In 2018, the Shelter Sector partners implemented a total of 189 shelter projects that benefitted over 500,000 individuals. The shelter interventions targeted displaced populations with emergency shelter interventions whereas returnees and stayees were targeted with durable shelter interventions.

Emergency Shelter Support

As populations continue to be uprooted from their homes, the need to provide them with safe and decent accommodation in a dignified manner remains a major undertaking. In 2018, more than 4.3 million people were estimated to be in need of shelter support. Shelter Sector partners have continued to collectively provide need-based shelter assistance ranging from the provision of emergency shelter to durable shelter supports. Emergency shelter supports as part of the sector life-saving shelter assistance, consist of shelter kit distribution, rehabilitation/upgrading of emergency shelter spaces in public collective shelters and unfinished buildings and shelter and infrastructure supports in camps and spontaneous settlements.

Shelter Kits Distribution: The largest number of beneficiaries in 2018 were reached through shelter kits distribution and installation. A total of 91,127 individuals have benefitted from shelter kits distribution and installation that also includes winter shelter support (i.e. provision of expansion foam and extra heavy-duty plastic sheets).

Emergency shelter kits commonly consist of light closure materials that are designed to provide temporary and immediate shelter solutions.

Emergency Settlement Support: 41,592 displaced individuals were provided with shelter and infrastructure supports in camps and spontaneous settlements. Other settlement support includes construction of the communal kitchen, fencing, and installation of camp lighting.

Public Shelter Repair / Rehabilitation: The sector continues to support the rehabilitation of public buildings that are used as short to midterm shelters to ensure a protective environment for the displaced population. In 2018, 40,467 displaced persons benefitted from this shelter solution.

Private Shelter Upgrade: In 2018, 9,216 individuals benefitted from private shelter upgrade.

In 2018, the shelter sector partners responded to several localized emergency situations such as East Ghouta, Afrin, Dara’a and other areas in South-West Syria and North-East Syria.

Sustainable Shelter Support

The sector in close coordination with local authorities and other sectors continues to provide shelter solutions that contribute towards the resilience of communities. Among its resilience-based shelter efforts include sustainable repair/rehabilitation of housing and related community/public infrastructure and facilities, capacity building of local stakeholders and advocacy to address housing, land and property issues.

Rehabilitation of Partially Damaged Houses: Sector partners continue to support to owners and tenants to rehabilitate their partially damaged houses in their places of origin to ensure adequate living conditions. There was an increased focus on this activity in 2018 by the shelter sector partners. A total of 41,998 individuals have benefitted in 2018 compared to 24,000 individuals in 2017. Most of the beneficiaries are located in Hama governorate where return movement has taken place considerably.

Rehabilitation of Community/Public Infrastructures: To complement the durable shelter supports, partners continued to provide assistance to rehabilitate basic community/public infrastructure to ensure access to essential infrastructure services. In close coordination with other sectors, partners were able to reach a total of 293,850 individuals in 2018.

HLP issues are always considered before implementing any shelter activities. Before granting approval for shelter interventions, the local authorities ensure that the security of tenure documents are in place.

Capacity Building Support: To empower local stakeholders and ensure sustainability of shelter interventions, capacity building efforts continued. In 2018, approximately 279 technical/engineering staffs from 11 governorates received training on management of shelter rehabilitation projects and working with humanitarian agencies on the various shelter responses. The training was a joint effort of the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (MoLAE) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Another 56 participants who are mostly reporting or IM focal points were trained on Humanitarian Information Management training in Damascus City.
The crisis in Syrian Arab Republic that started in March 2011 has transformed into a complex emergency that has displaced around 6.2 million people in various parts of the country. As per the 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview, around 13 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance of which around 4.3 million people are in need of shelter support and other multi-sectoral assistance as they continue to struggle in an unsafe and uncertain environment. Due to the protracted nature of the hostilities, many of both displaced and host communities become more vulnerable and their ability to cope and find safe and durable shelter solutions have been greatly affected. The humanitarian community has been challenged to both provide emergency and life-saving shelter solutions while building back community cohesion and resilience through provision of adequate shelter assistance.

**Challenges and Gaps**

While efforts were made to address the pressing shelter needs of the most vulnerable population, there are still challenges and gaps that remain to be addressed. Access and safety are the key challenges in many parts of the country as well as partner capacity and heavy processes along with funding constraints; Increasing needs, diminishing coping capacities of both the IDPs and host communities, and limited financial resources of the government to provide shelter compensation require sector partners to scale up operational presence; Shelter and infrastructure needs are huge and the Shelter Sector partners collectively do not have the capacity to meet all the needs; Issue related to the loss of occupancy documents deprived some population of accessing shelter supports; Opportunities for systematic field-based data collection remain very limited due to access or authorization restrictions, resulting in incomplete needs analysis in some areas.

**Sector Coordination**

The sector continues to serve as a platform for humanitarian actors who are providing shelter assistance to engage and collectively address the pressing shelter needs of the population. Through the existing coordination mechanism, the sector ensures at all times an efficient and effective coordination mechanism at all levels. Within the sector, strategic and action-oriented meetings have continued to be held on regular basis at Damascus but also in some field locations. In 2018, the Technical Working Group (TWG) further worked on the strategy and guidelines revision and the revised documents were shared with MoLAE for final review and comments. The strategy and the guidelines provide a framework for partners to assess, plan, implement, monitor and hand over shelter projects. Inter-sector and inter-agency coordination also continue to play a significant role in advancing the agenda of the sector. In terms of field coordination, the sector continues to benefit from the establishment of the Sub-National Working Groups in six (6) governorates. In 2018, a total of 21 partners contributed to the overall response of the sector.

**Shelter Response Map**

CRISIS BACKGROUND: The crisis in Syrian Arab Republic that started in March 2011 has transformed into a complex emergency that has displaced around 6.2 million people in various parts of the country. As per the 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview, around 13 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance of which around 4.3 million people are in need of shelter support and other multi-sectoral assistance as they continue to struggle in an unsafe and uncertain environment. Due to the protracted nature of the hostilities, many of both displaced and host communities become more vulnerable and their ability to cope and find safe and durable shelter solutions have been greatly affected. The humanitarian community has been challenged to both provide emergency and life-saving shelter solutions while building back community cohesion and resilience through provision of adequate shelter assistance.