

Shelter/NFI Sector Mission Report – Aleppo/Idleb (24–27 November 2025)

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Photo 1: Residential unit in Ma'arrat al-Numan showing complete roof collapse and without windows and doors, rendering the structure uninhabitable.

1) Background & Purpose

The mission to Aleppo/Idleb was conducted to strengthen sub-national coordination, reinforce technical guidance roll-out, engage directly with returnee and IDP communities, and monitor winterization implementation. The mission involved partner meetings, engagements with local authorities, capacity-building sessions, and field visits to camps and housing rehabilitation sites.

This mission is aligned with the Shelter/NFI Sector Strategy 2025–2026, particularly regarding emergency response readiness, winterization support, and durable solutions for returnees.

2) Mission Objectives

A. Field Engagement & Ground-Truthing

- Visit IDP camps and return areas to observe shelter and NFI conditions.
- Conduct discussions with IDPs, returnees, local authorities, and community representatives to validate needs and evaluate priorities.
- Monitor winterization progress, identify operational challenges, and assess capacity gaps.

B. Capacity Building

Training sessions were delivered to strengthen partner technical capacity on:

- NFI standards, technical specifications, and winterization package composition
- NFI transfer values, harmonization approaches and support modalities
- Information Management tools — ActivityInfo, 5Ws reporting, and data quality

C. Coordination Strengthening

- Meet Aleppo-based partners through bilateral and group discussions.
 - Identify operational bottlenecks affecting winterization and routine programming.
 - Improve alignment between national and sub-national sector coordination.
 - Gather partner feedback on reporting tools, sector guidance, and additional support needs.
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3) Method & Itinerary

24 November

- Meeting with Aleppo's Deputy Governor and Director of International Cooperation and Planning

25 November – Coordination Day

- Sector partner meeting and operational coordination discussions
- NFI Technical Training
- IM/ActivityInfo Training
- Bilateral partner consultations

Location	Activity	Partner
Sarmada	Returnee monitoring	Namaa / UNHCR
Al Nour Camp	Winterization follow-up	UNHCR
Maarrat al-Numan	Shelter Rehabilitation site visit	GOPA
Tall Menes	Shelter Rehabilitation site visit	WATAN

4) Sector Meetings & Trainings

4.1 Meeting with Deputy Governor & Director of International Cooperation and Planning – Mahmoud Alshehadi

The Sector Coordinator highlighted strategic priorities: support to returnees through repair assistance and NFIs, emergency shelter support in camps/collective centres, and readiness to respond to new shocks. He further briefed on the ongoing housing damage assessment and the current winterization focus given the seasonal urgency.

The Governor outlined priority areas for Aleppo, including reconstruction, peacebuilding, and livelihoods, with vocational training highlighted as key to economic recovery. He stressed that interventions should address both returnees and affected host communities, and recommended area-based programming for stronger impact and integration.

4.1 Aleppo Sub-National Sector Partners Meeting

Participation: 45 participants representing 37 organizations: Ihsan, AHF, Amal, ATAA, BAHAR, CARE, Caritas, CONCERN, GC, GOAL, GOPA, HiHFAD, IhsanRD, IYD, IOM, IRS, MWL, MoLAE, MHD, RESCATE, OXFAM, PIN, PUI, SIF, SHAFAK, SDI, SI, SARC, SOD, Takaful Al Sham, SARD, UNHCR, UN-HABITAT, WATAN, WHH, Beyaz Eller, ZOA.

Key Presentations

1. **Shelter/NFI Sector Strategy 2025–2026**
 - Support to safe, dignified returns through repairs, rental assistance & NFIs
 - Assistance to new and protracted IDPs, including seasonal/core NFIs and shelter upgrades
 - Strengthening emergency readiness through a 72-hour Emergency Response Mechanism
2. **Emergency Response Mechanism (ERM)**
 - Designed for rapid response to displacement, hazards or evictions
 - Process flow: alert → activation → assessment → mobilization → delivery → reporting → monitoring
 - Next steps: ERM partner roster, IRNA roll-out, and response simulation exercises



SYRIA

SHELTER/NFI SECTOR

Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

3. **Winterization Plan 2025/2026**
 - Winter PiN: **5.14M**, Target: **2.02M individuals**
 - Highest caseloads: Idleb (1.56M) > Aleppo (0.58M) > Lattakia (0.57M)
 - Severe funding deficit: USD 112M required vs USD 20M secured (~82% gap)
 - Only ~21% of winter needs can currently be met
4. **Nationwide Housing Damage Assessment**
 - **1,437 communities selected**; 1,169 covered; **268 gaps remain**
 - Pilot completed in As-Sweida; data cleaning underway — final deliverables due December

Key Takeaways for Partners

- Winterization scale-up ongoing but funding shortages remain severe — Idleb particularly affected
- Rapid ERM activation relies on stand-by partners, stock readiness, and timely reporting
- Housing damage assessment nearing completion; final coverage push needed
- Improved IM reporting discipline, consistency, and follow-up is essential

Agreed Outputs & Follow-up Actions

1. **Housing Damage Assessment**
 - Partners to support coverage of remaining communities in Idleb & Aleppo
 - Municipal authorities confirmed no approval barriers and willingness to facilitate assessment teams
2. **Shelter Repair Approval Process**
 - Recurrent queries raised on municipality approvals and Syndicate of Engineers roles
 - Actions agreed:
 - Dedicated session for Aleppo hub on house repair approval procedures
 - Explore standardized engineering fee structure / MoU / framework for structural assessments
3. **Winterization & Reporting**
 - Idleb coverage only ~5% vs 66% in Aleppo, despite higher caseload
 - Partners requested to ensure accurate and timely reporting post-IM training
 - Advocacy required to prioritize underserved, high-severity communities
4. **Emergency Response Mechanism (ERM)**
 - Aleppo hub to nominate partners capable of 72-hour deployment
 - Priority to partners with pre-positioned stocks or active supply agreements

- These actors will be integrated into the stand-by ERM readiness roster
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4.2 NFI Training Session

Venue: Cinema Hall, Shahba Hotel, Aleppo. **Duration:** 2 hours

Participation: 45 participants representing 37 organizations: Ihsan, AHF, Amal, ATAA, BAHAR, CARE, Caritas, CONCERN, GC, GOAL, GOPA, HiHFAD, IhsanRD, IYD, IOM, IRS, MWL, MoLAE, MHD, RESCATE, OXFAM, PIN, PUI, SIF, SHAFAK, SDI, SI, SARC, SOD, Takaful Al Sham, SARD, UNHCR, UN-HABITAT, WATAN, WHH, Beyaz Eller, ZOACrescent (SARC), Syrian Organization for Development (SOD), Takaful Al Sham Charity Organization (Takaful Al Sham), The Syrian Association for Relief and Development (SARD), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), WATAN Foundation (WATAN), Welthungerhilfe (WHH), White Hands Association (Beyaz Eller), and ZOA.

Session Focus: Core Elements Covered

- Overview of updated Core & Winterization NFI Guidelines (standardized kits, specifications, replenishment logic).
- Monetization framework, equivalence to kit values, and the USD 230 winterization transfer value endorsed with the CWG.
- Winter Severity Index (WSI)–based targeting, priority groups, and harmonized winter NFI packages.
- NFI implementation modalities: in-kind, cash, vouchers, mixed.
- Coordination requirements: standardized kits, reporting, and use of the Winter Dashboard.

Discussion Outcomes

- Clarifications on equivalence between in-kind kits and cash/voucher assistance.
- Partner questions on applying WSI prioritization and handling borderline eligibility cases.
- Operational challenges highlighted: procurement timelines, market availability, and pre-positioning.

Recommended Guidance Enhancements

1. Request from partners to have all updated NFI guidance and tools fully available in Arabic for field teams.
2. Strengthened guidance on mixed-modality winter responses and cash feasibility assessments.

Follow-Up

- Disseminate training deck + AR/EN guidelines
- Elevate partner feedback to the NFI TWiG for incorporation into future revisions.

4.3 IM Training (ActivityInfo & Data Processing)

Venue: Cinema Hall, Shahba Hotel · **Duration:** 2 hours

Participants: 36 persons from 32 organizations: Ihsan, AHF, Amal, ATAA, BAHAR, CARE, CONCERN, GC, GOAL, GOPA, HiHFAD, IhsanRD, IYD, IOM, IRS, MWL, MoLA, MHD, RESCATE, OXFAM, PIN, SIF, SHAFAK, SDI, SI, SARC, SOD, UNHCR, UN-HABITAT, WATAN, WHH, Beyaz Eller.

The training focused on presenting the reporting mechanisms for received funding, stock, shelter, and NFI 4Ws, ensuring that sector partners are fully capable of working with the system effectively..

Outcome: The training resulted in improved data accuracy, reduced reporting gaps, and increased partner proficiency in using the 4Ws reporting tools to support better sector coordination.

5) Field Visit Findings

5.1 Sarmada – Returnee Reception & Support Point (UNHCR/Namaa)

- Reception facility located at Sarmada bus station managed by Namaa.
- Returnees supported with WFP food baskets and UNFPA hygiene kits.
- UNHCR/Namaa assist with civil documentation guidance and vulnerability screening.
- Housing repairs remain the highest-priority need for returnees.
- Free transport supported by UNHCR and facilitated by MoT to areas of return with continued follow-up via community centres.
- Site requires establishment of a medical support point, identified as a critical gap.



Photo 2: Sector coordination team meeting with UNHCR and Namaa staff at the Sarmada Returnee Support Point to assess ongoing reception activities and immediate assistance needs.

5.2 Al Nour Camp – Winterization Follow-Up

- Camp hosts 127 families, including households with severe disabilities (blind, deaf).
- Families received winter NFI kits (contents to be specified)
- Main gap reported: heating fuel not included, households requested support preferably through cash modality.
- Interest expressed in livelihoods and vocational training, with preference for on-site delivery due to mobility and accessibility limitations.
- Many families do not intend to return home due to high repair costs, lack of services, accessibility challenges, and damaged dwellings.
- Some households previously returned but later came back to camp due to inability to sustain conditions in areas of origin.



Photo 3: Field inspection of winter heaters delivered by UNHCR to support vulnerable households in Al Nour Camp.

5.3 Maarrat al-Numan & Tall Menes – House Rehabilitation (GOPA / WATAN)

Authorities reported:

- ~30,000 houses require repair
- ~7,000 families have already returned

Technical observations:

- ~5,000 houses with roof destruction, making repairs costly and beyond standard sector thresholds
- GOPA supported 69 households, WATAN 100 households in Tall Menes
- Municipality mapping of all houses eased HLP verification and ownership clearance
- UN-Habitat previously conducted a detailed structural damage assessment



Photo 4: Technical visit to a GOPA-led house rehabilitation site in Ma'arrat al-Numan, conducted jointly with municipality representatives

6) Conclusions

- Aleppo and Idlib are experiencing active return patterns, however the scale of housing damage significantly limits recovery capacity.
- Winterization remains severely under-funded, especially in Idlib where coverage remains extremely low.
- IM reporting has improved but continues to require structured follow-up to maintain consistency.
- Partners have shown willingness to scale response, contingent upon improved funding and stock inflow.



Photo 5: Meeting with returnee families in Ma'arrat al-Numan to discuss housing conditions and priority needs.

7) Action Points & Recommendations

7.1 Housing Damage Assessment

Action	Responsible	Timeline
Close outstanding assessment coverage in the remaining 268 locations , prioritising uncovered communities in Aleppo and Idlib.	Partners + Sub-National Hub	Immediate
Validate completed datasets and ensure all submissions meet minimum quality standards.	IM Unit + Partners	Dec 2025

Publish consolidated assessment findings and share with hubs, ministries, and partners.	National Sector	Dec 2025
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Recommendation: Where feasible, deploy joint field teams to accelerate final coverage and reduce duplication of effort.

7.2 Shelter Rehabilitation Programming

Action	Responsible	Timeline
Deliver a follow-up technical session online dedicated to Aleppo Hub on repair approvals, engineering assessments & HLP pathways.	Sector Coordination + TWiG	Jan–Feb 2026
Explore establishment of harmonized fee structures or MoU with municipalities/Syndicate of Engineers for engineering reports.	Sector Coordination + Local Authorities	Q1 2026

7.3 Winterization Scale-Up

Action	Responsible	Timeline
Mobilize advocacy for additional resources targeting winter fuel, cash assistance and insulation needs, for Idleb Governorate	Sector + Donors + Partners	Ongoing

Recommendation: Consider flexible cash where markets are functional to address fuel gaps and allow households to self-prioritize needs.

7.4 Information Management & Reporting

Action	Responsible	Timeline
Shelter and NFI sector partners to submit 4W, Fund, and Stock inputs to Activity Info.	Partners	Ongoing
Sector IM is aiming to conduct a set of training series, separately for both shelter and NFI	Sector IM	Early in 2026

7.5 Emergency Response Mechanism (ERM) Readiness

Action	Responsible	Timeline
Identify and confirm stand-by partners able to respond within 72 hours.	Aleppo Hub + Partners	Immediate
Map available stocks, pre-position capacity, and supplier agreements for emergency deployment.	Stand-By Partners	Jan 2026
Integrate nominated organizations into the official ERM roster and run a simulation activation.	ERM Team + SNFI Coordination	Q1 2026

Recommendation: Prioritize partners with local presence and logistical readiness to shorten activation-to-delivery time.

7.6 NFI Response - From Training

Action	Responsible	Timeline
Translate the guidelines to Arabic	Sector	January 2026
Follow up on procurement and pre-positioning challenges	Sector	Throughout winter season
Share PDM findings	Sector Partners	After winter season
Coordinate with Sub-National Coordinator	Sector Partners	All over the year

Recommendation:

- Translate all updated NFI guidelines and tools into Arabic to support field-level implementation.
- Strengthen harmonization of NFI programming, including standardized kits, USD 230 winter Transfer Value, and consistent application of Winter Severity Indicator-based targeting.
- Enhance partner readiness for winterization, including early procurement, pre-positioning, and improved supply chain planning.
- Promote mixed-modality NFI responses (cash, vouchers, in-kind) based on market functionality and household preferences.
- Improve IM reporting discipline—timely ActivityInfo updates, dashboard checks, and accurate deduplication.
- Encourage partners to systematically share PDM findings to inform future guidance and harmonization.
- Strengthen coordination with sub-national hubs to avoid overlaps and ensure consistency in NFI delivery.