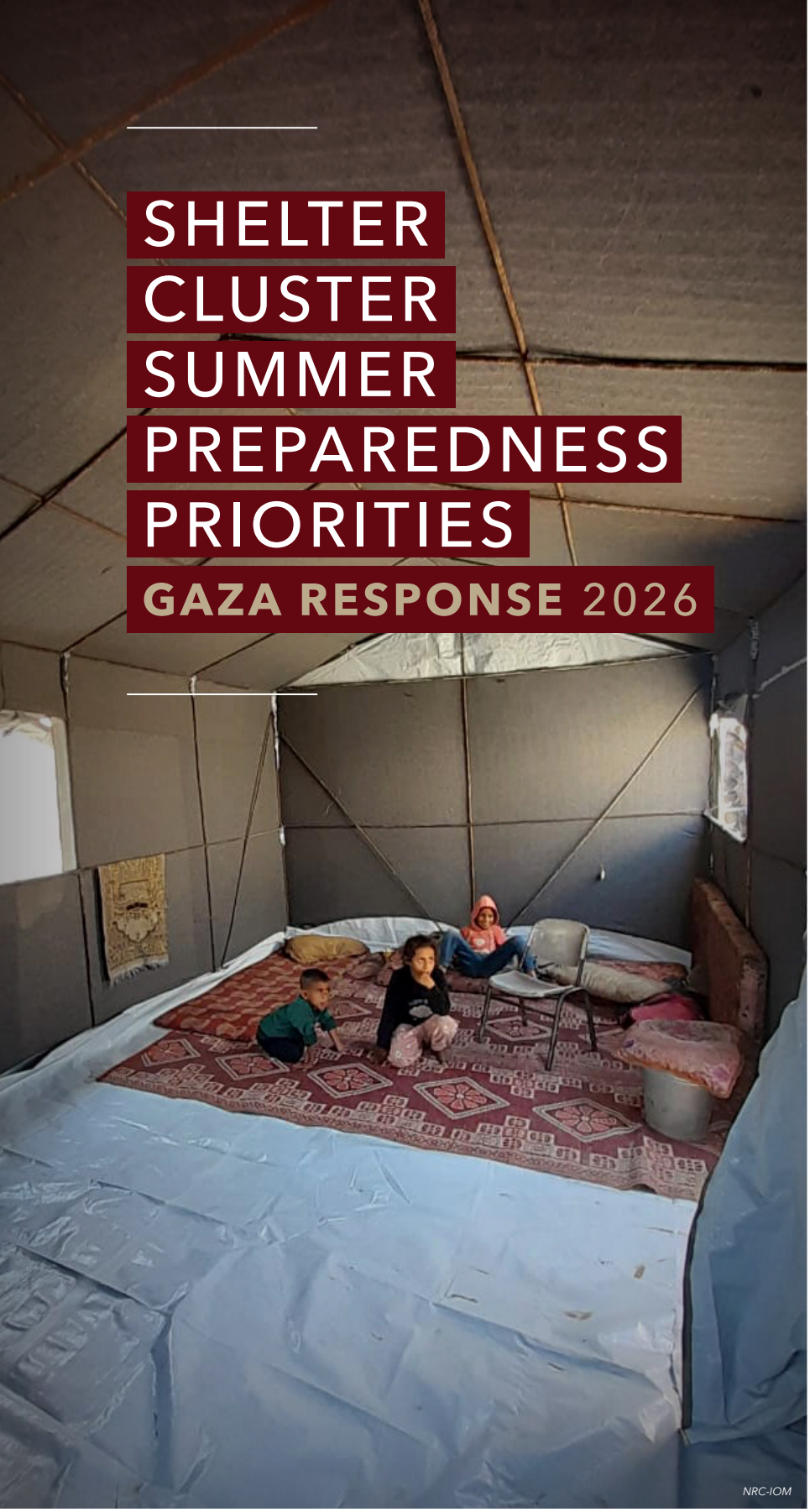
SHELTER CLUSTER SUMMER PREPAREDNESS PRIORITIES

GAZA RESPONSE 2026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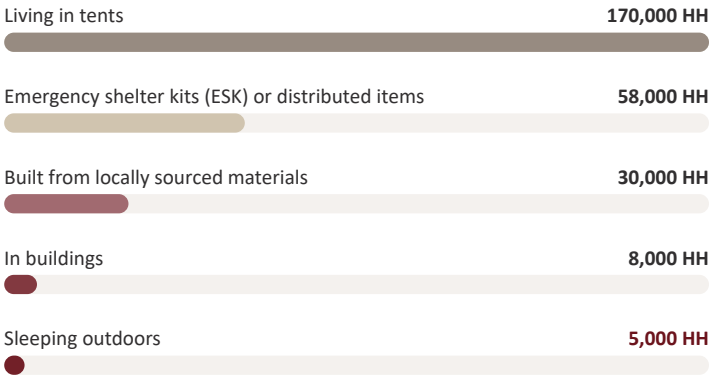
PALESTINE
SHELTER CLUSTER
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

GENERAL OVERVIEW

According to last site sweep conducted by SMC (as of March 10th, 2026), there are 170,000 HH living in tents, 58,000 in ESK or distributed items, 30,000 built from locally sourced materials, 5,000 HHs sleep outdoors and 8,000 living in buildings. 20% shelters accommodate 8 people; 52,000 households live in overcrowded shelters: Microsoft Power BI



20%

shelters accomodate **8 or more** people

52,000

households live in **overcrowded** shelters

IMPACT OF SUMMER ON SHELTERING

Risk Area	Key Shelter Impacts
Extreme Heat	• Heat stress, dehydration, and increased mortality risk • Tents and makeshift shelters trap heat, creating unsafe indoor conditions • Disproportionate impact on children, elderly, and chronically ill (heat exhaustion, dehydration)
Overcrowding	• High-density living conditions worsen heat exposure • Increased spread of communicable diseases
Shelter Material Deterioration	• Prolonged sun and heat exposure weakens tarpaulins, tents, and plastic sheeting • Reduced shelter lifespan and protection capacity
Reduced Livability & Dignity	• Shelters become uninhabitable during daytime due to overheating • Negative impact on privacy, rest, and overall well-being
High Damage Levels	• Massive displacement and ~92% housing damage limit access to adequate shelter solutions
Rodents & Pest Infestation	• Increased presence of rats, mice, flies, and mosquitoes due to heat and waste accumulation • Higher risk of disease transmission, food contamination, and unsafe conditions
Dust & Sandstorms	• Increased exposure to strong winds and sandstorms • Dust infiltration affects indoor air quality and respiratory health
Fire Hazards (Informal Settlements)	• High temperatures, combined with flammable materials such as tarpaulins, plastic, and wood, as well as cooking activities inside or adjacent to shelters where these materials are present, significantly increase the risk of fire
Lack of Ventilation & Airflow	• Poor air circulation traps heat and humidity • Increased risk of heat stress, respiratory discomfort, and poor living conditions
Site Planning	• Absence of site planning especially in informal sites, and the lack of space between shelters
WASH	• Heat increases odor, vector breeding, and health risks around poorly managed wastewater, septic tanks, and solid waste, particularly in overcrowded sites • Lack of water per capita, creating additional hygiene issues

ITEMS NEEDED TO IMPROVE SHELTERS IN SUMMER

Replenishment of acute emergency materials:

humanitarian standard tents | humanitarian tarpaulin | plastic sheeting | ropes | duct tape

In addition, urgent entry is required for:

sandbags | timber | fixing materials (screw and nail) | plywood | tool kit | gravel | cement | CGI | metal sections

KEY OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

- Distribute **shading kits** (2 Humanitarian tarpaulins, 1 shade net, 2 bundles of rope)
- Promote double-roof systems with a 20–30 cm air gap, ensuring the second roof is securely anchored and does not overload weak shelter frames to prevent collapse or wind-related hazards in Gaza's current context
- Support construction of **shaded areas**
- Encourage use of **light-colored materials** to reflect heat
- Scale up **recycling of materials (wooden pallets, metal sections etc to support shading)**
- Upgrade shelters to allow cross-ventilation by placing windows on opposing walls, with higher openings releasing rising warm air and lower openings admitting cooler fresh air, while aligning larger vents on the windward side to maximize airflow efficiency
- Support safe creation of **additional openings**
- Distribute locally adaptable ventilation materials (mesh, nets)
- For tents programming procure **humanitarian standard tents** endorsed by shelter cluster
- Dark tarpaulin is not fire retardant and absorbs more heat than light-coloured ones. Limit its use for internal layers of shelter
- Maintain a minimum distance between shelters to promote airflow and reduce the risk of fire, following sphere standards

Prioritize

- ☑ High-density and over-crowded sites
- ☑ Partners should monitor seasonal movement patterns, including increased presence in coastal areas, and coordinate support based on site-level needs and safety considerations
- ☑ Support decongestion of sites and collective centres through emergency repair works for returnees
- ☑ Following site selection, carry out targeting through technical shelter and vulnerability assessments

Constraints

- → Majority of informal sites are lacking proper planning and access to services
- → Restrictions on entry of items
- → Lack of construction items in the local market
- → Fluctuating prices of items make programing difficult

NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI) KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide summer clothing and bedding sets for each individual within a household to mitigate transmission of diseases; based on market assessments, partners should determine whether to implement through voucher-based assistance or in-kind distribution.

For clothing, please consider age, gender, disability, people preference, and seasonal aspects.

Summer bedding set

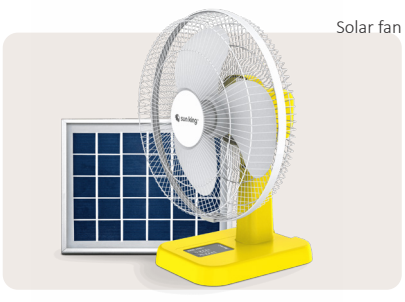
Men summer clothing

Women summer clothing

Explore opportunities to supply summer specific NFIs like solar fans, and food and water storage cooler boxes (at least 20 Liter), through engagement with the private sector.

Cooler box

Solar fan



NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI) KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Explore opportunities to provide furniture from local materials to keep bedding, kitchen sets and clothes protected from rodents.

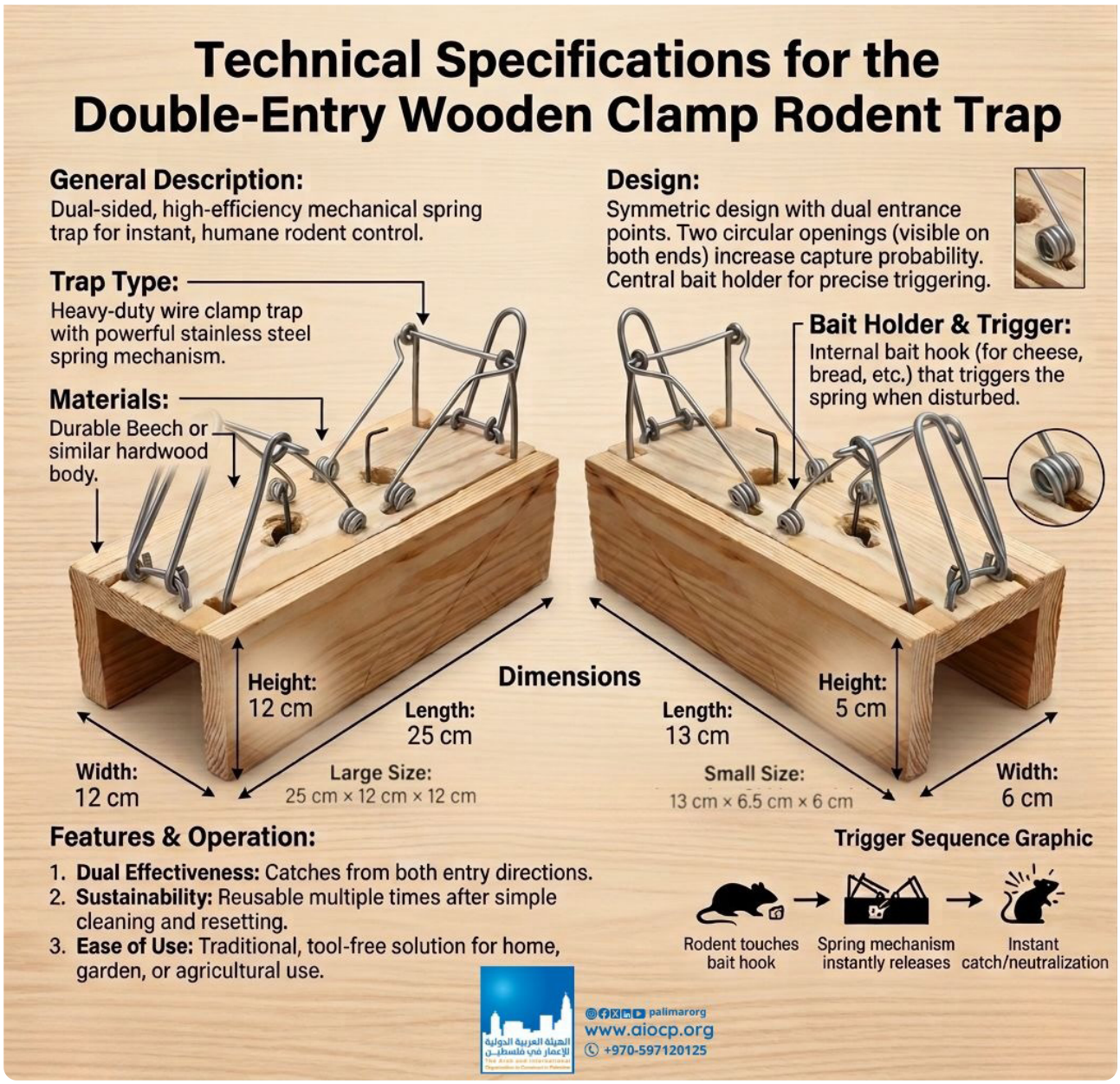
Solar light

Shelves and storage. *Photo credit: PHC*

Kitchen set

Consider providing food containers to protect food from rodents.

Locally made mouse trap with salvaged wooden pallets



Credit: www.aiocp.org

GENERAL IEC SECTION

Keeping Cool and Safe: A Summer Shelter Guide for Gazan Families

Actionable strategies for heat resilience, hygiene, and health in temporary shelters using limited materials.

PART 1: STRUCTURAL SETUP AND HEAT RESILIENCE

SITE SAFETY: AVOID HAZARDS

Prioritize safety by staying away from unstable buildings, rubble piles, unexploded ordnance (UXO) risk areas, stagnant water and waste accumulation

SECURE YOUR PERIMETER

Seal the base of the shelter perimeter and anchor it firmly using sandbags or heavy rocks to provide stability and block pests.

PASSIVE COOLING: THE DOUBLE ROOF

Create a second roof layer with a 20-30 cm air gap to reduce solar heat; always use white or light-colored sheeting and avoid dark colors that absorb heat.

GROUND ISOLATION

Use tarpaulin and any other available shelter materials to isolate shelter floor from the ground, reducing moisture and heat transfer.

MAXIMIZE CROSS-VENTILATION

Ensure airflow by maintaining openings on opposite walls of the shelter to allow breezes to move through the living space.

GENERAL IEC SECTION

Keeping Cool and Safe: A Summer Shelter Guide for Gazan Families

PART 2: HYGIENE, FOOD SAFETY AND HEALTH

DESIGNATED WASTE DISPOSAL

Dispose of all waste in designated collection points, ensuring they are located away from shelters, water points, and cooking areas where available.

SAFE OUTDOOR COOKING

Cook in semi-covered outdoor areas; keep the heat source away from tent surfaces, tarpaulins, fuel containers, and vulnerable household members.

HANG FOOD HIGH

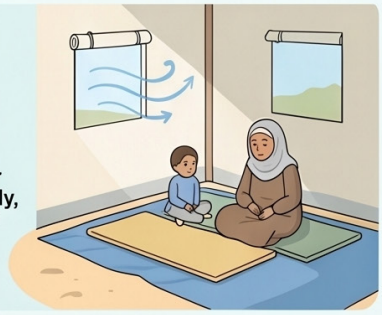
Protect your food from rats and insects by hanging it at a high level using a rope, especially if you sleep in the same space where food is kept.

PERSONAL CARE & DISEASE PREVENTION

Store all bedding and clothes off the ground and avoid sharing them to prevent the spread of contagious conditions like scabies and lice.

PROTECT THE VULNERABLE

Identify and reserve the most shaded, well-ventilated location in the shelter for children, the eiderly, or sick members who spend the most time indoors.



NotebookLM

EMERGENCY SHELTER - TENT

Ways to Make Your Tent Safer and More Comfotable

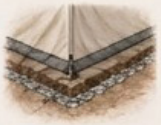
1 WALLING

- Reinforce tent walls by securing all tie-downs and guy lines firmly.
- Add internal partitions (fabric, blankets, or plastic sheets) for privacy, especially for women and chiidren.
- Install mosquito nets on doors and windows if available.
- Secure the base with sandbags or stones along the edges.

2 ROOFING (SHADE & WEATHER)

- Add a secondary shading layer (tarpaulin or net) 20–30 cm above the tent roof. This reduces heat inside the tent.
- Create a small roof extension using tarpauiin and steel bars to provide shaded outdoor space.
- Ensure the roof is tightiy fixed to prevent flapping in strong winds.
- Repair holes immediately to prevent leaks and further damage.
- Use light-coloured materials to reflect heat.

3 FLOORING



- Raise the tent from above the ground level using wooden pallet, sand, sand bags, etc.
- Add an insulation layer: plastic sheets, carpets, cardboard, or any other available material, or re-wound.
- Dig small drainage channels around the tent to prevent flouding.
- Keep the interior floor dry to reduce health risks and mold.

4 STRUCTURE STABILITY & SAFETY

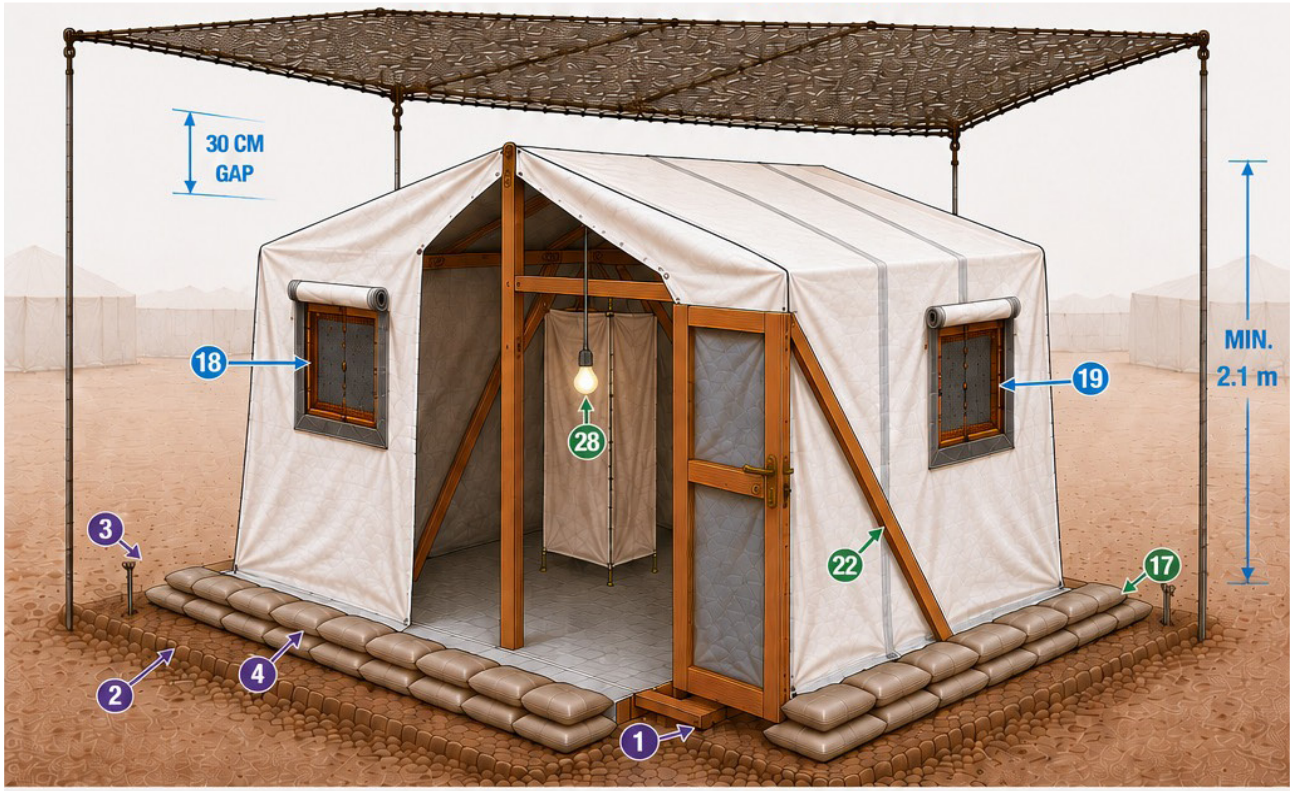
- All improvised reinforcement must not increase collapse or fire risk.
- Anchor the tent using ropes, steel bars, pegs, stones, or sandbags – ensuring safe pathways to reduce tripping risks, especially for children, older persons, and persons with disabilities.
- Follow installation instructions provided with the tent.
- Conduct regular checks, especially before storms or strong winds.
- Tighten loosened ropes and parts and replace damaged items immediately.

VENTILATION & HEALTH

- Seal gaps where possibie to reduce dust and insects, while keeping safe ventilation.
- Control the orientation of the tent during installation to improve ventilation and reduce heat build-up.
- Keep cooking area outside the tent and in very well ventilated area.

EMERGENCY SHELTER KIT (ESK)

Emergency Shelter Kit Improvement



FLOORING

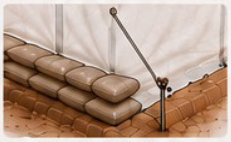
1. Raise the floor by compacted sand to a height of about 30 cm for protection and insulation.
2. Cover the raised floor with tarpaulin.
3. Add a threshold to doors to reduce entry of sand, dirt and insects.
4. Add two rows of sandbag if available 60 CM at the edge of the tarpaulin.

   Or bury the edges of the tarpaulin and cover with sand, aggregate..etc.

ROOFING

5. Use rebar, timber, or any other available stable post to make shading frame on your shelter.
6. Keep at least 30 cm air gap above the roof.
7. Make sure to have proper slope of 20–35 CM degrees.
8. Add weights to the roof such as bottles filled with sand and evenly distribute.
9. Seal all openings and protect from rain and wind to prevent leakage and further damage.
10. Use cross posts or guy lines for additional stability.

STRUCTURE STABILITY



11. Add sand-filled plastic bottles at each corner along the tarpaulin edge for stability. **WARNING:** Place a cloth or fabric under rope anchor points to reduce friction and prevent tearing.
12. Use rebar, timber, or any other available stable post for shading frame structure for thermal protection.
13. Keep at least 30 cm air gap above the roof.
14. Anchor safely, do not overload, and avoid falling-object or tripping hazards.
15. Anchor all posts securely, bury them 30–50 cm. under the ground.
16. The tarpaulin should be pulled tight to keep the structure square, but not so tight that it bends the timber.
17. Inspect regularly and tighten or reinforce as needed.

VENTILATION

18. Ensure cross ventilation.
19. Maintain a minimum height of 2.1 m for better ventilation.
20. Position windows to face each other.

WALLING

21. Maintain a minimum height of 2.1 m for better ventilation.
22. Position windows facing each other.
23. Add diagonal bracing.
24. Add extra layers for the walling for privacy and protection.
25. Add mosquito net were available to doors and windows.
26. Add partitions were possible and needed for privacy.
27. Ensure tarpaulin edges are buried into the ground (30–50 cm) and covered with sand to secure and protect.
28. Keep electrical lights and devices suspended away from shelter walls to reduce fire risk.

ALWAYS CHECK SAFETY:
Do not overload the structure. Secure all components properly.
Regularly inspect and repair to maintain a safe and dignified shelter.

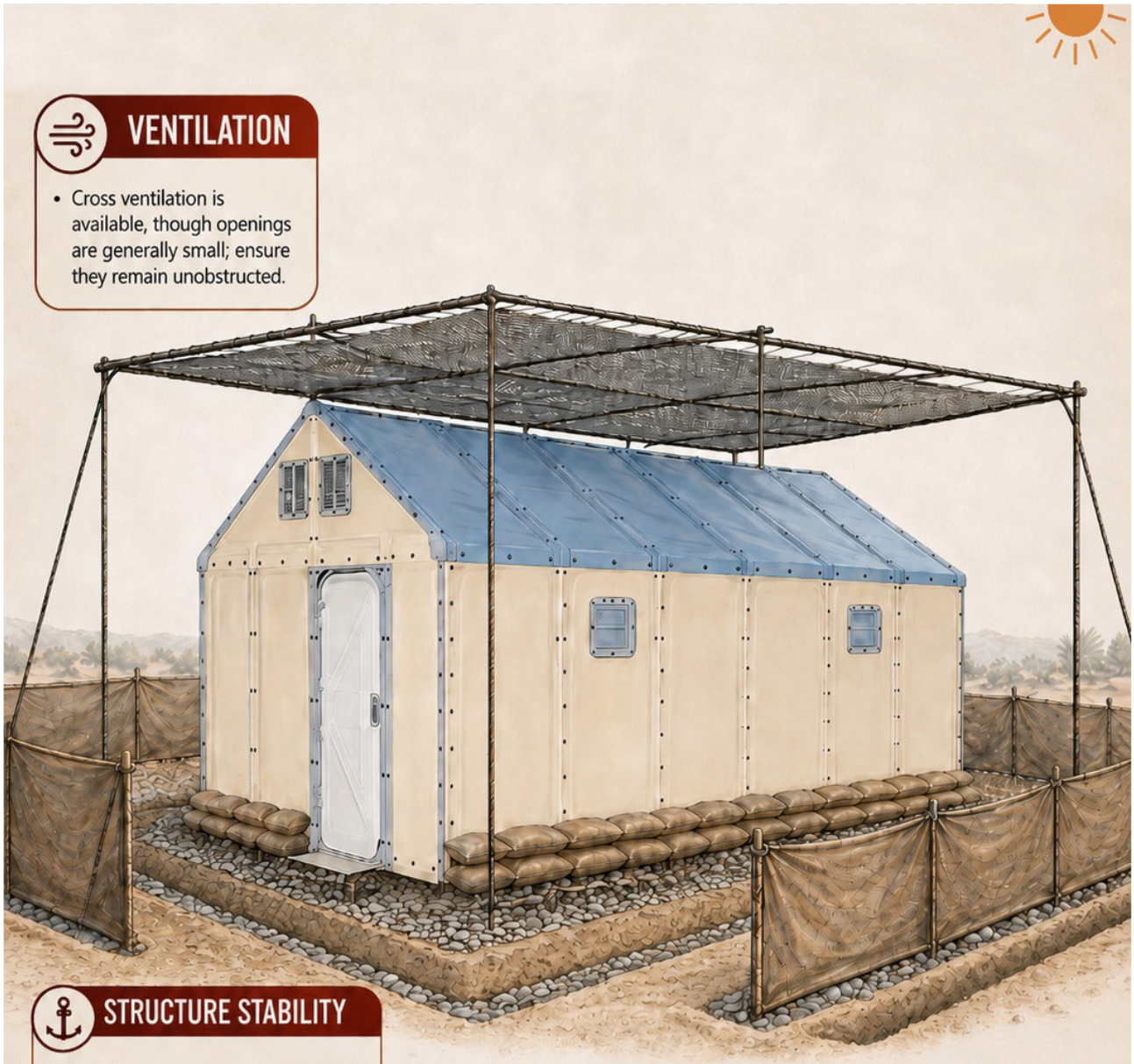
INSPECT REPAIR PROTECT

IMPROVED EMERGENCY SHELTER (RHU)

Key Summer Considerations for RHU

VENTILATION

- Cross ventilation is available, though openings are generally small; ensure they remain unobstructed.



STRUCTURE STABILITY

- Use all anchors properly: ensure the ground is level and soil is stable.
- Additional reinforcement may be needed in exposed areas.

FLOORING

- In case possible consider raising the floor with sand, crushed rubble, wooden pallets, etc. To protect from flooding, pests,.
- Add an isolation layer to the ground such as tarpaulin, plastic sheeting,,.etc.
- Dig small trench around the shelter to prevent flooding.

ROOFING

- Add shading to reduce internal heat.
- Consider covered extensions for cooking and to provide social space.
- Add weights to the roof, (If a second roofing layer is added to the roof, consider using light-colored materials to reduce heat absorption, and secure it by tying down the corners and edges with stones or sand-filled water bottles attached with ropes.)

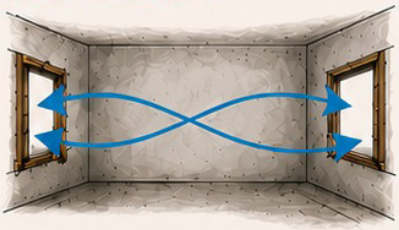
WALLING

- Add an extra layer of cladding to reduce heat and improve privacy, while ensuring that ventilation openings remain unobstructed.
- Keep openings unlocked for better ventilation.
- Fence around the shelter to reduce wind impact and improve stability.
- Consider adding partitions.
- Consider adding 60 cm of sand around the shelter that will limit the entry of sand and insects.

EMERGENCY SHELTER REPAIR

Basic Shelter Repairs

1. VENTILATION



- Ensure adequate ventilation, including areas ventilation, especially during repairs.
- Open windows or create opposite openings to allow airflow.
- Aim to repair 3.5 m² per person where possible to reduce overcrowding.

MINIMUM SPACE

3.5 m² per person

2. STRUCTURE STABILITY

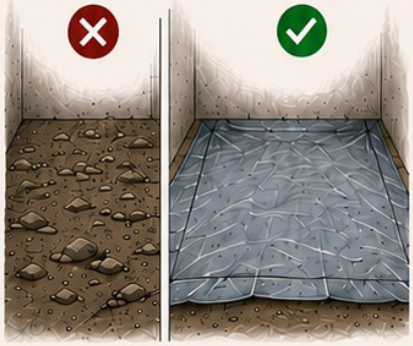
- The structure must be safe for occupancy.
- Do not enter or attempt to repair severely damaged buildings—seek professionat assessment if needed.

Use safe and stable staircase to access upper level.

If the building is severely damaged, do not enter. Seek professional assessment.

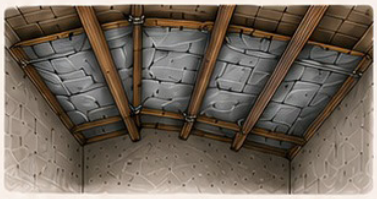
3. FLOORING

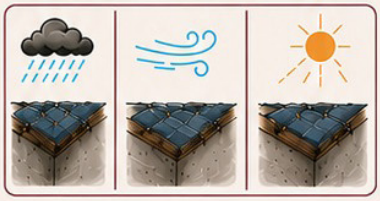
- Keep flooring as smooth and safe to prevent injuries.
- If cement is not available, use tarps or plastic sheets to cover uneven or damaged surfaces.



4. ROOFING

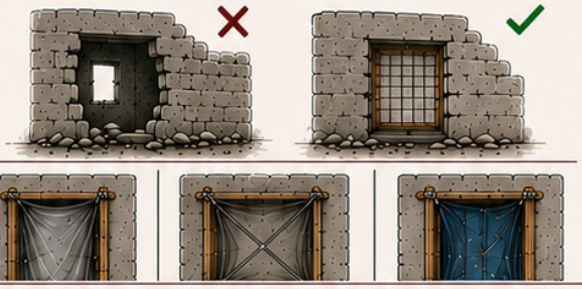
- Seal all roof openings to protect from weather.
- Repairs should stop leaks and prevent further damage from rain, wind, and sun.





5. WALLING

- Seal gaps and openings to improve safety, protection and partitions if possible.
- Use mosquito netting for doors and windows, or repurpose cloth and local materials to reduce insects.



Safety first: Do not take risks. When in doubt, seek professional advice.

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