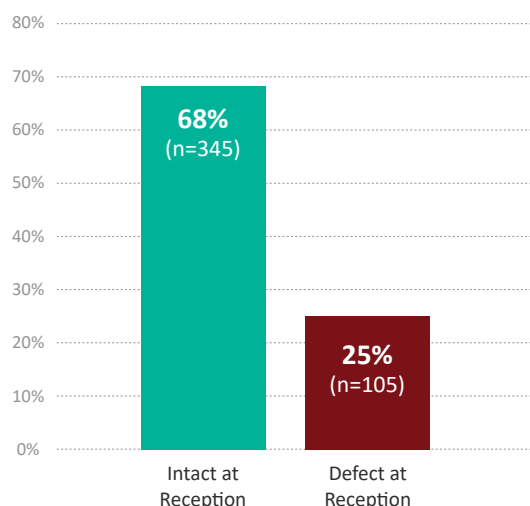
Tent Type Performance	Family (Humanitarian)	Geodesic (Humanitarian)	Non-Humanitarian
Adequate Privacy	35%	58%	25%
Adequate Roof Ventilation	52%	94%	29%
Adequate Weather Protection	48%	76%	40%
Feels Safe at Night	35%	25%	14%
Has Flooring Layer	70%	97%	71%
HH Modified the Tent	39%	42%	79%
Mold Free Tent	68%	71%	55%
Pest Protection	26%	37%	16%
Satisfied with Tent	48%	80%	42%
Structurally Stable	74%	85%	59%
Tent currently in use	100%	90%	99%

11. CROSS-ANALYSIS

Reception condition is the strongest correlate of satisfaction: intact-tent households are far more often satisfied and report adequate weather protection than defect-tent households. 

Figure 7 — Condition → satisfaction & weatherproofing (intact n=345 vs defect n=105).

Satisfied with tent



Weatherproof - tent weather protected

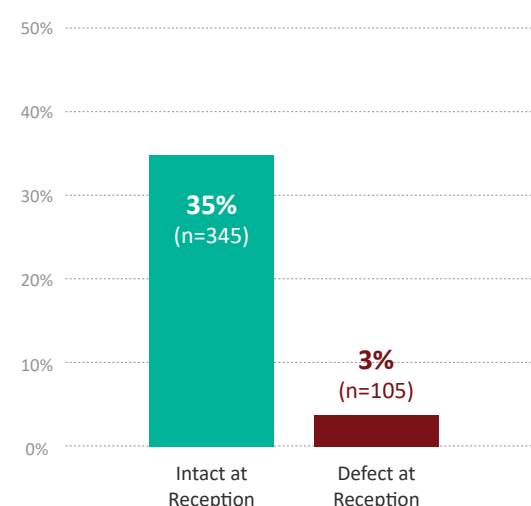
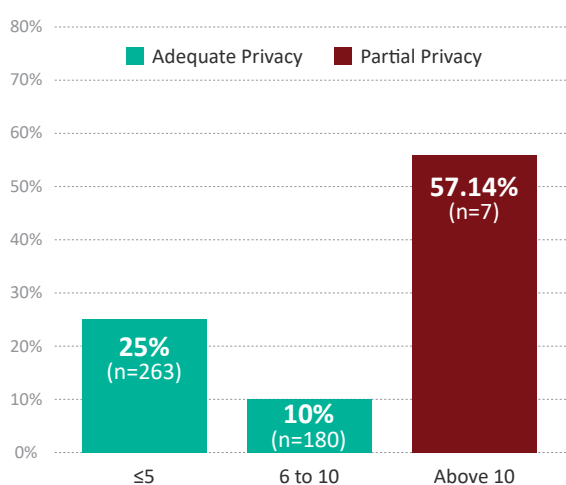
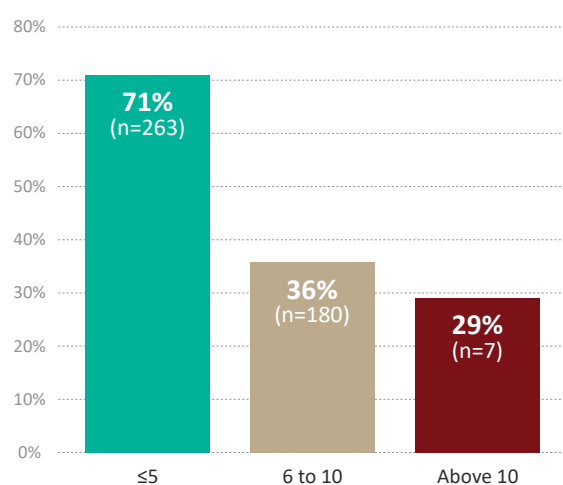


Figure 8 — HH Size: ≤5 (n=263), 6-10 (n=180), Above 10 (n=7).

Household Size - Adequate Privacy



Household Size - Adequate Space Sphere 3.5 m²



 [Confirmed by PDM] household data is clear

 [Suggested by PDM] indicative/associational matches a standard/guidance or market data

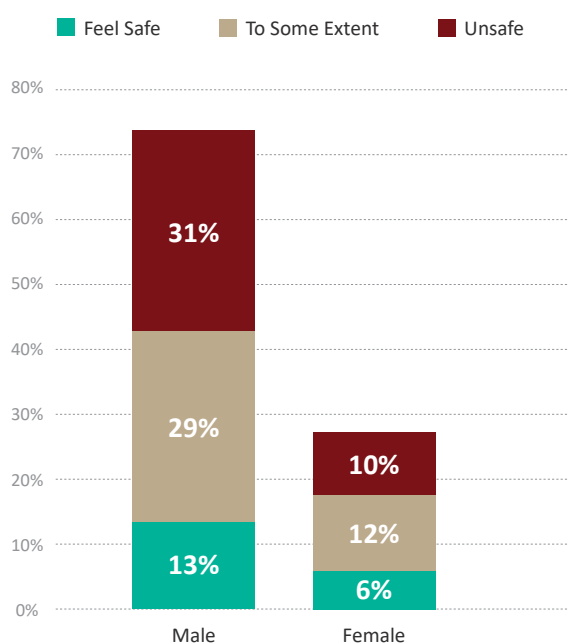
 [Not measurable] not captured by this tool

Large households report less privacy, with no large households reporting adequate privacy, compared with 25% of households with five or fewer members. They are also less likely to meet the Sphere 3.5 m²/person standard (29% vs 71% of households with five or fewer members). [Confirmed by PDM]

On safety inside the tent at night: only 19% report feeling safe, compared to 40% who do not feel safe and 41% who feel safe only to some extent. Given that these shelter solutions are not intended for long-term use, their limited level of protection makes night-time safety a key concern. Notably, residents of collective centers were more likely to report feeling unsafe than those in other shelter types. [Suggested by PDM]

Figure 9 — Respondents reporting feeling safe at night inside their tent

Perceived Safety by Sex of Household Head (n=488)



Safety Perception

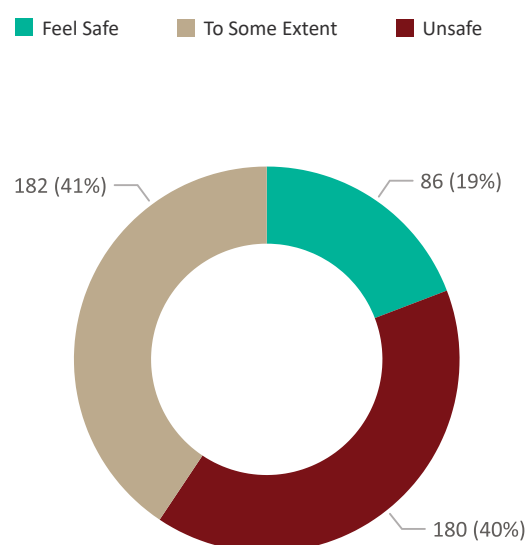
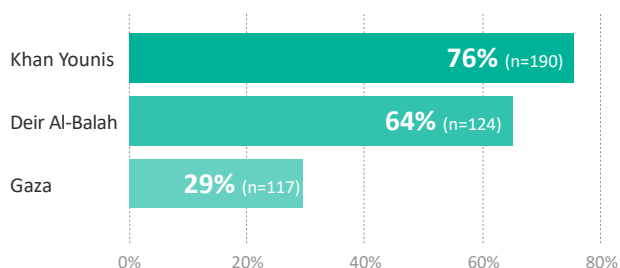
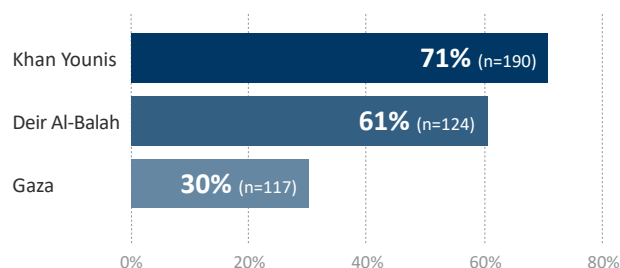


Figure 10 — Governorate gradient (Khan Younis, Deir Al-Balah, Gaza only).

Tent Satisfaction Overview by Governorate



Reported Levels of Tent Weather Protection by Governorate

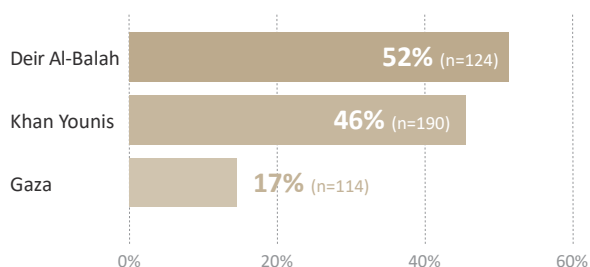


[Confirmed by PDM] household data is clear

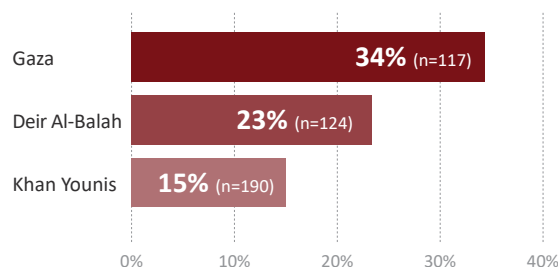
[Suggested by PDM] indicative/associational matches a standard/guidance or market data

[Not measurable] not captured by this tool

Perceived Privacy Provided by Tents, by Governorate



Reported Tent Defects at Reception, by Governorate



Results varied across governorates. Khan Younis reported the highest levels of tent satisfaction (76%) and weather protection (71%), while Gaza reported the lowest levels of satisfaction (29%), weather protection (30%), and privacy (17%), as well as the highest proportion of reported tent defects at reception (34%). Deir Al-Balah showed comparatively stronger privacy outcomes (52%) and moderate levels of satisfaction (64%) and weather protection (61%).

Deir Al-Balah (69%) and Gaza (62%) showed a higher proportion of non-humanitarian tents compared to Khan Younis (37%). Further analysis is required to understand the lower tent satisfaction levels in Gaza, which may be linked to the prevalence of non-humanitarian tents and a higher rate of defects reported upon receipt.

12. VULNERABILITY DEEP-DIVE

Most differences between vulnerable groups and the overall sample are small and not statistically notable, and are not overstated here. Two patterns stand out. Large households report notably worse privacy (8% vs 19% overall). Female-headed households, in some cases, reported higher levels of satisfaction with their tents. However, this finding requires validation through further assessments.

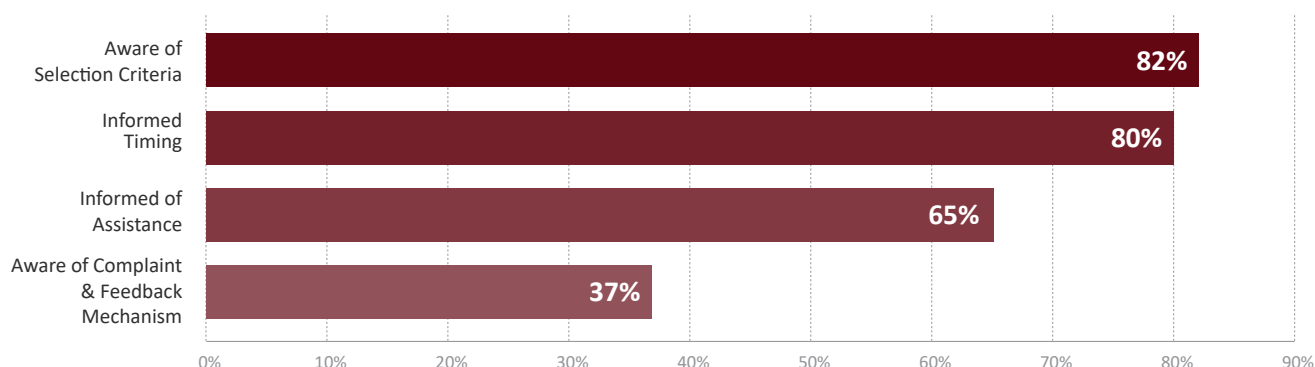
Female-headed households: not a causal reading

The more favourable outcomes for female-headed households are not interpreted as an effect of headship. They most likely reflect the allocation, tent type, location, site type, or reception condition these households received, and would require controlled analysis before any interpretation. Older-person-headed, severe-disability, and UNRWA-registered households do not differ notably from the overall sample.

13. ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

Most households were informed of the type of assistance (65%) and its timing (80%), but only 37% know how to raise a complaint, and 82% are aware of how they were selected.

Figure 11 — Accountability indicators (n=450).



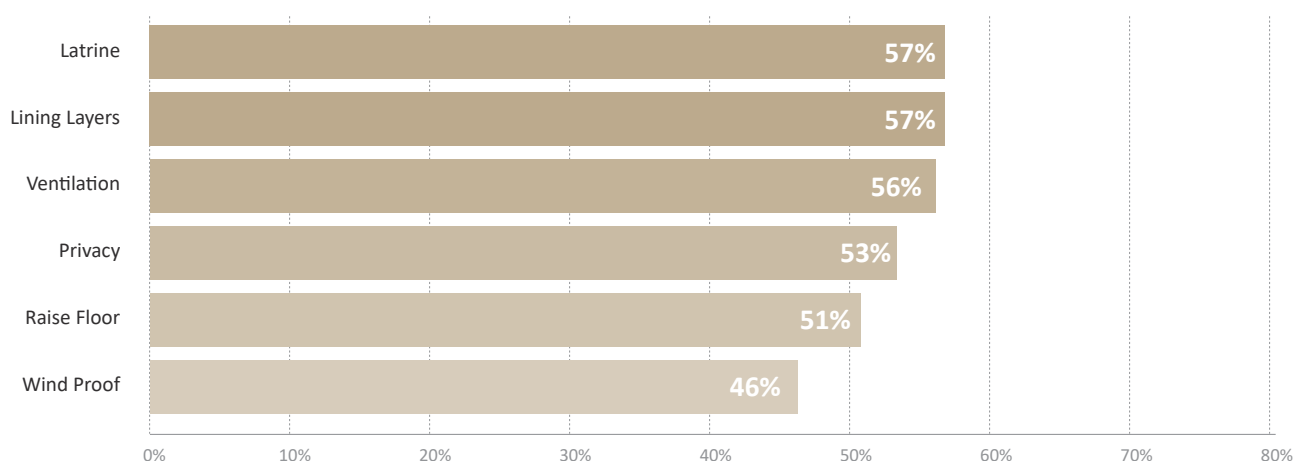
14. NEEDS AND GAPS

59% of households needed items beyond the package provided to install the tent, overwhelmingly additional tarpaulin/shade sheeting, and 62% modified the tent themselves, mostly adding cladding or roofing.  The most requested improvements are a latrine, ventilation, lining layers, and privacy; top SNFI priorities are kitchen items, income support, and bedding items. 

Unmet need is not delivered assistance

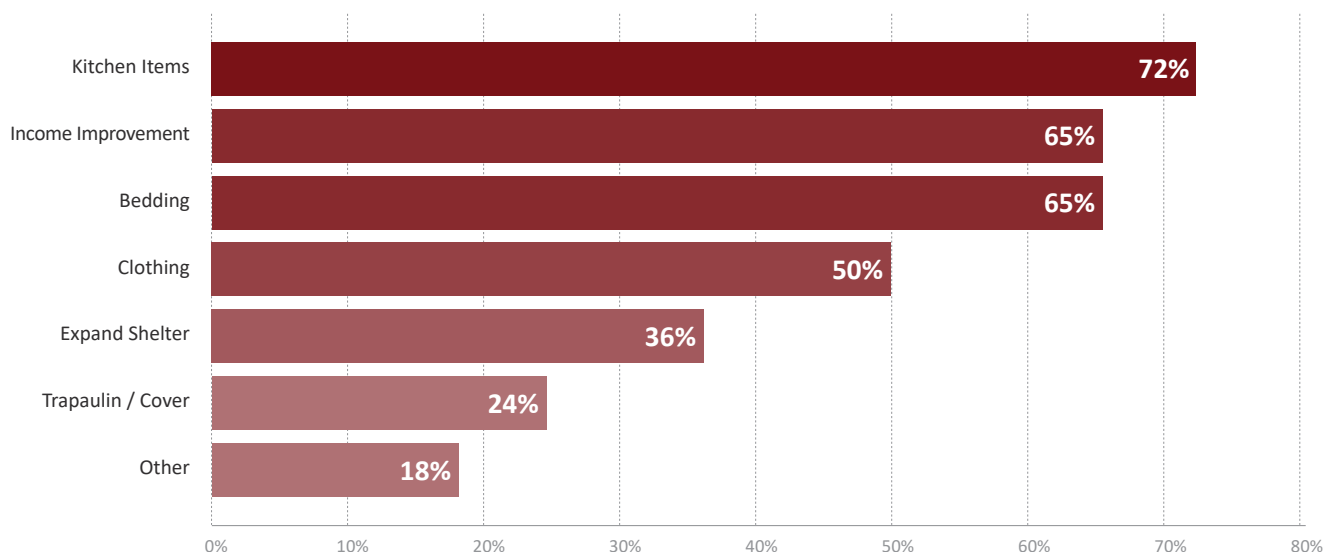
Delivered complementary assistance cannot be measured in this PDM. The figures below describe unmet need and household coping only; they do not indicate what was or was not provided.

Figure 12 — Most-requested tent improvements (n=450).



 [Confirmed by PDM] household data is clear
 [Suggested by PDM] indicative/associational matches a standard/guidance or market data
 [Not measurable] not captured by this tool

Figure 13 — Top SNFI priorities (n=450). Multi-select.



15. EXTERNAL TRIANGULATION AND STANDARDS

As validated by the assessment and based on global shelter standards, humanitarian tents serve as emergency shelter and are inadequate for a protracted emergency. Further, the market evidence and limited access to materials show that households cannot meet these adequacy gaps themselves. A key distinction is between items available in the market and items realistically accessible to households: even if some items are available and seem cheap, purchasing power, cash liquidity, price inflation, access, and vendor stock limit self-purchase. See [Shelter and HH Items Market Monitoring Report June 2026](#).

Table — Condensed triangulation classification (full matrix in Annex D).

Issue	Triangulation classification
Weather protection, privacy, ventilation, lockability, lighting, pest protection, space vs Sphere	Confirmed by PDM + external evidence
Cooking/fire risk; drainage/waterlogging; affordability of self-procurement	Suggested by PDM + external evidence
Flooring quality & ground preparation; true installed footprint vs ~20 m ² question	Confirmed by PDM; needs technical verification
Delivered complementary assistance; direct flooding exposure; fire incidents	Not measurable with current PDM data



**PALESTINE
SHELTER CLUSTER**

Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

POST-DISTRIBUTION MONITORING OF EMERGENCY TENT ASSISTANCE IN GAZA

August 2026

