

Shelter Needs Assessment

Al-Shehr and Sayon Districts, Hadramawt governorate



June 2024



YFCA
جمعية رعاية الأسرة
RESEARCH
UNIT

**Shelter Needs Assessment in Al-Shehr and
Sayon Districts Hadramawt governorate**

Prepared by:

YFCA Research Unit – June 2024

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ABOUT YFCA

YFCA is a leading, independent, and neutral non-governmental organization that works nationwide at different levels to promote equitable and sustainable development, humanitarian response, and other relevant interventions for the betterment and wellbeing of Yemeni communities and individuals. YFCA works closely with the government, local and international partners, and urban and rural Yemeni communities in an endeavor to complement the efforts of other actors and stakeholders who work towards common purposes.

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Table of Abbreviations

HHs	Households
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
NFIs	Non-Food Items
YFCA	Yemen Family Care Association

Introduction Context and Background

Yemen is facing worsening climate-related threats that are devastating homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods, and further straining the country's ability to respond and recover. Yemen's situation is particularly alarming. Ranked third globally for climate vulnerability, the country is also among the least prepared to handle climate shocks (EC/IASC, 16/05/2022). This vulnerability was evident in 2022 alone, when Yemen experienced over 430 flooding incidents.

Climate change is expected to further exacerbate these problems. Temperatures are rising, rainfall patterns are becoming more unpredictable, and land degradation and desertification are ongoing or worsening issues. These climate-related stresses pose major threats to Yemen's 33 million population.

Yemen's exposure to the impacts of climate change has intensified in recent years. Extreme seasonal flooding and other natural disasters are causing significant damage to housing, household goods, and public infrastructure. This is disrupting livelihoods, basic services, and forcing many families to flee their homes, further exacerbating existing vulnerabilities.

The INFORM Risk Index for 2024 ranks Yemen as the 7th most vulnerable country to the risk of humanitarian crises and disasters. This reflects the country's severe hazards, high exposure, vulnerable population, and limited capacity to cope with these challenges. According to a Shelter Cluster analysis, around 173 districts in Yemen are at high risk of severe flooding (rated 5 on the severity scale). Overall, Yemen is facing worsening climate-related threats that are devastating homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods, and further straining the country's ability to respond and recover.

Hadramawt - YEMEN

Situation Overview

Heavy rains lashing Hadramawt Governorate for a week starting April 16th, 2024, caused devastating floods. The resulting disaster disproportionately impacted IDPs residing in camps across the region.

The Executive Unit for IDPs identified 1,335 vulnerable households in the Maryamah, Madouda, Hosh Al-Adros, and Northern Gharran camps (Sayon, Mukalla, and Al Abr Districts) that suffered severe damage to their shelters, essential household items, and food supplies. Urgent intervention is critical to provide emergency housing, essential supplies (NFIs), and food assistance to these IDPs.

In response to the dire humanitarian situation facing internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the affected sites, this assessment was conducted by Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA) in partnership with Start Fund and Muslim Aids.

The primary objective of this assessment was to gather information that can inform the design and delivery of targeted humanitarian assistance program.

The key objectives of this assessment were:

- Assessing the current living conditions and shelter needs of the IDPs.
- Determining the most urgent priorities for intervention to address the pressing humanitarian needs.

The findings from this assessment will be used to guide the development of tailored response plans, ensuring that the displaced families receive timely and appropriate support to address their immediate needs.

Key Findings

Demographics and Displacement:

- The majority of respondents (73%) were from Sayon, with the remaining 27% from Al-shehr.
- 81% of households were IDPs, while 19% were from the host community.
- The average household size was 6.3 members.
- 12% of households had individuals with special needs or disabilities.
- 90% of household heads were married, with varying education levels.
- The primary reason for displacement was the ongoing conflict/war (85%).

Households Vulnerable

- The assessment found that a substantial 40% of the surveyed households had various forms of vulnerability.

Shelter Characteristics and Conditions:

- 42% of IDP HHs lived in planned camps/settlements.
- Significant shelter deficiencies were reported, including poor protection from the elements, lack of privacy, fire safety concerns, and inadequate ventilation.
- 67% of households had less than the recommended living space per person.
- 55% of households reported their shelters exposed them to life-threatening hazards.
- 74% of households had their shelters damaged by floods, with 19% considered unfit for occupation.
- 24% of households reported their shelters at high risk, while 42% were at moderate risk.

Shelter Maintenance and Assistance:

- 73% of households reported their shelters required repairs or maintenance.
- Common issues included the sleeping/living spaces, kitchen, and latrines.
- 18% of households had no access to any lighting at night.
- 63% of households had not received essential non-food item assistance, and 95% had not received shelter assistance.

Shelter Threats:

- 87% of households identified floods and heavy rains as the primary risk factor.
- 41% were concerned about the threat of eviction or forced removal from their land.
- Other threats included fires (35%), sand/dust storms (31%), and the impact on physical/mental health (7.8%).

Methodology

Methodology Overview

This report presents the findings from a comprehensive assessment conducted from May 19th to May 23rd, 2024. The data collection process involved structured interviews with all affected IDP families residing in the targeted sites.

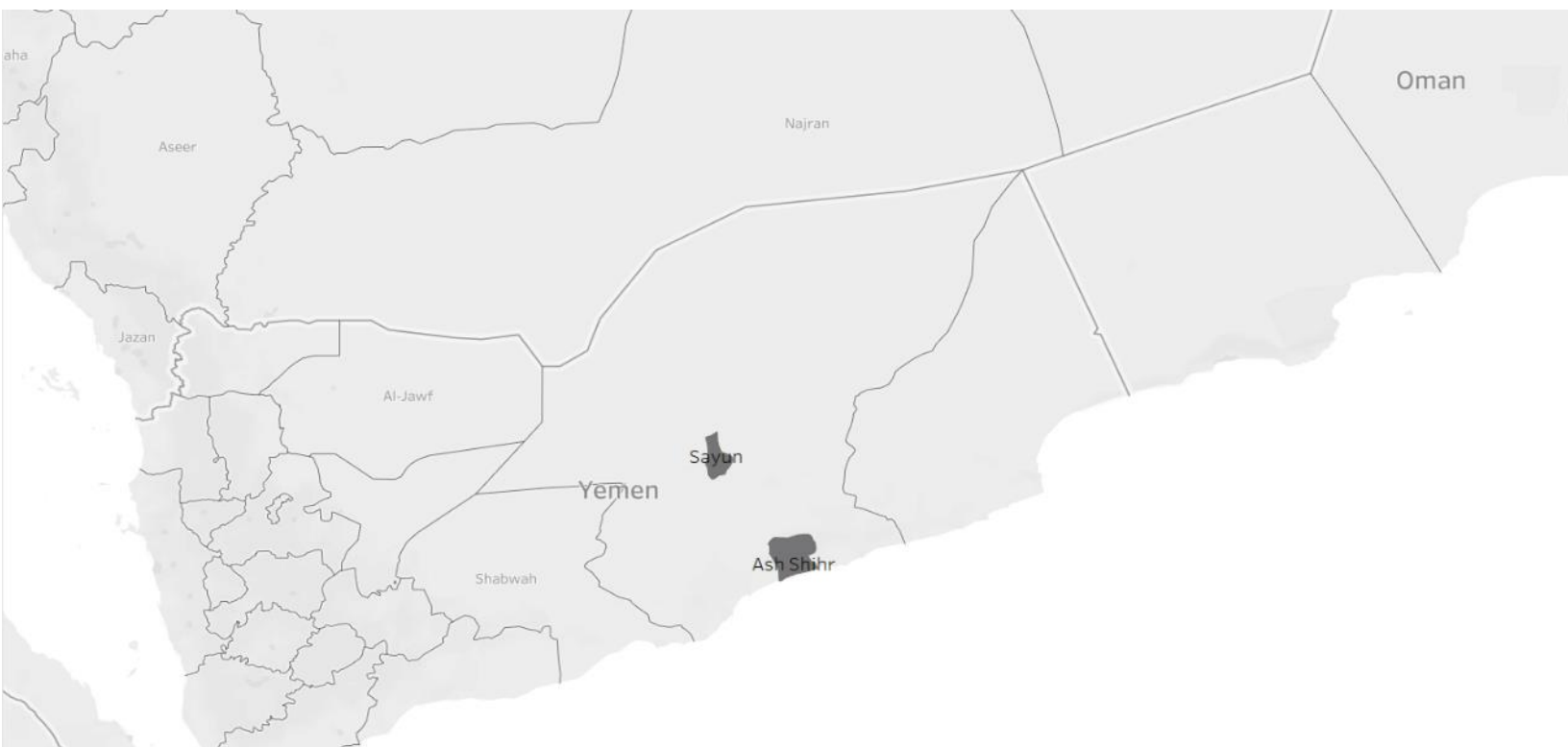
The primary data was gathered through in-person interviews across two districts within Hadramawt governorate: Alshehr and Sayon. This approach ensured that the assessment captured the on-the-ground realities and that the findings accurately reflect the lived experiences and pressing needs of the displaced populations in Hadramawt.

The insights and recommendations derived from this assessment will be crucial for informing the design and implementation of targeted humanitarian interventions. These interventions should aim to effectively address the multifaceted needs of the IDPs and support their path to recovery and resilience.

Coverage and Timing

In collaboration with local authorities, the assessment targeted the most vulnerable internally displaced families with the greatest need for intervention. The assessment was conducted from May 20th to May 26th, 2024, focusing on IDP sites in Madouda, Maryamah, and Hosh Al-Adros (Sayon district), as well as Alkhazan and Semaoune (Alshehr district). In addition, host community households were also targeted in several areas in Sayon and Alshehr districts.

This comprehensive approach ensured that the assessment captured the perspectives and needs of both the displaced populations residing in dedicated IDP sites and the host communities sharing resources and living spaces with the IDPs.



Data Collection & Analysis

Data was collected through face-to-face interviews conducted at the household level. Utilizing a specifically designed KoBoToolbox tool, the data was then exported from Kobo into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, where pivot tables facilitated quantitative analysis.

Figure 1: Number of Targeted HHs

#	District	Targeted HHs	Total
1	Sayon	655	898
2	Alshehr	243	

Assessment Team

The data collection team comprised 10 experienced data collectors (5 male and 5 female) along with field supervisors specializing in shelter field surveys. Prior to commencing data collection, they received comprehensive training on the tools used for both types of assessments

Ethics in Data Collection Activity

Upholding a "Do No Harm" principle, the data collection activity prioritized the well-being of participants. The YFCA team strictly adhered to informed consent, confidentiality, cultural sensitivity, and socio-political context principles throughout the process, ensuring ethical data collection.

Findings



Characteristics Respondents Demographics

This assessment provides important insight into the humanitarian situation in the assessed community, and this section highlights issues related to demographics and displacement, which provide valuable context for understanding the composition of the targeted communities.

The majority of the assessed households, 73% (655 respondents), were in the Sayon, while the remaining 27% (243 respondents) were from the Al-Shehr. The respondents were predominantly male, accounting for 81% (730 respondents) of the total, with female respondents making up the remaining 19% (168 respondents). An overwhelming 91% (820 respondents) were the heads of their respective households, demonstrating that the data collection process was effective showing that the data collection process effectively reached primary decision-makers within the families.

Characteristics of the surveyed households and displacement

The majority of the surveyed households, 87%, were headed by males, while 13% were headed by females. Most of the households, 81%, were IDPs, while the remaining 19% were members of the host community. The average household size was 6.3 members.

Out of the 894 households surveyed, the vast majority, 88% (788 households), reported that they did not have any members with disabilities. However, 12% (106 households), indicated that they do have individuals with special needs living in their homes. This includes people experiencing difficulties in various areas, such as seeing, moving, hearing, remembering, concentrating, or dealing with mental disabilities.

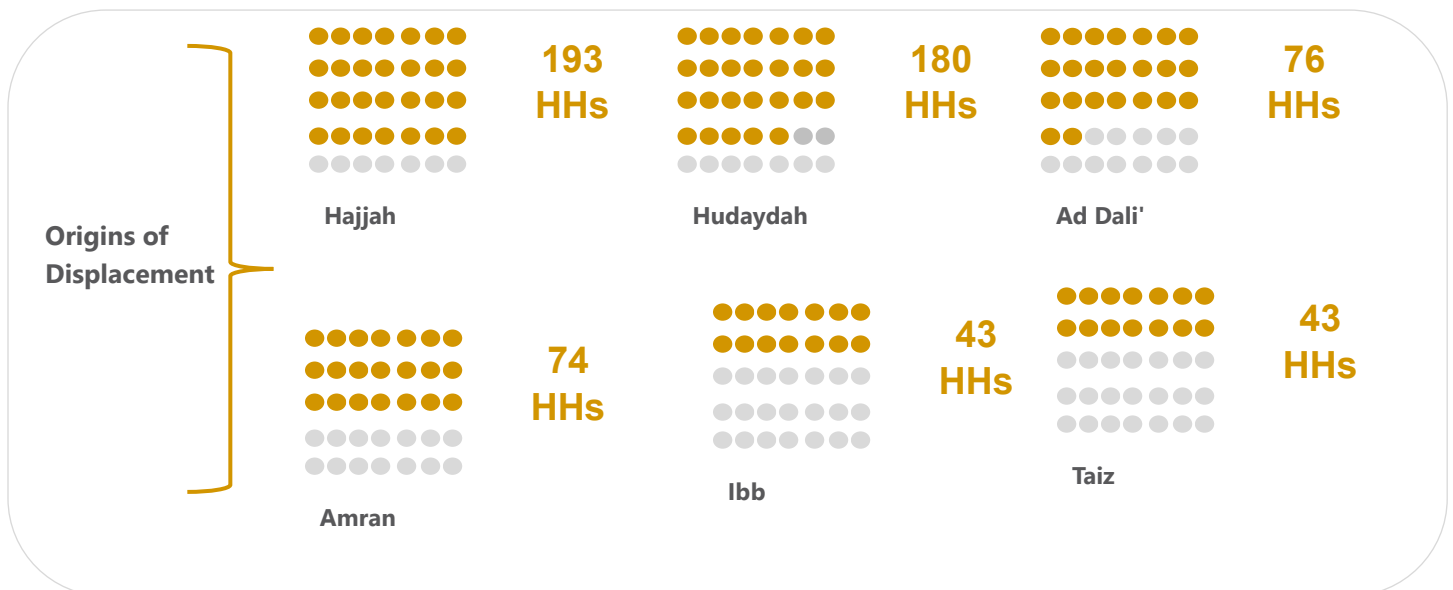
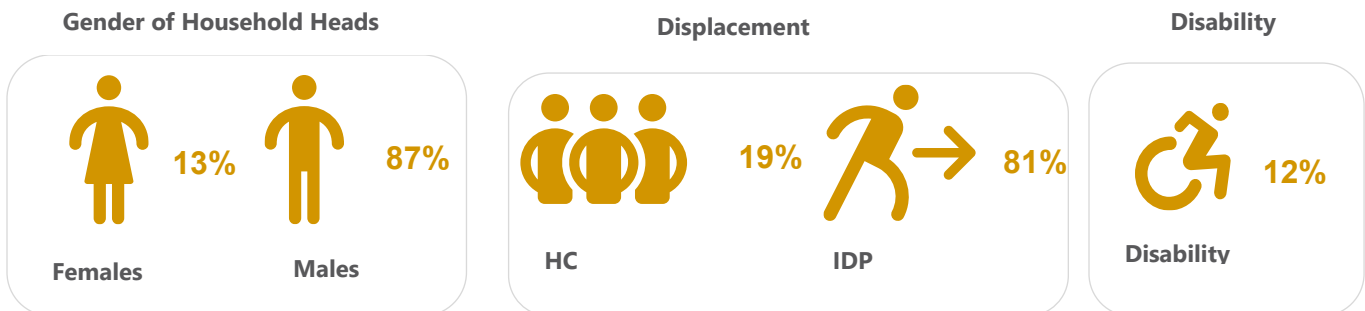
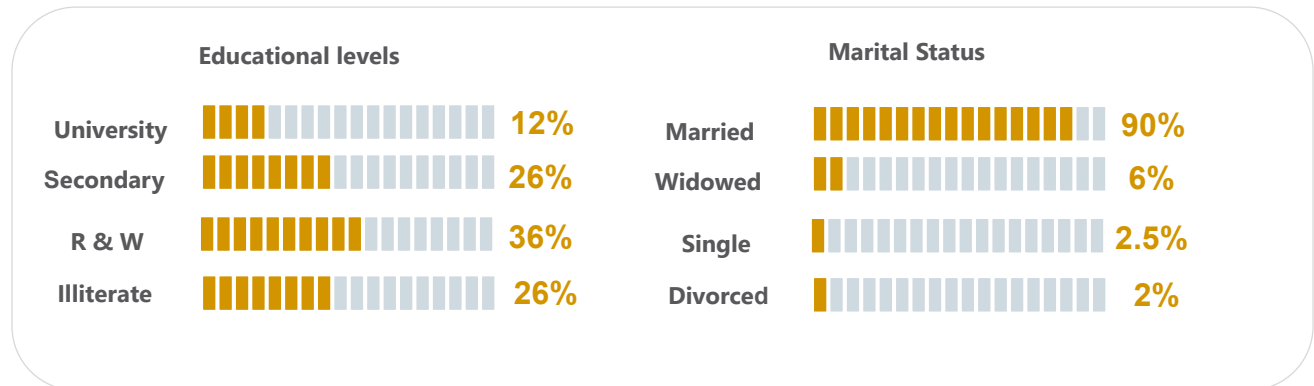
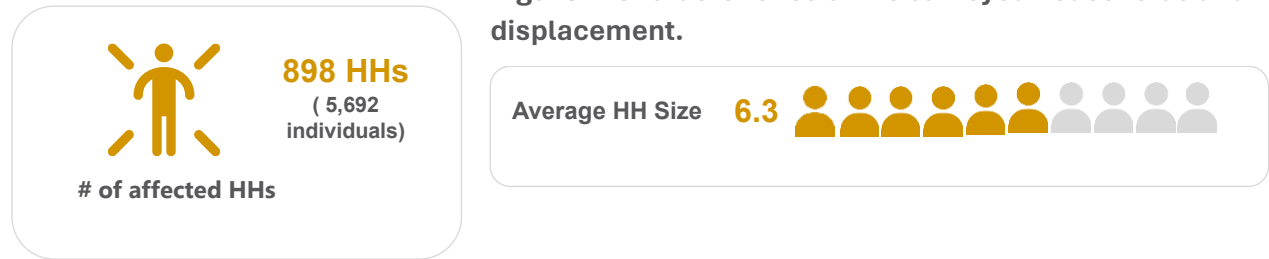
The vast majority of the household heads, 90%, were married, with the remaining being widowed, single (2%), divorced (2%), or having other marital statuses (3 households).

The educational levels of the household heads varied, with 36% being able to read and write, 26% having no formal education, 26% having a secondary education, and 12% having a university-level education.

Among the IDP households, the most common places of origin were Hajjah (193 households), Al Hudaydah (180 households), Ad Dali' (76 households), Amran (74 households), Ibb (43 households) and Taiz (43 households). Smaller numbers of IDPs also arrived from other governorates, including Abyan, Sana'a, Al Mahwit, Dhamar, Raymah, Aden, and Al Jawf.

The primary reason cited for displacement was the ongoing conflict and war, with 85% reporting this as the cause. The remaining 15% simply stated "war", "conflict", or "livelihood" as the reason for their displacement.

Figure 2: Characteristics of the surveyed households and displacement.

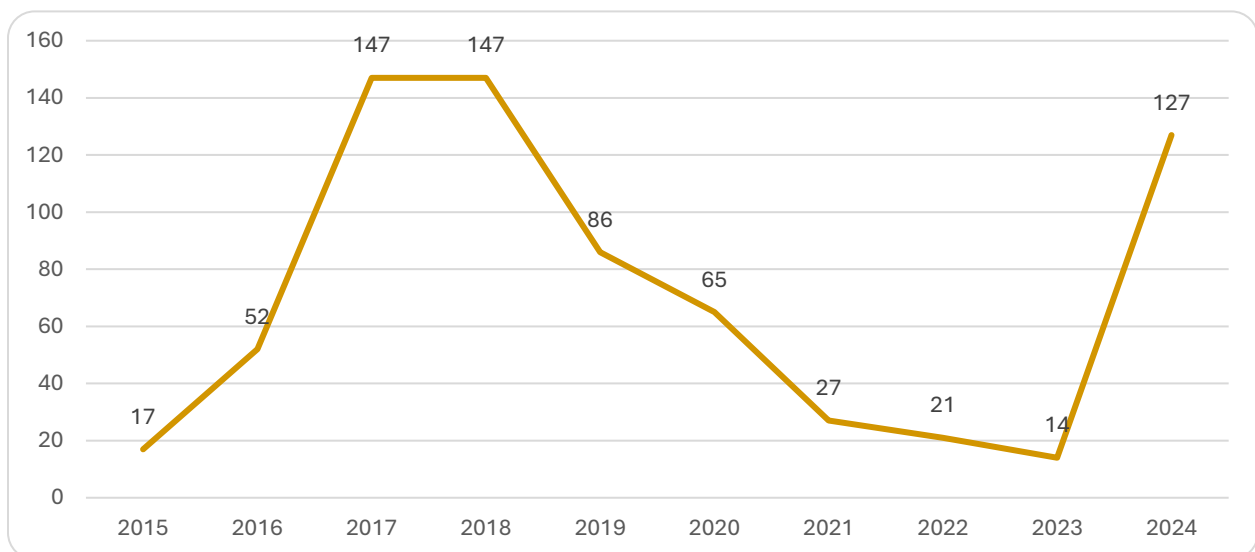


Timeline of Displacement

This detailed timeline of displacement provides valuable insights into the protracted nature of the crisis in the region. The results show that while a significant proportion of the IDP population has been displaced for several years, there are also new waves of displacement occurring, highlighting the ongoing volatility and the continued need for comprehensive shelter support and durable solutions.

- The largest group of IDPs, 41% (294 households), were displaced in 2017 and 2018.
- A significant number of households, 18% (127 households), were displaced in 2024, indicating recent and ongoing displacement.
- Displacement also occurred in earlier years, with 12% (86 households) displaced in 2019, 9% (65 households) in 2020, and 7% (52 households) in 2016.
- Smaller numbers of households were displaced in 2021, 2022, 2015, 2023, 2014, 2011, 2009, and 2012.

Figure 3: Timeline of Displacement



Demographic breakdowns and composition

This section focus on the demographic composition of 898 households (5,692 individuals) surveyed across the assessed sites. The assessment results reveal a diverse population with a significant proportion of children and working-age adults, as well as a smaller percentage of elderly individuals.

Children under the age of 8 make up a substantial portion of the population, accounting for 14% of male and 15% of female individuals. Another 15% of males and 13% of females are children between the ages of 8 and 17.

The working-age adult population, those between 18 and 59 years old, constitute the largest demographic groups, with 20% of males and 19% of females falling into this category.

In contrast, the elderly population, defined as individuals aged 60 and above, make up a smaller percentage of the surveyed individuals, with 2% of males and 3% of females being in this age group.

Figure 4: Demographic breakdowns and composition.

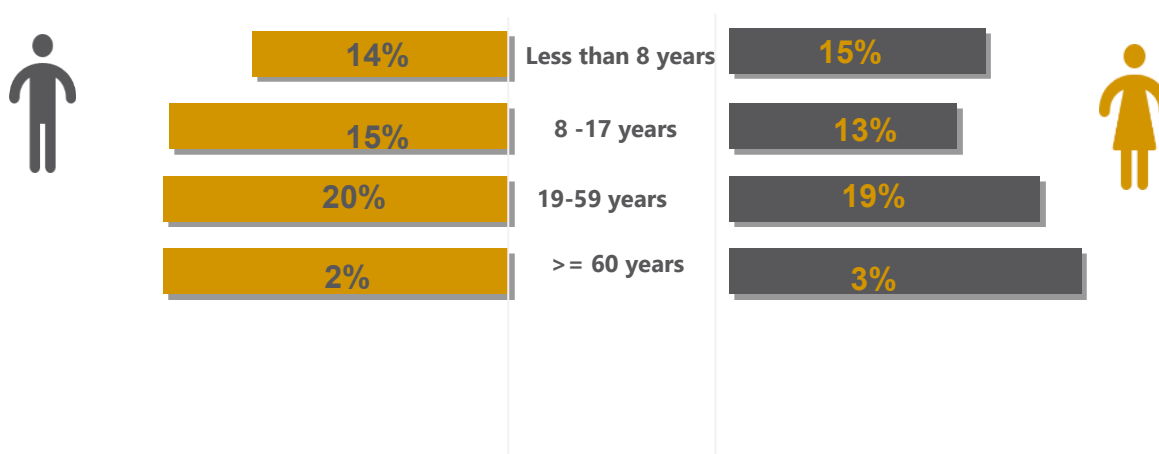


Table 1: Estimated District Population HNO 2021

District	Boys (0-17)	Men (18+)	Girls (0-17)	Women (18+)	Total Men/Boys	Total Women/Girls
Sayon	42,978	42,883	38,644	37,033	85,861	75,677
Al-Shehr	28,448	33,723	25,082	28,835	62,171	53,917
Sub-total	71,426	76,607	63,726	65,868	148,032	129,594
Estimated Population:277,626 HNO 2021						

Insights into vulnerable households

The results revealed important insights into the vulnerable households within the surveyed population. The assessment, which covered 898 households, found that a significant proportion, 40% (340 households), were facing various forms of vulnerability.

The assessment explored the types of vulnerabilities present among the 340 households identified as vulnerable. The findings highlight the diverse and complex challenges faced by these families.

The largest group, 34% of the vulnerable households, were internally displaced families suffering from severe food insecurity and lacking any source of income. Another significant group, 20% of the vulnerable households, were headed by individuals with chronic illnesses, while an additional 20% included people with serious health problems, rendering them unable to support themselves or their families.

The assessment also identified 12% of vulnerable households with pregnant or lactating women suffering from malnutrition. Persons with physical or mental disabilities, unable to support themselves, comprised 9% of the vulnerable households.

Table 2: Types of vulnerabilities in the assessed HHs

	%
The vulnerable households were internally displaced families suffering from severe food insecurity and without any source of income.	34%
The vulnerable households were headed by individuals with chronic illnesses.	20%
The vulnerable households included persons with serious health problems, making them unable to support themselves or their families.	20%
The vulnerable households had pregnant or lactating women suffering from malnutrition.	12%
The vulnerable households included persons with physical or mental disabilities, unable to support themselves.	9%
The vulnerable households had members with mental or psychological issues.	6%
The vulnerable households were headed by elderly individuals over 60 years of age, without community support.	5%
The vulnerable households were female-headed or widowed, living independently with their children.	4%
The vulnerable households had children under 5 years old suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) or moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).	4%
A household member suffering from acute diarrhea.	4%
A pregnant woman living alone who can be assisted when she is in her seventh month.	4%
Women with special needs who are unable to support themselves or their families.	4%
A lone woman accompanying another vulnerable individual, for example due to their health condition.	3%
The sole caregiver of a child with a disability.	3%
A couple where one is bedridden or has a health problem that may prevent the other from working.	3%
Vulnerable displaced households headed by the elderly.	2%
Vulnerable displaced households headed by children.	1%
Unaccompanied and separated children.	1%
Survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.	1%
Vulnerable displaced households headed by individuals with physical disabilities.	1%

This section focuses on the shelter types and diverse shelter quality of the affected population.

In terms of current living arrangements, the data reveals a complex picture. The largest group, 42% of the surveyed households, reside in planned camps or settlements. Another 37% live in rented houses, while 14% occupy their own (non-host) homes. Smaller proportions of households live in more precarious conditions, such as under tarpaulins or other materials (2%), in tents (2%), or hosted by other families (1%).

The assessment also assessed the quality of the shelters across several key indicators, revealing the significant challenges faced by many of the affected households. Regarding protection from the elements (cold, heat, wind, rain, etc.), only 18% reported "good" protection, while 52% described it as "very poor/poor." Similarly, 55% of the households cited "very poor/poor" levels of privacy in their shelters.

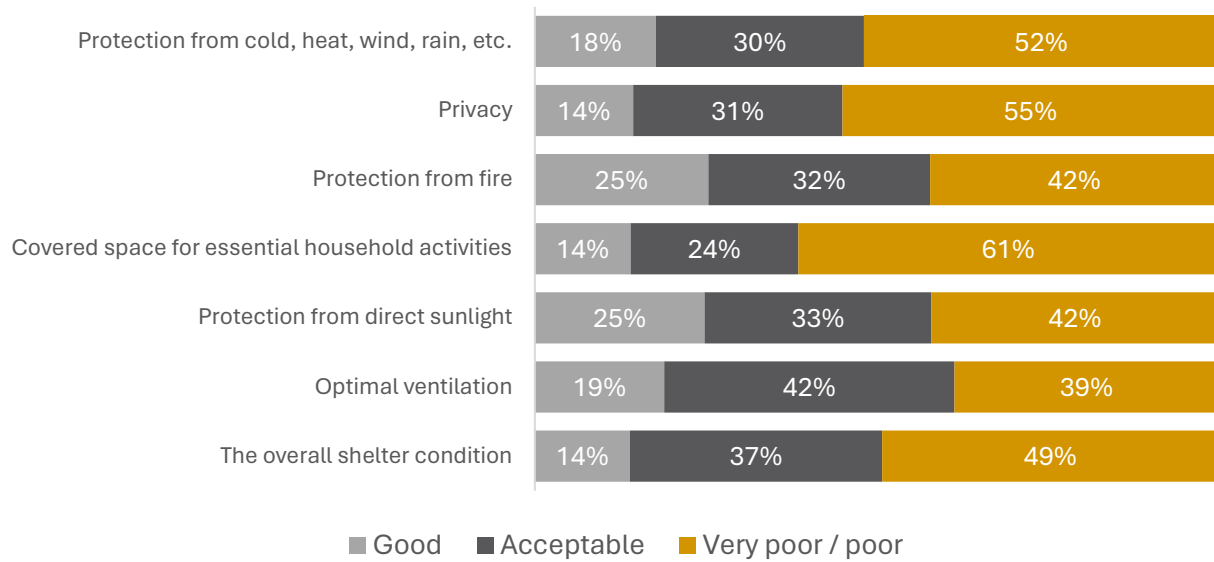
Fire safety also emerged as a concern, with 42% of the shelters rated as providing "very poor/poor" protection. Covered space for essential household activities was another area of significant need, with 61% of the shelters deemed "very poor/poor" in this regard.

Other aspects of shelter quality, such as protection from direct sunlight (42% "very poor/poor") and optimal ventilation (39% "very poor/poor"), also revealed significant deficiencies. **Overall, 49% of the households reported that the general condition of their shelter was "very poor/poor."**

Table 3: Shelter Types

Shelter Types	%	# Of Households
Reside in a planned camp or settlement	42%	374 households
live in rented houses	37%	330 households
live in their own (non-host) homes	14%	126 households
Under tarpaulins or other materials	2%	22 households
live in tents	2%	16 households
Hosted by other families	1%	12 households
Self-settled camp or settlement	1%	8 households
lives in a public building (government or school)	Less than 1%	1 household
live in other types of shelters	1%	9 households

Figure 5: Shelter Quality

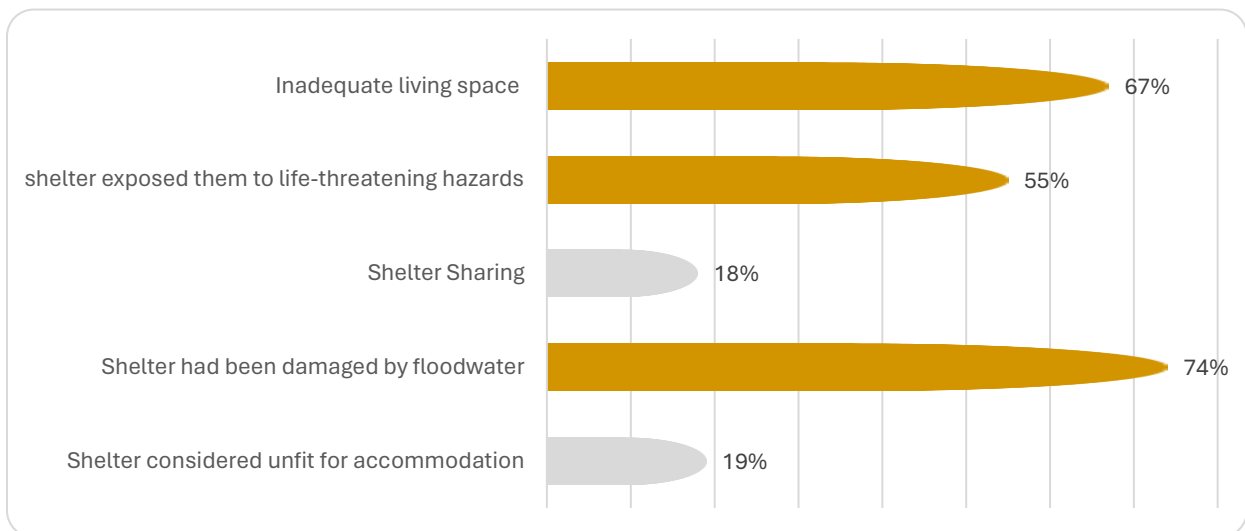


Living conditions

The survey results show that the majority, 67%, reported inadequate living space in their shelters, with less than the recommended 3.5 square meters per person. This overcrowding not only compromises privacy and comfort but also poses health and safety risks for the occupants. Adding to the challenges, over half (55%) of the assessed households stated that their current shelter exposed them to life-threatening hazards.

The results also revealed a trend of shared accommodations, with 18% of households forced to split their already limited space with other families. In some cases, up to four or more additional families were crammed into a single shelter, further exacerbating the lack of privacy and personal space.

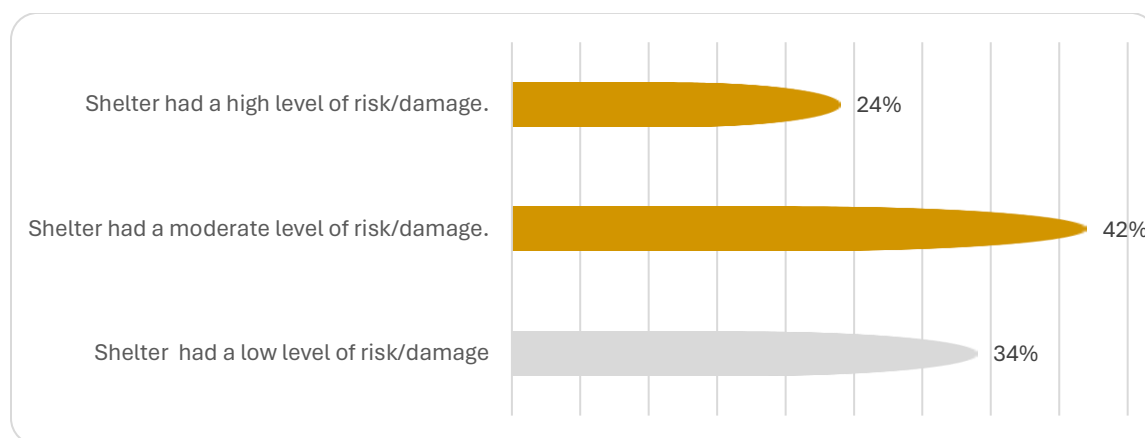
Figure 6: Living Condition



The assessment further uncovered the devastating impact of floods on the local housing stock. A staggering 74% (668) of households reported that their owned or occupied shelter had been damaged by floodwaters. While the majority (74%) of these damaged structures remained habitable, a significant proportion 19% (130 HHs) were considered unfit for accommodation. unfit for occupation, leaving families with no choice but to seek alternative, and likely even more inadequate, living arrangements.

In addition, 24% of the respondents considered their shelter to be in a state of high level of risk or damage, while an additional 42% reported a moderate level of risk or damage.

Figure 7:level of risk or damage.



Shelter Maintenance

Out of the 898 households surveyed, an overwhelming 73% reported that their shelter requires some form of repair or maintenance. This overwhelming majority highlights the widespread deterioration of the region's housing infrastructure, jeopardizing the safety and well-being of the occupants.

Further analysis of the data uncovered the specific components of the shelters that need attention. The most commonly cited areas requiring maintenance were the sleeping and living spaces, cited by 63% of the households. The kitchen and latrine, a crucial component of any household, were also highlighted as a problem area, with 62% and 56% respectively of the households indicating the need for maintenance in this part of their shelter.

Key points

- 73% reported that their shelter requires some form of repair or maintenance.
- 18% of HHs have no access to any form of lighting at night.
- (37.4%) of the HHs had received NFIs.
- 5% only of the HHs had received items such as tents.

"The scale of the maintenance issues facing these households is truly worrying," said the lead researcher. "With three-quarters of the shelters requiring some form of repair, it is clear that the living conditions for many assessed HHs are far from adequate."

The results also revealed that 31% of the households identified "living room" components of their shelters that required attention, highlighting the multifaceted nature of the challenges faced by these communities.

Results also show that while the majority (64%) rely on electrical power as their primary source of lighting, a significant proportion of the population faces severe energy poverty. 18% of the surveyed households reported having no access to any form of lighting at night, leaving them in complete darkness. "Without reliable light, daily activities and essential household tasks become significantly more difficult and potentially hazardous," said the lead researcher. In addition, 13% of the households utilize solar-powered lamps as their primary lighting source.

The survey found that while over a third (37.4%) of the respondents had received non-food items such as bedding and other essential supplies, the majority (62.6%) had not yet benefited from these crucial forms of aid. The situation is even more dire when it comes to shelter assistance. The survey found that a only 5% of households had received items such as tents, while an overwhelming 95% had not.

Shelter Threats

Assessment findings uncovered a multitude of threats and hazards faced by households related to their shelters.

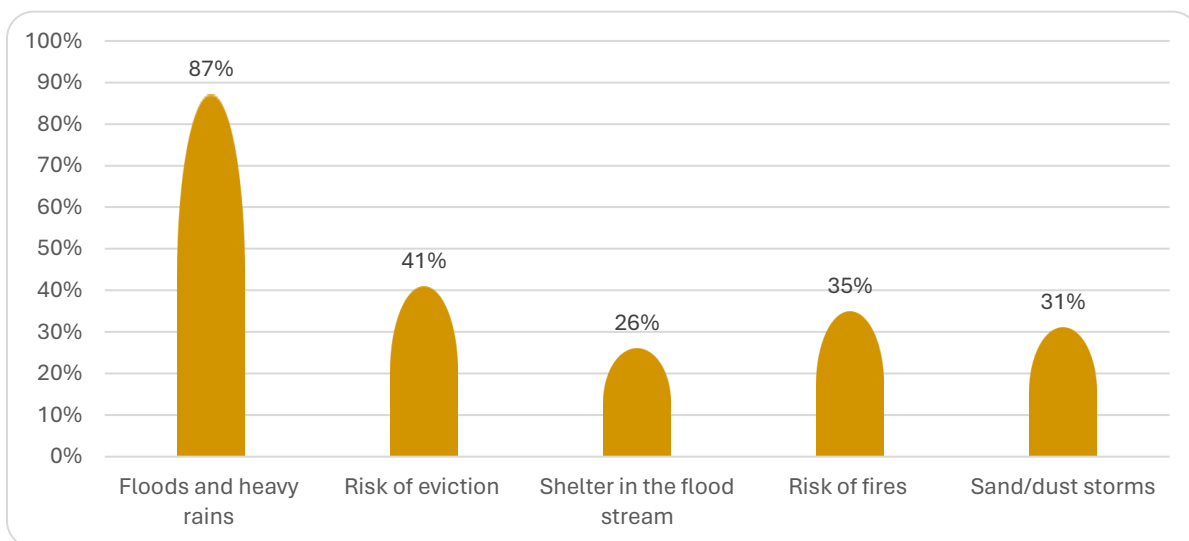
The results revealed that the overwhelming majority (87%) identified floods and heavy rains as primary risk factors. Compounding this threat, 26% of the households reported that their shelters were directly situated in the path of floodwaters, further exacerbating the danger they face.

"The threat of floods and extreme weather events is a constant source of anxiety and fear for these displaced families," said the lead researcher.

In addition, 41% of the respondents expressed concerns about the risk of eviction or being forcibly removed from the land on which their shelters are situated. Other threats, such as the risk of fires (35%) and sand/dust storms (31%), further show the multifaceted challenges these communities face in their temporary living conditions.

It's worth noting that 7.8% of survey participants expressed concern about the potential impact on residents' physical and mental health.

Figure 8: Shelter Threats



Conclusion and initial Recommendations

Conclusion

The assessment revealed the enormous challenges and vulnerabilities that displaced households and host communities face at the assessed sites. The assessment findings painted an unfavorable picture of shelter-related conditions, with the majority of households living in inadequate, unsafe, and hazardous living situations.

The prevalence of shelter damage, increased disaster risks, and a lack of access to basic assistance highlight the critical need for comprehensive and coordinated interventions to meet these communities' shelter-related needs. Without safe, resilient, and dignified living conditions, affected populations will struggle to rebuild their lives and achieve long-term stability.

Recommendations

- Prioritize the rehabilitation and reconstruction of shelters that are deemed high-risk or severely damaged, ensuring they meet minimum standards for safety, privacy, and livability.
- Deliver a comprehensive package of shelter assistance, including the provision of emergency shelter items, non-food items, access to water and sanitation.
- provide sustained WASH and health services to prevent waterborne diseases due to flooding and overcrowding.
- Implement livelihood programs and unconditional cash assistance to improve food security and self-reliance of displaced households.
- Work with local authorities to provide legal security for displaced households and prevent forced evictions.