

TOOL 47

Standards for temporary care¹

The following minimum standards should be maintained where there is no alternative care option and for as long as emergency care centres exist:

Security

- A safe and secure site; guards may be required
- Each child in the care of a specific, responsible adult care provider who monitors the child's whereabouts and well-being.

Water

- A reliable supply of clean water: at least 20 litres per child per day (an absolute minimum of 5 litres from day one)
- Covered storage for at least one day's needs, and adequate drainage from all water use areas.

Environmental sanitation

- Latrines or other arrangements for the sanitary disposal of faeces that are well away from water sources, cooking and eating areas
- Latrines that are suitable for use by young children, including at night, and are maintained at least once a day
- Latrines allowing for gender separation (at least for older children and adults)
- Washing facilities and adequate cleaning materials.

Food and food preparation

- Assured supplies of appropriate food items similar to those available to other families, plus kitchen utensils and a cooking stove
- Items for rehabilitation of severely malnourished children if they are to be cared for on-site (they may/should be cared for in therapeutic feeding centres established for the community in general).

¹ Based on United Nations Children's Fund, *Technical Notes – Special considerations for programming in unstable situations: 'Panel 9: Standards for temporary emergency care'*, chapter 4, 2006, p. 204.

Health care and medical services

- Regular – preferably daily – visits by health workers able to assess health and nutritional status and provide vaccinations and other primary health-care services
- Where there are large numbers of sick or severely weak children, separate rooms/tents for those children with full-time medical/nursing staff
- Procedures for referral of severely ill children to community hospitals (including arranging transport).

Staffing

- Infants below 12 months: wet nurse/surrogate mother for each infant and night care
- Children 1-4 years: one caretaker for every three children
- Children 5 years and older: one caretaker for every 8-10 children
- Careful selection, training and supervision of all staff.

Management

- A specific individual/manager is responsible for the overall functioning of the centre and the safety and well-being of the children.