

# GAZA WINTER 24/25 - CHALLENGES, GAPS & STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

11 September 2024

## Overview

- The majority of displaced people in Gaza are sheltering in small, over-crowded makeshift shelters on self-settled sites, most having fabric walls and some level of deteriorated plastic sheeting for the roof. Some currently have fabric roofs.
- The majority of make-shift shelters lack adequate space, which will be increasingly problematic in the winter as more essential daily activities will need to be undertaken indoors. Lack of privacy and covered space particularly impacts women and girls in Gaza.
- The remaining minority of displaced people are in tents (many deteriorated and no longer weatherproof), overcrowded collective centres, damaged or unfinished buildings, and buildings not designed as housing. Some are in hosted arrangements or rental arrangements. We do not have adequate data to determine the full breakdown related to this.
- There are currently 1.8 million people (the majority forcefully displaced) in the south of Gaza and 350k in the north of Gaza (the majority forcefully displaced).
- Winter is not just about cold but, in particular, rainfall which will leave people both wet and cold. Rainfall varies from circa. 410 – 440 mm/year average rainfall in the north of Gaza, to 230 – 260mm/year in the south, however, flooding primarily occurs in the south of Gaza. In recent years there has been significantly more rainfall than average based on historical data, potentially associated with climate change. [Source](#)
- With the magnitude of destruction to not just housing and the built environment but also to roads and critical infrastructure, flooding patterns can be expected to be unpredictable and disastrous, due to the removal of any built flood reduction mechanisms.
- For further information on the type of items for winterisation and other key technical considerations see cluster guidance: [Winterisation Recommendation 24/25](#). Updated emergency packages of assistance detailed the composition of kits can also be found [here](#).

## Summary Of Gap Analysis

- Understanding that not all are in need as some have received ShelterNFI assistance already, but some have received and then lost that assistance from frequent forced displacement associated with evacuation and re-evacuation orders, and some have lost assistance due to deterioration with the weather we calculate (with significant assumptions and estimations):

	Sealing-off kits <sup>1</sup> (SoK for makeshift shelter) or Tents			Bedding		
<b>North of Gaza</b>	<b>0.13M people in need of shelter</b>			<b>0.14M people in need of bedding</b>		
(North Gaza, Gaza Governorates)	<b>Stock<sup>2</sup></b> 0	<b>Pipeline<sup>3</sup></b> Items for 100K people	<b>Gap</b> 30K people	<b>Stock<sup>2</sup></b> 0	<b>Pipeline<sup>3</sup></b> Items for 27K people	<b>Gap</b> Items for 113K people
<b>South of Gaza</b>	<b>1M people in need of shelter</b>			<b>1.2M people in need of bedding</b>		
(Rafah, Khan Younis, Middle Area Governorates)	<b>Stock<sup>2</sup></b> 0	<b>Pipeline<sup>3</sup></b> Items for 241K people	<b>Gap</b> 760K people	<b>Stock<sup>2</sup></b> 0	<b>Pipeline<sup>3</sup></b> Items for 600K people	<b>Gap</b> 600K people

<sup>1</sup>Note that one Sealing-off kit (SoK) consists of two 24sqm tarpaulins, rope, duct tape and plastic sheeting, and IEC material which can be used to help people to build make-shift shelter, “weatherproof” damaged buildings they may be sheltering in, and also upgrade degraded tarpaulins shelters.

<sup>2</sup> Stock has already been included in the calculation of people in need in the Gap Analysis of the Shelter NFI Cluster, since all existing stock is already part of ongoing cluster partner activities. We therefore take the stock level at 0, since any items in-country and due to be part of current activities has already been used to reduce the calculation of people in need presented here.

<sup>3</sup> Pipeline data from Shelter NFI Cluster Partners at 8<sup>th</sup> September

We currently have very limited data on pipeline and plans related to winter clothes, framing material (timber poles and fixings to assist with making better make-shift shelters which might better withstand rainfall in winter), heaters or fuel for heaters, and therefore cannot complete a gap analysis on this currently. However, we estimate that all people in need require those items currently.

## Logistics and timeframe for winterisation

- Shelter Cluster partners face obstructive processes to get access and approvals for items to enter the South (in the month of August approximately 2 trucks per week on average of Shelter NFI items arrived for all cluster partners) and we also have difficulties in the North (although easier).
- Assuming the current rate of trucks continues, and that that 1000 SoKs fit per truck (based on data from a number of agencies) it would take approximately 2 years for winterisation support just related to SoKs to cover needs in the South. Based on 100 tents per truck, it would take 19 years to winterise with tents.

## Other considerations

- Cost wise from the August 2024 Emergency Assistance Packages Update, Sealing-off-kits (SoK) cost 65.3USD, and Family tents 408USD or 424USD depending on type.
- ShelterNFI Cluster partners indicate that makeshift shelters are currently preferred over tents for space, thermal comfort in summer, head height and utilisation of available “plot” space. However, this has changed from earlier in the year and that may be partly related to the fact that in winter, preference will be for thermal comfort with tents believed to be easier to keep warm in winter because of the lack of head height amongst other factors. Nevertheless, given that the majority are currently in makeshift shelters in overcrowded self-settled sites, it is not possible to setup tents as replacement for makeshift shelters in most cases due to space constraints. SoKs are therefore far more flexible in terms of helping to winterise current sheltering options.
- ShelterNFI Cluster partners indicate that makeshift shelters are very poorly constructed due to a shortage of framing material (timber) and fixings and this may be significantly problematic with winter rains which will cause some rainfall to pool on any poorly sloped or slack tarpaulin roofs, and increase winds may cause structures to fail.
- Drainage around shelters and drainage of sites is required to stop flooding of the ground. Potentially the ShelterNFI cluster toolkit assistance package could assist with this, however, general site drainage is shared between WASH cluster and Site Management Working Group (SMWG) with support from Shelter Cluster.

## Recommendations

1. For flexibility of use, maximising coverage of population in need, cost effectiveness, access and logistical reasons (approvals and trucking capacity), the ShelterNFI cluster recommends the prioritisation of sealing-off kits (SoKs) over tents.
2. We urgently need to advocate for and prioritise access (including COGAT authorisation) for framing materials (timber poles, fixings) to allow better make-shift shelters which will resist the expected winds and rains in winter. Toolkits will also support the safe and correct construction of shelters.
3. ShelterNFI cluster partners must prioritise the south of Gaza over the north of Gaza, particularly for sealing-off kits (SoKs) and tents as per the gap analysis of the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. This does not apply to the pipeline of SoKs and tents already intended for the North and informed to the ShelterNFI cluster via the 5W/Pipeline/Stockpile reporting process in August 2024.

4. In the south of Gaza, although we have 241k people who will be served with either sealing-off kits (SoK) or tents in the pipeline, there is currently a gap of 760k people who will not be served with these items and further efforts are needed to mobilise this assistance.
5. ShelterNFI Cluster partners should coordinate with SMWG and WASH for prioritisation of sites for toolkits to optimise the use of these kits in sites most at risk from surface water flooding.

## Annex

### Advocacy Key Message

1. With current imposed access constraints limiting deliveries in the south of Gaza where the vast majority of displaced are currently sheltering, it would take ShelterNFI Cluster Partners 2 years to deliver even the most basic of winterisation support (a sealing-off kit to help weatherproof shelters). In August we have averaged 2 trucks a week for Shelter NFI items.
2. We need at least 25,000 sealing-off kits (25 trucks) per week (from the 8<sup>th</sup> of September) to be delivered to Shelter NFI Cluster partners in the South of Gaza for people to be supported before November and more significant rainfall and lower temperatures.
3. Currently (8<sup>th</sup> of September) a million people in the south of Gaza are in need of a sealing-off kit or a tent for winter, taking account of the current pipeline we forecast a gap of 760k people who will not be served with these items. For coverage reasons and the access constraints, we are recommending sealing-off kits over tents in this critical situation, recognising also that a sealing-off kit offers far greater flexibility to winterise the range of structures currently occupied by people in need.
4. Sealing-off-kits alone are by no means the ideal winterisation solution. However, with the current magnitude of need and lack of access for shelter items, the ShelterNFI Cluster deems this to be the highest priority item currently. Partners should simultaneously continue to push for full access to allow framing materials (timber poles and fixings), toolkits, winter clothes, bedding sets, and humanitarian standard tents to enter, with the decongestion of sites to allow the space to erect tents safely, and the ability of displaced people to return to their homes wherever possible.

### Precipitation and Temperatures

Month	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Average high °C	27.9	24.4	20.2	18.0	19.1	20.8	23.2	26.5
Average low °C	23.4	19.8	15.6	13.3	13.7	14.9	17.0	20.7
Record low °C	19.0	13.0	8.0	6.0	6.0	8.0	12.0	14.0
Average precipitation mm	21.22	62.73	115.36	137.69	98.93	56.75	28.93	14.95
Average relative humidity (%)	61.1	55.71	57.75	62.18	61.48	61.93	61.21	59.93

Extracted from the Shelter Cluster Palestine [Winterisation Recommendations 24/25 June 2024](#).

## Key Photos



Concave sandy pit with shelters which makes up a large part of North Asdaa Site, Khan Younis

Credit photo: E.PRAVISANO VASILICO – ACTED (15 September 2024)



Alaistil Shelter site, Khan Younis

Credit photo: E.PRAVISANO VASILICO – ACTED (15 September 2024)