

Integrated Initiative

By

Shelter and FSAC Clusters in Yemen



1. Background

Yemen is a multi-faceted humanitarian crisis with multiple interconnected drivers. Despite the end of the formal truce in October 2022, an informal truce continues to hold. Conflict incidents and fatalities remain significantly reduced, with hostilities at their lowest level of intensity since the end of the official truce in October 2022. However, intermittent localized fighting, shelling, and personnel movements in and near frontlines has continued, albeit generally at lower levels compared to the pre-truce period, in the main frontlines of Taizz, Marib, Hajjah, parts of Al Jawf, Lahj, Shabwa, Al Dali and Al Hudaydah governorates. This will likely continue to lead to minimal localized displacements in the affected frontline districts. According to the Yemen Shelter Cluster (SCT) Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), a recent assessment revealed that 85% of those renting reported serious difficulties paying rent and expressed needing assistance to avoid eviction. 69%¹ of IDPs interviewed live in poor shelter conditions that require replacement or major repairs, while 87% require upgrades. Sixty-three percent of IDPs are living in flood-prone locations and require solutions including mitigation measures of relocation. About 88% of houses and most basic infrastructure in return areas are totally or partially destroyedⁱ. As a result, 77% of returnees live in precarious conditions while 94% are unable to meet their food needs coupled with issues related to HLP and UXOsⁱⁱ. 63%² of IDPs interviewed do not have a source of income and require livelihood support. These conditions exposed vulnerable households to further protection risks including domestic violence, child marriage, school dropout, and other harmful coping mechanisms, risk of eviction, HLP issues, unaffordable rent, and climatic health conditions. Similarly, the protracted nature of the food crisis in Yemen is characterized by interlocking vulnerabilities and compounding factors including conflict, displacement of populations, economic instability, currency fluctuations, rising food prices, climate change hazards and sub-optimal access to basic services. An estimated 17.6 million people in Yemen (52% of the total population) are likely to be severely food insecure (IPC phase 3 and above) in 2024, with 6 million expected to experience emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 4)³.

Given the protracted crisis in Yemen over nine years, the increasing demand for people to return to their original locations necessitates the implementation of durable solutions and returnees-related response to effectively address their needs. Addressing the humanitarian needs in Yemen, achieving holistic and collective outcomes as well as solutions from the start, need an integrated multi-sectoral area-based approach. This includes adopting a comprehensive approach that encompasses both shelter and livelihood support. Furthermore, the interrelated challenges between the SC and Yemen Food Security & Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) must be addressed through an integrated approach to enhance the response effectiveness for individuals requiring both shelter and FSAC assistance. This includes flood-affected people, protracted displaced households in precautionary shelter conditions, and displaced households at risk of eviction. To achieve this,

¹ UNHCR INAT/PMT 2023

² UNHCR INAT/PMT 2023

³ <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/ipc-overview-and-classification-system/ipc-acute-food-insecurity-classification/en/>

clear operational guidance is needed to outline the implementation of this integrated approach. This requires strong partnerships with various stakeholders including clusters, communities, authorities, and development partners. Accordingly, the SCT and the FSAC have agreed to collaborate in promoting the settlement approach and building resilience to achieve holistic outcomes including activities that are aligned with the HRP inter-cluster Centrality of Protection Action Plan. Both Clusters will coordinate primarily with the Camp Coordination and Management (CCCM) Cluster to support community engagement in Sites, the Protection Cluster on Housing, Land and Property (HLP) issues, and Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster to improve access to basic services.

2. Coordination and Collaboration

To effectively implement this integrated approach and enhance its impact, both SCT and FSAC will coordinate with various stakeholders, including the CCCM cluster, CCCM partners, Durable Solution working Group, CMWG, and local authorities. Close collaboration with the CCCM cluster will enable the collection of necessary data on IDPs' profiles and eviction threats, ensuring a suitable response for displaced individuals residing in IDP collective sites or camps who require shelter, food, and livelihood support. To foster the Durable Solution Work plan, FSAC and SCT will collaborate with the relevant working group to ensure alignment with other ongoing efforts. SCT and FSAC will leverage the support provided by Cash and Markets Working Group (CMWG) partners through Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) in prioritized areas, enhancing the effectiveness of cash assistance in promoting integration. Both clusters and their partners will maintain strong coordination with local authorities to ensure smooth implementation of the integrated approach. Effective coordination and collaboration will be paramount to the success of the joint integrated initiative. Close coordination will enable both clusters to select underserved areas with the highest needs. By focusing on these specific locations, the initiative aims to address the shelter, food, and livelihood needs of vulnerable households in a well targeted manner. By identifying areas of complementarity and engaging partner organizations from both clusters, the initiative will ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach. Regular coordination meetings, and harmonized reporting, will further strengthen collaboration and accountability.

3. Implementation of the Initiative and Key Considerations:

The implementation of the initiative will involve collaborative efforts between FSAC and SCT through the following key activities:

- SCT and FSAC will conduct partner mapping, revisit existing needs and response gaps and share a list of priority pilot districts (sub-district/villages and locations if possible) to facilitate area-based approach. SCT and FSAC will undertake joint rapid needs assessments where and when possible.
- SCT and FSAC will conduct joint awareness of the joint initiatives to respective partners,

local authorities and affected people.

- STC and FSAC will ensure developing and adopting suitable strategies and actions that will guarantee accountability to affected people remains at the core of the joint initiative.
- SCT and FSAC will jointly mobilize resources to implement pilots that can be scaled up with best practices and lessons learned.
- SCT and FSAC will develop a joint monitoring framework to assess the efficiency and impact of the joint initiative.
- SCT and FSAC will also use protection analysis and risk mapping to guide their interventions.
- In addition to its identification and targeting criterion, SCT and FSAC will consider inter-cluster referrals including to the Protection Cluster to support the most vulnerable households with cash for protection to address other critical services.
- SCT and FSAC will comprehensively address HLP issues in coordination with the Protection Cluster

4. Targeting (Geographical and affected people)

The integrated approach aims to prioritize individuals and communities across Yemen experiencing a lack of essential shelter items and facing food insecurity due to limited access to food and income resources. This encompasses IDPs, returnees, and host communities. The focus will be on specific groups of people in high-priority and under-served areas who share common needs, such as those affected by floods, protracted households living in precarious shelter conditions, households at risk of eviction, and returnees or individuals intending to return. The refined targeting criteria will be further discussed and agreed upon among the two clusters as well as the affected population.

5. List of Integrated Activities/Assistances

| No | Entry Point | Type of Assistance SCT | Type of Assistance FSAC | Remarks |
|----|--|--|---|--|
| 1 | Displaced households at risk of eviction from rental accommodation and do not have access to land for alternative shelter solutions. | Support with an initial six-month cash for rent and extend to 12 months as a form of temporary shelter solution. | Enroll the Households in the Livelihood programme to enable continuity until a solution is found, in addition to 1-3 cycles of Emergency Food Assistance (EFA) if not | The provision of livelihood support will be determined based on various factors, including people's access to assets, prevailing market conditions, partners presence, |

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| | | | targeted in existing programmes. | fund availability and other relevant considerations. |
| 2 | Protracted displaced households in precautionary shelter conditions that require transitional shelter but are at high risk of eviction with no option to access land | Support with an initial six-month cash for rent and extend to 12 months as a form of temporary shelter solution (if this is the solution identified by the HH) | Enroll the Households in the Livelihood programme to enable continuity until a solution is found. | The provision of livelihood support will be determined based on various factors, including people's access to assets, prevailing market conditions, partners presence, fund availability and other relevant considerations |
| 3 | Protracted displaced households with deplorable shelter that with HLP challenges and with no desire for rental option | Support shelter upgrade and maintenance | Enroll the Households in the Livelihood programme to enable continuity for maintenance | The provision of livelihood support will be determined based on various factors, including people's access to assets, prevailing market conditions, partners' presence, fund availability and other relevant considerations. |
| 4 | Returnee households whose houses are totally or partially destroyed. In addition, this includes the households who lost their agriculture assets. | Support with the construction of semi-permanent one-room for destroyed houses and shelter rehabilitation for partially destroyed houses | Enroll the Households in the Livelihood programme to sustain shelter outcomes for example: support in rehabilitation of agricultural assets and providing agricultural inputs for sustainable livelihoods | The provision of livelihood support will be determined based on various factors, including people's access to assets, prevailing market conditions, partners presence, fund availability and other relevant considerations |

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| 5 | Returnee households mobilized for debris removal during construction or rehabilitation works | Support the mobilization and refer to FSAC | Provide Cash-for-Work to support debris removal | Provide 3-4 cycles of Conditional Cash Transfer based on latest guidance. |
| 6 | Vulnerable households living in informal settlements prone to natural disasters such as reoccurred seasonal floods. | Provide emergency shelter kits and NFIs kits. | Provide 1-3 cycles of EFA if not targeted in existing programmes. | The provision of livelihood support will be determined based on various factors, including people's access to assets, prevailing market conditions, partners presence, fund availability and other relevant considerations |
| 7 | Households experiencing food insecurity and having a cooking space but lacking essential energy items. | Provision of household renewable energy items, including a diverse range such as cooking stoves to the most vulnerable people | Providing a minimum number of 3 cycles) of Emergency Food Assistance if not targeted in existing programmes. | |
| 8 | Households residing in areas below 10 degrees in winter months and meeting the FSAC vulnerability criteria. | Provision of winterization support | Providing a minimum number of (3 cycles) of Emergency Food Assistance if not targeted in existing programmes. | |

6. Monitoring:

- **Process and Outputs monitoring:** FSAC and SCT partners will ensure reporting on the assistance provided to individuals in an integrated manner by utilizing a standardized template for monitoring purposes. This monitoring will be discussed and reviewed during cluster meetings held by both FSAC and SCT. Both clusters' implementing partners will conduct post-distribution monitoring (PDM) after every cycle of cash or in-kind input to gauge the satisfaction levels and other areas related to the assistance provided.
- **Outcome monitoring:** Various outcome indicators will be employed to gauge the impact of joint actions and track the progress of interventions. These indicators will necessitate assessing the impact of the joint action. FSAC and SCT partners will actively monitor the outcomes of their sectoral interventions through several tools such as Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDMs), Endline surveys, and other surveys. To ensure effective monitoring, a

range of information resources will be utilized, including IDP profiling assessments, monitoring eviction threats, including utilization of other existing pertinent data sources.

During the monitoring process, special attention will be given to the following areas

- **Joint and on-site Monitoring:** In addition to the joint post-distribution, on-site monitoring will be conducted regularly.
- **Monitoring Shelter Condition:** assess the quality and safety of the shelter regularly.
- **Livelihoods Monitoring:** Monitoring the progress of livelihoods activities and economic well-being for returnees and IDPs.

7. Transparency and Accountability

Transparency and accountability are essential principles in ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of joint projects related to shelter and food security. Through well-planned and coordinated community mobilization sessions by both SCT and FSAC, partners will maintain transparent communication channels. This will be achieved by providing comprehensive and timely information and sharing relevant project details, including objectives, timelines, budgets, and progress reports, in a transparent and easily understandable manner. This is meant to promote trust and will necessitate relevant stakeholders to make informed decisions and provide feedback.

Community response mechanism will be enhanced through developing clear and accessible mechanisms for community members, targeted beneficiaries and other stakeholders to raise concerns, provide feedback, or report any issues related to the project. This will be followed by timely response and resolution in a fair and transparent manner. Partners will be expected to communicate the outcomes and actions taken to the concerned parties. Through this action, SCT and FSAC will build trust among stakeholders, ensure effective utilization of resources, and enhance the long-term impact and sustainability of shelter and food security interventions.

8. Joint Advocacy for Funding the Integrated Initiative

The SCT and FSAC will collaborate on joint advocacy efforts to secure funding for the integrated initiative through available funding opportunities and engaging key stakeholders including donors and government entities and raise awareness within the humanitarian community on the importance of the integrated approach. Through workshops, bilateral meetings and participation in meetings with donors, Shelter cluster and FSAC will showcase the initiative's potential and highlight its alignment with HNO 2024, HRP 2024 and national priorities. Shelter cluster and FSAC will develop comprehensive and consortium funding proposals.

9. Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing:

To strengthen the capacity of the implementing partners and promote learning, capacity-building activities and knowledge sharing will be integral components of the joint integrated initiative. Training sessions and workshops will be organized to enhance the technical skills and knowledge of staff members involved in the initiative. Best practices, lessons learned, human interest stories, and case studies will be documented and shared among the SCT, FSAC, and other relevant clusters and stakeholders. This will foster a culture of continuous improvement for an impactful response and enable the replication of successful approaches in similar contexts.

ⁱ UNHCR 2023 Initial Needs Assessment Tool and Protection Monitoring Tool

ⁱⁱ UNHCR 2023 Initial Needs Assessment Tool and Protection Monitoring Tool, HLP HNO 2024