Annex 3

to Shelter Market Assessment Report –

Shelter Technical Score

# Shelter technical score indicators.

## Rationale

The implementation and monitoring of shelter programming (in particular, Cash for Rent interventions) in Afghanistan requires that an aggregated indicator of housing quality is used consistently to assess whether the rental housing satisfies technical requirements and standards for living conditions.

This shelter scoring system can be used to rapidly assess housing conditions and requires no specific technical knowledge. The shelter score covers such aspects as quality of construction, sanitation, occupancy per room, and access to basic services (following contextualized SPHERE criteria).

This shelter score should provide a rapid snapshot of the quality of the shelter and is not intended as a substitute for a technical assessment by qualified staff.

## Features of the shelter scoring system

Shelter scoring system is based on a set of indicators, which may be either self-reported, or derived from observation[[1]](#footnote-1) by staff without specialized or technical knowledge.

The system uses only 6 mandatory indicators to distinguish between “Extremely Poor (Nil)”, “Poor” and acceptable (“fair” or “excellent”) housing conditions, and an additional set of 7 criteria to distinguish between “Fair” and “Excellent” quality housing.

Since the set of indicators is very short, the scoring system could be used for rapid assessments of shelter quality

The set of indicators can be applied consistently for assessments and for monitoring of shelter programming, such as, e.g., in baseline and endline surveying.

## Shelter scoring system

NRC Shelter Market assessment in Afghanistan, conducted in 2018, used a series of shelter quality indicators that were subsequently arranged in a shelter scoring system. This scoring system classifies shelters into one of 5 categories according to technical and living conditions of the housing:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Shelter score** | **Technical score** | **Living conditions** | **Description** |
| **Extremely Poor** | Nil | Nil | Unacceptable housing conditions, both in terms of quality and living conditions. Refers to inadequate shelter that is either not suitable for permanent occupation, or in very poor condition |
| **Poor** | Poor | Poor | Housing that falls below minimum shelter standards but could be rehabilitated or upgraded to satisfy minimum quality levels. |
| **Fair but overcrowded** | Fair | Housing that satisfies minimum technical standards but fails on living conditions (overcrowded). These units may be used without upgrade, but larger households might require additional space. |
| **Fair** | Fair | Housing that satisfies a bare minimum of technical standards of shelter quality, as well as fulfils the standard for occupancy |
| **Excellent** | Excellent | Excellent | Housing that satisfies an extended list of requirements for shelter quality, both in terms of technical quality, occupancy and living conditions. |

## Application of the scoring system

For the application of the scoring system in a survey or observation see the attached table. It includes sample questions that may be used in a survey.

1. Observation should usually be considered preferred and more reliable method, as opposed to self-reporting. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)