



SNAPSHOT OF RAINSTORM ON SHELTER & NFI IN DECEMBER – GAZA

In December 2025, severe winter storms, including Storm Byron, brought heavy rainfall, strong winds, and flooding across Gaza. The storms hit an already fragile shelter situation, with over a million people displaced and living in makeshift sites, damaged buildings, tents, and overcrowded shelters, many of which are in coastal areas repeatedly exposed to water inundation.

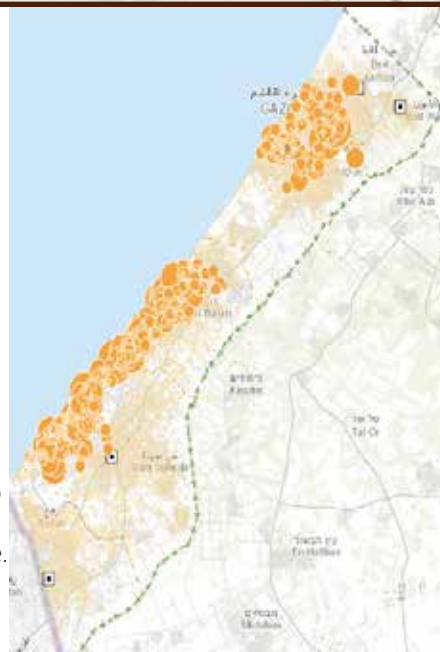
Impact:

While the overall shelter gap was expected to decrease due to sustained response efforts and relatively improved entry of shelter items, recent rainstorms have significantly reversed these gains. An additional **65,000** households were affected, increasing overall needs; the Shelter Cluster estimates that more than one million people continue to require urgent emergency shelter assistance.

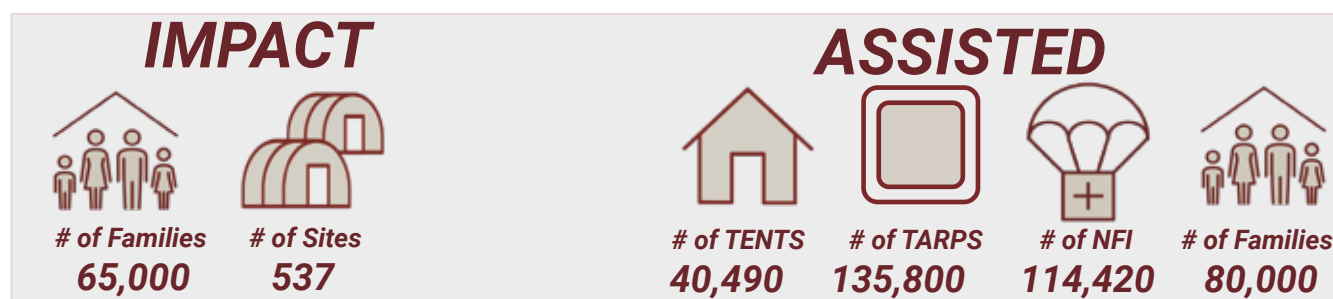
Storm impacts included tents being blown away, tearing of fabric and seam failures, and structural collapse under combined wind and water loads. In several areas, entire shelter sites were completely flooded due to inadequate drainage and low-lying terrain, while sub-standard or non-weatherproof tents became saturated, rendering them uninhabitable. As a result of shelter damage, essential non-food items (NFIs) stored inside were also exposed to water and wind, leading to partial or total loss.

In response, the Shelter/NFI actors activated emergency measures to prioritize:

- * Tent replacement for flood-affected households
- * Relocation support from high-risk sites and flooded areas
- * NFI distribution, including blankets, winter clothing, and mattresses.



OCHA mapping of incident report .



Key Messages

- * Tents cannot serve as the primary and sole shelter modality in Gaza, as they provide only temporary cover. The latest winter storm showed that impacts were driven not only by tent limitations, but also by compounding factors including sub-standard specifications, prolonged overuse, inadequate anchoring, overcrowding, lack of shelter materials to undertake necessary adjustments, and critically unplanned sites with unstable ground, poor or absent drainage, and a lack of basic site development.
- * There is an urgent need to accelerate the transition toward more durable and context-appropriate shelter solutions, including repairs of partially damaged homes, Emergency Shelter Kits (ESKs), and a range of transitional shelter approaches.
- * Lack of land availability is preventing relocation and delaying the scale-up of viable shelter solutions.
- * This is Gaza's third winter since October 2023, installation of dignified and adequate sheltering, with shifts to transitional and durable solutions is imperative.
- * There is very limited to no access to energy-related items such as fuel, heaters and solar lights, which are critical, especially in winter months for heating, cooking, and lighting.