

3 *Clothing*

People displaced by disaster often do not have enough clothes – because of poverty or because they were unable to carry sufficient clothing with them. Those who are still close to their homes may have enough clothes, but these may well have been spoilt.

Clothing standard

The people affected by the disaster, including host families, have sufficient blankets, clothing and footwear to provide protection from the climate and to ensure their dignity and well-being.

Key indicators

- Displaced and host families have access to sufficient blankets.
- Men and boys over 14 years old have 1 full set of clothing in roughly the correct size, appropriate to the culture, season and climate.
- Women and girls over 14 years old have 2 full sets of clothing, including new underwear, in roughly the correct size, appropriate to the culture, season and climate. They have a regular supply of sanitary protection.
- Children between 2 and 14 years old have 1 full set of clothing in roughly the correct size, appropriate to culture, season and climate, and according to sex.
- Children up 2 years old have 1 towel, 1 face towel, 1 baby shawl. 2 full sets of clothing, 6 napkins with safety pins, baby soap, baby powder, baby oil and 3 plastic pants. Alternatively these are supplied as a module (layette).
- Culturally appropriate burial cloth is available as required.

- There is planning for blankets and clothing to be replaced after three years.
- All people have access to footwear if necessary.

Guidance notes and critical issues

1. The initial assessment report should indicate climatic and cultural factors in order to ensure that blankets and clothing are appropriate to men, women and children, and to age. They should be supplied separately, not in mixed bales.
2. Women need specialised clothing for reasons of hygiene and personal dignity. They must also receive appropriate material for their monthly sanitary needs. It is important that these materials are appropriate and discrete, or women will not use them. Given the sensitivity of this issue, women must be involved in making decisions about what is provided. (See Water Supply and Sanitation standard 2, excreta disposal, in chapter 2.)
3. The insulation capacity of blankets and clothes decreases significantly when they are wet (10 to 15 times) and bodies lose more thermal energy.
4. Using many layers of clothing or blankets does not necessarily keep people warmer because with more fabric weight there is less warmth. It is therefore more cost-effective to invest in better quality blankets that will keep people warm rather than larger numbers of cheaper, poorer quality blankets.
5. For guidance on issues relating to thermal resistance and climate see UNDP (1995), listed in Appendix 1.