

## Winterization Strategy (2023-2024)

Shelter Sector Türkiye

04 October 2023

### Situation Overview and Indicative Need Analysis

In Türkiye, 9.1 million people were affected by the February 2023 earthquakes (OCHA) and by the aftershocks that followed. This includes approximately 1.7 million refugees (UNHCR). Affected populations that are awaiting longer-term solutions are living in varying typologies of temporary shelters (outlined below). The winterization support proposed by the Shelter Sector Türkiye aims to improve livability during the winter months and in the process also increase the shelter resilience beyond the winter (where households are expected to remain in the temporary shelters for a longer period). Key elements of this approach are to provide shelter with dignity and meet basic human rights.

EQ-affected households in temporary shelter solutions will require winterization support for shelter and household items. More than 100,000 households are in formal container sites; and rough estimates suggest that more than 50,000 households are in foldable and inadequate containers. Many households continue to remain in tents. Households in higher elevations will require additional support against a harsh winter and access to some of these regions may be lost in peak winter.

### Shelter typologies hosting EQ-affected populations.

#### Formal Container Sites

- Households with severe to moderate damage<sup>1</sup> are being hosted in formal container sites (over 100,000 households, approximately 400,000 people, as of 2<sup>nd</sup> week of September)<sup>2</sup>. In these sites, people are mostly settled in containers of AFAD standard (with cooking and living areas, bathroom, and sleeping areas). These sites are formally managed and serviced by local authorities and tend to have adequate and functioning infrastructure. Formal container sites are currently being expanded as households from formal tents continue to be relocated to containers. It should be noted that the containers are of different structural qualities — a majority will require tarpaulins to protect the roof from leakage, along with silicon sealant and anchoring in sites subject to strong winds.

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<sup>1</sup> Applicable to households of Turkish nationality (mostly urban but could also include rural households)

<sup>2</sup> Source: AFAD

### **Informal sites and tent clusters**

- Indicative findings<sup>3</sup> suggest that over 100,000 households are still self-settled in informal sites in tents and containers, 90% of these temporary shelters are scattered and 10% are in clusters of over ten shelters. As of early August 2023, 66,000 households were in tents; and an additional 9,000 households were in makeshift tents. Considering the evictions that have been taking place June onwards, the number of tents will continue to reduce, but some households are still expected to remain in tents and will require life-supporting winter assistance. Tents should be considered as emergency shelters, usually without partitions and tented sites usually lack infrastructure and services.

### **Foldable and other inadequate containers**

- Households with severe and moderate damage in rural areas<sup>4</sup> have been provided with containers. These are a mix of AFAD standard containers and foldable/inadequate containers. The foldable containers are smaller in size (on average 5.5m X 2.4m) than the AFAD standard containers and sub-standard in quality – consisting of a weak chassis, without an internal partition, and without a defined cooking space and bathing space. Some foldable containers have two windows on opposite short faces of the container, and others have only one window with no cross ventilation. In some cases, these containers are not the primary accommodation of the households, and this needs to be taken into consideration for targeting assistance for container upgradation for winterization.
- EQ-affected refugees are being relocated to temporary accommodation centers (TACs) consisting of tents, AFAD standard containers or foldable containers. The shelter typology is different in the TACs in different hubs
- The TSS and DTM neighborhood-level site mapping findings from the end of July/early August indicate that 25% of households in informal sites are living in containers. These are a mix of foldable and other types of (inadequate) containers with different specifications and thus, differing upgradation needs.

### **Lightly damaged dwellings**

- Affected households with low damage may be living in their damaged dwelling, or other precarious arrangements such as overcrowded dwellings with relatives. These households will require winterization support, mainly for heating. Shelter partners should inquire on other winterization needs at a neighbourhood level and provide winterization assistance accordingly.

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<sup>3</sup> Neighbourhood level site mapping, TSS and DTM (data collected between 29 July and 8 August 2023)

<sup>4</sup> Households with severe or moderate EQ damage in rural areas have either received rental assistance, or moved to formal container sites, or have received a container from the government in their original location

## Winter in Anatolia region of Türkiye

The main EQ affected hubs of Hatay, Karamanmaraş, Adıyaman, Malatya, and Gaziantep face a severe winter, with average minimum temperatures reaching 0°C for Gaziantep ([Meteorological Department of Türkiye](#)). Regions at higher elevations have more intense winters with more days of snowfall, the elevation of the city centers in these hubs (except Hatay) ranges from 670m in Adıyaman to 955m in Malatya, with some rural areas located above 1500m. Snow is expected earlier in the year in rural areas in Adıyaman, Kahramanmaraş, and Malatya which makes these areas a priority for early winterization interventions. Potential road closures in rural areas may hinder delivery assistance during winter, and it is recommended that the partners target these areas earlier. Shelter interventions should take into consideration specific shelter activities for higher elevations based on shelter typology (please refer to Shelter Sector's [Winterization Technical Guidance](#) [ongoing]).

### Programmatic Components for Winterization

As minimum standards, assistance should support households to have a structurally safe shelter with an average temperature of 18c, free from leaks and drafts. Shelter Sector has developed heightened priority profiles and corresponding activities with a winterization focus<sup>5</sup>. Refer to technical guidance for details and specifications (will be linked).

- **Protect the shelter**

Shelters need to provide a dry and safe environment, protecting inhabitants from strong winds, cold temperatures, rain and snow. A significant concern is that tents and foldable and other types of inadequate containers will not be able to remain functioning in the face of snowfall and winter winds.

As far as possible, households should not remain in tents through the winter. Vulnerable households without an alternative accommodation option should be assisted with cash for rent<sup>6</sup> through the period of period (minimum 4 months) in coordination with Protection Sector. Households that remain in tents should be assisted with replacement of makeshift/damaged tents or upgradation of tents (such as insulation) as specified in the winterization technical guidance.

In addition to rain protection, containers will require anchoring, to provide crucial stability against strong winds and winter storms. Effective anchoring also depends on the type of ground cover. Shelter partners will be piloting anchoring solutions.

Using rapid technical assessments<sup>7</sup>, shelter partners need to plan interventions to ensure tents and foldable containers remain structurally sound and meet at least a minimum standard of protection for occupants from winter conditions. Specific BoQ lists for assuring structural

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<sup>5</sup> Please refer to the *Priority profiling and activities for Shelter Sector (focus on winterization)* from the [Shelter Sector coordination meeting presentation](#) on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2023.

<sup>6</sup> There are limitations in implementing restricted cash for dur to limited stock / inflated costs of rent post EQ

<sup>7</sup> Considering shelter typology, elevation, and expected duration in the temporary shelter

integrity of tents and foldable containers should be based on an engineering assessment of winter weather loads on these structures.

- **Prevent heat loss from the shelter**

Temporary shelter solutions which do not provide adequate thermal comfort will require upgradation such as for flooring (raising the ground with pallets and protecting shelter from dampness), insulation, and wind proofing through sealants and tarpaulin as required.

- **Minimum package of essential household items**

The Shelter Sector has defined a minimum package of essential household items for winterization. In-kind items should be prioritized for remote areas with limited access to markets. In areas with access to markets, prioritize conditional and restricted cash assistance for winterization.

Shelter Sector recommends a minimum package of essential household items including thermal blankets, sleeping bags, mattresses, carpet, and solar lamps. Although Shelter Sector recommends assistance for winter clothing through cash, winter clothing may be provided (for partners' with existing stock) in-kind, especially for households at higher elevations. This minimum assistance may include winter clothing, as occupants will not be able to remain inside the shelter 24 hours a day. A need for winter clothing is specific for tented or inadequate container users, who will need to cook, clean and do livelihood activities outside during almost any weather. While providing in-kind assistance the minimum package can be adapted based on a rapid assessment (Example: needs of those in formal containers will be different from those in tents; type of heaters will differ based on access to electricity)

- **Winterization key messages.** Shelter partners to coordinate with Shelter Sector on disseminating key messages for winterization:  
dress right; stay active; fire safety; conserve energy, heat appropriately and protected from floods; maintain your shelter; and considerations for vulnerable individuals

## **Modalities**

- **In-kind** – In-kind items should be prioritized for remote areas with limited access to markets and to vulnerable households. Shelter Sector is working with Protection Sector on finalizing the vulnerability criteria for Shelter Sector. A minimum winterization package for essential household items has been defined. However, partners are encouraged to provide assistance based on needs assessments.
- **Cash for Winterization** – Cash for winterization assistance should be prioritized over in-kind items considering the access to functional markets in earthquake-affected provinces. The cash value is being determined in coordination with CBI TWG, but should be adapted based on rapid

need assessments as far as possible. Cash assistance should be provided through multiple tranches as far as possible. A single tranche provided during the early onset of winter may be considered for remote areas and should be accompanied by guidance on the use of cash for winterization.

The recent Protection Needs Assessment found that only 10% households can cover their monthly expenses and basic needs, indicating that basic needs are very high.

Hence, restricted cash assistance using vouchers may be better targeted and provide flexibility to family needs. Consider cash for heating fuel in areas with no electricity and cash for cooking fuel

### **Mapping priorities for winterization assistance**

Shelter Sector is coordinating with ESMAT, IMWG and the intersectoral Winterization Task Force on mapping the EQ-affected hubs to prioritize the regions with higher elevations against precarious shelter typologies.

Affected populations in temporary shelters residing in higher elevations and remote locations will face a more intense winter and are likely to be inaccessible in the peak winter months.

The mapping will broadly demarcate neighbourhood-level informal sites using the DTM site mapping data and prioritize assistance in these areas based on shelter typology.

It should be noted that the mapping will only serve as a guidance towards prioritization. Shelter partners should assess shelter typology and plan upgrade interventions accordingly. Cases in which the temporary shelter is not the household's primary accommodation may not be prioritized.