

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENSURING APPROPRIATE HYGIENIC CONDITIONS IN REFUGEE ACCOMMODATION AND HOLDING CENTRES

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Prepared by:	NIJZ – Environmental Health Centre
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I. ACCOMMODATION CENTRES

For save living and the preservation of human dignity, basic technical and hygienic conditions must be provided in temporary accommodation, such as:

- Drinking water supply.
- Arrangement of premises (for accommodation, for basic children care, for children's education).
- Providing adequate ventilation in all rooms.
- Personal hygiene.
- Compliance with hygiene requirements in food supply and food preparation.
- Removal of waste from temporary residential areas.
- Maintenance, cleaning of facilities and DDD (disinfection, disinsectization and deratization);
- Monitoring the implementation of provisional measures.

1. DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

Before people move into temporary accommodation, it is necessary to provide drinking water in the building, in accordance with the Rules on drinking water. In existing facilities that were not used for a long time, we perform rinsing and disinfection of the house water network. For mobile facilities, such as tents, in the event that the room is not equipped with drinking water, we arrange the supply of drinking water from nearby hydrants or alternative tank supply. An adequate amount of drinking water per person, 20 litres per person per day, must be provided. In exceptional condition, a minimum amount of 7.5 litres of drinking water per person per day should be provided. Under these conditions, the efficient use of a minimum of 7.5 litres must also be established for personal hygiene. Such supply can only last 2-3 days. The amount must then be increased to 20 litres per person per day, at least to 15 litres per person per day. The water supply operator shall ensure that the quality of drinking water is checked.

Refugees should be informed that they can drink tap water or warn them if it is not fit for consumption (e.g., pictorial notice – in Annex 4 – and written notice, preferably in their language, placed in conspicuous places).

2. ARRANGEMENT OF PREMISES

Necessary living spaces*:

*Provide space in advance to isolate people.

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Living and sleeping areas, toilets, washrooms, laundry rooms if necessary, food distribution rooms and if necessary food preparation rooms, rooms for joint meetings and for children, areas for health and social care.

General conditions for living and sleeping areas:

Temperature conditions: at least 19 °C in living quarters during the heating season.

Preferably at least 4 m² of surface and 15 m³ of air per person, if the space in masonry buildings is well ventilated, 2.5-3 m² of surface and 9-10 m³ of volume per person. One bed per person should be provided with a distance of at least 1 meter between the beds and 0.9 metres between the lower and upper bed if they are bunk beds.

General conditions for toilets and washrooms:

Toilets and washrooms should be separate for women and men. It should be possible to wash one's hands after using the toilet.

Laundry and food distribution rooms: they should be established in accordance with the organization of activities in the accommodation facility.

It should be possible to wash one's hands before eating.

Areas for health and social care:*

*Provide space in advance to isolate people.

Organization of operations, personnel and equipment in cooperation with the Civil Protection and the local healthcare centre.

Premises for children's education

Provision of premises and organization of schooling especially for refugee children and gradual inclusion of children in regular school classes in our schools as soon as possible.

2.1 MASONRY FACILITIES WITH ORGANIZED MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE (WATER SUPPLY NETWORK, ORGANIZED WASTEWATER DRAINAGE, ELECTRICAL NETWORK)

In addition to the stated general conditions, we also take into account the following:

Living areas

Living areas should be well lit.

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Toilets and washrooms:

A minimum of 1 water tap per 6 to 10 people, a minimum of 1 cold and hot water shower per 10 users and a minimum of 1 toilet cabin per 20 people must be provided. For a short time, there can be 1 toilet cabin for 50 people in a ration 3 : 1 – women’s toilets : men’s toilets.

2.2 IMPROVISED TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION: TENTS, ACCOMMODATION CONTAINERS

In addition to the stated general conditions, we also take into account the following: The settlement with improvised temporary shelters should be divided into clean and unclean parts. The unclean part of the settlement should be separated from the clean part in the direction of the winds.

Clean part of the settlement:

- Drinking water supply
- Living and sleeping areas
- Food preparation and storage rooms, dining rooms

Unclean parts of the settlement:

- Toilets (toilet cabins or field toilets)
- Washrooms
- Laundry rooms
- Waste disposal areas
- Storage facilities for cleaning products and equipment
- Parking.

Recommended norms are stated in Annex 3.

3. PROVISION OF ADEQUATE VENTILATION

Recommendations for ventilation are available at:

<https://www.nijz.si/sl/s-prezracevanjem-prostorov-zmanjsamo-tveganje-za-prenos-novega-koronavirusa-sars-cov-2>

<https://www.nijz.si/sl/navodila-za-prezracevanje-prostorov-izven-zdravstvenih-ustanov-v-casu-sirjenja-okuzbe-covid-19>

4. PERSONAL HYGIENE

in addition to drinking water and personal hygiene facilities, refugees should also be provided with basic hygiene items (indicative quantities are given in Annex 2):

- Detergents and soaps

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- Teeth cleaning accessories
- Hair, scalp and nail care accessories
- Clothing and footwear cleaning accessories
- Towels, bed linen, clothes
- Toilet paper, paper hand towels
- Care products for new-borns, infants, young children, women and the elderly

Particular attention should be paid to:

- Maintaining personal hygiene, especially **hand washing**, which is one of the most effective measures to reduce the spread of infectious diseases, especially intestinal and also COVID-19 (washbasins, liquid soap, disposable towels, towel storage basket, pictorial instructions for proper hand washing – Annex 1),
- Installation of hand disinfectants in cases where it is not possible to wash hands,
- **Indoor ventilation**, which is an effective measure to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 virus and other airborne microorganisms.

Conditions must be provided for the proper maintenance of the cleanliness of clothing.

5. COMPLIANCE WITH HYGIENE REQUIREMENTS IN FOOD SUPPLY AND FOOD PREPARATION

The safe preparation, distribution and storage of food must be ensured.

6. REMOVAL OF WASTE FROM TEMPORARY RESIDENTIAL SETTLEMENTS

Waste collection containers must be provided in all living, sleeping and sanitary areas and as part of the kitchen work. They must be subject to regular daily removal and cleaning and, if necessary, disinfection. It is also necessary to ensure the safe collection and disposal of medical, infectious and sharp waste in accordance with applicable law.

7. MAINTENANCE, CLEANING OF FACILITIES AND DDD (disinfection, disinsectization and deratization)

Regular cleaning and maintenance of the premises and surroundings must be ensured and

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DDD implemented if necessary.

8. MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROVISIONAL MEASURES

We advise the establishment of regular control over the implementation of measures (internal, external).

II. HOLDING CENTRES

At the transition or short-term (usually a few hours) stay of refugees in holding centres must provide basic technical and hygienic conditions for temporary residence or rest, such as:

- Drinking water supply
- Providing conditions for food distribution
- Arrangement of rest areas in the holding centres
- Adequate ventilation of all enclosed spaces
- Providing conditions for the implementation of the most basic personal hygiene
- Waste disposal and cleaning
- DDD
- Monitoring the implementation of provisional measures

1. DRINKING WATER AND FOOD SUPPLY

At the transition or short-term stay, refugees need to be provided with drinking water and food. Given the limited technical conditions, only foods that are not risky from a hygienic point of view should be distributed, such as: packaged foods, canned foods, bread, fruit, etc. and drinking water, preferably tea.

2. REST AREAS IN THE HOLDING CENTRES

Deckchairs equipped with blankets should be installed in the tents- dry clothing and footwear should be available if necessary.

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3. SANITARY FACILITIES

Chemical toilets must be equipped with toilet paper.

Water and hand soap or makeshift areas for the most basic hygiene (washing hands, face, changing babies) must be provided next to cabins.

If the water is drinkable, the washroom should be appropriately marked (Annex 4 / Figure 1: Water is drinkable). If it is not clear that the water is safe to drink, the washroom must be appropriately marked with a sign that the water is not drinkable (Annex 4 / Figure 2: Water is not drinkable).

4. WASTE REMOVAL, CLEANING AND DDD

Disposal of waste and cleaning of tents, toilets and surroundings must be constant and regular. Wet used clothing, footwear and blankets should also be collected on an ongoing basis. Ensure washing or dry cleaning and drying of these.

DDD should be performed if necessary.

ANNEXES

1. INSTRUCTIONS FOR WASHING HANDS
2. HYGIENE SUPPLIES
3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ARRANGEMENT OF IMPROVISED TEMPORARY SHELTERS
4. AN EXAMPLE OF PICTORIAL NOTICES ON THE SUITABILITY OF WATER FOR CONSUMPTION
5. COUGH HYGIENE
6. PROPER INSTALMENT OF A FACE MASK

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RELATING DOCUMENTS

1. [RECOMMENDATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLEANING IN REFUGEE ACCOMMODATION CENTRES](#)
2. [RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLY WITH TANKS](#)

ANNEX 1: INSTRUCTIONS FOR WASHING HANDS (WHO)

Clean hands protect against infection

Protect yourself

- Clean your hands regularly.
- Wash your hands with soap and water, and dry them thoroughly.
- Use alcohol-based handrub if you don't have immediate access to soap and water.

How do I wash my hands properly?

Washing your hands properly takes about as long as singing "Happy Birthday" twice, using the images below.



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We recommend that the pictorial material be installed in toilets or next to all sinks or washbasins.

ANNEX 2: HYGIENE SUPPLIES IN ACCOMMODATION CENTRES

2.1 Indicative quantities and list of basic hygiene products¹

2 water tanks ² of 10-20 litres, one for transport and one for storage	Per household
Washing soap, 250 g	Per person per month
Laundry soap, 200 g	Per person per month
Women's sanitary pads	One package per person per month

2.2 Indicative quantities and list of additional hygiene supplies¹

Toothpaste, 75 ml	Per person per month
Toothbrush	One per person per month
Shampoo, 250 ml	Per person per month
Baby lotion, 250 ml	Per child up to 2 years of age per month
Razor	One per month
Comb	One per person, as needed
Nail clippers / scissors	One per person, as needed
Diapers, potty	As needed
Toilet paper	As needed

Note¹: A distribution schedule must be set (date time), in case of additional and special needs, people can get more.

Note²: Only for people housed in makeshift temporary shelters

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ANNEX 3: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ARRANGEMENT OF IMPROVISED TEMPORARY SHELTERS IN ACCOMMODATION CENTRES

Space in a tent or container per person	3.5 m ² (4.5-5.5 m ² in cold climate)
Distance between tents	2 m minimum or 2-times the height of a tent some other shelter
Distance from floor to ceiling	minimum 2m
Number of persons per water supply point	250
Distance to water	150 m, maximum 500 m
Number of persons / latrine / chemical toilet	maximum 20; 50 for a shorter time – in a ratio of 3 : 1, women's toilets : men's toilets
Distance to latrine / chemical toilet	Less than 50 m
Distance between water supply point and toilet	100 m
Spaces for fire protection	75 m each 300 m
Total usable area	45 m ² per person including common areas (for cooking, recreation, etc.), min. 30 m ² per person.

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ANNEX 4: AN EXAMPLE OF PICTORIAL NOTICES ON THE SUITABILITY OF WATER FOR CONSUMPTION



Figure 1: Water is drinkable



Figure 2: Water is not drinkable

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