



Photo Credit: Palestinian Housing Council (PHC)

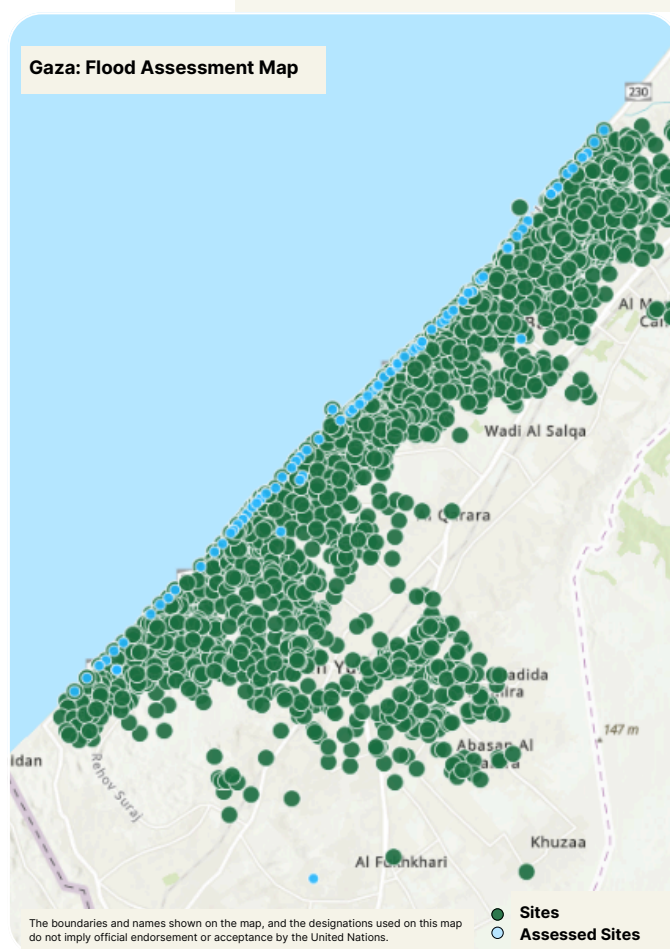
Winterization Response

Needs

SMWG partners assessed **101 flood prone sites** hosting **450,720 people** in Khan Younis, Deir El Balah, and Rafah governorates. The assessment focused on community-led solutions for preparing sites for rain, high tides, and storms.

- In **91/101 sites**, there is **no solution** if the site becomes uninhabitable due to flooding.
- In **42/101 sites** the **community had started preparedness and response work** including: installing sandbags (23), relocations (12), or identifying and planning for a response (3).
- In **97/101 sites** a **committee or group on-site can support with preparedness and response efforts**.

Outside of these sites, over one million people are displaced in sites that do not provide adequate protection from winter weather: **collective centers do not have windows, makeshift shelters are held together by heavy blankets, and without a proper sewage network or basic drainage system, latrines will inevitably overflow and sanitation services will collapse.**



SMWG Winterization Strategy & Actions

- SMWG partners are supporting **75 sites** (hosting about **50,000 people**) with winterization works. Activities include:
- Community-led safety audits and site improvement plans: Through a combination of site walk-throughs, observations, and focus group discussion with diverse groups (women, children, people with disabilities), site populations identify priority safety risks and interventions.
- Site Maintenance and repairs: Based on the safety audits and improvement plans, SMWG partners support communities on addressing mitigation and safety issues through constructing and cleaning drainage systems, creating and improving pathways/accessways, solid waste removal, backfilling holes, leveling land, building retention walls, and creating staircases.
- Incident Reporting & Referrals: Following weather-related incidents and damage, SMWG partners will use an incident reporting tool to guide clusters to sites with high levels of shelter damage, WASH-infrastructure issues, and safety concerns.



Photo Credit: Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Challenges

Coverage:

With limited capacity and funding, SMWG partners can reach just 17% of makeshift sites in Gaza. The SMWG will strive to grow membership and coverage through capacity building, partners, and innovative approaches.

Availability and Cost of Maintenance and Repair Tools: SMWG assessments show that the most reported **materials needed** for preparedness and response include: **sandbags, tents and materials to build tents or improve tents, shovels, and rope.**

Site Management Working Group and Shelter Cluster estimate that makeshift sites require **3,000,000 sandbags** to prepare for rain and floods. This would require **100 trucks** of only sandbags.





Where tools can be found on the local market, **prices** render them inaccessible. The table below reflects price increases since October 2023.



Photo Credit: UNRWA



Photo Credit: Agricultural Development Association (PARC)

	Shovel 300% price increase
	Wheelbarrow 150% price increase
	Single bag of cement 1,900% price increase
	Plastic rope 345% price increase

Disclaimer: The information presented herein is based on submissions from our partners and situation in Gaza may change rapidly. For any questions, please contact the coordinator, Kerry McBroom <k.mcbrum@unrwa.org>, from Site Management Working Group.

<https://www.ccmcluster.org/where-we-work/occupied-palestinian-territory>