



Shelter/NFI Cluster
X-Border Operation - Turkey Hub
ShelterCluster.org,
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

Action Plan for Dignified Shelter & Living Conditions in NW Syria

June 2023 | NW Syria





'I want to live in peace and have a small land and a house to shelter me and my children from the cold in the winter and the heat in summer. I want to make a decent living so that I can avoid asking people or organizations for assistance.'
— Sara, a woman living in Raqqa, Syria (UNFPA/WoS)

"...tents are too close to each other, no safety, no doors to close, poor lighting conditions. We have no electricity until now, and going out at night in the darkness exposes us to violence." — **Older woman, Al Asyaneh camp, Aleppo (Voices from Syria).**

Key Shelter Indicators for NW Syria

- **2.2 million people** are in need of shelter assistance
- **1.7 million people** live in camps and unplanned, self-settled IDP sites
- **800,000 people** live in tents.
- **90%** of tents are more than 1 year old.
- **58% of people** living in IDP sites are children
- **53% of households** report having a member with a disability
- **83% of IDPs** live in 'critically overcrowded' conditions.
- 1.1 million People affected by EQ in need of shelter assistance

NW Syria Humanitarian Leadership Group Statement on Dignified Shelter & Living Conditions

The HLG supports emergency, temporary shelter for IDPs in NW Syria. This includes a range of different activities aimed at ensuring safe and dignified living conditions for displaced people. All shelter support is provided in accordance with humanitarian principles, the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, and following due diligence on housing, land and property rights. All temporary shelter support for IDPs is provided while recognizing the right of people to seek and enjoy asylum, and the right of displaced people to return to their places of origin when the situation is conducive for safe, voluntary and dignified returns. While tents are suitable for the initial period of displacement (6-12 months), where possible the HLG supports improved temporary shelters for people facing protracted displacement that have longer life-spans and provide greater levels of protection. All humanitarian shelter should be coordinated through the Shelter Cluster and follow agreed cluster guidelines. At this stage, while the conflict in Syria continues, the HLG is not supporting any construction of permanent housing for displaced people in NW Syria.



Providing Structures of Protection

A. The need for change

After over ten years of war, humanitarian needs have evolved. There is an urgent need to for a more systematic approach to addressing shelter and living conditions in NW Syria. Nearly all tents in NW Syria will need to be replaced in the next year. Ongoing tent replacement will be an enormous expense and will not meet basic shelter needs. Continue short-term shelter interventions will entail substantial future funding commitments as tents wear out and need to be replaced.

There is now a unique opportunity to invest in Dignified Shelter & Living Conditions. This will provide more appropriate humanitarian shelter for a context of protracted displacement. It will be a more effective use of aid funding. Dignified Shelter will reduce dependency on the short-term cycle of temporary assistance and increase resilience. Having a safe place to live will reduce the need for large-scale winter support programs designed to help vulnerable families survive winter in aging tents.

B. Dignified Shelter is protection

Dignified Shelters are structures of protection. 80% of people in IDP sites are women and children who live in 'critically overcrowded' conditions. Women and girls report feeling most unsafe around communal bathing facilities and latrines. Gender-based violence is extremely high: overcrowded living conditions contributes to child marriage while 548,000 people accessed GBV services in NW Syria in 2021. Humanitarian assistance can no longer be generic. Shelter assistance must to respond to their needs.

C. Living Conditions

There are 1,468 IDP sites in NW Syria but only 188 are planned. there are 1,245 sites are unplanned and spontaneously settled by IDPs themselves. They lack services, site planning, waste disposal, sewage systems, dependable water supply and are difficult to access. While 58% of the people in IDP sites are children, access to education is limited. In 2021, 400 sites flooded. In early 2022, more than 10,000 tents were destroyed as a result of extreme weather, including heavy snow, strong winds and flooding. There is an opportunity now to invest in infrastructure improvement and basic site planning to increase resilience and support access to key services such as education, WASH and health.

d) Value for money

Tents are expensive and short term (in principle 6 months). The starting cost for a Dignified Shelter is the equivalent to two tents but the life span may be five or more years. There is a compelling business case for modest investment now that will reduce costs and aid dependency in the future. Much of this can be achieved with a better use of existing funding.



What are Dignified Shelter & Living Conditions?

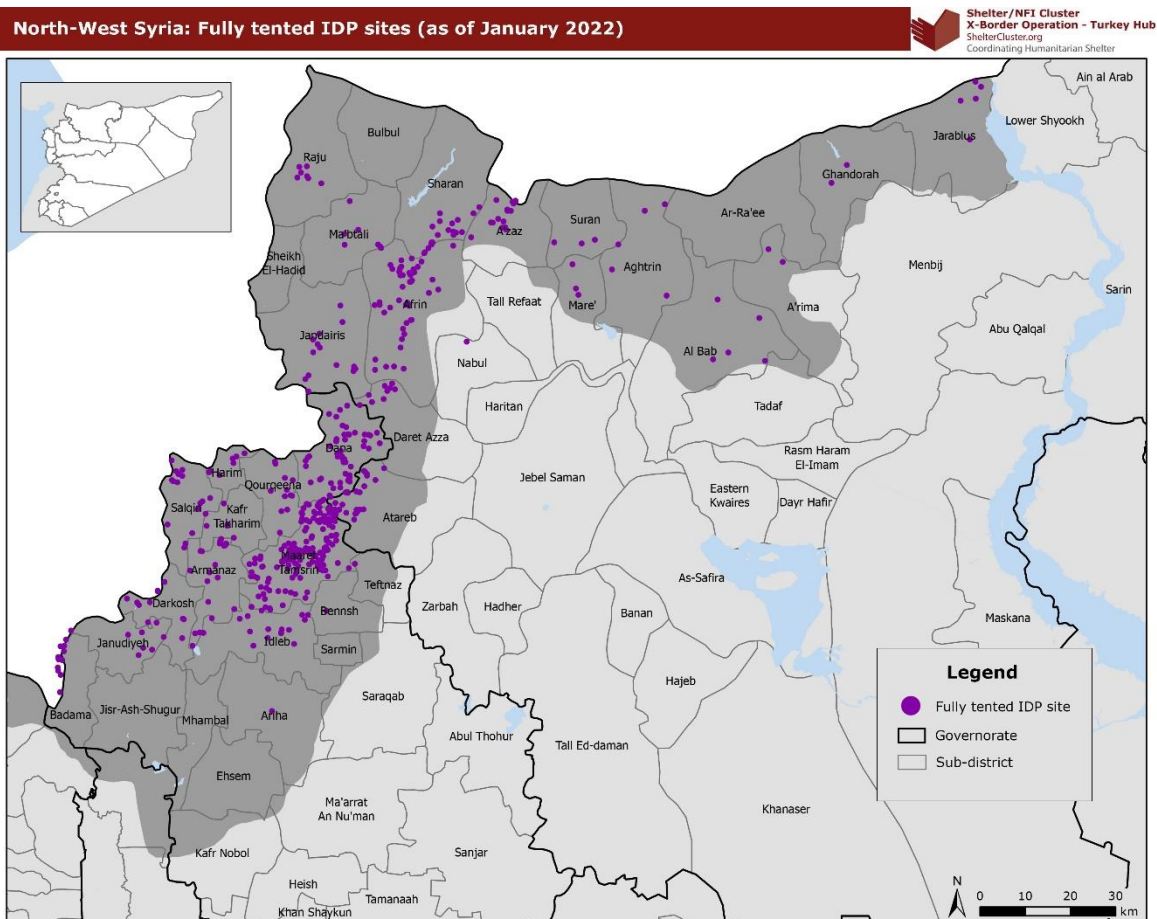
Dignified Shelter & Living Conditions is a response to the inherent problems of unplanned sites. The approach promotes more multi-sectoral response planning, implementation and monitoring; longer-term investments in more dignified camp infrastructure; wider stakeholder engagement and reduced reliance on continued repeat emergency services. It will ensure that IDP sites are more resilient to sudden onset disasters as will reduce the risk of gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse.

Key activities

- Transition IDPs living in tents to dignified shelters that are better suited to protracted displacement.
- Promote integrated multi-sector site planning including drainage, sewage, water, roads, lighting, electricity, early recovery and livelihoods, education and health.

The Dignified and Safer Living Conditions approach defines sites with high needs and considers the whole population within those sites. This guidance document builds on the existing [Global Shelter Cluster Settlements Approach Guidance](#) and the [NW Syria SNFI Cluster Dignified and Safer Living Conditions Technical Annex](#).

Fully tented IDP Sites in NW Syria



Value for Money: A Business Case for Dignified Shelter

The price-range for an average Dignified Shelter is around \$ 2,900. These shelters are designed to last for 5-10 years, though they have the potential to be modified/improved and could potentially last longer. The cluster has developed an annex with a range of options and costs per type of dignified shelter.

Meanwhile, the standard tent that has been used in NW Syria costs an average of USD 800, however these do not provide sufficient levels of privacy, dignity, durability, fire-retardancy, or structural integrity for the harsh winter conditions and overcrowded IDPs sites of NW Syria. While 36% of tents are more than 2 years old, in principle they need to be replaced every 6 months. Higher quality tents have been procured recently for about USD 850, however these are still not suitable for long term displacement and still need to be replaced after one year. Neither of these prices include WASH facilities or site-level infrastructure improvements.

Dignified Shelter is a more cost-effective use of aid funding and demonstrated value for money. One Dignified Shelter which may have a lifespan of 5-10 years is roughly equal to the cost of 3 standard tents (or 2 improved) tents which taken together are only designed to last for 18-24 months.

Dignified Shelter will also reduce dependency on short term annual winter support which currently is USD 40 million or 50% of the SNFI Cluster annual budget.

There is a clear business case for Dignified Shelter & Living Conditions. Investment now will save money in the future while reducing expenditure on 'one-off' seasonal support to save lives over winter that has become an annual necessity owing to poor shelter conditions.

Goal & Implementation Phases

Goal

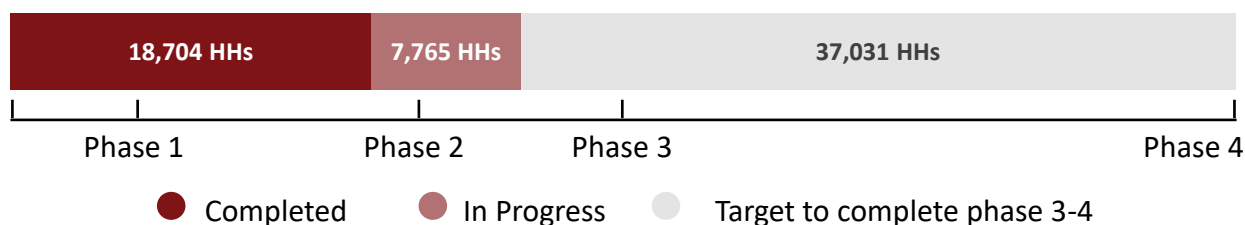
To provide access to Dignified Shelter & Safer Living Conditions to everyone living in tented sites in NW Syria.

Phase	Selection Criteria	Progress
Phase 1	Sites with valid HLP that are fully tented, all tents are older than 1 year, and the site has been flooded	Completed
Phase 2	Sites with valid HLP that are fully tented, at least 50% of the tents are older than 1 year	In progress
Phase 3	Sites with valid HLP that are fully tented, at least 50% of the tents are older than 1 year	Not yet
Phase 4	Valid HLP, mixed shelters in site	Not yet

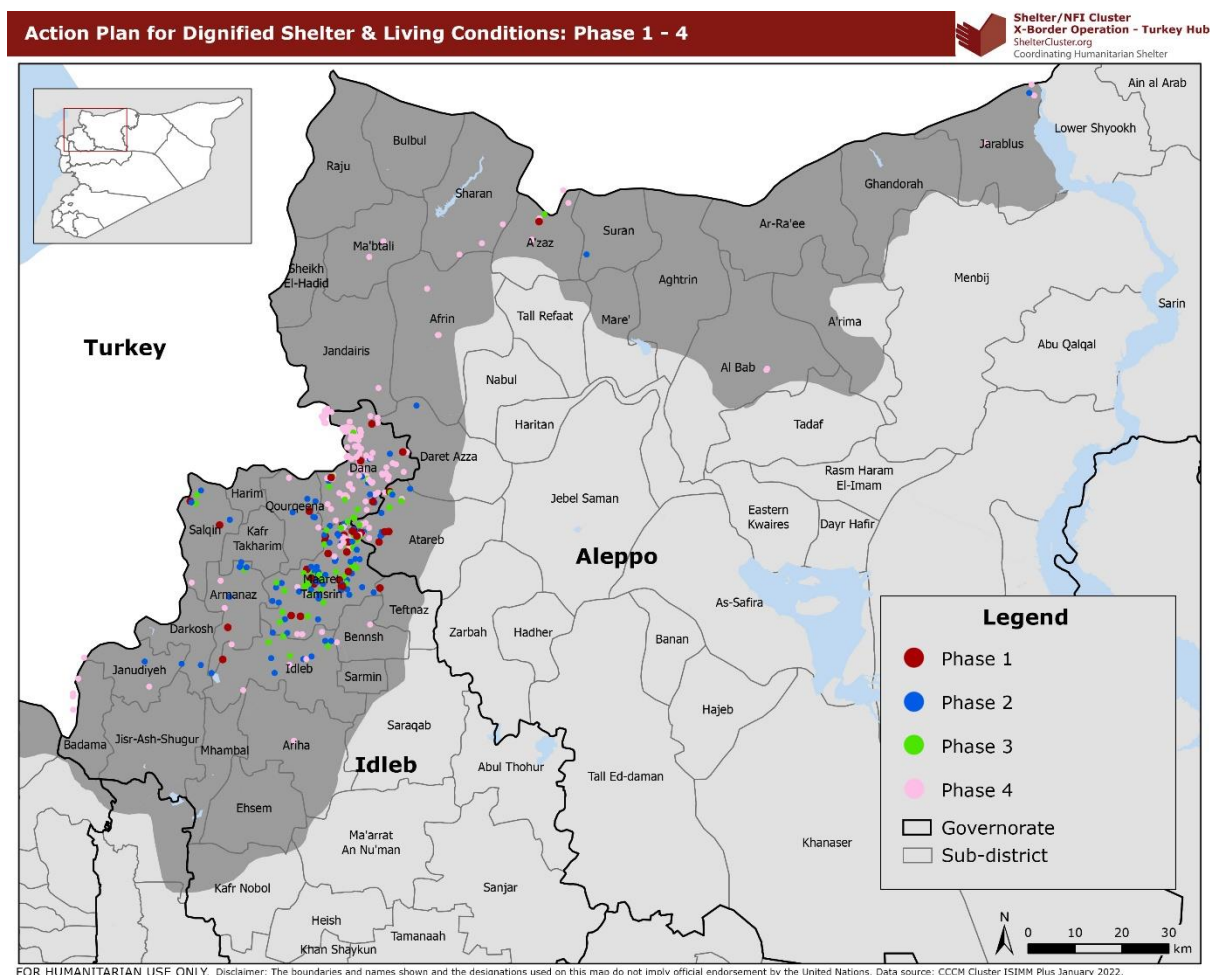


Phase 5	Not valid/pending HLP or missing information	Not yet, close coordination with the protection cluster is highly required
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This bar shows progress achieved since March 2022.



Map of Implementation Phases I-IV



Budget & Costs

Costs of the intervention vary depending on context, shelter design, location, geophysical conditions, access, and currency fluctuation. The price range for a Dignified Shelter is USD 2,900

Per unit costs (for planning purposes):

Item	Cost (USD)
Dignified Shelter (including indoor kitchen area and WASH facilities)	2,450
Integrated infrastructure (site preparation, drainage, base)	450
Total	2,900

Cost Estimate by Phase:

	Phase	# of IDP sites	# Shelters (1 per family)	# People	Cost (USD)
1	Sites with valid HLP that are fully tented, all tents are older than 1 year, and the site has been flooded	40	6,500	32,500	18,850,000
2	Sites with valid HLP that are fully tented, at least 50% of the tents are older than 1 year	90	15,000	75,000	43,500,000
3	Sites with valid HLP that are fully tented, less than 50% of tents are older than 1 year	60	10,000	50,000	29,000,000
4	Valid HLP, mixed shelters in site	250	32,000	160,000	92,800,000
SUB-TOTAL		440	63,500	317,500	184,150,000
5	Not valid/pending HLP or missing information	360-600	96,500	482,500	279,850,000
TOTAL		800-1000	160,000	800,000	\$ 464 M



SNFI Cluster is seeking a better use of existing levels of funding

Cluster Implementing Capacity

There is significant knowledge and experience within the current shelter cluster, especially among local NGOs. While strong capacity exists, a significant operational scale up would need to occur.

- **75** implementing agencies
- **USD 180 million** (2022 HRP appeal)
- **USD 90 million** (Cluster annual budget 2020-2021)
- **USD 180 million** (Cluster annual budget 2019-2020)

Experience implementing multi-sectoral projects:

- **1.2 million people** reached with shelter in 2021
- **600,000 people** supported with infrastructure in 2021

Overall Risks & Mitigation

Risk	Mitigation
This is not just about the shelter unit but about improving sites as well. This requires multisectoral site planning.	- Development of common guidance & prioritization with CCCM, WASH, Protection, Early Recovery, Logistics, & Education clusters.
Short timeframes for implementation at scale.	- Prioritisation of most vulnerable sites - DS & LC builds on existing projects & implementation. - Agencies have managed similar levels of funding in the past.
Agencies will need to scale up substantially.	- Strong existing cluster capacity. - Key agencies will need to scale up operations - Engagement of additional agencies
Multiple shelter solutions and designs will be required and this requires flexibility from donors to consider a range of shelter options.	- Ongoing donor engagement and advocacy. - Most designs/approaches have already been funded by key donors - Strong support & flexibility from SCHF.
HLP constraints	- Close engagement with HLP Working Group - Revision of HLP due diligence guidelines



	- Cluster agencies are highly experienced in HLP issues.
Equity	- Targeting the most vulnerable sites and households. - Support to wider site management & infrastructure. - Integration with cash-based programming supporting wider camp and host communities.

Action Plan Summary Table

Phase		Date	Sub-districts	# of IDP sites	# Shelters (1 per family)	# People	Cost (USD)
1	Sites with valid HLP that are fully tented, all tents are older than 1 year, and the site has been flooded	Mar - Dec 2022	Armanaz, Atareb, Azaz, Dana, Maaret Tamsrin, Qourqeena, Salqin	40	6,500	32,500	18,850,000
2	Sites with valid HLP that are fully tented, at least 50% of the tents are older than 1 year	Mar - Dec 2022	Armanaz, Atareb, Dana, Daet Azza, Darkosh, Idleb, Janudiyeh, Jarablus, Maaret Tamsrin, Qourqeena, Salqin, Suran	90	15,000	75,000	43,500,000
3	Sites with valid HLP that are fully tented, less than 50% of tents are older than 1 year	Mar - Dec 2022	Armanaz, Atareb, Azaz, Dana, Idleb, Maaret Tamsrin, Qourqeena, Salqin	60	10,000	50,000	29,000,000



4	Valid HLP, mixed shelters in site	Mar - Dec 2022	Afrin, Al Bab, Ariha, Armanaz, Atareb, Azaz, Badama, Bennsh, Dana, Idleb, Jandairis, Janudiyeh, Jarablus, Maaret Tamsrin, Ma'btali, Mhambal, Qourqeena, Salqin, Sharan	250	32,000	160,000	92,800,000
SUB-TOTAL				440	63,500	317,500	184,150,000
5	Not valid/pending HLP or missing information	Jan - Dec 2023	Afrin, Al Bab, Ariha, Armanaz, Atareb, Azaz, Badama, Bennsh, Dana, Daret Azza, Darkosh, Ghandorah, Harim, Idleb, Jandairis, Janudiyeh, Jarablus, Kaft Takharim, Maaret Tamsrin, Ma'btali, Mhambal, Qourqeena, Raju Salqin, Sharan, Sarmin, Suran	360- 600	96,500	482,500	279,850,000
TOTAL				800- 1000	160,000	800,000	\$ 464 M

