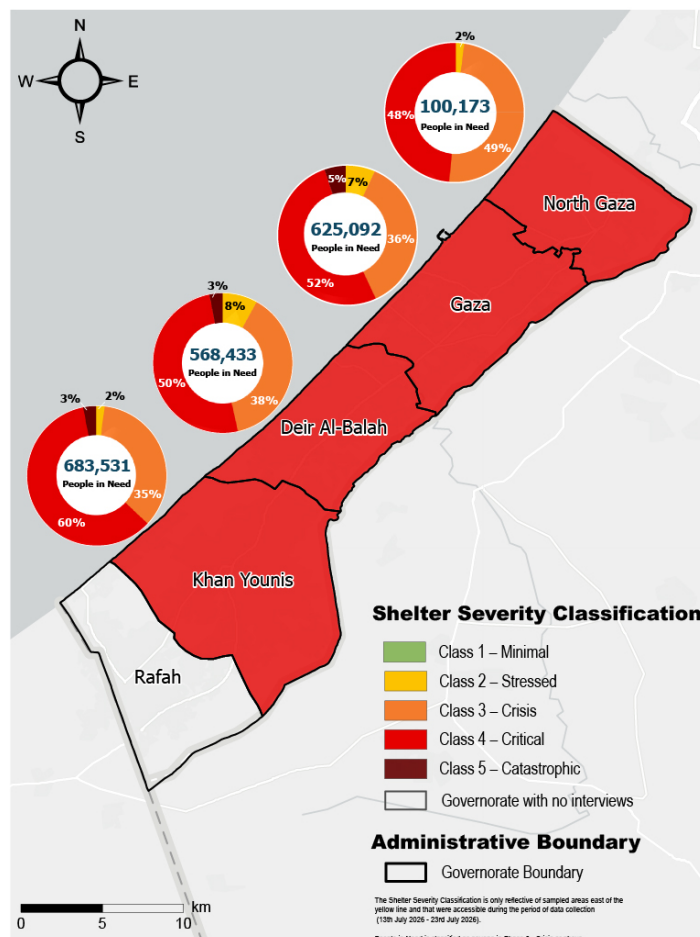


Exposed on All Sides

Shelter Severity and Household Needs Across Accessible Areas of Gaza August 2026 | occupied Palestinian territory

Key Figures

1.98 million People in Need (PiN)	Phase 4 All four assessed governorates were classified in Phase 4
10% received shelter/NFI assistance in the month before data collection	98% had at least one environmental hazard within 10m of their shelter
2x the odds of severe shelter need among households with one+ person with a disability or 7+ members	More than 4 in 5 needed essential hygiene items, clothing, cooking fuel, water containers or bedding



Map 1: Shelter Severity Classification

Background & Methodology

The Comprehensive Shelter and NFI Needs Assessment was conducted to provide an updated understanding of the **scale**, **severity** and **drivers of shelter** and **NFI needs across Gaza**, amid widespread shelter damage, repeated displacement and severe constraints on the shelter response. Between 14 and 28 June 2026, 1,951 households were interviewed across accessible areas of Gaza, with findings representative at governorate level. Findings were analysed by applying the Global Shelter Cluster's Shelter Severity Classification (SSC), which provides a **unified household-level understanding of shelter severity, People in Need (PiN), and priority gaps**. This brief presents key findings from the assessment; further analysis and methodological detail are available in the full report.

Key Messages

- Shelter and NFI needs are near-universal and severe across Gaza.** An estimated 1.98 million people, 94% of the population, were classified in Shelter Severity Phases 3 (Crisis), 4 (Critical), or 5 (Catastrophic).
- The most severe shelter needs concern whether households can live safely and with dignity inside their shelters.** 84% of households were classified in Phase 4 or 5 under domestic living conditions, reflecting severe constraints affecting heating, cooling, lighting, cooking, sleeping, storage, and hygiene across all shelter types.

Key Messages

- **Physical shelter deficiencies and environmental hazards combine to expose households to serious health and safety risks that cut across shelter type and condition.** 89% of households reported rodents inside their shelter, and 71% had been affected by flooding since the onset of last winter, both present across all shelter types and damage levels.
- **Despite the scale of need, the humanitarian response has not kept pace, constrained by restricted entry of shelter materials and funding shortfalls.** Only 10% of households received shelter or NFI assistance in the month preceding data collection, and in-country stocks of tents, blankets, and mattresses were nearly depleted by June 2026. Restrictive and unpredictable entry processes, combined with funding shortfalls, have limited partners' ability to deliver assistance at the scale that needs require.
- **Targeting should combine household-level shelter severity and vulnerability criteria.** Shelter severity was widespread across governorates and accommodation types, while larger households and households including a person with a disability were more likely to experience higher severity. Assistance should go beyond physical shelter conditions to consider other underlying drivers of shelter severity, such as accessibility, space, and the ability to perform essential domestic activities.

How Severe are Shelter Needs?

1. Overall SSC and PiN

1.98 million people in need

94% of the assessed population require shelter and NFI assistance

An estimated 1,977,229 people were classified in SSC Phases 3 (Crisis), 4 (Critical), or 5 (Catastrophic) and were therefore included in the Shelter People in Need (PiN) number. This represents 94% of the population, demonstrating the near-universal scale of shelter and NFI needs across Gaza.

Severity skewed heavily toward the upper end of the scale: 37% of the population were classified in Phase 3 (Crisis), and a combined 58% (approximately 1.20 million people) in Phase 4 (Critical) or Phase 5 (Catastrophic), compared with just 5% in Phase 2 (Stressed) and less than 1% in Phase 1 (Minimal).

The Shelter PiN was highest in Khan Younis, at approximately 684,000 people, followed by Gaza (625,000), Deir al-Balah (568,000), and North Gaza (100,000).

Figure 1: Proportion of estimated population by SSC phase

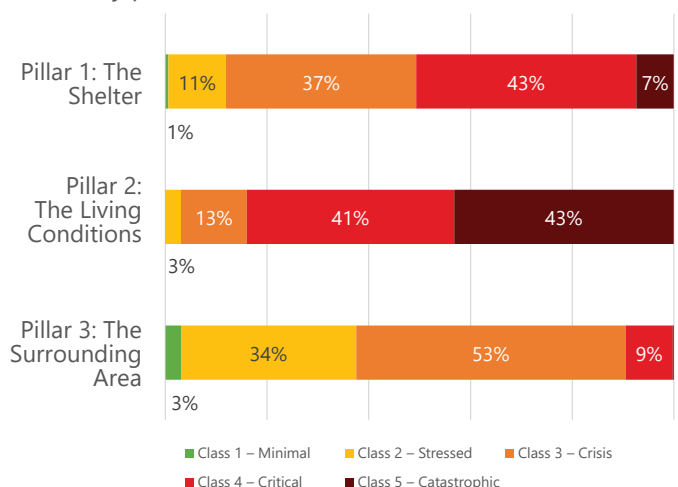
SSC Phase	Proportion of Population	Estimated Population
Phase 1 – Minimal	<1%	3,695
Phase 2 – Stressed	5%	112,077
Phase 3 – Crisis	37%	776,273
Phase 4 – Critical	54%	1,128,738
Phase 5 – Catastrophic	4%	72,217

2. Severity Across Pillars

The SSC assesses shelter adequacy across three interconnected pillars:

- **Pillar 1 - Shelter conditions:** The safety, habitability, accessibility, and physical condition of the shelter.
- **Pillar 2 - Living conditions:** Households' ability to perform essential domestic functions, including sleeping, cooking, maintaining personal hygiene, storing water and food, and accessing lighting and thermal comfort, safely and with dignity.
- **Pillar 3 - Surrounding area:** Access to essential services, including water, markets, healthcare, and education, and exposure to environmental and conflict-related hazards.

Figure 2: Proportion of households by SSC pillar and severity phase



Overall and governorate-level classifications provide a useful summary of shelter severity but can conceal important variation in household experiences. Examining severity across the three pillars provides a more detailed

classification and where households faced the greatest constraints.

Although high severity was evident across the overall classification, **living conditions emerged as the most severe and widespread dimension of need**. Overall, **84% of households were classified in Phase 4 or 5 under Pillar 2**, compared with 51% under Pillar 1 and 9% under Pillar 3. Pillar 2 also had by far the highest proportion of households in Phase 5, at 43%.

These findings indicate that households faced overlapping constraints extending beyond the physical condition of their shelters. Many shelters did not adequately support essential domestic activities such as sleeping, cooking, maintaining personal hygiene, storing food and water, or accessing lighting and thermal comfort. Shelter damage and deterioration, hazardous surrounding conditions, constrained access to essential services, and limited access to materials, fuel, energy and household items further restricted households' ability to maintain, repair and use their shelters as adequate living spaces. These constraints were compounded by limited assistance coverage, with **only 10% of households reporting having received shelter- or NFI-related assistance** in the month preceding data collection.

The predominance of living conditions as a driver of severity was consistent across governorates, with Pillar 2 emerging as the most severe dimension in each of the assessed areas.

Figure 3: Estimated population by severity phase and governorate

Governorate	Phase 1 Minimal	Phase 2 Stressed	Phase 3 Crisis	Phase 4 Critical	Phase 5 Catastrophic	People in Need (Phase 3+)
North Gaza	0	1,828	50,452	49,355	366	100,172
Gaza	2,495	47,412	245,795	348,105	31,192	625,092
Deir-al-Balah	1,199	50,368	237,447	312,998	17,988	568,433
Khan Younis	0	12,469	242,580	418,280	22,671	683,531
Total	3,695	112,077	776,273	1,128,738	72,217	1,977,229

Explore the Full Report

This brief presents an overview of key findings from the **Comprehensive Shelter and NFI Needs Assessment**. For detailed findings across each of the three SSC pillars, as well as the full methodology and recommendations, [refer to the full assessment report](#).