



# Household Vulnerability Assessment Gaza on the Edge of Survival

**Shelter-focused findings from the second HOVA follow-up**

August 2025



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A light gray world map is centered on the page, overlaid on a background of a light gray geometric pattern of interconnected lines forming various polygons. The map shows the outlines of continents. In the center of the map, the number '01' is written in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

01

# Objectives and Methodology

# Objectives

**Primary Objective:** To describe and monitor the **severity and diversity of household vulnerability** in the Gaza Strip in order to inform humanitarian response prioritisation

**Secondary Objective:** To explore the **relationship between vulnerabilities and critical outcomes** in order to inform service prioritisation.

## Vulnerabilities



Location and displacement



Demographics and household composition



Shelter and living conditions



Livelihoods



Access to aid



Food security and nutrition



WASH situation



Access to medicines and treatment



Markets availability



Morbidity and health outcomes



Non-trauma mortality

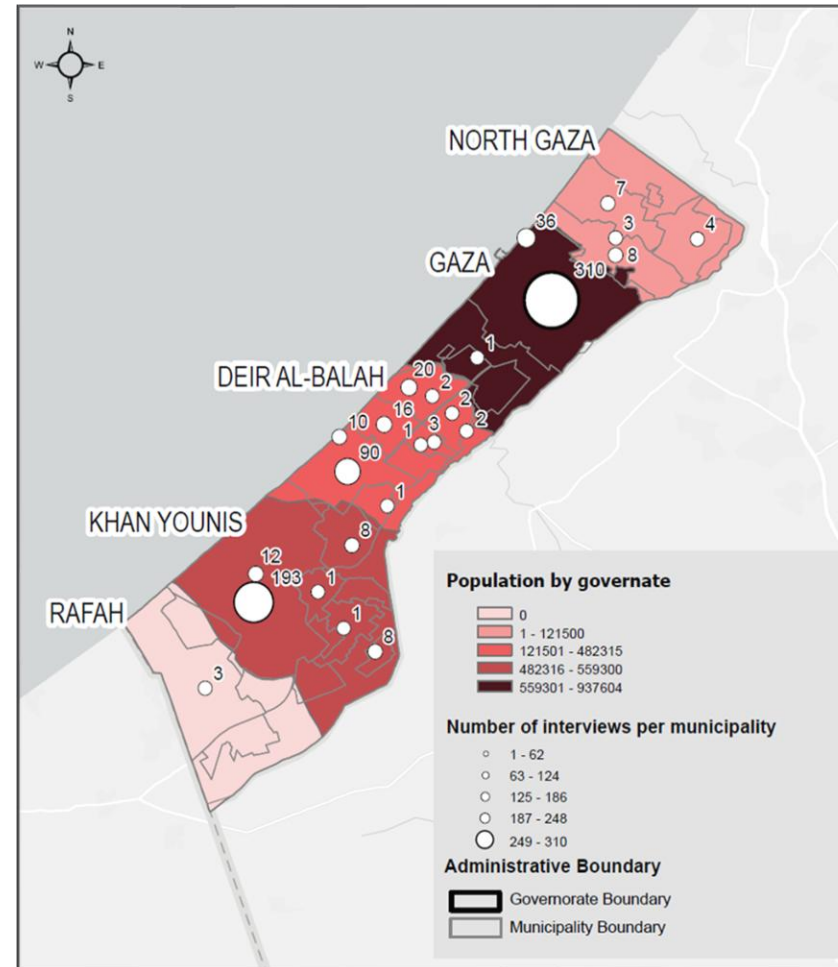
## Outcomes

# Overview & Methodology

- **Longitudinal multisectoral assessment** tracking the same Gaza Strip households since Dec/Jan
- Sample representativeness: **95%** confidence level, **3.6%** margin of error after attrition
- Data collection: Baseline in-person, follow-ups by phone (latest: **13–21 July 2025**).
- Coverage: Sample aligned with June 2025 OCHA population estimates

## Limitations

- Limited access to **North Gaza and UNRWA-managed centres** in the baseline means some groups may be excluded.
- Phone interviews increase bias toward households with **better access to phones, electricity, and networks**.
- Enumerators are experiencing severe living conditions in Gaza themselves, possibly impacting data quality.



1,008

Households took part in the baseline assessment



824

First follow up



748

Second follow up

A world map is shown in a light gray, semi-transparent style, overlaid on a background of a light gray geometric pattern of interconnected lines forming various polygons. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean. In the center of the map, over the Atlantic, the number '02' is written in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

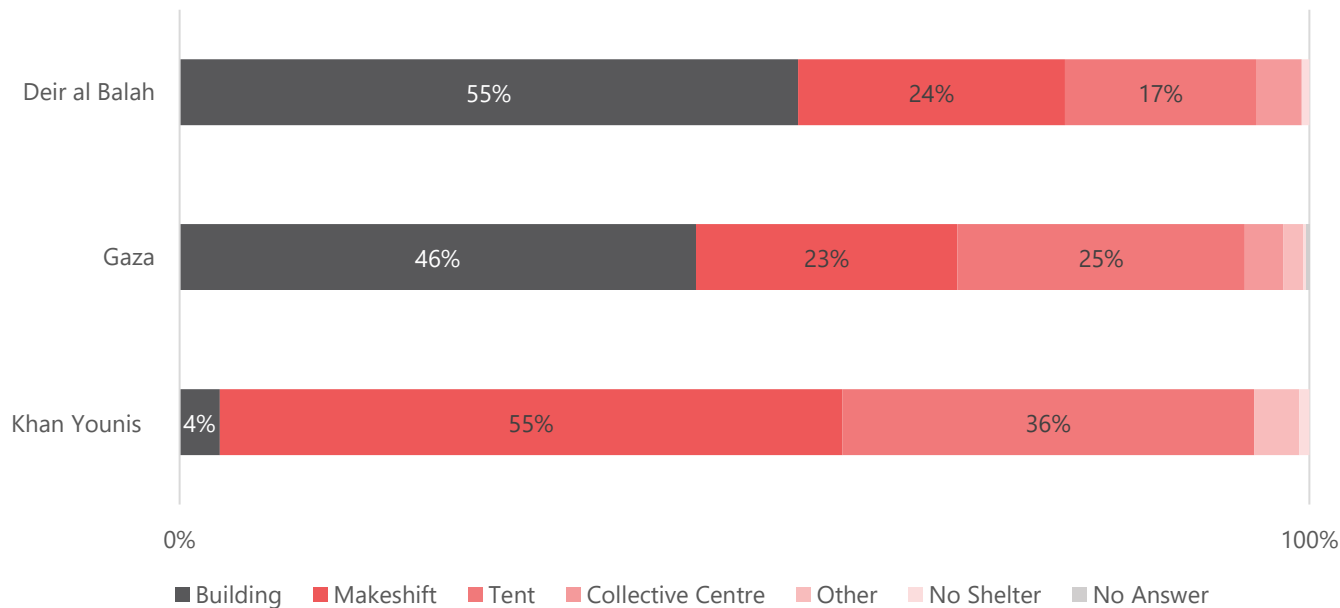
**02**

# Shelter Conditions

# Shelter Types

**40%** of assessed households have faced **new displacement** between April and July.

Shelter Type, By Governorate

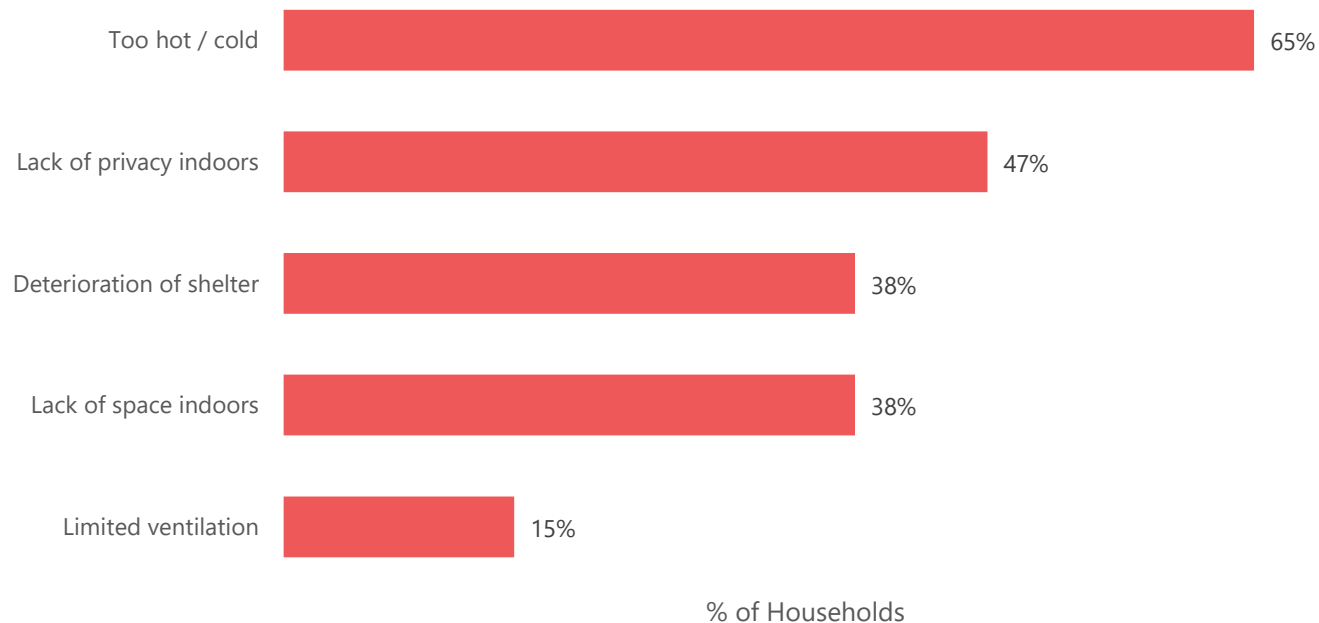


- As of July, only **5%** of the assessed households lived in **undamaged buildings**.
- In Khan Younis, 91% of households reported living in makeshift shelters or tents.
- Damaged buildings, makeshift shelters, and tents provide **limited protection against environmental threats** such as extreme temperatures, floods, debris or sewage.

# Shelter Conditions

**99%** of assessed households indicated **issues with the dwelling they resided in**

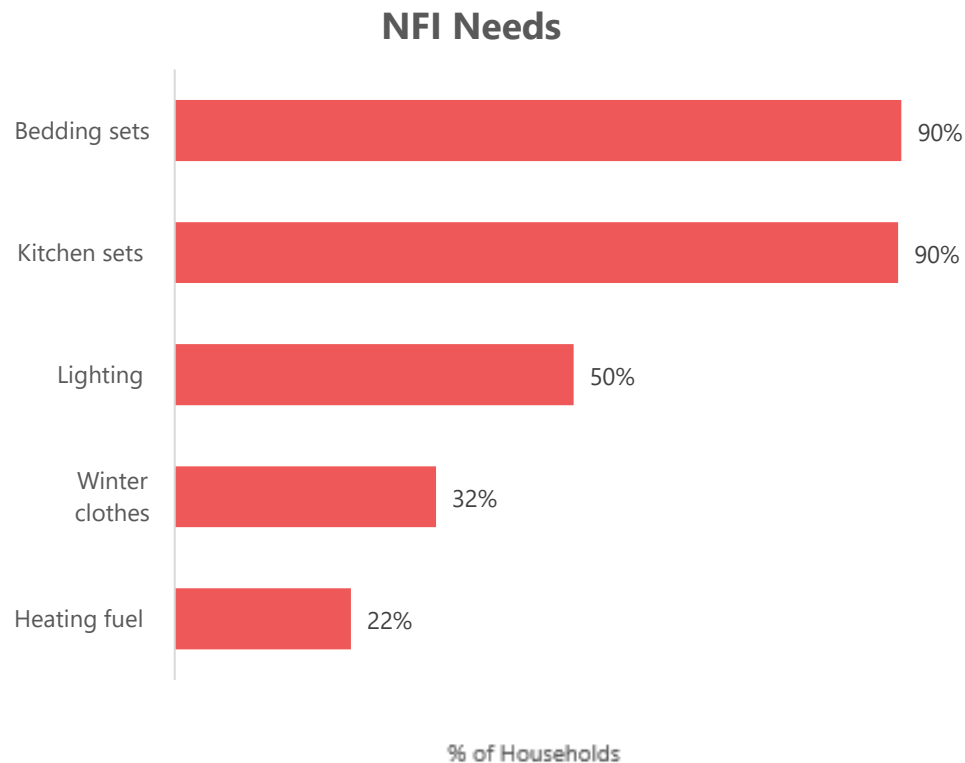
## Most Reported Shelter Issues



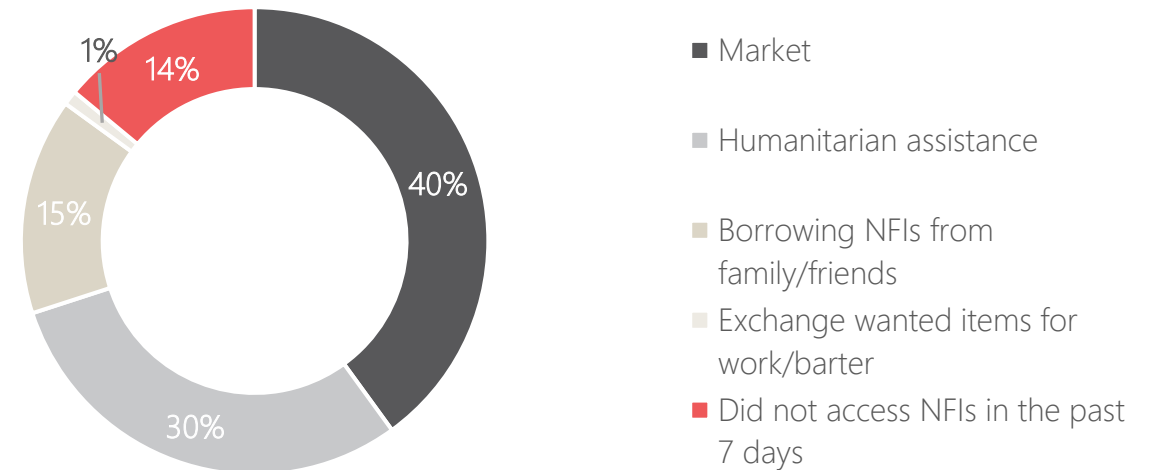
- Shelter did not rank among the top three priority needs overall (except in Khan Younis), yet 99% of households reported problems with their dwelling, making it a critical issue.
- Of households prioritising shelter among top 3 needs (n=178), **82% lived in makeshift shelters or tents**, underscoring the acute vulnerability of those in the most precarious conditions.
- **Lack of privacy** and related lack of space were also flagged as core issues. Contextual reports highlight that this is especially problematic for women, who are often unable to find safe spaces to change.

# NFI Needs & Access

**98%** of assessed households reported needing at least one NFI



### Primary Source of NFI Access

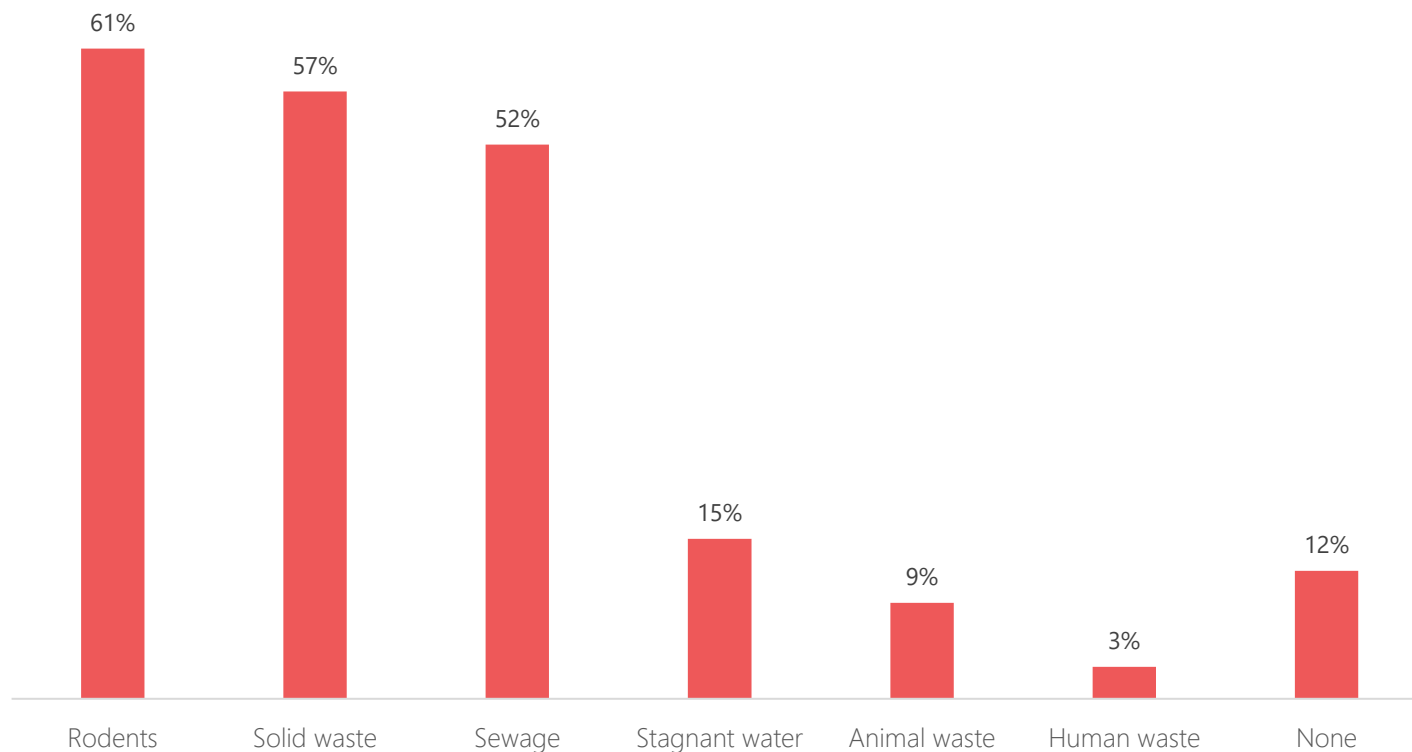


- Only 30% received NFIs via humanitarian aid 7 days prior to data collection
- **40% purchased via markets** despite liquidity shortages
- 15% had no NFI access; others borrowed or exchanged items
- Reported shelter deterioration and worsening living conditions highlight the **erosion of coping capacity** as households struggle to maintain even temporary solutions

# Environmental Hazards

**87%** of assessed households reported **at least one environmental hazard within 10m of their shelter**

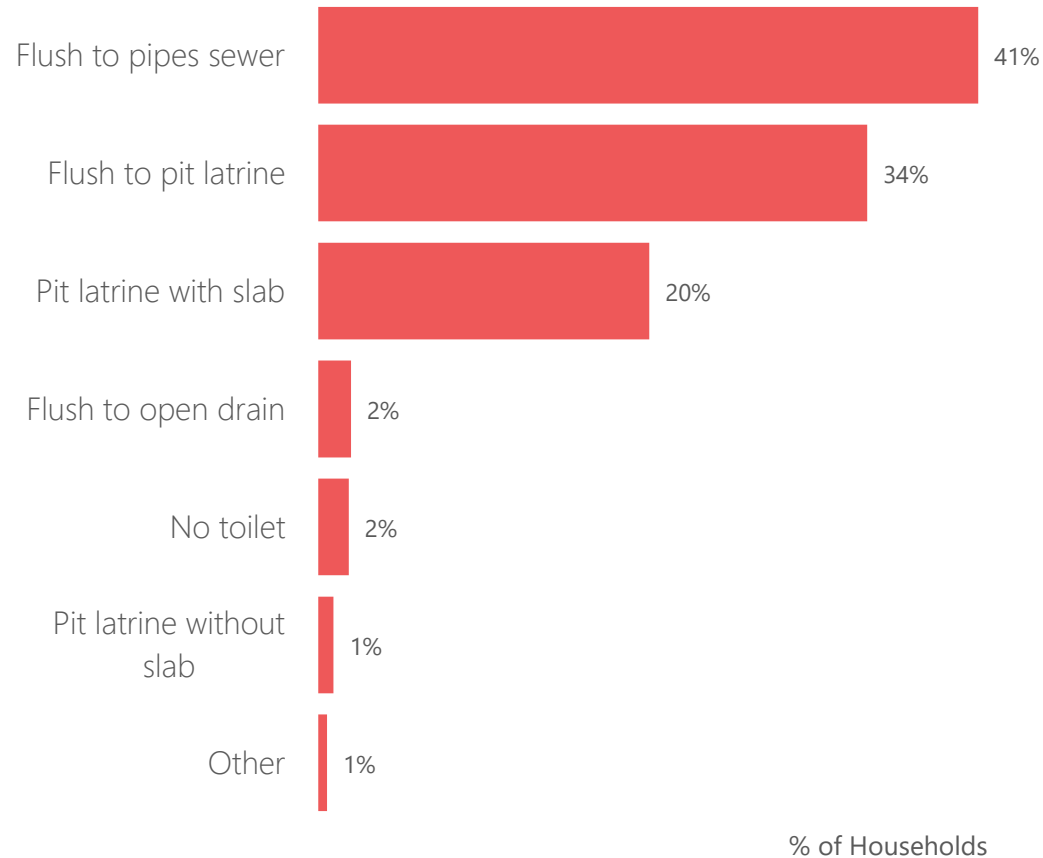
Environmental threats reported within 10 metres of sleeping area



- Although piped sewer systems are still reported as available, **sewage pumps are hardly functional**.
- There is **widespread sewage contamination**, in the sea, rainwater reservoirs, markets, and near people's shelters, with 52% of households reporting sewage within 10 metres of their shelter.
- Nearly two thirds (62%) of households also reported **not having any soap**—further driving morbidity and eroding dignity.
- Households with access to soap were 28% less likely to report illness.

# WASH Conditions

## Type of latrine used



- **Open defecation**, or resorting to buckets/plastic bags, are reported by 11% of households, due to the lack of available and functional facilities.
- In **Deir al-Balah (59%)** and **Gaza City (55%)**, most households used flush toilets connected to piped sewer systems, reflecting higher rates of staying in original—though damaged—residences.
- In **Khan Yunis (n=221)**, only **10%** had piped sewer connections; **most relied on flush-to-pit latrines (55%) or pit latrines with slabs (30%)**.

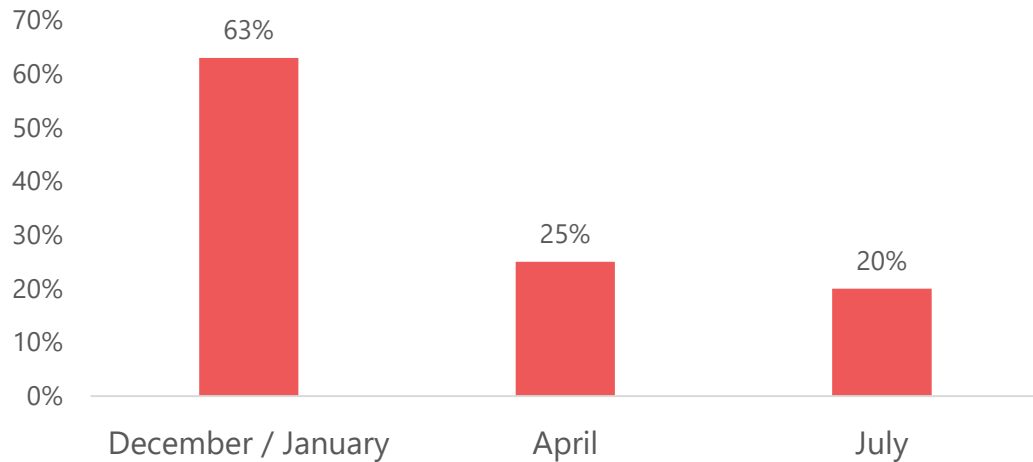
A world map is shown in a light gray, semi-transparent style, overlaid on a background of a light gray geometric pattern of interconnected lines forming various polygons. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean. In the center of the map, over the Atlantic, the number '03' is written in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

**03**

# Livelihoods & Coping

# Economic collapse and rising debt

Proportion of Households reporting some income



**1,310\$**  
4,530 ILS

Median debt amount reported

## Loss of income

Since the Baseline round of HOVA, significantly fewer households are reporting having any source of income, from 63% in December/January to only 20% in July.

## Increasing debt

The median debt amount reported by households is now 5 times the monthly median amount spent on food.

## Breakdown of community support

41% of households report relying on their community to cope with the lack of income. This is down from 60% in previous rounds.

# Untenable conditions with devastating consequences

- **Living conditions are continuously worsening**, with cumulative displacement into unprotected shelters leaving people exposed to heat and sewage, with little to no proper sanitation facilities. This creates tremendous sanitation concerns, with severely diminished financial coping capacity. The result is communities whose dignity has been shattered.
- **Coping mechanisms have been largely exhausted**, with people increasingly less able to rely on their relatives and communities for support.
- **Public health outcomes** such as food insecurity, malnutrition and increasing rates of disease occurrence **are compounded** by the extreme living conditions as well as each other.



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04

# Conclusion

# Conclusions

- **Over 2 million are confined to less than 45 km<sup>2</sup>**

Safe shelter is scarce, with many in improvised, inadequate, or damaged structures—particularly in Khan Younis, where over 90% of households live in such conditions.

- **Basic conditions continue to deteriorate beyond already critical levels**

87% of households reported exposure to waste, sewage, and rodents. Sanitation is severely overstretched, with many sharing toilets with over 20 people—and in some cases over 50—driving waterborne disease and acute malnutrition in overcrowded sites.

- **Humanitarian access blocked, needs unmet**

99.5% of households received no shelter or housing assistance in the month prior to data collection. With 80% reporting no income, families have been surviving through debt or support from relatives. Without unimpeded access, humanitarian actors cannot deliver shelter, NFIs, or essential services at scale.



**Thank you for your attention!**