

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN

2024-2025



Ethiopia ESNFI Cluster

www.sheltercluster.org

September 2024



**ETHIOPIA
EMERGENCY SHELTER & NFI CLUSTER**
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

Introduction

Ethiopia faces significant challenges due to its susceptibility to various natural and human-induced hazards. These include floods, droughts, strong winds, hailstorms, landslides, and conflicts between different groups and armed actors. The impact of these hazards is further intensified by the effects of climate change, which has led to an increase in the frequency, intensity, and geographical spread of such events. As a result, the consequences for the population are severe, leading to widespread displacement, disruption of livelihoods, and threats to safety and property. Critical infrastructure is often damaged and affected communities' economic and social development is severely impeded.

Moreover, the humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia is compounded by economic stress that affects both displaced individuals and the communities that host them. This economic pressure undermines their resilience and coping capacities, rendering recovery from these shocks more difficult. The combination of these factors creates a cycle of vulnerability, where each shock leaves the population increasingly susceptible to future hazards, further deepening the crisis in this country.

Objective

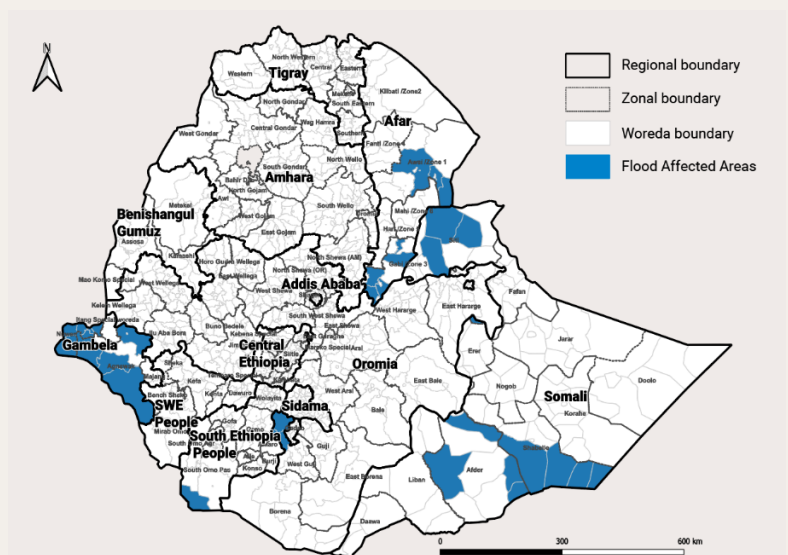
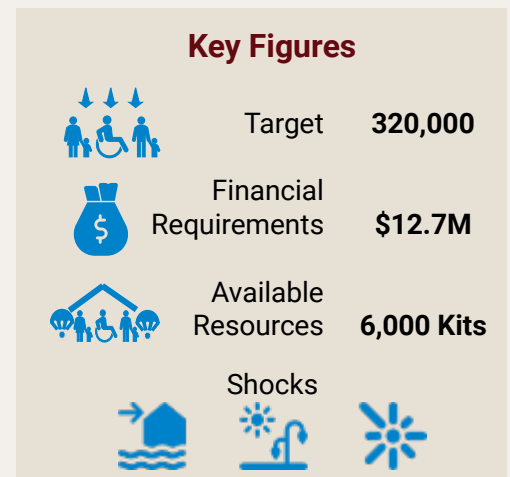
This document aims to ensure a timely, effective, and coordinated response to mitigate the risks and consequences of disasters on affected communities in Ethiopia. The plan is designed to be comprehensive, incorporating risk assessments, capacity building, and a focus on vulnerable groups, ensuring that humanitarian interventions are efficient and sustainable.

Risk Analysis

Many flood-prone areas also face drought, creating a complex crisis that significantly heightens the need for Shelter and NFI (Non-Food Items). In several affected woredas, the situation is further complicated by conflicts, leading to displacement and access constraints. The combination of natural disasters and conflict has forced many out of their homes, leaving them without adequate shelter and essential items. The combination of inadequate shelter, scarcity of NFIs, and the ongoing drought could lead to a significant deterioration in living conditions.

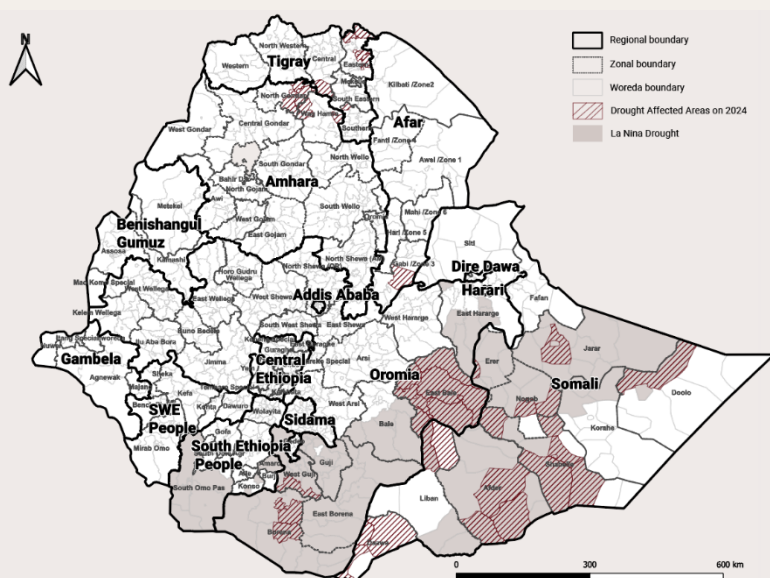
Flood: Flooding is one of the most severe consequences of climate change in Ethiopia, impacting hundreds of thousands of people every year. The country's vulnerability is underscored by the Inform Index for Risk Management, which rates Ethiopia with a high **Climate-Driven Risk Indicator** of 5.8 and a Vulnerability Index of 7.1, highlighting its limited capacity to cope with and recover from such shocks. Over the past few years, **these hazards' frequency, intensity, and geographical spread have escalated.**

According to the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), over 1.07 million people have been displaced by floods in the past five years, with the highest numbers reported in the Somali region, followed by the Afar and Oromia regions. The displacement rate has steadily increased, averaging a significant annual rise. Assessments conducted by multiple sectors, including DTM and government-led evaluations in flood-affected areas, consistently highlight shelters and NFIs as top priorities for the displaced populations.



Drought: The anticipated La Niña event is expected to bring drier-than-normal weather conditions and poised to intensify the already severe drought situation in Ethiopia, particularly in the Southern and Eastern regions. This exacerbation of drought conditions will likely lead to further displacement as communities are forced to leave their homes in search of water, food, and livelihood options. The lack of rainfall could devastate agricultural production and water availability, pushing vulnerable populations to migrate - often towards areas already struggling with limited resources - or developing negative coping mechanisms. This mass displacement places significant pressure on both the displaced populations and the host communities with an increased demand for Shelter and NFI support.

Displaced families often find themselves in poorly equipped temporary shelters, where they are subject to heightened risks of disease outbreaks and protection risks. Displaced people often flee without NFIs, which are critical for maintaining basic human dignity and health in displacement settings. The combination of inadequate shelter, scarcity of NFIs, and the ongoing drought could lead to a significant deterioration in living conditions.



Conflict: The ongoing conflicts in Ethiopia's two most populous regions and inter-communal unrest in the southern and southeastern areas have underscored the urgent need for robust preparedness measures to address the resulting displacement. Preparing for conflict-induced displacement requires a comprehensive and strategic approach due to the complexity and scale of these crises. A well-developed Shelter and NFI preparedness plan is essential for ensuring timely and effective responses. This plan must be tailored to the specific needs of various settlement types, including informal settlements, formal camps, host communities, and urban environments. Flexibility and adaptability are key to ensuring that response efforts can effectively address displaced populations' diverse and evolving needs.

Other Natural Disaster: During the rainy season in Ethiopia, landslides and windstorms are anticipated to pose substantial risks in various regions. As part of the preparedness plan, it is crucial to acknowledge that these natural hazards could lead to the displacement of people and cause damage to homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods. Landslides, while localized, have the potential to disrupt communities by damaging homes and forcing families to relocate, often with little notice.

Moreover, windstorms, which are common during the rainy season, are expected to particularly affect IDPs living in emergency shelters. These shelters, often temporary and poorly constructed, offer minimal protection against strong winds, heightening the vulnerability of those already displaced. Preparing for these expected events is critical to mitigating the potential impacts on displaced populations and the host communities that support them. Proper planning will help safeguard lives and reduce the risks associated with these seasonal hazards.

Assessment

The purpose of conducting a need assessment is to gather and examine data on how the disaster has affected the people in the area. It is essential to collect information disaggregated on the gender and vulnerability (such as disability, age, etc.) of the population, as well as their types of settlement, access to services, and living conditions. This information can help ensure that the response is inclusive and adapted to the specific needs and capacities of the affected people.

Response Options

In areas impacted by drought, flood, or conflict, the coping mechanisms of the affected populations are severely strained. The compounded effects of these crises lead to heightened vulnerability, making timely Shelter and NFI responses critical. By addressing both immediate needs and longer-term resilience, the response can mitigate the impact of these overlapping crises and support the affected populations in rebuilding their lives with dignity.

The Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Item (ES/NFI) Cluster aims to ensure that displaced people have access to adequate and appropriate shelter and essential household items that protect their health, security, safety, and dignity. To achieve this, the Cluster offers a variety of response solutions tailored to different types of settlements and shocks while considering local climatic conditions as well as socio-cultural factors. Additionally, the response takes into account Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) considerations and protection mainstreaming to ensure a comprehensive approach that addresses the complex needs of the most vulnerable groups.

Flood

The ES/NFI Cluster in Ethiopia is implementing a comprehensive preparedness plan that encompasses both emergency preparedness and response. The preparedness aspect includes regular risk and vulnerability mapping of flood-prone areas, capacity building through training programs for local authorities, humanitarian partners, and communities, as well as coordination with the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster to implement flood mitigation activities in vulnerable Internally Displaced Person (IDP) sites. Additionally, the plan aims to strengthen the preparedness of local authorities by enhancing their capacity to manage displacement and shelter needs during floods. In the event of a flood, the Cluster will respond by distributing Shelter and NFI kits to displaced populations, ensuring prompt access to essential items for health, safety, and dignity. Through these efforts, the Cluster aims to provide a holistic approach to flood response and recovery.

Drought

Preparedness for a La Niña-induced drought involves a multifaceted approach that includes risk assessments, community engagement, supply prepositioning, and coordination among humanitarian actors. By focusing on both Shelter and NFI, these responses can help mitigate the drought's impact on vulnerable populations, ensuring that they remain safe, healthy, and resilient.

In drought-affected areas where displaced populations often move to informal settlements or disperse into rural areas, Shelter and NFI responses must be tailored to the specific settlement types and the climate conditions; the recommended activities are Emergency Shelter kits and ESNFI kits.

Conflict

Based on past experiences, conflict-related humanitarian crises often surpass other factors in scale and complexity. One significant challenge in preparing for conflict-induced displacement is that those displaced may remain in new locations for extended periods, requiring both immediate emergency response and long-term solutions. A well-tailored Shelter and NFI preparedness plan is essential for efficient and effective responses, addressing the specific needs of different settlement types, including formal camps, informal settlements, host communities, and urban environments. This plan should also promote social cohesion and adopt system-based thinking in urban areas.

In areas affected by intercommunal and recurring conflicts, preparedness efforts must focus on several key areas. Firstly, peacebuilding activities are essential to foster peace and reduce tensions between conflicting communities, creating a stable environment. Secondly, a harmonized humanitarian response is critical to ensure that aid is delivered equitably to all sides of the conflict, preventing perceived bias and further conflict escalation. Thirdly, conflict-sensitive approaches should be applied to ensure that humanitarian interventions do not inadvertently worsen existing tensions or create new conflicts. Lastly, addressing HLP issues is vital to provide stability for displaced populations, support recovery efforts, and contribute to long-term conflict resolution. These elements, when combined, form a comprehensive preparedness plan to respond effectively to the complexities of conflict-induced crises.

Guiding Principle

The guiding principles of the ES/ NFI Cluster in Ethiopia emphasize providing safe, equitable, and dignified assistance to affected populations through a coordinated and evidence-based approach. These principles focus on doing no harm, ensuring accountability, promoting localization, and guaranteeing meaningful access for all, particularly the most vulnerable. The Cluster also prioritizes environmental sustainability, community participation, and the integration of Shelter and NFI responses with other sectors. By adhering to these principles, the Cluster aims to enhance resilience, tailor responses to specific contexts, and manage expectations effectively, ensuring that humanitarian interventions are both ethical and sustainable.

Targeting & Prioritization

Assistance will be delivered through a targeted approach following the Cluster's Targeting Guidelines. Priority will be given to geographic areas affected by recurrent climate-related shocks and conflict-prone regions. At the household level, the focus will be on the most vulnerable, particularly those displaced multiple times. This includes displaced individuals, returnees without support, and people with specific needs, such as persons with disabilities, female-headed households, child-headed households, and older persons, especially those without assistance. Due to limited resources, the Cluster recommends a thorough verification process, except in cases where access is restricted.

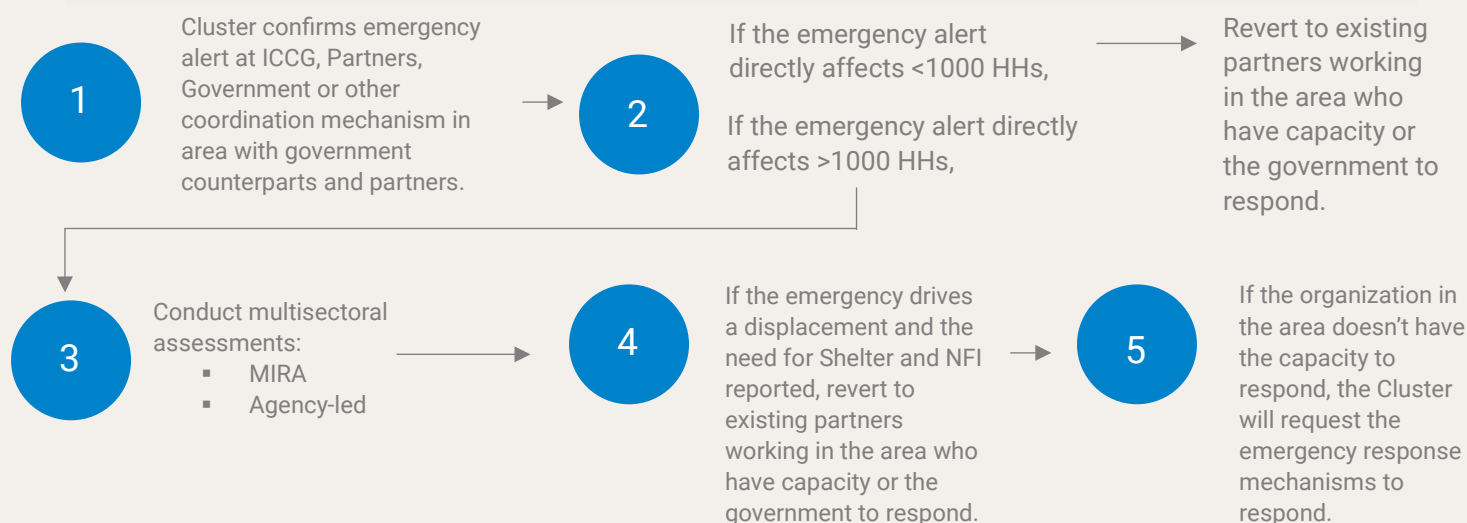
Respond Trigger



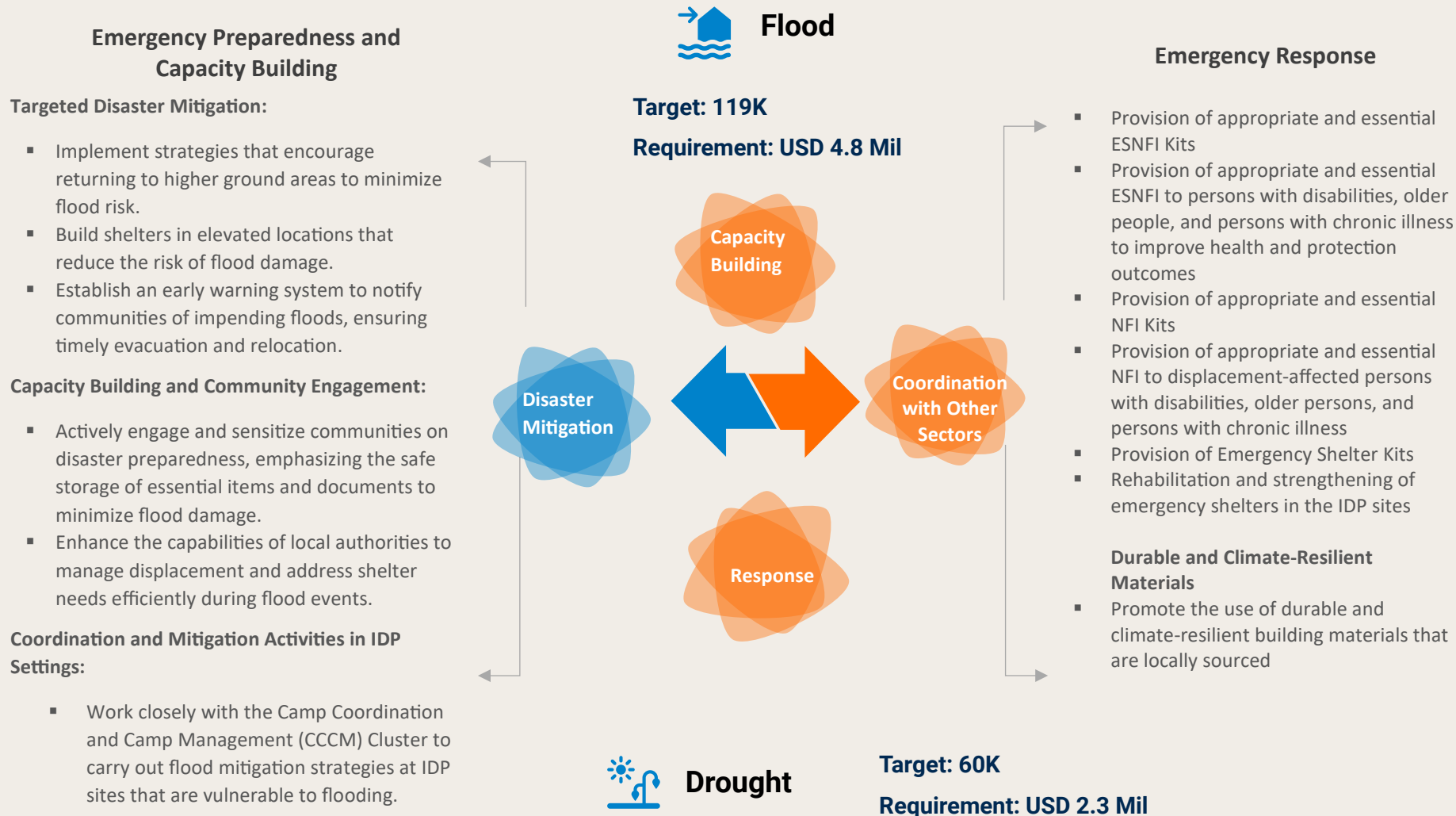
Sudden Onset Emergency



Defining triggers and thresholds is crucial for identifying scenarios where the local government can provide direct assistance, allowing the ES/NFI cluster to concentrate on delivering targeted training and capacity-building efforts. This approach not only optimizes resource allocation but also enhances local capabilities to respond effectively to emergencies. Given the constraints on resources, the Cluster has established the following indicators to guide resource mobilization and response decision-making based on agreed-upon triggers and thresholds for the response following the onset of an emergency.



Planning Scenario and Funding Requirement



In regions anticipated to be affected by La Niña, there is a tendency for populations to relocate to informal settlements. The response for Shelter and NFI will be tailored to fit the climate and the specific needs, focusing on the distribution of Emergency Shelter Kits complimented with essential household items. Additionally, kits specifically designed for persons with disabilities and older persons will also be included in the response efforts.

Conflict

In areas facing **recurring intercommunal conflict** and contested territories, the provision of **Shelter** and **NFI** must not only address urgent needs but also aim to strengthen community **resilience** and **social cohesion**. Here's a strategy to ensure that **Shelter and NFI provision** is complemented by activities that enhance resilience and foster community cohesion.

Conflict-Sensitive and Equitable Shelter and NFI Distribution:

- **Inclusive Targeting and Distribution:** Ensure that Shelter and NFI distribution is inclusive, addressing the needs of all groups in the conflict area.

Resilient and Adaptable Shelter Solutions

- **Local Materials and Techniques:** Promote the use of locally sourced materials and construction methods, which can be repaired or upgraded by the community.
- **Training on Shelter Construction and Maintenance:** Provide technical training for community members, including youth and women, on shelter construction and repair.

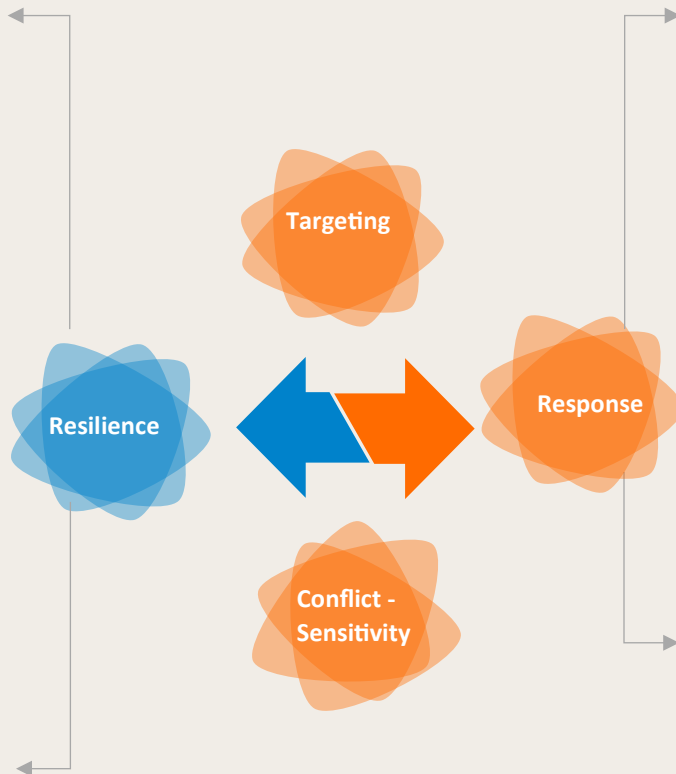
Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion Initiatives

- **Shared Spaces:** Incorporate peacebuilding activities such as community dialogues and shared spaces within the shelter provision process.
- **Shared Shelter Resources:** Promote the use of shared resources like communal spaces within shelter areas or tool kits to encourage interaction and cooperation between groups.

HLP Considerations

- **Address Land and Property Disputes:** Integrate HLP issues into the shelter response by working with local authorities and HLP Working Group to ensure that shelter is built on legally recognized land.

Target: 141K
Requirement: USD 5.6 Mil



Safe and Dignified Shelter Spaces

- **Protection for Vulnerable Groups:** Ensure that shelter programs take into account the specific needs of vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and people with disabilities. gender-based violence, particularly in communal shelter settings.

Provision of Shelter and NFI

- **Provision of Emergency Shelter** tailored to the settlement types (Rental Support, Emergency Shelter Kits, Rehabilitation of Communal Shelter to ensure privacy and habitability).
- **Provision of appropriate and essential ES/NFI Kits.**
- **Provision of appropriate and essential ES/NFI** to persons with disabilities, older persons, and persons with chronic illness to improve health and protection outcomes.
- **Provision of appropriate and essential NFI Kits.**
- **Provision of appropriate and essential NFI** to displacement-affected persons with disabilities, older persons, and persons with chronic illness.

By integrating these activities into the provision of **Shelter and NFI**, the response can meet immediate needs while also strengthening **resilience** and promoting **social cohesion** in areas of recurring conflict. The emphasis on conflict sensitivity, community-led approaches, and resilience-building ensures that shelter interventions do not just provide short-term relief but also contribute to long-term peace and stability in contested areas.