

Shelter Cluster Structure

Response Name	X-Border Operation – Turkey Hub – North West Syria		
Cluster Lead Agency	UNHCR		
Co-lead	CARE		
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Cluster Leadership Advisory Groups	Strategic Advisory Group (SAG): CARE, Global Communities, IOM, IYD, MERCY-USA, SARD, Shafak, Rahma Worldwide, Violet, Mercy Corps and Binaa ‘Friends of the SAG’ members (an additional advisory body): Big Heart, Bonyan, GOAL, HIHFAD, IHSAN RD, Maram, Mercy Corps, Qatar Charity, Qatar Red Crescent, SECD, Ataa, Takaful Alsham and UNHCR.		
Endorsing Cluster Partner Members	192 registered cluster members 82 participating in cluster activities		
Relevant Technical Working Groups (TWiGs)	- Dignified Living Conditions (inter-cluster group with Protection, CCCM, WASH, ERL). - Dignified Shelter Working Group		

Shelter Cluster Strategy

Situation	<u>Current Situation</u> After eleven years of conflict, 4.4 million people in North West Syria live in siege-like conditions where there are acute shelter needs: 2.2 million people need shelter assistance 800,000 people live in tents (90% of which are more than 1 year old). 1.7 million people live in 1,400 unplanned, self-settled IDP sites which lack access to services. 86% of sites are critically overcrowded. 58% of people living in IDP sites are children 40 % of people living in NW Syria have a disability (53% of in-camp households have 1 member with a disability). 548,000 people accessed GBV services in 2021. Poor quality basic shelter conditions, high rates of gender-based violence, and the impact of poor living conditions on children, the impact of climate change and natural disasters that make traditional approaches to shelter less effective. Climate change means that recent winters have been extremely cold and wet with heavy snows, widespread flooding and sub-zero temperatures. Around 50% of current
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cluster expenditure is therefore focussed on short term seasonal support to help people living in inadequate shelter to survive winter.

Dignified Shelter & Living Conditions

In this context, both shelter and protection actors have identified a need to move to a more adaptive and contextually suitable approach to humanitarian shelter. The Dignified Shelter & Living Conditions approach complements existing emergency response activities while identifying new shelter options for situations of protracted displacement.

Dignified Shelter & Living Conditions are more robust approaches to shelter and site improvement. The approach aims to upgrade unplanned self-settled IDP sites and promote inter-sectoral programming: Shelter, WASH, Early Recovery, Protection, and CCCM in particular.

UN Security Council Resolution

There is ongoing uncertainty around the renewal of the UN Security Council Resolution authorising Cross-Border assistance. This has the potential to affect around 50% of cluster funding. This, in turn, will disproportionately impact the work of local NGOs. Key cluster advocacy concerns the need to guarantee the continuation of existing funding levels as well as the more effective use of funds through the Dignified Shelter & Living Conditions approach. The cluster continues to invest in capacity development of cluster members to reduce make them less reliant on an unstable humanitarian system.

(See: [Action Plan for Dignified Shelter & living Conditions](#))

Assessments & Sources of Information

- Situational overview of shelter conditions in northwest Syria, May/June 2021, SNFI Cluster and Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme (HNAP)
- HNAP Population Baseline of Shelter types, quarterly reports
- HNAP Mobility and Needs Monitoring factsheet, monthly reports
- Partners/Members Reports
- April 2022: Winterisation After Action Review
- 4W reporting
- Post Distribution Monitoring
- AAP community perceptions documents

Cluster Objectives & Strategic Response

Objective 1: Provide life-saving and life-sustaining shelter and NFI support

- Emergency Shelter & NFI distribution
- Rehabilitation of damaged/unfinished buildings
- Winterisation
- Site improvement
- Advocacy for effective emergency response.

Objective 2: Contribute towards the resilience and cohesion of communities and households by improving housing and related community/public infrastructure.

- Dignified Shelter & Living Conditions



	• Capacity development of cluster members • Advocacy for investment in Dignified Shelter & Living Conditions.
Integrated Approach	The SNFI Cluster will continue to work closely with the following sectors (among others): • Protection Cluster: strengthening of HLP, including security of tenure, and with regard to the mainstreaming of gender and GBV-related issues in both the response and its monitoring; • CCCM Cluster: location and identification of camps, camp management services; • WASH Cluster: emergency water and sanitation in managed camps and informal sites, essential water and sanitation services. • Early Recovery & Livelihoods Cluster: site infrastructure, livelihoods, training, cash for work. • Cash Working Group: cash coordination, tracking and standard setting. • HLP Working Group: production & revision of HLP due diligence guidance.
Cluster Principles	Do No Harm: In a complex protracted conflict the cluster closely monitors the social, physical, and political impact of shelter interventions. Protection: Shelter provides the physical structures of protection. Shelter actors work closely with the Protection Cluster to address the needs of the most vulnerable, to understand the causes of vulnerability, and to ensure the centrality of protection analysis in shelter strategy, programming, decision-making, resource allocation and prioritisation. Safety, Adequacy & Dignity: All shelter interventions need to meet minimum technical standards based on the principles of safety, adequacy and dignity. This guidance is developed by local organisation working with individuals, families, and communities living in NW Syria and in need of shelter assistance. Empowerment of local actors: The SNFI Cluster empowers local humanitarian actors through brokering partnerships, inclusive leadership, funding advocacy, and investment in capacity development. Effective use of aid funding/value for money: In a funding-constrained environment, the SNFI Cluster advocates for effective, appropriate, and adaptable funding to reduce reliance on costly, repeated short-term interventions. The Cluster advocates for a more effective use of aid money that is better suited to protracted displacement. Inclusive programming: SNFI Cluster agencies work with individuals, families, and communities to ensure inclusiveness in humanitarian shelter programs. The Cluster understands and differentiates between the needs of women and men, boys and girls, people living with disabilities, the elderly, minority groups, and people with limited access to resources or low socio-economic status. Climate Change & DRR: NW Syria experiences both conflict and even greater weather uncertainty (unpredictably harsh winters and summers) caused by climate change. The need for adaptation and disaster risk reduction within a conflict setting will be integrated into humanitarian shelter programming. Accountability & Participation: The SNFI Cluster prioritises accountability to affected people and participation of communities in the design, development, monitoring, and



	implementation of shelter programs as well as overall strategic direction of the cluster. Collaborative leadership: The Cluster works on the principle of inclusive and collaborative leadership. It is co-led, the strategic direction is set by the Strategic Advisory Group (a mixture of local NGOs, international NGOs and UN Agencies), and has open and inclusive technical working groups to develop guidance and common standards collectively.
Advocacy	The SNFI Cluster leads on the following advocacy issues: Unmet Shelter Needs Dignified Shelter Winterisation Needs GBV Risk Mitigation in Shelter Response Climate Change, Conflict & Shelter Needs in NW Syria Better Programming Initiative
Key Resources for Priority Response Activities	Key strategic & technical documents outlining cluster standards and guidance on priority response activities are: Emergency Shelter & NFI Response Dignified & Safer Living Conditions Dignified Shelter Guidance Dignified Shelter & Living Conditions Action Plan Shelter Repair & Rehabilitation Winterisation Housing, Land & Property Distribution Guidance PSEA & Reducing GBV Guidance Site Planning Guidance