Palestine

April 2020

5 ways Shelter and Settlements programs help mitigate the spread of COVID-19

- Distributing essential humanitarian assistance in a way that avoids spreading the disease.
- Inadequate shelter can increase respiratory diseases which aggravate the impact of the virus.
- Decanting and reducing human density in settlements to maintain social distancing and reduce transmission.
- Expanding the shelters of vulnerable households to reduce overcrowding and mitigate the spread of the virus.
- Planning and building isolation areas and medical facilities according to health criteria.

For further information related to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak please visit the following page:

Key Figures

20 Cluster partners

Funding

Total funding required: $10.2 M
Funded: 3%
Source: FTS

Key Documents

- Shelter Cluster Dashboard March 2020 Update - Palestine

Highlights

Key Figures

West Bank/East Jerusalem

Demolition response

Demolished structures: 139
(Jan-end of Mar. 2020)

Of which 61 (44%) are residential.

Displaced 201 individuals, including 105 children

Donor-funded structures: 37

Of which 20 are residential

Upgrading and Rehabilitation of substandard shelters (Needs):

- 3,040 shelters in Area C,
- 740 Shelters in H2 area of Hebron
- 310 shelters in East Jerusalem

Require rehabilitation or consolidation to ensure adequate protection and reduce risk of displacement.

21 households have received demolition shelter response in 2020; 17 are ongoing or pending.

Gaza

IDP response

Over 900 families (about 5050 individuals) remain internally displaced (IDP) since the 2014 conflict including recurrent escalations since Nov 2018. An urgent gap in assistance exists for around 850 IDP families requiring shelter support.

Need Analysis

COVID-19

Objectives

1. Improving vulnerable households’ and quarantine facilities capacities and resilience to reduce the spread of the pandemic
2. Reducing overcrowding in shelters to mitigate the spread of COVID-19

3. Support the vulnerable families living in deteriorated socio-economic conditions exacerbated by COVID 19 by provision of Shelter assistance.

Concerns

Shelter Cluster’s main concern is the overcrowded and substandard living conditions that exist in the Gaza Strip, particularly in refugee camps and the marginalized localities, in addition to poor communities in Area C, which suffer greatly from the inability of households to secure the necessary needs, including materials for sterilization and hygiene coupled with substandard shelters conditions. Interventions to reduce overcrowding and improve hygienic conditions are urgently needed to mitigate the exposure and risks among vulnerable populations.

RESPONSE

Response Priorities

- Provide essential hygiene and disinfectant materials or cash for families and people at higher risk of being affected by COVID-19.
- Provide NFIs, such as bedding, cleaning and hygiene materials to quarantine facilities.
- Improve hygiene conditions for families lacking basic facilities, such as latrines or kitchens, by providing appropriate hygiene materials, cleaning supplies, awareness materials, and technical consultancies and guidance.
- Contribute to mitigate the impacts of economic deterioration exacerbated as a result of the loss of income of the most vulnerable families by provision of multipurpose cash or rental assistance.

GAPS / CHALLENGES

A main constraint is the lack of quality, household disaggregated information on needs, to accurately target interventions, compounded by the movement restrictions that impede access to the most vulnerable households and communities. The lack of accurate information about the quarantine facilities needs in WB imped the cluster ability to mobilize the required NFIs materials support.

Some cluster members reported that there is a shortage of Sterilizing materials in the local market in Gaza, and the available quantities are not complying with technical specifications.