



# ETHIOPIA

## AGE AND DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE SHELTER AND NFI RESPONSE OPTIONS GUIDELINES

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Older People and Persons with Disability are among the most vulnerable groups in humanitarian crises, as they face multiple barriers to accessing humanitarian services, including protection. According to the World Health Organization, [WHO statistics on Persons with Disability](#), about 16% of the world’s population live with some form of disability, with 17.6% in Ethiopia, which is likely to increase in conflict and disaster settings. Additionally, as the [WHO data on Older People](#) indicates, the estimated number of Older Persons (the age of 60 and above) globally is 12% of the total population, and in Ethiopia, approximately 5.3% or around 6.1 million people are over the age of 60<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that humanitarian responses are inclusive and accessible for Older Persons and Persons with Disability.

One of the key aspects of humanitarian assistance is providing adequate and dignified Shelter for Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and Returnees. Shelter is a fundamental human right for people of all ages, but the sense of security and comfort that a home provides is particularly important for Older People and Persons with Disability. Losing their home in a disaster or conflict has a profound psychological impact, particularly on the “oldest old” (people above 80 years old). Shelter is not only a physical structure but also a means of ensuring safety, privacy, health, and well-being<sup>2</sup>. However, many Shelters are not designed or adapted to meet the specific requirements of Older People and Persons with Disability, such as mobility, accessibility, and communication. This can result in increased risks of isolation, discrimination, ageism, violence, and neglect for Older People and Persons with Disability, as well as reduced opportunities for participation and empowerment.

To address this gap, the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ES/NFI) Cluster has developed this document to guide humanitarian organizations in Ethiopia involved in the Shelter and NFI response to improve their interventions by incorporating elements in terms of the accessibility of Shelters and usage of Non-Food Items. The guideline will also promote a right-based and participatory approach to age and disability inclusion in line with humanitarian principles and standards.

## 2. KEY CONSIDERATIONS IN ES/NFI CLUSTER RESPONSE

**Appropriate Data:** To plan and implement Shelter and NFI responses effectively, organizations should conduct assessments that collect appropriate data on the number, type, and situation of Older People and Persons with Disability in the targeted community. The assessments should also identify the challenges they face in accessing shelters (including aspects such as Shelter designs, public spaces and areas in settlements, etc) and NFI support. Before conducting assessments, organizations should verify if the required data is already available internally or from other sectors. ES/NFI assessments should include questions that address the needs, barriers, and risks of Older People and Persons with Disability and disaggregate data by age, gender, and disability.



**Appropriate Data**  
**Participation**  
**Targeting**  
**Access**  
**Inclusion**

**Participation:** To ensure the inclusion and meaningful participation of Older People and Persons with Disability in Shelter and NFI responses, they should be involved in all stages of the process with fair representation that accommodates different types of disabilities, ages, genders, and backgrounds. They should have a say in identifying barriers, planning, designing, and monitoring the process that affects their access to Shelter and NFI support.

**Targeting:** Apply the [ES/NFI Cluster targeting criteria](#) to ensure that Older People and Persons with Disability are identified and prioritized for the Shelter and NFI responses.

**Inclusion:** To promote the inclusion and participation of Older People and Persons with Disability in Shelter and NFI responses, organizations should assess and address the different types of barriers that they face, such as physical, institutional, attitudinal, and communication barriers. These barriers may prevent them from accessing and benefiting from the responses and influencing and shaping them according to their needs and preferences. Therefore, responses should provide clear, diverse information and tailored assistance, ensure accessible and appropriate distribution conditions and Shelter designs, and facilitate referrals and linkages to other relevant services.

<sup>1</sup> [WHO statistics on persons with disability](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Data on older persons](#)

### 3. DATA COLLECTION AND MINIMIZING BARRIERS

Shelter and NFI interventions need to be informed by data that reflects the diversity of the affected population in terms of gender, age, disability, and other factors that may influence their vulnerability. When such data is unavailable, partners should rely on the global average as a reference point for programming. This data can help identify and address various groups’ capacities, risks, needs, and priorities. Old age and disability are not the sole determinants of vulnerability in disaster or conflict situations, but they can exacerbate the challenges faced by individuals in combination with other factors. Hence, an intersectional approach is necessary to ensure all groups receive adequate support and resources<sup>3</sup>. As in all instances of humanitarian action, it is critical to ensure ethical data collection, storage, and management. More information will be found in Annex 1.

### 4. DISTRIBUTION

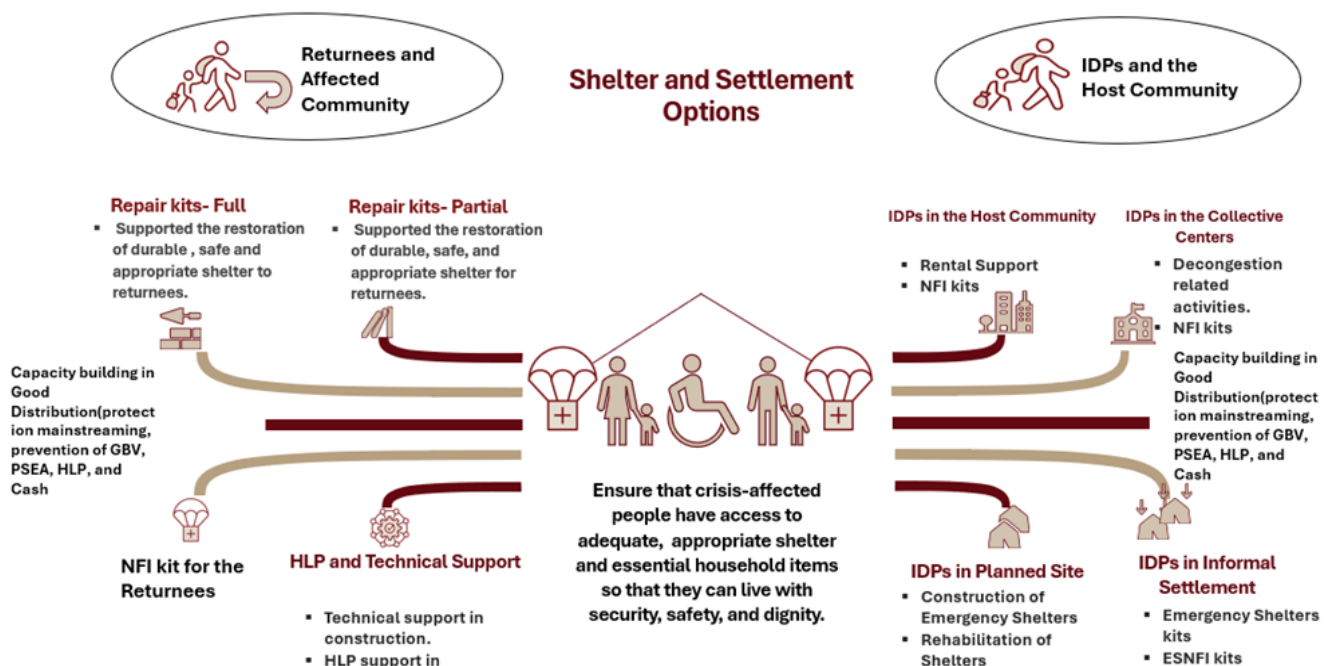
A delivery-based approach is preferable when feasible for the distribution of Emergency Shelter and Non-food items (ESNFI) and Non-food Items (NFI kits). These heavy and bulky items may pose transportation challenges for the beneficiaries, particularly Older People and Persons with Disability. The optimal solution is to deliver the items directly to their homes or the nearest and most convenient locations. However, this might not be viable in some areas where road conditions, security, or other factors hinder access. In those situations, the alternative solution is to provide transportation allowances for the beneficiaries to collect the items from the distribution points with the support of other family members or community members. It is essential to engage the community, including Older People and Persons with Disability, in the design phase to determine the most appropriate options.



The recommendation is to adopt a delivery-based approach if the situation permits.

### 5. ES/NFI RESPONSE OPTIONS ON AGE AND DISABILITY INCLUSION APPROACH

The ES/NFI Cluster Shelter response option includes a wide range of approaches targeting IDPs and Returnees, with key considerations of conflict sensitivity, inclusion, cross-cutting themes, and host communities. Depending on the context and targeted populations, response options are deployed with prior consultation with local authorities and communities. ES/NFI response options with a focus on age and disability inclusion is a multifaceted strategy that addresses the complex needs of Older People and Persons with Disability in times of crisis.



<sup>3</sup> <https://www.helpage.org/emergency-guidelines/>

## 5.1 Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Item Kits (ES/NFI Kits)

### i. Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Item Kits for Older People and Persons with Disability

One of the goals of the ES/NFI Cluster is to ensure that the most vulnerable groups, such as Older People and Persons with Disability, have access to adequate and dignified Shelter and essential household items in humanitarian crises. To achieve this goal, the Cluster provides ES/NFI Kits tailored to these groups' specific needs and contexts, considering the different climatic conditions of highland and lowland areas. Below is the ES/NFI Kits for Older People and Persons with Disability. The full kits will also be available at [Ethiopia ES/NFI Cluster Resources Website](#).

Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Item Kits (ES/NFI Kits) for Older People and Persons with Disability				
No	Item	Specification	Unit	Quantity
<b>1. Emergency Shelter Kit</b>				
1	Plastic sheeting/tarpaulin*	The material for the reinforced attachment points is to be six bands of 7.5cm width made of woven black HDPE fibers fabric and coated with grey LDPE on the outside  6mx4m pre-punched 8mm holes on the two sidebands at 0.1m +/- 10% intervals, positioned in the center of the band (Weight 190g/m <sup>2</sup> ± 20g)  *Refer to ICRC/IFRC Plastic sheeting and Tarpaulins specification for more details	Pcs	3
2	Rope	Min 20 meters, 6-10 mm. (tensile strength: >200 kg)	Pcs	1
<b>2. Bedding Set</b>				
3	Blanket	Make woven, dry raised both sides Content ISO1833 on dry weight 50% wool fibers +/- 5%, 50 % other textile fibers, recycled fibers accepted 1.6m x 2.2m; (1 to 2kg weight) min 250g/m <sup>2</sup> , TOG (Thermal Resistance of Garment): min 2.0  <b>For the lowland blanket will be replaced by bed sheet</b>	Pcs	2
4	Bed matt	Material: waterproof, assorted colors, edges secured 2 x 2.5m	Pcs	2
5	Mosquito net	Treated As per the recommendation of the Health Sector	Pcs	1
6	Mattresses	Foam mattresses 1.9m x 0.9m x 10cm	Pcs	1
<b>3. Kitchen Set</b>				
All the steel grades used for manufacturing the tableware items must be officially recommended by the steel manufacturer for such an application.				
7	Kettle	Aluminum 2lt (estimating around 20% preference for jugs)	Pcs	1
8	Plate	24cm diameter, thickness: > 1.00 mm for aluminum, > 0.50 mm for steel, minimum weight of 200g and a preference for stainless steel	Pcs	3
9	Cup	Aluminum or stainless steel with handle (300ml holding capacity, min 0.5mm for stainless steel)	Pcs	4
10	Cooking pots	Aluminum 7lt thickness: > 1.7 mm aluminum, > 0.8 mm steel	Pcs	1
11	Cooking ladle	Min 100ml stainless steel, length: 30cm minimum, thickness: min 1mm in the center of the scoop	Pcs	1
<b>4. Hygiene Set</b>				
13	Washing basin	Plastic	Pcs	2
12	Jerrycan	10 lt rigid plastic (Min 45mm opening), food grade plastic, min 0.5kg per piece <b>Should resist 5 drop tests from 2m high, full of water</b>	Pcs	2
13	Handwashing jug and basin set	Plastic	Pcs	1
14	Soap	Multipurpose 250g	Pcs	3
<b>Kit based on average household size 5.5 person</b>				

## ii. Non-Food Items (NFI) for Older People and Persons with Disability

The additional items for Older People and Persons with Disability for both lowland and highlands of NFI are as follows. The full kits will also be available on the [Ethiopia ES/NFI Cluster Resources Website](#).

Non-Food Item Kits (NFI Kits) for Older People and Persons with Disability				
No	Item	Specification	Unit	Quantity
<b>1. Bedding Set</b>				
1	Blanket*	Make woven, dry raised both sides Content ISO1833 on dry weight 50% wool fibers +/- 5%, 50 % other textile fibers, recycled fibers accepted 1.6m x 2.2m; (1 to 2kg weight) min 250g/m <sup>2</sup> TOG (Thermal Resistance of Garment): min: 2.0	Pcs	2
2	Bed matt	Material: waterproof, assorted colors, edges secured 2 x 2.5m	Pcs	2
3	Mosquito net	Treated as per the recommendation of the Health Sector	Pcs	1
4	Mattresses	Foam mattresses 1.9m x 0.9m x 10cm	Pcs	1
<b>2. Kitchen Set</b>				
All the steel grades used for manufacturing the tableware items must be officially recommended by the steel manufacturer for such an application.				
5	Kettle	Aluminum 2lt (estimating around 20% preference for jugs)	Pcs	1
6	Plate	24cm diameter, thickness: > 1.00 mm for aluminum, > 0.50mm for steel, minimum weight of 200g and a preference for stainless steel	Pcs	3
7	Cup	Aluminum or stainless steel with handle (300ml holding capacity) (min 0.5mm for stainless steel)	Pcs	4
8	Cooking pots	Aluminum 7lt thickness: > 1.7mm aluminum, > 0.8mm steel	Pcs	1
9	Cooking ladle	Min 100ml stainless steel, length: min 30cm, thickness: min 1mm in the center of the scoop	Pcs	1
<b>3. Hygiene Set</b>				
10	Washing basin	Plastic	Pcs	2
11	Jerrycan	10 lt rigid plastic (min 45mm opening), food grade plastic, min 0.5kg per piece <b>Should resist 5 drop tests from 2m high, full of water</b>	Pcs	2
12	Handwashing jug and basin set	Plastic	Pcs	1
13	Soap	Multipurpose 250g	Pcs	3
<b>Kit based on average household size 5.5 person</b>				

\*The NFI Kits for lowland and highland areas are similar; the only difference is that blankets in highland areas are replaced by bedsheets in lowland areas.

## 5.2 Emergency Shelter Response Options (IDP Responses)

The ES/NFI Cluster tailors its Shelter interventions to the specific needs and preferences of the IDPs, taking into account their settlement type, whether they reside in informal settlements, with the host community, or collective centers [Ethiopia ES/NFI Cluster Resources Website](#).

### i. Emergency Shelter Kit

The Emergency Shelter Kit aims to provide materials that can be used, along with locally available or salvaged materials, to build basic Emergency Shelters for protection from the elements during the initial stages of an emergency. For Older People and Persons with Disability, the Cluster recommends constructing Shelters that can be used as a demonstration for other target groups. The design in Section iii should be used when constructing the Shelters. However, if this is not applicable due to access or other challenges, the following kits should be used for the provision of Emergency Shelter Kits.

Emergency Shelter Kits for Older People and Persons with Disability				
No	Item	Specification	Unit	Quantity
1	Plastic sheeting/tarpaulin*	Woven high-density polyethylene (HDPE) black fiber fabric laminated on both sides with white low-density polyethylene (LDPE) coating  The material for the reinforced attachment points is six bands of 7.5cm width made of woven black HDPE fibers fabric and coated with grey LDPE on the outside  6mx4m pre-punched 8mm holes on the two sidebands at 0.1m +/-10% intervals, positioned in the center of the band (weight 190g/m <sup>2</sup> ± 20g, UV Treated)  *Refer to ICRC/IFRC Plastic sheeting and Tarpaulins specification for more details	Pcs	4
2	Rope	Min 20m, 6-10mm (tensile strength: >200 kg)	Pcs	1
3	Wooden poles	Make woven, dry raised on both sides. Content ISO1833 on dry weight 50% wool fibers +/- 5%, 50% other textile fibers, recycled fibers accepted 1.6m x 2.2m with a minimum weight of 1.5kg TOG (Thermal Resistance of Garment) of 2.0	Pcs	8
4	Roof nails	Material: waterproof, assorted colors, edges secured 2 x 2.5m	Kg	2
5	Wire nails	Treated as per the recommendation of the Health Sector	Kg	1
6	Bonda	Foam mattresses 1.9m x 0.9m x 10cm	Kg	1
7	Cash			<b>\$85</b>
<b>Kit based on average household size 5.5 person</b>				

### ii. Rental Support

The main objective of a Rental Support program is to ensure safety and dignity while also providing displacement-affected people with safe and adequate housing. It ensures the targeted population lives in a decent space with access to essential services and tenure security and can afford to pay rent.

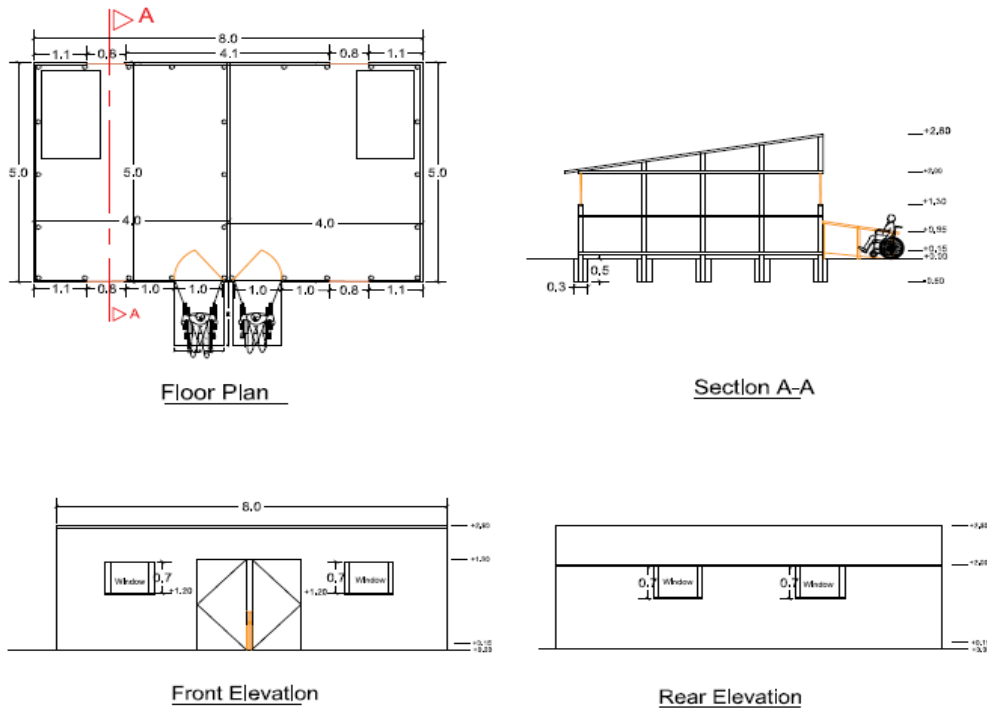
Rental support is one of the Shelter response options most appropriate for Older People and Persons with Disability, ensuring that Exit strategies are in place or that IDPs are already living within the host community. The Cluster recommends an additional 20% on the monthly rental amount to facilitate housing with necessary fixtures to ensure access and mobility within and to the Shelter.



**Additional 20%  
for Older Persons  
and Persons with  
Disability**

### iii. Emergency Shelter Construction (Double Unit)

The design below is intended to provide a more accessible and comfortable Shelter for Older People and Persons with Disability. It is based on the findings and recommendations of the study and assessment conducted by the IOM in Tigray, which examined the challenges and needs of these groups in terms of mobility within and around the Shelter. The design aims to facilitate the movement of Persons with Disability and their caregivers within the Shelter and provide adequate space and privacy for their daily activities and well-being. The detailed drawing and the bill of quantities can be found in the Annex.



Strong coordination with CCCM (Camp Coordination and Camp Management) actors and the Cluster is crucial in emergency Shelter construction for IDP sites. Through engaging with CCCM actors from the initial stages to identify and allocate appropriate, accessible, and safe sites, it is ensured that suitable sites are selected and allocated, considering the proximity to essential services and necessary earthworks, including leveling, drainage, and pathways, all to ensure a safe living environment. Additionally, it helps ensure site lighting to enhance safety, reduce protection risks, especially for vulnerable groups, and address land tenure issues to prevent disputes and promote stability.

## 5.3 Emergency Shelter Repair Kit

The Emergency Shelter Repair Kit provides a quick and effective solution for Shelter rehabilitation in response to the urgent needs of the returnees and the affected population. The Kit is based on the Shelter Repair/Reconstruction Minimum Package and Guideline, which the ES/NFI Cluster developed in consultation with local stakeholders and experts. The guideline is adapted to each region's specific context and construction standards and can be accessed at the [Ethiopia ES/NFI Cluster Resources Website](#). The Shelter Repair Kit enables the beneficiaries to rebuild their Shelters themselves, promoting self-reliance and ownership of the process. However, for Older People and Persons with Disability, the ES/NFI Cluster recommends that the implementing organizations either carry out the repair work directly or provide additional cash assistance with a maximum amount of 330 dollars should be included to cover the labor costs and local materials.

Item	Specification	Unit	Quantity
Iron Sheet	Gauge 32 1.83m x 0.92m, Zinc coated, hot dip galvanized Thickness > 0.34mm Minimum weight 4kg (Gov Stamp)	Pcs	12
Locking System	Gate latch - 10" (lock that can take a padlock)	Pcs	1
Internal door lock	Tower bolt cm 10"	Pcs	1
Internal window lock	Tower bolt cm 5"	Pcs	1
Door T- Hinge 6"	Flat, smooth, circular head	Pcs	2
Window T- Hinge 4'	Plain, round shank and diamond point Galvanized iron	Pcs	2
Nail no 12	Flat, smooth, circular head	Kg	2
Nail no 10	Plain, round shank and diamond point	Kg	2
Nail no 8	Galvanized iron	Kg	2
Roofing Nail	Minimum 20 mm head diameter 75 x 3.6 mm shank Spiral rolled or twisted shank Galvanized iron	Kg	1.5
Eucalyptus poles 12 cm	Approx. at midpoint - 6m (4.5m to 5m effective length) ,well seasoned, straight without a significant bow	Pcs	6
Eucalyptus poles 10 cm	Needs to be treated by being either soaked in burnt oil or smoked to protect from termites Taper should not exceed 10 mm per meter	Pcs	8
Cash for labor and or local materials		USD	\$330
<b>For a household size of an average 5.5 persons</b>			

## Annex 1. Checklist for data collection

It's essential to have a comprehensive list of core data collection checklists for humanitarian organizations, particularly Shelter and NFI Cluster partners, focusing on including Older People and Persons with Disability and related areas. Collecting data disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other vulnerabilities is essential for effective Shelter and NFI responses, strategies, and plans. This helps to understand and monitor different groups' diverse needs and priorities. While such attributes themselves are not determinants of vulnerability, in disaster or conflict situations, they can exacerbate other forms of discrimination and increase risks. Additionally, it is critical to ensure ethical data collection, storage, and management in all instances of humanitarian action.

### Data Collection Checklist

#### 1. Demographic Information:

- Age
- Gender
- Disability status (using the Washington Group Short Set of Questions, see below)
- Household composition
- Socioeconomic status

#### 2. Shelter and NFI (Non-Food Items):

- Type and condition of Shelter
- Accessibility features of Shelter
- Specific NFI needs (e.g., mobility aids, specialized bedding)
- Availability and access to markets

#### 3. Protection and Safety:

- Experiences of violence, abuse, or exploitation
- Safety concerns within the community and Shelters
- Presence of support networks (family, community support)
- Access to legal and social protection services

#### 4. Access to ES/NFI Services:

- Barriers to accessing humanitarian services
- Adaptations needed to improve access (e.g., ramps, sign language interpreters)
- Level of accessibility of transportation
- Availability of assistive devices
- Involvement of Older People and Persons with Disability, and their representative organizations.

#### 5. Livelihoods and Economic Activities:

- Employment status and income sources
- Impact of age or disability on economic opportunities or financial inclusion.
- Support received for livelihood activities

#### 6. Social Participation and Inclusion:

- Participation in community activities
- Barriers to social inclusion
- Community attitudes towards Older Persons and Persons with disability

#### 7. Humanitarian Assistance:

- Access to humanitarian aids (food, water, Shelter, etc.)
- Existing government assistance
- Appropriateness of aids received in relation to specific needs
- Gaps in assistance

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### Principles for Minimizing Barriers:

#### 1. Inclusive Planning and Design:

- Involve Older People and Persons with Disability in the planning, design and programming stages of data collection tools.
- Incorporate principles of universal design to make household items usable for everyone.
- Identify protection risks that Older People and Persons with Disability are faced with.
- Implement strategies to mitigate these risks in Shelter-related activities. Ensure questions are accessible and understandable.

#### 2. Intersectional Approach:

- Recognize and address the multiple, intersecting forms of discrimination and vulnerabilities.
- Collect data that reflects the diverse experiences of individuals within the community.

**3. Accessibility and Communication:**

- Use accessible formats (e.g., large print, audio recordings).
- Provide interpreters and assistive devices as needed.
- Ensure physical accessibility of data collection sites.

**4. Training for Data Collectors:**

- Train data collectors on age, disability inclusion and ethical considerations.
- Sensitize data to the needs and rights of Older Persons.

**3. Discrimination:**

- Ensure that data collection processes do not discriminate against any individual or group.
- Ensure that all participants are treated with respect and dignity.

**4. Data Use and Sharing:**

- Clearly communicate how the data will be used.
- Share findings with the community in accessible formats.

**5. Monitoring and Feedback:**

- Continuously monitor data collection processes for any ethical issues.
- Monitor the risks faced by Older People and Persons with Disability and their shelter-related needs.
- Provide opportunities for participants to give feedback.

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**Ethical Considerations:**

**1. Informed Consent:**

- Ensure informed consent from all participants.
- Provide information in accessible formats to ensure understanding.

**2. Confidentiality:**

- Maintain the confidentiality of all collected data.
  - Use secure methods for data storage and management.
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What are the Washington Group Short Set of Questions?

The Washington Group Short Set of Questions is a standardized tool developed by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics to identify Persons with Disability. These questions focus on six core functional domains and are designed to be simple, quick to administer, and to identify most Persons with Disability in a population.

Here are the six questions from the Washington Group Short Set:

**1. Vision:**

- **Q1:** Do you have difficulty in seeing, even if wearing glasses?
  - Response options: No difficulty; Some difficulty; A lot of difficulty; Cannot do at all

**2. Hearing:**

- **Q2:** Do you have difficulty in hearing, even if using a hearing aid?
  - Response options: No difficulty; Some difficulty; A lot of difficulty; Cannot do at all

**3. Mobility:**

- **Q3:** Do you have difficulty in walking or climbing steps?
  - Response options: No difficulty; Some difficulty; A lot of difficulty; Cannot do at all

**4. Cognition:**

- **Q4:** Do you have difficulty in remembering or concentrating?
  - Response options: No difficulty; Some difficulty; A lot of difficulty; Cannot do at all

**5. Self-care:**

- **Q5:** Do you have difficulty in self-care, such as washing all over, dressing, etc?
  - Response options: No difficulty; Some difficulty; A lot of difficulty; Cannot do at all

**6. Communication:**

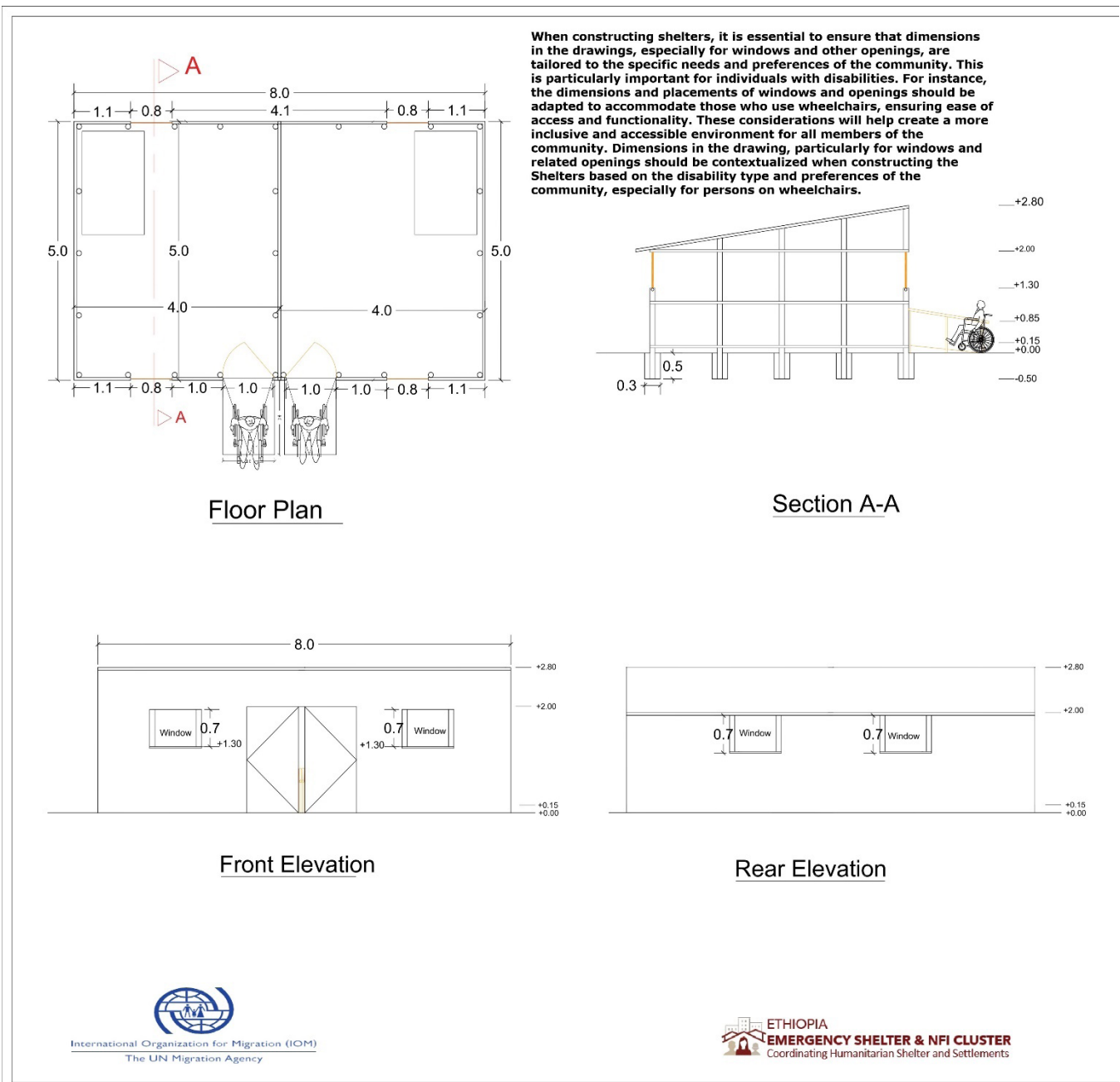
- **Q6:** Using your usual (customary) language, do you have difficulty in communicating, for example understanding or being understood?

Response options: No difficulty; Some difficulty; A lot of difficulty; Cannot do at all.

## Annex 2. Bill of Quantity for the double unit for Older People and Persons with Disability

S.No	Description	Unit	Qty/1-Duplex
1	Clear the top surface to a depth of 15 cm, and excavate the four corners to a depth of 60 cm below ground level. Treat the poles with an anti-termite solution (burned oil) and cover the bottom surface of the structural poles with a plastic sheet before placing the poles in the foundation.	LS	1
2	Level the excavated surface using granular or coarse material.	Sq m	38
3	Provide one-time cash installments to facilitate Shelter improvement activities by the community surrounding the Shelter. Utilize locally available materials such as earthen backfilling, focus on reinforcing Shelter premises, and construct elevated earthen sleeping areas known as 'medeb.'	LS	1
4	Wooden Pole #10	Pcs	28
5	Wooden Pole #8	Pcs	33
7	IOM Plastic Sheet 6x4m	Pcs	6
6	6" - T- Hinge for door	Pcs	2
7	4" - T- Hinge for window	Pcs	4
8	Nail #8	Kg	3.2
9	Nail #10	Kg	5.2
10	Nail #12	Kg	3.2
11	Roofing nail/Cap nail	Kg	5.2
12	Rubber Washer	Bag(30Pcs)	41
13	Large-size lock system for door	Pcs	2
14	Medium-size lock system for window	Pcs	4
15	Metal strap/Flat band iron 2cm wide	Kg	3
16	Rope 50m	Pcs	1
17	Additional cost for replacing plastic sheet partition with Iron Sheet 8.5 Iron sheets (Gauge 35)	LS	1
18	Construction labor cost	LS	1

## Annex 3. Drawing for the Double Unit for Older People and Persons with Disability



### Annex 4. Link to PDM and PCM tool

[ES/NFI Cluster PCM/PDM Tool](#)

### Annex 5. More information on inclusion standards

[Humanitarian inclusion standards](#)