

## Gaza Emergency Shelter Response

### Technical Guidance for Distribution of Sealing Off Kits (SOKs) and Tarpaulin Packages

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#### Introduction

The following guidance has been drafted for the Gaza response.

SOKs have been used in Gaza since the beginning of the ongoing crisis to seal off openings in damaged buildings and improve weather protection for makeshift shelters. The current SOK package consists of 50 square meters of transparent plastic sheeting/film, 2 rolls of duct tape, a bundle of rope, and 2 pieces of tarpaulin. The longevity of SOKs and tarpaulins is considered to be 6-12 months depending on technical standard of installation, need for repeated reinstallations due to displacement, use of shelter and domestic functions inside the shelter, and exposure to weather elements. The SOK package is currently undergoing revision based on feedback from communities in Gaza, and the document will be updated accordingly<sup>1</sup>.

SOKs are distributed as stand-alone or as part of an emergency shelter kit (ESK) along with framing materials and toolkits (refer to [ESK technical guidance](#)). As far as possible, it is recommended to provide SOKs as complementary assistance along with framing materials and household items. SOKs are insufficient as sheltering if displaced households on open sites do not already have tents or framing materials for their temporary shelters.

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<sup>1</sup> Partners have shared anecdotal feedback from communities that plastic sheeting may not be as useful for temporary shelters, especially when it is not rainy; it is more useful for sealing off partially damaged buildings.

In case transparent plastic sheeting in the SOK is not available or not required (for example: for temporary shelters in dry season), partners may consider distribution of tarpaulin packages, details of which are included in this guidance note. SOKs and tarpaulin packages must be provided based on assessments including technical and vulnerability criteria as far as possible.

### Geographical Targeting and Household Selection

Partners may identify geographic areas for SOK and tarpaulin package distribution in coordination with Shelter Cluster (SC) and Site Management Cluster (SMC) and considering their operational footprint in Gaza. This is followed by a household-level assessment to identify households eligible to receive assistance. It is important to communicate the selection criteria to households clearly before the program commences, in coordination with local partners and Site Management. In cases where the security conditions do not allow for assessments, SOKs may be provided as a blanket distribution across an area where needs have been identified. SOKs may be distributed along with relevant IEC materials, and following the minimum specifications as outlined by Shelter Cluster below.

Target groups for SOKs include

- SOKs should be prioritized for households living in partially damaged buildings to seal off openings in the housing units. If households in heavily damaged buildings have no alternative sheltering options, SOK may be provided for emergency repairs, but preferably along with framing materials and tools, as an ESK.
- Displaced households in temporary shelters with stable framing materials but deteriorated cladding, may be provided SOKs to improve weather protection.
- SOKs may also be distributed to improve privacy in temporary shelters and collective centers.

Target groups for tarpaulin package (consisting of 2 tarpaulins) include

- Tarpaulin packages should be prioritized for households in tents or makeshift shelters to improve weather protection in case of deteriorated covering, and for households with no waterproof flooring.
- If complete SOKs are not available, tarpaulin packages may be provided instead, to seal off damaged housing units.
- Tarpaulin packages can be provided to households to improve privacy or to set up extensions for overcrowded shelters (depending on land availability)

Note: newly displaced households who have no shelter should not be prioritized for tarpaulins or SOKs. Instead, they must receive ESKs or tents. If not available, consider providing 2 tarpaulin packages per

household, i.e. 4 tarpaulins (one for flooring, two for walling, and one for roofing). Supplement with framing materials as soon as it is feasible to do so.

### Sealing-off Kit Contents

Sealing-off Kit						
#	Item	Description	Unit	Qty	Unit Cost USD	Total Cost USD
1	Plastic film	Plastic film 0.3mm thick, up to 50 sqm per shelter. Minimum width 4 m	sq.m.	50	0.7	35
2	Tarpaulin	IFRC/IOM/UNHCR standard woven plastic (4 x 6m) or roll (4 x various m).	piece*	2	12	24
3	Duct Tape	Extra heavy duty. Rubber adhesive, woven cloth and water-resistant polyethylene backing. 55mmx25m roll	roll	2	1.2	2.4
4	6mm Rope	Polypropylene (twisted) or Nylon (braided), diam. 6 mm. min, min. 3 strands	m	20	0.2	4
5	IEC material	Showing the best practices to use SoK for sealing off and improving emergency shelters	piece	1	0.5	0.5
						<b>\$ 65.9</b>

\* 2 pieces or 48 sq.m. for rolls

### Tarpaulin Package Contents

Tarpaulin Package						
#	Item	Description	Unit	Qty	Unit Cost USD	Total Cost USD
2	Tarpaulin	IFRC/IOM/UNHCR standard woven plastic (4 x 5m or 4 x 6m) or roll (4 x various m).	piece*	2	12	24

### Number of SOKs and Tarpaulin Packages per Truck

The calculation below varies depending on logistical considerations such as truck size and pallet size. In periods of severe access challenges and particularly in dry seasons when sealing off is not a high priority, consider two pieces of tarpaulin per household over SOKs. Distributions should be based on assessments and complemented with essential household items as far as possible.

Item	Estimated number of kits or packages per pallet	Estimated number of kits or packages per truck	Estimated number of assisted (average-sized) HHs	Remarks
SOK	16-22 kits.	320-440 SOKs per truck	320-440	The sides should be secured by strong cardboard for kitted items, from the four corners, double wrapped, marked clearly for the QR code and consignee name according to LC instructions.
Tarpaulins package.	13 - 24 bale per pallet (each bale has 5 tarpaulins)	1200 tarpaulins i.e. 600 tarpaulin packages per truck.	600	Double wrapped pallets by nylons, two per household,

## References

[IEC on Temporary Occupancy of Damaged Buildings](#)

[Targeting and Prioritization Guidance Note](#)