

30th January 2009

On Monday 26th January ShelterBox sent a representative to establish the need in Gaza for emergency shelter for the estimated 50,000 Gazans made homeless by the current conflict.

It is believed that at least 4,000 buildings have been destroyed and over 20,000 are severely damaged. At the start of the week the UN upgraded the need for shelter, tools, blankets and sleeping bags from priority 4 to priority 1.

ShelterBox volunteers mobilized and have packed 200 boxes for immediate deployment to Gaza. In Beit Lahia, one of the worst hit areas north of Gaza City, there are only believed to be 100 tents available yet the need there alone is for 1,000. Information about the requirements for shelter on the ground is yet to come through for many other areas including more than half of Gaza City.

Early indications are that aid is being allowed into the area to meet the need of the displaced despite resumed hostilities on Tuesday following last week's ceasefires.

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