



**Shelter Cluster Vanuatu**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter



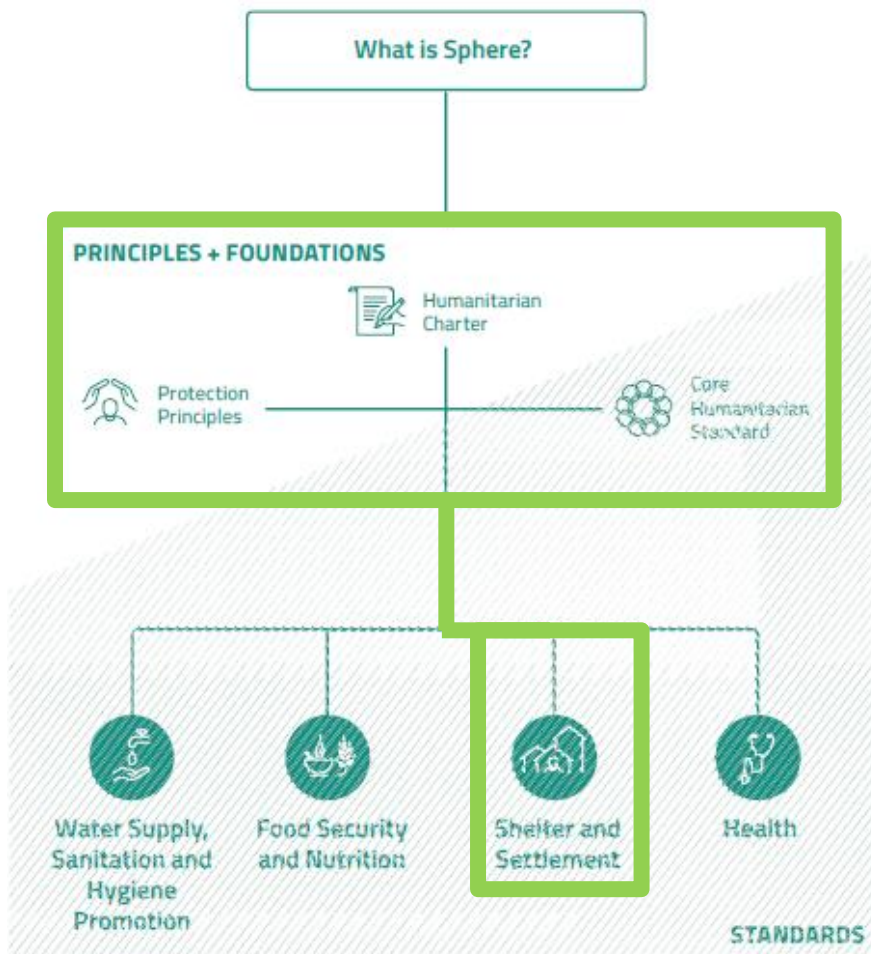
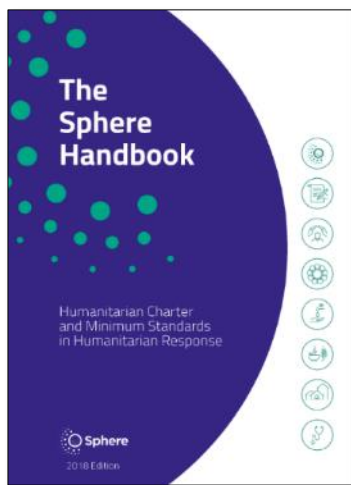
# Shelter Cluster Vanuatu

## NDMO

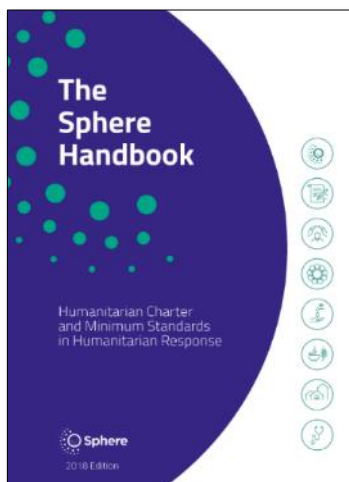
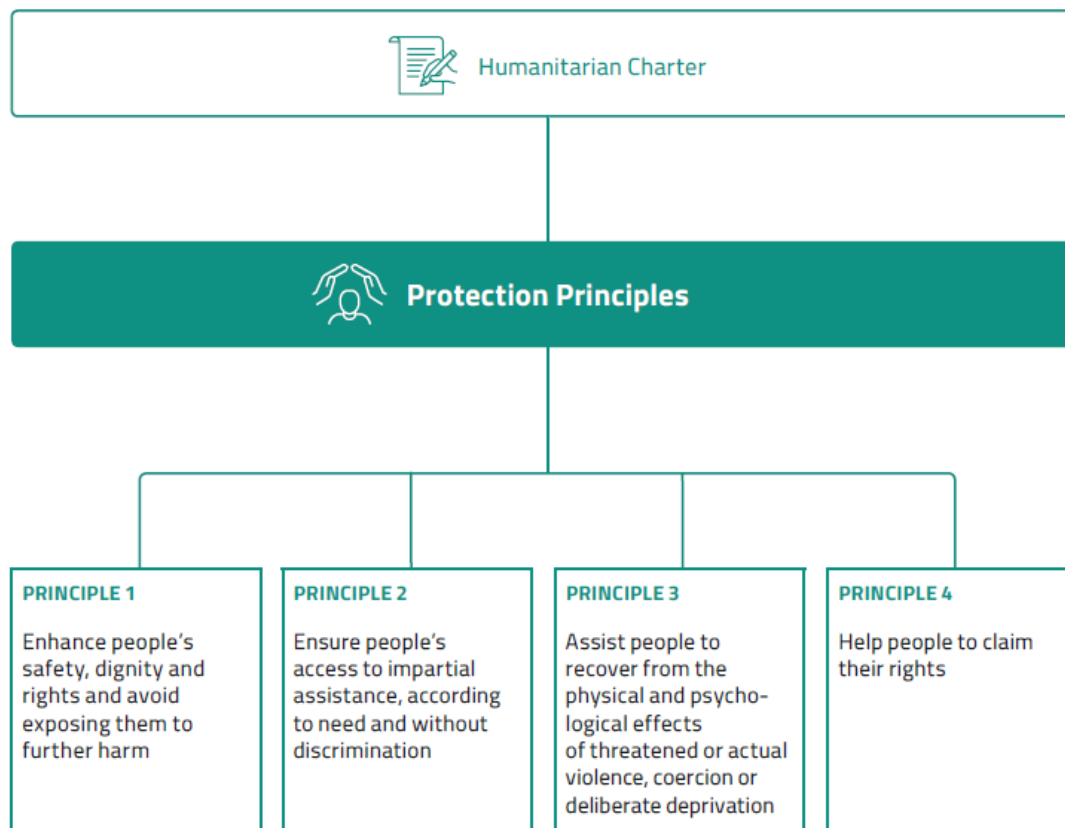
Minimum Humanitarian Standards for Emergency Shelter  
SPHERE STANDARDS

[Shelter Cluster Website](#)

# Minimum standards for emergency shelter



# Minimum standards for emergency shelter



# Protection considerations in Shelter

Humanitarian protection is about improving safety, well-being and dignity for crisis-affected populations. Protection refers not only to what we do, but also the way we do it. These principles include:

*Do not cause further harm or create new risk of harm*



*Non-discriminatory access to assistance and services*



*Identify the most vulnerable and their specific needs*



*Safe and dignified access to basic services*



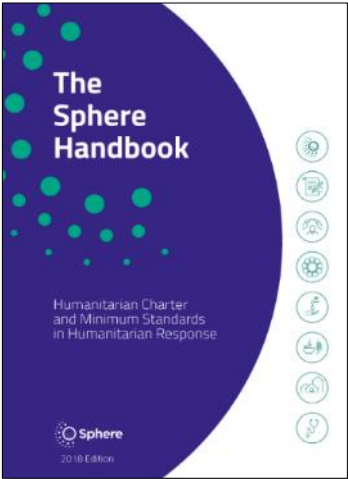
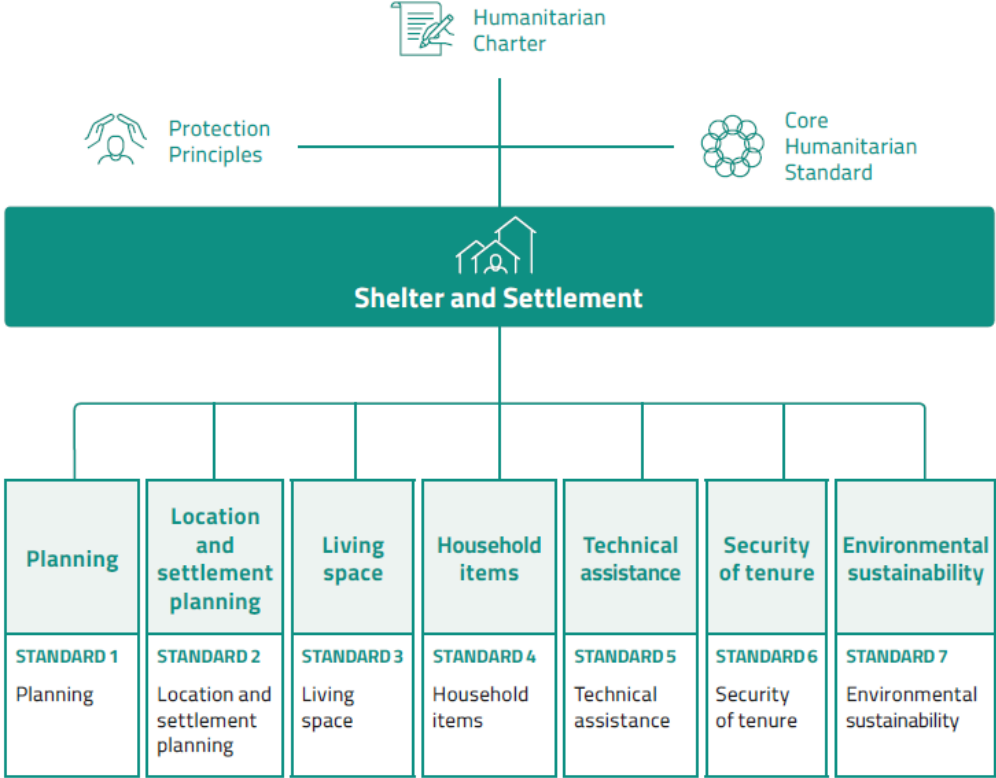
*Community participation and empowerment*



*Strengthen positive community protection capacities*

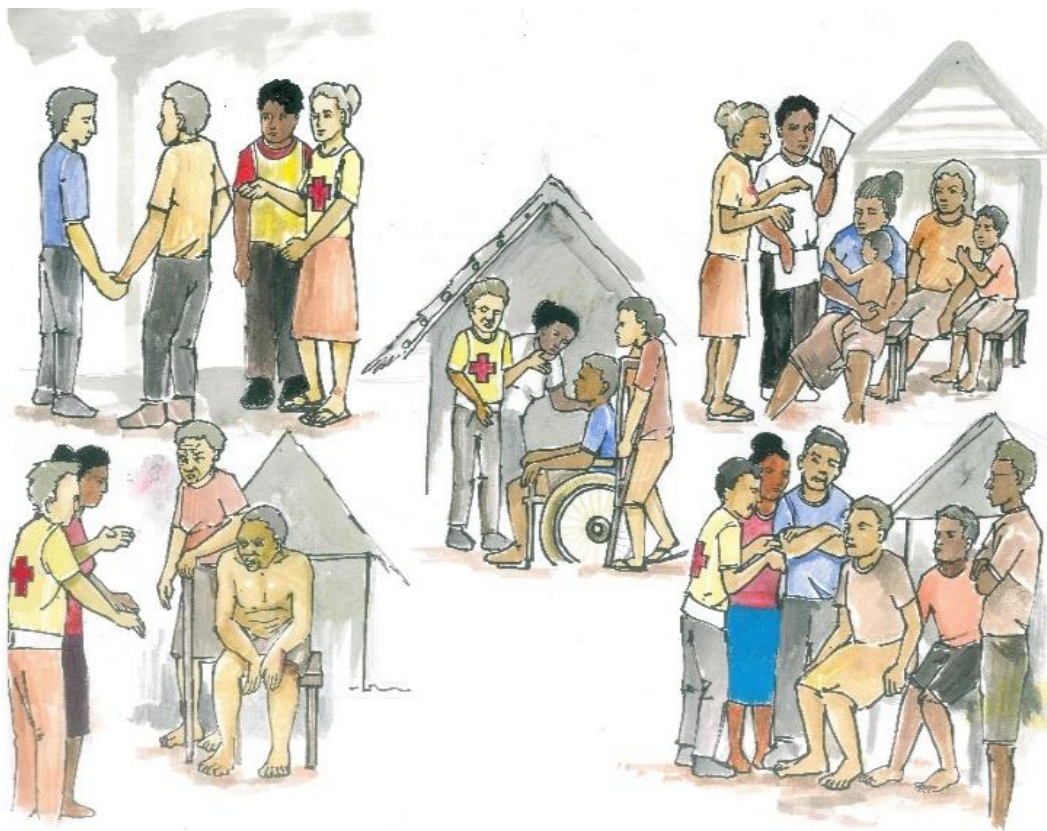
- Protection Library on the Shelter Cluster Website.
- NGO staff should have training on ‘Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)’.  
“Seksual kondak\_ bislama” PSEA Guidance in Bislama.

# Minimum standards for emergency shelter



- APPENDIX 1** Shelter and settlement assessment checklist
- APPENDIX 2** Description of settlement scenarios
- APPENDIX 3** Additional characteristics of settlement scenarios
- APPENDIX 4** Assistance options
- APPENDIX 5** Implementation options
- APPENDIX 6** Potential assistance and implementation options connected to settlement scenarios (online)

# Minimum standards for emergency shelter



## STANDARD 1: PLANNING

- Assess shelter and settlement needs and capacities and plan the response with affected communities and authorities.
- Consider specific needs of at-risk groups including people who are unwell, lactating mothers, pregnant women, people living with disabilities, elderly, children, etc.

# Minimum standards for emergency shelter

## STANDARD 2: LOCATION AND SETTLEMENT PLANNING

Choose a safe site away from hazards. Avoid areas too close to the seaside, on steep hills, and low-lying areas which are easily flooded.

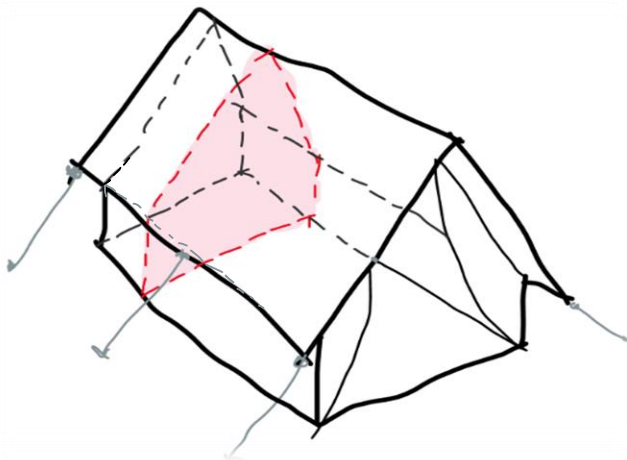


**A good shelter needs access to services** including toilet, handwashing facilities, bathing facilities, menstrual hygiene and management facilities, lighting (safety and security), food storage and processing, healthcare facilities, solid waste disposal, schools, places of worship, recreational areas, safe spaces for children, space for rituals, growing food, livestock accommodation and grazing.

# Minimum standards for emergency shelter

## STANDARD 3: LIVING SPACE

- The shelter must have enough living space for daily life. During an emergency, a minimum of 3.5m<sup>2</sup> covered space is needed per person. Some people may require more space, e.g. persons with disabilities. **MORE SPACE NEEDED FOR COVID-19 TO ALLOW ADEQUATE DISTANCING, AVOID OVERCROWDING**
- Ensure access around and to the shelter is possible for all members of the family. People with limited mobility may require ramps, rails, and wider doorways in and around the shelter.
- To increase privacy, divide the inside of the shelter into several rooms for changing etc.



# Minimum standards for emergency shelter

## STANDARD 4: HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Supports restoring and maintaining health, dignity and safety and the undertaking of daily domestic activities in and around the home.

**Sleeping** = min. 1 blanket and bedding/  
person and mosquito net where required

**food preparation and storage** = 1 kitchen  
set/4-5 people

**eating and drinking** = 1 dished plate, 1  
set of eating utensils and 1 drinking  
vessel/person

**thermal comfort, lighting, and personal  
clothing** = min. 2 sets of clothing/person



Coordinate with WASH & Health Clusters  
for hygiene kits, buckets, jerrycans, and  
mosquito nets.

# Minimum standards for emergency shelter

## STANDARD 5: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Provide technical assistance to the affected population as a part of the shelter response.

To keep the shelter cool inside use the tarp to make a ceiling (min. 2.6m high), put windows on each side towards the breeze and use natural materials for walls to increase cross-ventilation, put shutters on windows to keep direct sunlight out, make a good roof overhang to shade walls from the sun, put local materials like banana or coconut leaf on top of the roof, make a veranda or other shady place around the shelter for during the day if the inside of the shelter becomes too hot.



To keep people healthy, avoid leaving objects around the shelter which can collect stagnant water, attracting mosquitoes.

To avoid flooding choose a good site, make a steep roof pitch (not flat) with good overhang so the water can drain off and away from the shelter, dig drainage channels and slope the ground away from the shelter to direct water away from the shelter, and raise the floor inside the shelter.

# Minimum standards for emergency shelter

## STANDARD 6: SECURITY OF TENURE

Security of tenure means that people can live in their homes without fear of forced eviction, whether in communal settlement situations, informal settlements, host communities, or after return.

Work in coordination with local authorities, legal professionals and inter-cluster to achieve as much legal certainty about tenure as possible. Understand the legal frameworks and reality on the ground and identify how these affect the most at-risk groups.

This could be done by holding focus group discussions including with persons of all gender identities, ages, disabilities and backgrounds.

Implement shelter and settlement programs to support security of tenure and support protection from forced eviction (referrals and dispute resolution).



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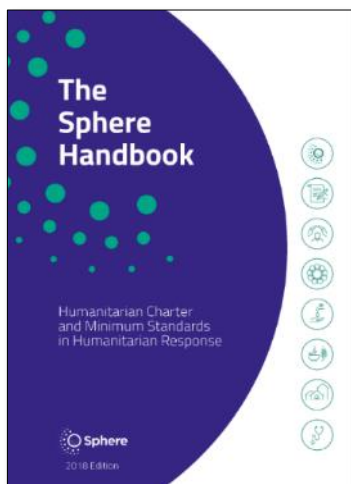


Check out the following IEC material for Use, reuse, repair and disposal of tarpaulins:  
<https://www.sheltercluster.org/vanuatu/documents/use-reuse-repair-and-disposal-tarpaulins-v1-jun-2020>

## STANDARD 7: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Assess and minimise the impact of shelter projects on the environment. Encourage selection of sustainable, recycled, reused or salvaged materials where possible. Encourage tree planting projects to replenish natural resources in communities. Ensure no rubbish is left in communities by shelter teams. Promote safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally sustainable energy systems such as solar power.

# Minimum standards for emergency shelter



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https://www.sheltercluster.org/pacific/vanuatu



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### RELATED OPERATIONS -

2020 Vanuatu TC Harold

Vanuatu Ambae Volcano 2018

Vanuatu Ambae Volcano 2017

TC Donna 2017

Vanuatu Cyclone Pam 2015

### WORKING GROUPS -

### FEATURED DOCUMENTS -



#### **SHELTER & SETTLEMENTS COVID-19 KEY MESSAGES REVISED**

This is a one-pager Shelter and settlements key messages on the most common short to mid-term shelter interventions carried out by shelter partners since the beginning of the COVID outbreak.



#### **PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST - AREA BASED APPROACHES (ABA) SYNTHESIS REPORT**

Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are at threat of increased frequency and severity of tropical cyclones and floods, fuelled by climate change. At the same time, PICs are rapidly urbanising. This brings many benefits, but also presents new challenges concerning disaster preparedness, protecting often flood prone densely populated settlements, and making critical infrastructure more resilient....



# Useful Links

- Shelter Cluster Vanuatu website

<https://www.sheltercluster.org/pacific/vanuatu>

- Technical guidelines for shelter preparedness and response to natural hazards in Vanuatu <https://sheltercluster.org/vanuatu/documents/shelter-cluster-vanuatu-technical-guidelines-v31-draft>
- IFRC Shelter Kit Flyer <https://sheltercluster.org/vanuatu/documents/ifrc-shelter-kit-flyer>
- Use, reuse, repair and disposal of tarpaulins <https://sheltercluster.org/vanuatu/documents/use-reuse-repair-and-disposal-tarpaulins-v2-march-2023>
- Besik Konstraksen Hanbuk blong bildim wan sef Selta (2013) <https://sheltercluster.org/vanuatu-cyclone-pam-2015/documents/shelter-handbook-bislama-2013-vrcs>
- Shelter Cluster Vanuatu Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/vanuatusheltercluster>
- Safe Shelter Awareness IEC 4 Key Messages <https://sheltercluster.org/vanuatu/documents/safe-shelter-awareness-iec-4-key-messages-v2-a4-page-1> and <https://sheltercluster.org/vanuatu/documents/safe-shelter-awareness-iec-4-key-messages-v2-a4-page-2>

