

Displacement & temporary shelter

ACTION CHECKLIST

Choose a reachable place away from the immediate hazard, keep the family together and retain medicines, identification and contacts. Confirm shelter and transport directly before moving. Ask who operates the shelter, what is required and whether it meets access needs. Aid may be delayed or unavailable; have a second destination.

[] Confirm the destination

Check that the address exists, is accepting people and can provide accessible shelter. Ask about water, sanitation, medication storage, pets and transport.

[] Keep documents with you

Carry originals securely where possible and a separate copy or digital backup. Do not hand documents to an unverified person offering transport or accommodation.

[] Travel with a clear plan

Agree who stays with each child and how to reconnect if separated. Use a destination and route checked as recently as possible.

[] Check shelter conditions

Identify exits, drinking water, toilets and the people responsible for the site. Keep sleeping and food areas separate from waste. Raise safety concerns through a trusted channel.

[] Protect personal information

Give only necessary information to verified providers. Avoid public posts showing children, exact sleeping locations or live routes without consent.

WATCH FOR

Pressure to surrender documents, pay unexpected fees, separate from children or keep a journey secret is a warning sign. A logo or social post is not verification.

IF HELP IS UNAVAILABLE

If official shelter is unavailable, contact trusted relatives or community members and agree on water, sleeping, hygiene and check-in arrangements. Avoid an unverified ride or address simply because it promises immediate help.

Updated 2026-10-02 | Civilian educational guidance. Seek qualified help when reachable and safe; do not delay immediate protective action.

Full guide: <https://ospreyzero.com/emergencies/displacement/>

UNHCR · Help for refugees and displaced people

ICRC · Reconnecting families