

Shelter Cluster, Yemen Winterization Strategy

Program Duration: October 2023 – February 2024

Updated: 28/09/2024



Al Thadamon IDP hosting site. Dhamar City, Dhamar governorate. @SDF

Shelter Cluster Winterization Response Strategy

Program Duration: October 2023 – February 2024

Key Message

Yemen faces the sixth largest internal displacement crisis in the world, with some 4.5 million people internally displaced since 2015. Most of those displaced have been displaced for over a year, and many of them more than once. An estimated 1.6 million people currently live in 2,431 hosting sites across the country¹. Yemen has an INFORM Climate Change Risk Index for 2023 of 8.1², ranking fifth among the most vulnerable countries to climate change and least prepared for climate shocks, with temperatures rising faster than the global average over the past three decades. Financial constraints limit the purchasing capacity of displaced and returnee families, particularly for winterization items.

As the winter season is approaching, the Shelter Cluster is mobilizing its partners to provide life-saving winterization support to ensure that vulnerable families living in high cold areas³ have the means to stay safe and warm. The type of assistance varies according to needs:

1. **Immediate shelter assistance before winter season as part of the regular response:** a) replacement of damaged shelters where necessary, b) provision of materials, tools, and support to repair or upgrade existing shelters in dire condition to assure minimum insulation standards c) provision of emergency shelter kits to those living in the open.
2. **Winterization assistance package (Equiv. of \$100⁴ in Yemeni Riyal):** The modality of implementation should be informed by an assessment of local markets (in-kind vs. cash)⁵.
 - a) A high thermal blanket per individual in the family. If the assistance is in cash, the transfer value is \$50 for an average of 7 blankets. The cost of one blanket is about \$7.
 - b) Assorted winter clothing per family. If the assistance is in cash, the transfer value is \$50 for an average family of 7 members.

Note: The targeting approach will take into consideration **protection criteria and protection risk mitigation**, particularly for women, children, disabled persons, the elderly, etc. Due to the high number of families unable to prepare adequately for the winter season as well as a shortage of funding, humanitarian agencies are strongly recommended to **assist based on assessed winter needs** coupled with [a vulnerability scoring system](#) aligning with prioritization criteria proposed by the Shelter Cluster. **Priority will be given to families living in open spaces, informal settlements, damaged, makeshift, and poor shelter conditions, at risk of forced eviction, or forced to relocate** and in urgent need of winterization assistance to mitigate impact during the winter months. **Community participation and awareness** about the winterization response are essential, including needs assessments, entitlement, and complaints and feedback mechanisms. **Embedding environmental considerations** in the winterization response is crucial in enhancing anticipated impacts, improving overall natural resources management, and reducing environmental impact. **Post Distribution Monitoring** is mandatory to evaluate the impact of the winterization support on the beneficiaries. **Reporting** will continue to be through the Shelter Cluster ActivityInfo.

Response Plan⁶:



Urgent funding from donors is critical to facilitate the implementation of this lifesaving program and meet the needs of the most vulnerable population who cannot afford to purchase essential winter items.

¹ Yemen Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023

² European Commission, INFORM Climate Change, <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Risk/Risk-Facts-Figures>.

³ Locations with the severity scores 4 and 5 in addition to districts with a score of 3 living in dire shelter situation as per the winterization analysis.

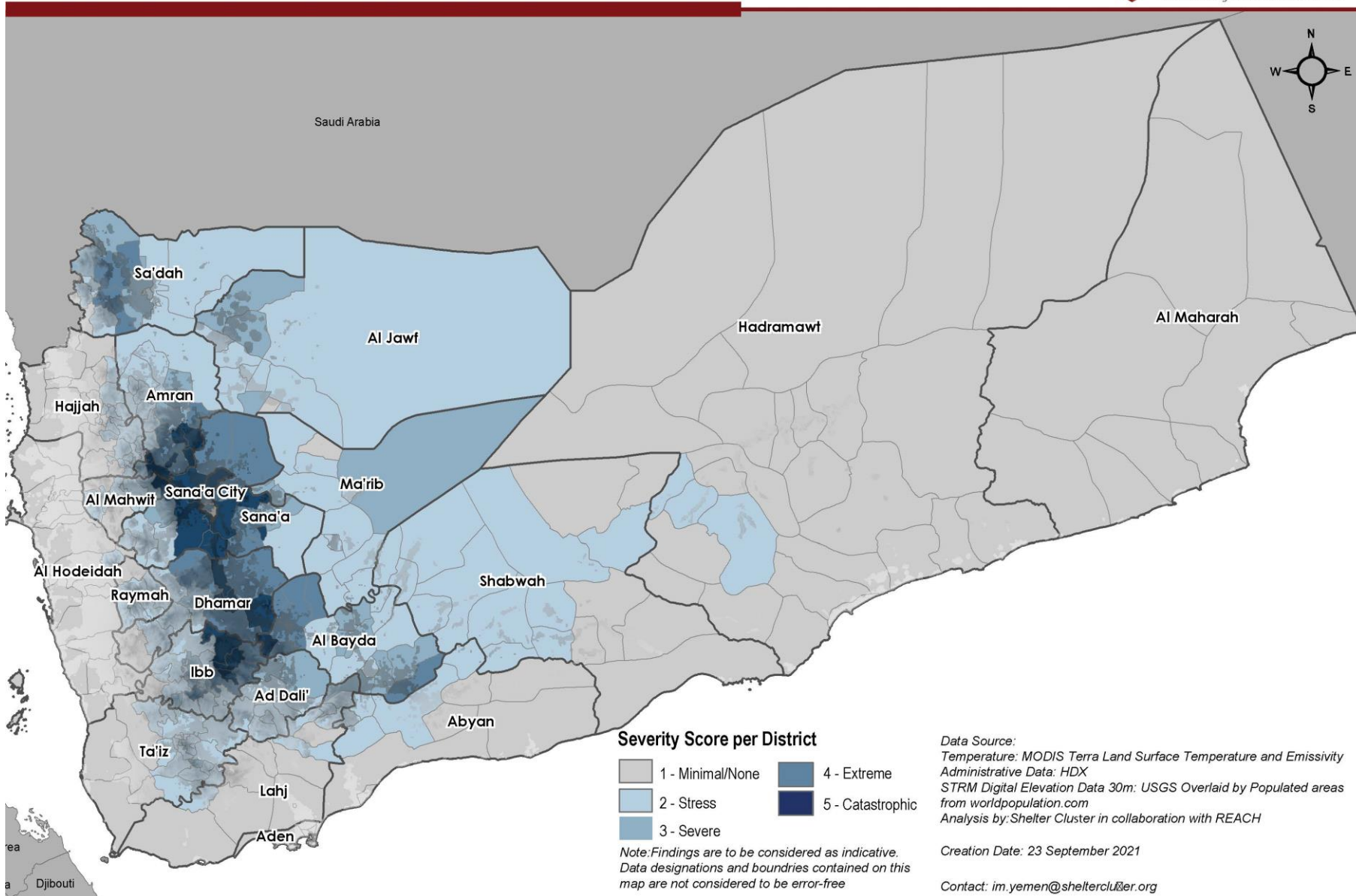
⁴ The recommended cost is intended as general guidelines and are subject to fluctuations influenced by inflation and market dynamics.

⁵ It is crucial to minimise the risk that differences in type and amount of assistance received by communities living in similar contexts provided by different agencies which may lead to tensions with beneficiaries, authorities, etc.

⁶ The response plan targets were estimated in the Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 based on a dedicated analysis of the cold nights during the winter season, analysis of funding received in previous years, partners capacity, and availability of access to affected population. List of locations targeted is available here: <https://sheltercluster.org/yemen/documents/shelter-cluster-hrp-2023-winterization-target>.

Annex I:

Areas Exposed to Low Temperatures in Winter Months



Annex 2: Response Workplan

Activity	Responsibility	Status								
			October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
<i>Create awareness on the winterization response and packages</i>	Cluster	In Progress								
<i>Ad-Hoc need assessment to identify shelters in need of repair / support</i>	Partners	In Progress								
<i>Provision of materials and technical</i>	Cluster	Not started								
<i>Assessments to identify vulnerable families in need</i>	Partners	In Progress								
<i>Adjust targets and locations if needed</i>	Cluster	Not started								
<i>Provision of winterization assistance and monitoring</i>	Partners	Not started								
<i>Provide weekly updates on the winterization assistance and update the</i>	Partners / SCT	Not started								
<i>Conduct post distribution monitoring and report</i>	Partners	Not started								
<i>Produce consolidated PDM report (May</i>	SCT	Not started								