



The Sphere Project – Minimum Standards in

Shelter, settlement & non-food items

Shelter is critical for survival, but also provides security, protection, dignity and sustains family and community life.

Any support should incorporate:

- self-sufficiency and self-management
- minimise impact on the environment
- maximise opportunities for maintaining livelihoods.



The local context is key – nature and scale of disaster, climate, environment, political situation, local community capacity and local resources.

Shelter and Settlement

1 Strategic planning (page 211)

- existing shelter and settlement solutions are prioritised (return to original site or settle with host community or families) and the security, health, safety and well-being of the affected population are ensured. Collective settlement (large buildings or temporary planned camps) should not become a default response.

2 Physical planning (page 215)

- planning should be guided by existing social networks; ensure safe and secure access to water, sanitation, health, solid waste disposal, graveyards and social facilities; appropriate privacy and separation between individual shelters, and safe areas for vulnerable groups

3 Covered living space (page 219)

- provides sufficient covered space for dignified accommodation, appropriate privacy, and allows essential household activities and livelihood support activities

4 Design (page 221)

- design is acceptable to the affected population and provides sufficient thermal comfort, fresh air and protection from the climate to ensure dignity, health, safety and well-being.

5 Construction (page 224)

- construction is in accordance with safe local building practices and maximises local livelihood opportunities

6 Environmental impact (page 227)

- adverse impact on the environment is minimized by the choice of location, the material sourcing and construction techniques.

Non-Food Items

Each person or household should have the following to ensure dignity, safety, health and well-being.

- **Clothing, blankets and bedding** (page 230)
- **Personal hygiene** - soap and other items (page 232)
- **Cooking and eating utensils** (page 233)
- **Stoves, fuel and lighting** (page 234)
- **Tools and equipment** for construction or maintenance of the shelter (page 236)

Page references refer to the Sphere Handbook – use the standards, key indicators and guidance notes in assessments, problem analysis, programme planning, monitoring and evaluation

All In Diary CD Resources:

The Sphere Pocket Guide ; Camp Management Toolkit (2004); UNOCHA Shelter After Disaster.; OCHA Guide to use and logistics of family tents in humanitarian relief; ODI Housing Reconstruction after conflict and disaster, 2003

Web links for further information

[NRC Fluktninghjelpen - Leirdrift - Camp Management Project and Toolkit](http://www.shelterlibrary.org)
<http://www.shelterlibrary.org>
<http://www.aidworkers.net/?q=advice/shelter>

Sample Key indicators

Planning

- social structure, gender roles & vulnerable groups need to be considered

Physical planning

- consider community needs
- 2-4% gradient ideal
- min 45m² per person
- cluster shelters together
- 2m between shelters, 6m between clusters of shelters, 15m between blocks of clusters

Covered living space

- 3.5m² floor area per person

Design

- use local, familiar or culturally acceptable materials

Construction

- mitigate against future natural disasters
- enable local maintenance

Environmental impact

- retain trees where possible

Non-food items

- 200g laundry soap per month
- appropriate sanitary materials for menstruation
- 12 washable nappies/diapers
- 1 cooking pot with lid, basin, kitchen knife, 2 wooden spoons, 1 plate, spoon, mug per person
- consider replacement needs

UNHCR are the lead UN agency for Camp Management and Emergency Shelter (for conflict-generated displaced people) IFRC chairs Emergency Shelter, and IOM lead Camp Management, for people displaced by natural disaster.