



### Status

Strategy Status	Version	Status	Effective date	Next revision
	3	Final	1 June 2021	1 June 2022

### Shelter Cluster Structure

<b>Response Name</b>	X-Border Operation – Turkey Hub – North West Syria		
<b>Cluster Lead Agency</b>	UNHCR		
<b>Co-lead</b>	CARE		
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<b>Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) - Agencies</b>	<p>The SAG provides strategic support to guide the SNFI Cluster. <i>See TOR for SAG</i>  <i>The current SAG members in 2021 are:</i></p> <p>Ataa, CARE, GC, IOM, IYD, MERCY-USA, SARD, Violet, Watan</p> <p><i>'Friends of the SAG' members (an additional advisory body) in 2021 include:</i>            Big Heart, BINAA, Bonyan, GOAL, HIHFAD, IHSAN RD, Maram, Mercy Corps, QC, QRC, SECD, SRD, Takaful Alsham,</p>		
<b>Cluster Membership</b>	Based on the SNFI Cluster information sharing protocol, the list of cluster members is not public. There are 76 cluster members that have reported activities in 2020/2021 working in all districts across NW Syria.		
<b>Relevant Technical Working Groups (TWiGs)</b>	<p>The SNFI Cluster regularly collaborates with various working groups to address cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HLP Working Group (Housing, Land and Property rights)</li> <li>• Cash Working Group</li> <li>• Floods Working Group (SNFI)</li> <li>• Dignified Shelter Working Group (SNFI)</li> </ul> <p>Past Working Groups have developed guidance on critical aspects of NW Syria Shelter response including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shelter Rehabilitation Guidance Working Groups</li> <li>• NFI Working Group</li> <li>• Winterisation Working Group</li> </ul> <p><b>Responsibilities WG</b> (agencies, participants, inter-cluster WG are encouraged) <i>The cluster coordinator, or technical coordinator provides technical advice and convenes technical working group (TWIG) meetings. S/he reports to the SAG and main Shelter Cluster meeting on work in progress and presents outputs. TWIG members can be from the cluster, from other relevant clusters or specialised technical expertise identified to work on a specific issues of concern. A TWIG can be established to clarify or advance work on for e.g. technical specifications and standards, material and labour supply, recovery and reconstruction, safety, DRR in safer building, hazardous or no-build zones or Housing Land and Property (HLP). A TWIG can also be an inter cluster working group, for example on HLP with the Protection cluster or on reconstruction with Early Recovery. A cluster can establish the number of working groups that is practical and relevant. See the TOR for TWIGs</i></p>		



### Technical Working Group (TWIG) on Dignified Shelter

The Dignified Shelter Technical Working Group aims to compile and share best practices, with the aim of producing guidelines in order to improve the quality of shelter available to the vulnerable population. The TWiG ensures that protection, early recovery strategies, and cross-cutting issues, are mainstreamed into the recommendations. Therefore, the TWiG gets strategic and technical support from relevant bodies such as the Protection Cluster, the HLP Working Group, the Early Recovery Cluster, the GBV Sub-Cluster, etc.

TWIG leader and Facilitator: Care International - Joud Keyyali/IOM - Marwan Al Jundi

The TWIG is supported by relevant members of the Shelter Cluster Team in order to provide technical support and to ensure the compilation of meeting minutes, photos, designs, recommendations and specifications into the final guidelines.

The Cluster continues to strongly advocate for better, more dignified, emergency locally built shelters in north-west Syria. The Cluster and its Technical Working Group has developed and shared an advocacy paper on Dignified and Safer Living Conditions for IDPs in Protracted Crises: North West Syria.

Importantly, the Dignified Shelter Conceptual Framework documents and endorses the need for a range of shelter options that are appropriate to a range of shelter needs. These include immediate, life-saving interventions as well as humanitarian shelter solutions that reflect situations of protracted displacement and build on the choices that are already being made by IDPs themselves.

### TWIG on the Flood Response

SNFI is leading the Technical Working Group on the flood response in NWS and is actively coordinating with other relevant clusters (CCCM, ERL and WASH). Ongoing activities include analyzing best practices for the flood response as well as discussions about different drainage systems. The TWiG aims to produce guidelines on flood mitigation measures in the north-west Syrian context based on lesson learnt, experience and cultural background.

## Shelter Cluster Strategy

### Situation

Some 2.7 million IDPs are living in north-west Syria (NWS), bringing the total population to 4.4 million. In April 2021, over 12,000 IDPs were displaced with a significant 92% displaced three or more times<sup>1</sup>. The main push and pull factors for displacements in the beginning of 2021<sup>2</sup> were deterioration of the economic situation in the prior location, access to humanitarian assistance in the place of displacement, access to livelihood opportunities, and lack of access to services in the prior location, and socio-cultural ties.

Given the scale of humanitarian need in NW Syria, adequate funding is critical. The SNFI cluster, in consultation with partners through the Humanitarian Response Plan estimates that **USD 160 million** will be required to address humanitarian shelter needs of the most vulnerable people in NW Syria.

Despite more than 1.3 million people reached with shelter assistance in 2020, shelter remains a priority for both newly displaced and protected IDPs. Many IDPs are living in over-crowded locations with limited access to essential services. As of April 2021, close to 1.7 million IDPs were living in 1,398 camps or informal sites<sup>3</sup>, the majority (90%) of which are self-settled

<sup>1</sup> HNAP Mobility and Needs Monitoring Factsheet, April 2021

<sup>2</sup> HNAP Mobility and Needs Monitoring Factsheets, January-April 2021

<sup>3</sup> CCCM Cluster ISIMM, April 2021



meaning they lack proper site planning and infrastructure. Women and children represent 80 per cent of this caseload in IDP sites while more than 25,000 IDPs are reported to be persons with specific needs.

According to the Shelter Conditions in NWS Report<sup>4</sup>, in January 2021, 45 percent of IDP households (HH) across NWS live in finished houses or apartments, 25 percent in tents, and 12 percent in both concrete block shelters and unfinished houses/apartments. 17 percent of IDP shelters across NWS are currently damaged (not including tents, makeshift shelters or concrete block shelters) and 30 percent have been unable to make repairs on their current shelter because they can't afford it.

Lack of space inside IDP shelters is the most frequently reported problem (36 percent across NWS). Almost half of IDP HHs across NWS rent their current shelter (48 percent) although a significant 36 percent are being hosted for free. Finally, 83 percent of IDP HH own property in their place of origin, but 64 percent of these HH report that property as either damaged or destroyed, while only 6 percent report it intact.

In addition, the limited availability of land, limited supply of shelter in residential urban areas, and lack of space for needed WASH services all pose serious challenges for the shelter response.

Regarding the NFI situation, partners' needs assessments show that most of the IDPs do not manage to move with the necessary items such as mattresses, kitchen equipment and blankets. NFI needs will increase in the coming months as newly displaced people would need additional blankets, winter clothes and stoves.

As part of the 2020-2021 winter response, cluster members reached more than 1.66 million individuals with winterization assistance including fuel, stove and NFI kit distribution. Winterisation is one of the key priorities for the SNFI Cluster for the second half of the year. Lack of infrastructure remains a major issue. Drainage needs to be built before the winter season and fuel continues to be a priority need, especially in the winter season.

In early 2021, heavy rainfall and widespread flooding further increased the needs of communities in NWS. In addition to injury and loss of life, the floods had a massive impact on shelter and non-food items. For example, more than 27,700 tents were damaged or destroyed in floods from 14 January to 3 March 2021<sup>5</sup>. The flooding increased the need for tent replacements, non-food items, plastic sheets, multi-purpose cash assistance, ground levelling, winterization, and infrastructure improvement services.

Lastly, the expanding impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has further complicated the lives of people in humanitarian settings in NWS. Amidst the complex context of both new and protracted displacement, overcrowding in all forms of shelter creates the risk of the spread of the virus. Shelter services will need to continue in order to ensure that the displaced are able to have access to adequate shelter and also to ensure that the risks of the virus are reduced.

### Cluster Objectives

- **Objective 1:** Provide life-saving and life-sustaining shelter and NFI support
- **Objective 2:** Contribute towards the resilience and cohesion of communities and households by improving housing and related community/public infrastructure.

<sup>4</sup> Published by the SNFI Cluster and HNAP, January 2021

<sup>5</sup> CCCM Cluster Incident Reports 2021



<b>Key Issues</b>	<p>The overall shelter absorption capacity is limited, northwest Syria is overcrowded with large numbers of IDPs and few available shelters and spaces. The housing stock is dwindling as the area not affected by the conflict is getting smaller and smaller and the local population remains stable. After the critical threshold of over 700,000 individuals newly displaced was surpassed in February 2020<sup>6</sup>, Shelter Cluster partners require new and innovative shelter solutions to accommodate the newly displaced. New camps or camp extension (including WASH, protection, etc.) should be implemented to accommodate new IDPs or reduce the number of overcrowded camps.</p> <p>Lack of available land to expand existing or establish new IDP sites is highlighted by NGO's and other actors on the ground as one of the main challenges. Housing, Land and Property due diligence is required to achieve as much legal certainty about tenure as possible and get the authorization to establish IDP settlements. HLP due diligence is a complex process requiring technical expertise that is not necessarily available in all NGOs.</p> <p>Furthermore, shelter interventions are more expensive and require additional time for implementation when compared to other activities like NFI distribution.</p> <p>The number of IDPs in need of shelter makes it difficult to cover all the gaps or cover everybody with adequate solutions such as shelter repair, rehabilitation and Dignified Shelter. Significant funding goes on tents to respond to the sudden displacements, but these are not appropriate for situations of protracted displacement. Additionally, continuous loss of access to geographical locations add extra burden on the few remaining communities, meaning that available lands for camp establishment and available shelter buildings to host IDPs is decreasing.</p> <p>Despite an increase of winterisation activities in recent years, gaps in providing seasonal assistance remain an issue, especially after the death cases reported due to the lack of the winterization assistance</p>
<b>Assessments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Situational overview of shelter conditions in northwest Syria, September 2019, SNFI Cluster and Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme (HNAP)</li><li>• <b>Shelter Cluster and HNAP Joint Assessment on Shelter Conditions in Northwest Syria</b>, January 2021</li><li>• <b>HNAP Population Baseline of Shelter types</b>, quarterly reports</li><li>• <b>HNAP Mobility and Needs Monitoring factsheet</b>, monthly reports</li><li>• <b>Shelter Cluster Assessments on Urban Residential Areas Collective Shelters</b>, 1<sup>st</sup> Round April 2020; 2<sup>nd</sup> Round June 2020</li><li>• <b>Shelter Cluster Assessment on Urban Residential Areas: Apartments, Hotels, Houses, and makeshift shelters</b>, May 2020</li><li>• <b>Partners/Members Reports</b></li></ul>
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Activity Monitoring: Shelter Cluster partners to report to the Cluster on the 7<sup>th</sup> of the Month</li><li>• Consolidation of Post Distribution Monitoring Reports and sharing of lessons learned with partners: Winterization, Cash, Transitional Shelter, etc.</li><li>• August 2020: preparation of a Site establishment/extension After Action Review</li><li>• June 2019: Winterisation After Action Review</li><li>• August 2020 : Winterisation PDM analysis</li><li>• March 2021: Flood Response After Action Review</li></ul>

<sup>6</sup> HNAP Mobility and Needs Monitoring Factsheets 2020



### Trainings and Support

- Shelter Rehabilitation training for 160 staff, to increase the number of organisations able to implement such programmes. This activity was implemented by IOM, QRCS and SARD with the support and coordination of the SNFI Cluster.
- Site-planning support to build capacity of Shelter Cluster partners. The Shelter Cluster provides dedicated coaching/training on site-planning to Shelter Cluster partners in order to help with the planning of new sites, installation and graveling of tents, etc. All aspects of site planning are going to be addressed, including all sectors, (WASH, protections, GBV, education, and other), terrain analysis, drainage and flooding analysis.
- HLP support to cluster members in order to address HLP issues that the partners are facing in the field. This activity is ongoing in coordination with the HLP working group.
- Coordination with the Cash/Voucher Working group to strengthen the Multi-Purpose Cash programs and to strengthen the effectiveness of sectoral cash programming involving the Shelter and NFI response
- Dedicated sessions on COVID-19 recommended activities as well as 4Ws reporting.
- Flood Classifications and Effects on IDP Sites in North West Syria guidance.
- Fire Prevention and Response Guidance (CCCM and Shelter/NFI).

### Strategic Response

The Shelter and NFI Cluster strategy envisions a comprehensive **response targeting the most vulnerable families, designed in a synergetic manner with other clusters, with protection mainstreaming at its core.**

The Shelter and NFI Cluster continues both with the emergency response as well as more durable and tailored support depending on the specific needs of the population targeted – considering displacement status, shelter situation (in camps, within the host community, etc.), vulnerabilities, access, seasons, and opportunities to provide the best value for money.

#### **Newly Displaced People in Camps**

The first key objective (and highest priority) for the Shelter and NFI response will be to save and sustain lives through the provision of timely, targeted and appropriate shelter assistance and relief items. This will include the provision, distribution or installation of tents and emergency shelter kits or materials to displaced people in temporary sites such as managed camps, and spontaneous sites. The SNFI cluster members will also coordinate with the CCCM cluster when participating in the establishment of new camps and will comply with sphere standards and CCCM guidelines.

#### **Newly Displaced People and Protracted IDPs within the Host Communities**

As around two thirds of the newly displaced people choose to move to host communities/non-camp settings<sup>7</sup>, the response also includes the rehabilitation, repair or upgrade of existing shelters that are below minimum standards in collective shelters, unfinished buildings, damaged building or any other type of emergency shelter space. This will ensure such shelters meet a minimum standard and provide a higher quality of living conditions and better protection for those who are expected to remain in situ in an emergency shelter for an extended period. Such interventions benefit both the host communities and IDPs as the host communities (owners) benefit from the rehabilitation/repairs and IDPs can be hosted for free for several months until a year in many cases.

#### **Rapid Response Mechanism**

The Rapid Response Mechanism is a critical contribution to the SNFI Cluster's ability to respond quickly to new displacement. Using updated displacement information from the CCCM Cluster, RRM works through pre-approved implementing partners to respond to new situations of displacement.

#### **Protracted IDPs in Camps**

The response also addresses the shelter needs of IDPs living in dilapidated makeshift shelters and tents that would not provide enough protection. Depending on the conditions, the members

<sup>7</sup> HNAP Mobility and Needs Monitoring Factsheet, April 2021



distribute shelter kits to make the shelter weatherproof, replace damaged tents when necessary or upgrade the shelters especially for those staying in tents for extended period.

SNFI Cluster members are also encouraged to upgrade infrastructures in IDP sites to mitigate the risk of floods, fires and GBV.

### **Housing Land and Property Rights**

All shelter activities will incorporate the relevant and appropriate Housing Land and Property (HLP) components, based on the strategy and guidelines formulated by the cluster and in coordination with the CCCM Cluster and the HLP working group. To reach that objective, the SNFI Cluster coordination team will continue building members' capacity through HLP/SNFI cluster meetings/workshop, production of guidelines and training in partnership with the HLP working group and key organisations.

### **NFI Assistance**

Essential Non-Food Items will continue to be distributed where needed to those who have experienced sudden onset displacement, or who need seasonal assistance.

The SNFI cluster increases its focus on more flexible approaches and modalities where this is feasible and cost-effective in order to address specific and contextual needs. When markets are functional and accessible and, to enable families to replenish depleted non-food items, cash is encouraged to provide non-food items to families in need. Winter assistance such as fuel, stoves, and thermal blankets will be provided to vulnerable families. In addition, warm clothing will be distributed to the most vulnerable people such as children and elderly to sustain lives and reduce the impact of exposure to extreme conditions. This will be one of the main focuses of the NFI response. Existing mechanisms for the stockpiling and prepositioning of emergency response stock will continue to be supported, to increase the timeliness and impact of assistance. The contingency stock is being reviewed in order to strengthen its effectiveness.

### **Integrated Site Improvement & Flood DRR**

With a focus on inter-cluster collaboration and inter-sectoral programming, the Floods Working Group has developed guidance on integrated site improvement. There are more than 1400 unplanned camps in NW Syria over 400 of which flooded in 2021. Integrated site improvement that invests in site planning, drainage, tent insulation, road gravelling, WASH facilities, road access, and livelihoods is therefore critical to reducing flood risk and supporting the lives of the most vulnerable people living in camps.

### **Dignified Shelter**

Within the situation of protracted conflict in North West Syria, some NGOs, as well as IDPs with the financial capacity, are already constructing more dignified shelters. While still temporary, these shelters provide an alternative to a prefabricated shelter and RHUs. They should all be considered together in the same overall category as an 'Improved Shelter Unit' although the materials used may differ. They are a temporary shelter option and are possible to implement where there is relative security of tenure. As of September 2020, SNFI Cluster estimates that 10,974 Improved Shelter Units have been built by eight organisations in North West Syria. This is currently being implemented without clear guidance and recommendations are needed to guide such programmes in line with international standards. For example, close to 90% of Atmeh Camp now uses self-built Improved Shelter Units. The Coordination Team is monitoring the ongoing implementation. The findings from Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) reports also indicate that IDPs found the self-built Improved Shelter Unit to be an appropriate solution. The PDM reports suggest that this solution allows for flexibility of use, efficiency of design, and could withstand local hazards. Moreover, having two separate rooms and private toilets/showers help to mitigate the risk of GBV. Further, dedicated cooking spaces will mitigate fire incidents in camps. It is considered as a very cost-effective solution considering the lifespan and the flexibility of the design that could be adapted to meet family needs. Materials were used that could be incorporated into longer term recovery shelter options or easily removed.

### **Response Modalities**

The response modalities used will include in-kind, cash and voucher assistance depending on the market, access and security. The cluster encourages to use the most effective and dignified modality by enabling people to address their own specific needs and priorities. Other factors such as the timeliness of the response, the impact on the market and local economy should be considered when choosing the appropriate modality. Supporting the local economy will indirectly improve the economic conditions of the host community and other IDPs. Through the 4W and



post-distribution monitoring activities, the Shelter Cluster will monitor which modalities are the most effective at meeting shelter outcomes and develop guidance based on these findings. Coordination with the Cash/Voucher Working group to strengthen the Multi-Purpose Cash programs and to strengthen the effectiveness of sectoral cash programming involving the Shelter and NFI response.

Construction work can be implemented through contractors when it is technical and through cash for work or restricted when the population has the technical capacity to do the work.

### Targeting

Vulnerable groups targeted in the response include IDPs, the affected host community and those who have recently returned to their own communities (IDP and refugee). The shelter needs of IDPs are directly related to the circumstances of their displacement and the Cluster will continue to address the distinct needs associated with recent, short-term, protracted and multiple displacements but also with their current shelter situation (in collective centres, in camps, in inadequate apartments or houses). Newly displaced persons are considered particularly vulnerable and should be prioritised, especially when they do not have anyone to host them and when they could not leave with basic NFI such as mattresses, blankets, kitchen items, etc.

Additional vulnerable groups include women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly, especially those who are dependent on others and have no direct access to income. These groups also have specific needs for NFIs which will be addressed in the response. Communities without reliable access to markets, either through physical obstructions on the ground, lack of transportation or other concerns, are also vulnerable, and within communities, further groups such as persons with disabilities, children and the elderly may have particular difficulties to accessing NFIs.

People with disabilities, who can be particularly vulnerable to additional risks should be protected and assisted throughout the programme. Beneficiaries with disabilities may require more assistance and therefore more funding to help overcome physical barriers, such as equipping the shelters with accessible doorways, wide enough for wheelchairs and ramps and handrails to ease access. **The SNFI programmes should be inclusive and should ensure accessibility for all.**

The SNFI Cluster recognizes that shelter and NFIs can be the cornerstone of access to services and improvements in resilience across several dimensions of need.

Adequate shelters must provide more than a roof. Several conditions must be met before particular forms of shelter can be considered “adequate”. These elements are just as fundamental as the basic supply and availability of housing. For housing to be adequate, it must, at a minimum, meet the following criteria<sup>8</sup>:

- Security of tenure: Housing is not adequate if its occupants do not have a degree of tenure security which guarantees legal protection against forced evictions, harassment and other threats.
- Availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure: Housing is not adequate if its occupants do not have safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, energy for cooking, heating, lighting or refuse disposal.
- Affordability: Housing is not adequate if its cost threatens or compromises the occupants’ enjoyment of other human rights.
- Habitability: Housing is not adequate if it does not guarantee physical safety or provide adequate space, as well as protection against the cold, damp, heat, rain, wind, other threats to health and structural hazards.
- Accessibility: Housing is not adequate if the specific needs of disadvantaged and marginalized groups are not considered.
- Location: Housing is not adequate if it is cut off from employment opportunities, health-care services, schools, childcare centres and other social facilities, or if located in polluted or dangerous areas.
- Cultural adequacy: Housing is not adequate if it does not respect and consider the expression of cultural identity.
- Protection: Housing is not adequate if it doesn’t maintain protection or retain dignity. It must provide healthy adequate atmosphere.

### Integrated Approach

<sup>8</sup> The Right to Adequate Housing, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights / UN-Habitat, 2009.



Those conditions are very difficult to be met during emergencies and in camps. However, all shelter solutions must consider all these parameters as much as possible.

Therefore, complementarity and integration with other sectors is crucial. In particular, the sector will continue to work closely with:

- The Protection Cluster with regard to approaches to 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.
- The CCCM Cluster in terms of the location and identification of camps, including prioritising and responding to sites affected by and/or at risk of flood, fire and high-speed wind incidents.
- The Education Cluster with regard to the need for rehabilitation of school buildings used as collective shelters (the SNFI Cluster recommends avoiding the use of school as collective centres not to affect the education of children).
- The WASH Cluster regarding the distribution of consumable hygiene items<sup>9</sup> and with emergency water and sanitation in managed camps and informal sites. Site planning activities will be regularly discussed with WASH actors to ensure that emergency shelters have access to essential water and sanitation services. Furthermore, the sector will closely work with the WASH and ERL sectors to ensure access to water, sanitation, debris removal and basic infrastructure within the communities where repairing/ rehabilitation of partially damaged houses is carried out.

When providing emergency shelter assistance to newly displaced people living in the open, due diligence will continue to be conducted to ensure that HLP rights of both shelter beneficiaries and land/property owners are protected to the greatest extent possible throughout the shelter program cycle. The objective is also to avoid doing harm and to guarantee the security of tenure.

### Protection Risk Analysis and Mitigating Measures

The SNFI Cluster, in coordination with the Protection Cluster, has identified several key protection risks that apply to all assistance, and several that apply to specific groups or specific activities. Cross-cutting risks include the risk of heightened **inter- and intra-community tension** due to discriminatory or non-transparent beneficiary selection. This risk can be mitigated by partners, by ensuring participation of the affected population in programme design where possible, by clear communication of beneficiary selection criteria, and by engagement with community leaders and administrative units. In addition, the SNFI Cluster has worked to harmonize and coordinate assistance packages, including the quality and number of items/materials through the development of technical standards and guidelines<sup>10</sup>. **Aid diversion, cash misuse and corruption** are all also substantial risks which can be mitigated and addressed through well-designed and implemented programming, including through engagement with administrative units, integrated monitoring systems and robust internal financial audit and project management processes. SNFI cluster members should **report aid diversion and access issues to the Access Working Group**.

Distribution sites for NFIs, and the timing, structure and implementation of **distributions must follow international guidance** to ensure the physical safety of participants and to ensure that assistance reaches to the most vulnerable groups – such as conducting distributions at household level, with multiple distribution points, at accessible locations that have had a full safety audit.

With regard to emergency shelter, the SNFI partners should coordinate with the CCCM Cluster and ensure that assistance will not encourage the establishment of spontaneous sites which do not have access to services or are in insecure locations. **New identified spontaneous sites/settlements should be reported to the CCCM Cluster for registration**. Required information should be shared with the CCCM Cluster.

Several protection **risks have also been identified in shelter rehabilitations projects** including child labour, HLP issues, Gender Based Violence, explosive hazard contamination. Protection measures are well explained in the Shelter Repair and Rehabilitation Guidelines. In addition, shelters in areas in conflict areas cannot be rehabilitated for various reasons including safety of partners' staff and construction workers.

<sup>9</sup> Hygiene Kits are distributed along other NFI kits. However, they should be reported to the WASH Cluster

<sup>10</sup> Available on the SNFI Cluster website : <https://www.sheltercluster.org/response/x-border-operation-turkey-hub>





### Priority Response Activities

With regard to the specific protection risks that certain groups face, the sector has identified the clear risks faced by women and girls, both at distribution sites and with regard to shelter assistance including the rehabilitation of collective centres and individual shelters. At the Cluster level, these risks are being addressed by requesting partners to have sufficient number of female staff involved in distributions, and on the provision of gender separated lines at distributions. Shelter rehabilitation guidelines developed by the cluster include extensive coverage of gender and GBV issues. HLP is also a key concern and is addressed through comprehensive guidance issued by the SNFI Cluster and HLP TWG, and supported by trainings.

Overall the capacity and training of both male and female field staff delivering assistance is crucial, as are the monitoring and feedback mechanisms and inter-sector referral mechanisms that support implementation. This includes SOPs and training to **prevent sexual exploitation and abuse**. It is the responsibility of the partner to ensure that all staff comply with the zero-tolerance policy, including volunteers.

#### NFI Response

- Distribution of new arrival NFI kits to the most vulnerable newly arrived IDPs (mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, plastic sheet, carpet, etc.); (Assistance to host communities will be done through regular programs); Kits and items components are done through regular programmes whenever possible.
- Winterisation assistance (fuel, stoves, thermal blankets, clothes, plastic sheets in cash/voucher or in kind); the target will be provided after revising the severity scale when MSNA data will be available. Winterisation should be provided just before the winter whenever possible. Assistance could be provided during the winter in case of new displacements, disasters or when assistance is provided in several rounds (fuel for instance). Infrastructure upgrades in IDP sites and camps could be considered as a winterization preparation activity which is implemented before winter as part of flood prevention measures.
- Cluster members to redirect regular NFI programming to target newly arrived IDPs, whenever possible.
- Consider flexible response options when appropriate, e.g. cash/voucher when markets are functional, and good quality items are available at affordable prices. If not possible, consider in-kind.

#### Emergency Shelter Response

- Minor shelter repair (quick fixing) for newly IDPs that settled in minor damaged buildings (according SNFI Cluster guidelines); (including HLP due diligence).
- Vacant space in Collective Centres deemed habitable for living should be made available to the newly arrived IDPs; Shelter solutions should be provided for IDPs occupying school.
- Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance, when appropriate, should be made available to support IDPs in renting accommodation or purchasing essential NFIs.
- Awareness raising on hosting solutions should be conducted by Cluster members to enhance community engagement and increase the willingness to host newly arrived IDPs; Assistance to extremely vulnerable residents is recommended to improve social cohesion. Improvement of local infrastructures could be implemented by ERL partners.
- Upgrade/replacement of damaged tents including ground gravelling.

Cash-for-rent interventions have also been considered carefully, since 1 in 3 IDPs in Idleb is currently paying rent for their housing. Yet, subventions on housing markets have been shown to often have adverse effects on market prices. Such schemes could only probably be implemented reasonably for a small pool of beneficiaries without having negative impacts on prices. As a result, it is probably not adapted to emergency response, when the needs for shelter solutions are so high yet there is already a lot of pressure on the housing market. However, cash-for-rent could be considered to promote housing for specific cases of most vulnerable households.

#### Mid-term Shelter Response

- Rehabilitation of damaged houses or apartments (including HLP due diligence).



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Upgrade of unfinished buildings</u> (including HLP due diligence).</li><li>• <u>Rehabilitation/upgrade of inadequate collective centres</u> (including HLP due diligence).</li><li>• <u>Camp extension in safe areas</u> (including HLP due diligence and in coordination with CCCM, WASH, etc.).</li><li>• <u>Transitional shelters.</u></li><li>• <u>Infrastructure upgrade and rehabilitation</u> in IDP sites and camps.</li><li>• Advocate for better, more dignified, emergency locally built shelters in north-west Syria.</li></ul>
<b>Readiness and Response Plan</b>	<p>The SNFI Cluster regularly revises its Readiness and Response plan which is included in the multisectoral Northwest Syria Humanitarian Readiness and Response Plan. The plan focuses on critical gaps in people’s humanitarian needs and funding needs related to possible increased hostilities and new displacement in northwest Syria.</p> <p>The SNFI Cluster coordinates with Cluster members that have preparedness stock including IOM with the Rapid Response Mechanism managed and UNHCR.</p>

### Annex Materials:

1. Housing, Land and Property Rights in Shelter Due Diligence Guidelines
2. Shelter Repair and Rehabilitation Guidelines
3. NFI Guidelines
4. Winterisation Guidance Note
5. Winterization After Action Review Report
6. SNFI-HRP Risk Assessment
7. SNFI Cluster Readiness and Response Plan
8. Shelter and NFI Cluster framework and 2020 targets
9. Flood Classifications and Effects on IDP Sites in North West Syria
10. Fire Prevention and Response Guidance (CCCM and Shelter/NFI)
11. Dignified Shelter Conceptual Framework