

# Assessment of Sta. Cruz Evacuation Center at Sta Cruz, Naga City Evaluating Compliance with Sphere Minimum Standards for Humanitarian Response

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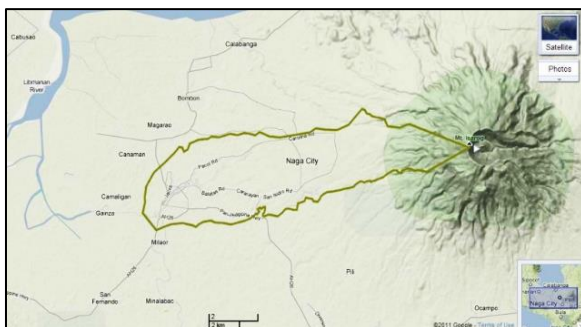
## ABSTRACT

Living in the Bicol Region of the Philippines, the efficacy of evacuation centers is paramount. This case study presents a qualitative evaluation of the Sta. Cruz Evacuation Center in Naga City, assessed against national standards, the Sphere Handbook, and LEGS (Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards). Despite Naga City's proactive approach to disaster preparedness, the center received a concerning "Low Compliance" rating of 2.71 out of 5 (93 out of 127 points), indicating significant deficiencies.

Key findings reveal a strong formal structure for camp management (CMC), but critical operational gaps. These include the absence of a readily accessible physical Camp Management Plan (CMP), unclear roles within the Camp Management Team (CMT), and insufficient training for personnel. Information management is particularly weak, lacking a pre-disaster family profiling system. While basic facilities like shelter, accessibility for persons with disabilities, community kitchen, and storage areas show high compliance, severe deficiencies exist in sanitation, particularly desludging and sewage disposal, which received a "NOT COMPLIED" rating. Safety is also compromised by the center's location in a flood-prone area and inadequate structural resilience.

This study urgently recommends developing a detailed and accessible CMP, strengthening and training the CMT, implementing a robust pre-disaster profiling system, and critically, overhauling the sanitation and waste management infrastructure. Addressing these issues is vital to ensure the Sta. Cruz Evacuation Center provides truly safe, healthy, and dignified conditions for all evacuees, human and animal alike, during crises.

## Introduction and Background



The Philippines, an archipelago constantly contending with natural hazards, faces persistent challenges from typhoons, heavy rains, and widespread flooding. The Bicol Region, situated in southeastern Luzon, is particularly vulnerable to these recurrent climatic events, necessitating robust disaster preparedness and management strategies. In this context, the adequacy and preparedness of evacuation centers are paramount, serving as critical lifelines for affected communities.

Naga City, nestled at the foot of Mount Isarog in the heart of Camarines Sur, has long been recognized as a beacon of progressive governance and resilience-building. Approximately 377 kilometers south of Manila, this strategic hub has consistently prioritized disaster preparedness as a cornerstone of its development agenda. The

city's innovative initiatives in disaster mitigation, climate adaptation, and comprehensive disaster risk reduction have garnered national recognition among local government units.

In line with this commitment, Naga City established the Sta. Cruz Evacuation Center with combined national and local funding. Designed to comfortably shelter up to 60 families, or about 240 individuals, during a crisis, it is managed by a dedicated Camp Management Committee (CMC), formally established on August 25, 2023, through Administrative Order No. 2023-003. This committee oversees crucial aspects of coordination, resource management, and the implementation of disaster-related protocols, reinforcing the center's strategic role within the city's emergency response system.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The primary objective of this case study was to evaluate the Sta Cruz Evacuation center through an ocular inspection. The aim was to ascertain if the center meets minimum life-saving standards and to pinpoint critical areas requiring immediate and long-term improvements. The study sought to move beyond mere compliance, assessing the center through a lens of accountability to affected populations and their dignity, safety, and well-being.

### **Scope of the Study**

This case study focused on an ocular inspection of the Sta. Cruz Evacuation Center, employing a comprehensive checklist that rigorously aligns with Sphere Handbook: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response.

The assessment encompassed a wide range of vital areas critical to humanitarian response:

1. Governance and Coordination: Evaluation of the Camp Management Committee (CMC) and Camp Management Team (CMT) structure, plans, and training.
2. Information Management: Assessment of pre-disaster profiling systems and databases for assistance providers.
3. Camp Facility Minimum Standards: Including shelter and accommodation, accessibility, safety, camp management desk, community kitchen, and storage areas.
4. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): Covering toilets, bathing areas, laundry spaces, sanitation and hygiene practices, superstructure considerations, hygiene promotion, desludging, sewage disposal, and solid waste management.
5. Specialized Rooms and Features: Evaluation of health facilities, child-friendly spaces, prayer rooms, conjugal rooms, and dedicated areas for livestock.

## **METHODOLOGY AND ANALYSIS**

This study employed a descriptive and evaluative assessment using a standardized checklist. The primary tool used was a researcher-made checklist referenced from JMC No. 02 s 2021, and the evacuation center minimum requirements checklist from the Government of Vanuatu. The checklist comprises 127 items, divided into three main criteria: governance and coordination, information management, and camp facility minimum standards. Each item is rated 0-5, with 0 as "Not Complied" and 5 as "Fully Complied".

## **FINDINGS AND DETAILED ASSESSMENT**

The overall revealed that the Sta.Cruz Evacuation Center received a Low Compliance rating, scoring 2.71 out of 5 (93 out of 127 points). This indicates that while some fundamental standards are met, significant gaps persist in achieving full compliance with established humanitarian benchmarks.

## Governance and Coordination (Partial Compliance: 3.00/5)

		STA.CRUIZ				
		CRITERIA	CHECK	RATING	REMARKS	LINKS
3	1	GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION	4/4	3.00	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	
4	1.1	Camp Management Committee (CMC) organized and established	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★★★★★	AO No. 2023-003 issued by LGU Naga on Aug 25, 2023, constituting the city Camp Management Committee (CMP) under the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (CDRMC) and Camp Management Teams (CMT) for designated Evacuation Centers in Naga City; includes <b>Evacuation Center in Sta Cruz</b>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UhhUtANE2s46EIAEs0ARvKbedxQIsPx9/viiew?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UhhUtANE2s46EIAEs0ARvKbedxQIsPx9/viiew?usp=sharing</a>
5	1.2	With established <b>Camp Management Plan (CMP)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★★★☆☆	<rechecking> no physical plan; but with structure	JMC No 02 s2021
6	1.3	<b>Camp Management Team (CMT)</b> organized and established	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★★★★★	See a1.1 Remarks; <b>might need some updating; no information</b>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UhhUtANE2s46EIAEs0ARvKbedxQIsPx9/viiew?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UhhUtANE2s46EIAEs0ARvKbedxQIsPx9/viiew?usp=sharing</a>
7	1.4	Members of the <b>Camp Management Team (CMT)</b> completed <b>Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Training</b> ; Capacity building activities and refresher courses conducted to Camp Managers/teams and Volunteers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★★★☆☆	Partial Training but not all	JMC No 02 s2021

Table 1. Governance and Coordination

The assessment of the Sta. Cruz Evacuation Center GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION criteria reveals an overall rating of 3.00 out of 5, indicating PARTIAL COMPLIANCE. While Naga City demonstrates a strong foundational step with the formal establishment of a Camp Management Committee (CMC) through AO No. 2023-003, achieving a "HIGH COMPLIANCE" of 4 out of 5 for this specific sub-criterion, critical shortcomings emerge in other areas. The Camp Management Plan (CMP), despite being acknowledged as established with a structure, suffers from a significant deficiency: the absence of a physical plan, suggesting it's not readily accessible or detailed enough for practical implementation, thus earning a PARTIAL COMPLIANCE rating of 3 out of 5. Similarly, the Camp Management Team (CMT) is noted as organized, but concerns about needing updates and "no information" regarding its specific members and roles lead to a PARTIAL COMPLIANCE rating of 3 out of 5. The most significant weakness lies in the training of CMT members and volunteers; with a LOW COMPLIANCE rating of 2 out of 5, the "Partial Training but not all" remark highlights a critical gap in comprehensive capacity building and regular refresher courses, which directly compromises the team's operational readiness and ability to effectively manage the camp according to humanitarian standards.

## Information Management (Low Compliance: 1.5/5)

		STA.CRUIZ				
		CRITERIA	CHECK	RATING	REMARKS	LINKS
2		INFORMATION MANAGEMENT	1/2	1.5	LOW COMPLIANCE	
2.1		Pre-disaster Profiling of all families using <b>Family Access Card in Emergencies and Disasters (FACED)</b> or other approved profiling system	<input type="checkbox"/>	☆☆☆☆☆	No system or database	JMC No 02 s2021
2.2		Database regarding the agencies and groups providing assistance to the various camps including the type of assistance being provided	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★★★☆☆	Personal Database	JMC No 02 s2021

Table 2. Information Management

Information management at the Sta. Cruz Evacuation Center is identified as a significant area of weakness, marked by Low Compliance. This directly impacts the ability to provide targeted and efficient aid, a core rule of humanitarian response.

**Pre-disaster Profiling:** A critical missing element is a systematic approach to pre-disaster profiling of families, such as the use of a Disaster Assistance Family Access Card (DAFAC) or similar approved profiling systems. Without this, understanding the specific needs and vulnerabilities of potential evacuees before a disaster strike is severely hampered.

**Database:** The center relies on a personal database for tracking assistance provided by various agencies and groups. While functional to some extent, this informal system lacks the robustness, transparency, and interoperability of a standardized database. A comprehensive, shared database is essential for preventing duplication of aid, identifying gaps in assistance, and ensuring equitable distribution, all of which are crucial for effective humanitarian response as advocated by Sphere standards.

The overall rating for this section is 1.5 out of 5, leading to a designation of LOW COMPLIANCE. This low score is primarily driven by the complete lack of a pre-disaster profiling system for families, specifically the Family Access Card in Emergencies and Disasters (FACED) or any other approved system, receiving a 0-star rating with the remark "No system or database." While there is a checkmark for having a Database regarding the agencies and groups providing assistance, indicating some form of compliance. This stark contrast highlights a significant vulnerability in the center's preparedness, as effective information management, especially pre-disaster profiling, is fundamental for swift, targeted, and dignified humanitarian response.

### Camp Facility Minimum Standards (Partial Compliance: 3.62/5)

		STA.CRUZ				
	CRITERIA	CHECK	RATING	REMARKS	LINKS	REFERENCE
3	CAMP FACILITY MINIMUM STANDARDS	88/121	3.62	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE		- based on Sphere Standa
3.1	SHELTER AND ACCOMODATION	11/15	4.13	HIGH COMPLIANCE		
3.1.1	SHELTER- Adequate shelter for short and long term accomodation; Sphere Standards indicates a minimum of 3.5 sqm of living space per person	4/6	4.00	HIGH COMPLIANCE		
3.1.1	SHELTER: Minimum 1.5 Sq.m/person for the shelter 1 to 3 days (Short term)	<input type="checkbox"/>	☆☆☆☆	Capacity: 60 families or 240 individuals		JMC No 02 s2021; Sphere; Vanautu checklist (international reference)
3.1.1	SHELTER: Minimum 3.5 Sq.m/person for the shelter 4 days & above (Long term)	<input type="checkbox"/>	☆☆☆☆			
3.1.1	SHELTER: With adequate ventilation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★★★★★	attached photo during the presentation		JMC No 02 s2021
3.1.1	BASIC: With electricity and water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021
3.1.1	Area for Cultural Practices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★★★★★	w/ prayer room		JMC No 02 s2021
3.1.1	Privacy considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★★★★★	w/ couples room; and Comfort Room separate		JMC No 02 s2021

Table 3. Shelter and Accommodation (High Compliance: 4.13/5)

**Shelter and Accommodation:** This category shows “high compliance”, reflecting a fundamental commitment to providing adequate living space, a key Sphere standard. The center offers sufficient accommodation with good ventilation, critical for health and comfort, and has the capacity to house 60 families or approximately 240 individuals. Crucially, it meets the Sphere standard of a minimum of 3.5 square meters per person for long-term shelter (defined as 4 days and above), ensuring sufficient personal space for evacuees. Basic necessities like electricity and water are available, further enhancing livability. The provision of a couples' room and separate comfort rooms also indicates an awareness of privacy needs.

		STA.CRUIZ				
CRITERIA		CHECK	RATING	REMARKS	LINKS	REFERENCE
3.1.2	ACCESSIBILITY	2/2	5	FULL COMPLIANCE		
3.1.2	ACCESSIBILITY: Equally accessible for the disabled (ramp for wheel chairs) ; Fitted with provision for people with disabilities, including ramps where necessary and adequate design for unimpeded wheel chair access	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★★★★★	ramps available; PWD cr		JMC No 02 s2021; added
3.1.2	ACCESSIBILITY: Centrally located in the community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★★★★★			Vanautu; added

Table 4. Accessibility (Full Compliance:5.00/5)

**Accessibility:** Rated as "Full Compliance," the center exhibits strong adherence to accessibility standards, reflecting an inclusive approach to humanitarian aid. The presence of effective ramp access and a dedicated PWD-specific comfort room ensures that individuals with disabilities can navigate and utilize the facilities with dignity and ease. Its central location within the community also enhances access for local residents requiring shelter.

		STA.CRUIZ				
CRITERIA		CHECK	RATING	REMARKS	LINKS	REFERENCE
3.1.3	SAFETY	5/7	3.4	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE		
3.1.3	SAFETY: Provision of emergency door/exit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★★★★★			Vanautu; added
3.1.3	SAFETY: Not within Flood prone zone	<input type="checkbox"/>	☆☆☆☆☆			added
3.1.3	SAFETY: located on geotechnical stable land to avoid risk of landslide	<input type="checkbox"/>	☆☆☆☆☆			Vanautu; added
3.1.3	SAFETY: No nearby large trees, structures use/store hazardous materials or high voltage power lines	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★★★★★			Vanautu; added
3.1.3	SAFETY: Be close to a health facility (where possible)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★★★★★			Vanautu; added
3.1.3	SAFETY: Perimeter fencing adequate main entrance/exit gate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	☆☆☆☆☆			Vanautu; added
3.1.3	SAFETY: Fitted with cyclone shutters for windows and doors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★★★★★	Open		Vanautu; added

Table 4. Safety &amp; Security (Partial Compliance:3.4/5)

**Safety & Security:** While showing "Partial Compliance," this area presents notable challenges. The center is equipped with emergency exits and ramps, essential for rapid evacuation during emergencies. Its proximity to a hospital is also a significant advantage for medical emergencies. However, critical safety concerns remain:

**Location Vulnerabilities:** The center is situated in a flood-prone zone, posing a recurrent risk during heavy rainfall or typhoons. Furthermore, its location on geotechnically stable land is rated low compliance, suggesting potential risks from ground instability.

**Structural Safety:** There is a lack of adequate safety features, specifically cyclone shutters for windows and doors, which are vital in typhoon-prone areas like the Bicol region.

**Perimeter Security:** The perimeter fencing is inadequate, potentially compromising the security and safety of evacuees within the center. These deficiencies underscore a need for significant infrastructure improvements to fully meet Sphere's safety and security benchmarks.



		STA. CRUZ				
CRITERIA		CHECK	RATING	REMARKS	LINKS	REFERENCE
3.2	CAMP MANAGEMENT DESK OR OFFICE	1/1	5.00	FULL COMPLIANCE		
3.2.1	Office/desk properly and visibly marked	✓	★★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021
3.3	COMMUNITY KITCHEN	9/9	4.00	HIGH COMPLIANCE		
3.3.1	Availability of Kitchen within the Camp	✓	★★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021
3.3.2	ACCESSIBILITY: Kitchen strategically located wherein it can be easily accessed by the IDPs inside the camp and away from the toilet and bathing areas	✓	★★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021
3.3.3	HYGIENE: Placed away from the communal toilets	✓	★★★★☆			JMC No 02 s2021
3.3.4	HYGIENE: Kitchen should be equipped for the hygienic food preparation	✓	★★★★☆			Vanautu; added
3.3.5	HYGIENE: Drainage and waste management system considered in the construction	✓	★★★★☆			JMC No 02 s2021
3.3.6	HYGIENE: Provision of utensils	✓	★★★★☆			Vanautu; added
3.3.7	Provision of water tap inside kitchen; access to safe and clean water	✓	★★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021
3.3.8	HYGIENE: Sinks for washing utensils	✓	★★★★☆			Vanautu; added
3.3.9	SAFETY: Kitchen must be provided with adequate ventilation to exhaust the fume/ventilation	✓	★★★★★			Vanautu; added
3.4	STORAGE AREA	2/2	5.00	FULL COMPLIANCE		
3.4.1	Storage areas should be dry and hygienic, adequately protected from weather and free of chemicals or other contamination	✓	★★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021
3.4.2	Storage areas must be secured against pests such as insects and rodents	✓	★★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021

Table 5. Camp management Desk, Community Kitchen, Storage Area (Full Compliance: 5/5)

**CAMP MANAGEMENT DESK OR OFFICE:** this section received a perfect 5.00 rating, indicating "FULL COMPLIANCE," as the office/desk is visibly marked and established.

**COMMUNITY KITCHEN:** achieved a strong 4.00 rating, denoting "HIGH COMPLIANCE." This positive score is supported by checkmarks across all sub-criteria related to kitchen availability, strategic accessibility for IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons), hygienic placement away from toilets, equipment for hygienic food preparation, consideration of drainage and waste management, provision of utensils, availability of water tap, and sinks for washing utensils, and adequate ventilation for safety.

**STORAGE AREA:** also garnered a perfect 5.00 rating, signifying "FULL COMPLIANCE." This reflects that storage areas are dry, hygienic, adequately protected from weather and contamination, and secured against pests and rodents. Overall, these aspects of the Sta. Cruz Evacuation Center demonstrate a high level of preparedness and adherence to standards, particularly concerning essential facilities for daily camp operations and logistical support.

		STA.CRUZ				
CRITERIA		CHECK	RATING	REMARKS	LINKS	REFERENCE
3.5	WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE	45/57	3.96	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE		- As per JMC No. 02 s202
3.5.1	TOILETS AND BATHING AREAS	13/13	4.92	HIGH COMPLIANCE		
3.5.1	Short Term: 1 toilet per 50 persons	✓	☆☆☆☆			JMC No 02 s2021
3.5.1	Long Term: 1 toilet per 20 persons (sphere: minimum: 1 toilet per 20 people)	✓	★★★★	1 toilet per 8 persons		JMC No 02 s2021
3.5.1	Toilets must have internal locks	✓	★★★★☆	need for repair		JMC No 02 s2021
3.5.1	Toilets have adequate lighting	✓	★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021
3.5.1	Toilets have adequate ventilation	✓	★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021
3.5.1	Separate toilet for men and women	✓	★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021
3.5.1	Must have garbage bins available, especially for latrines assigned to women for menstrual hygiene management	✓	★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021
3.5.1	Toilets must be kept cleaned and maintained for all intended users	✓	★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021
3.5.1	Handwashing facilities with soap must be available adjacent to toilet facilities	✓	★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021
3.5.1	Women to male toilets ratio should be at approximately 4 Female toilets to every 3 Male toilets	✓	★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021
3.5.1	1 in 10 toilets should be designed and built to accommodate the needs of persons with disability and elderly, with a minimum of 1 toilet per site	✓	★★★★	1 CR mainly for PWD; separate male and female		JMC No 02 s2021
3.5.1	Gender-responsive comfort rooms may also be assigned	✓	★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021
3.5.1	Access to water	✓	★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021

Table 6. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (Partial Compliance: 3.96/5)

**Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH):** Rated "Partial Compliance," indicating a mixed performance in this vital sector which is paramount for preventing disease outbreaks in crowded settings.

**Toilets:** The center meets the Sphere standard of **1 toilet per 8 persons for long-term use**, crucial for maintaining hygiene and dignity. Toilets are well-equipped with internal locks, adequate lighting, ventilation, and are properly separated for men and women. The availability of garbage bins for menstrual hygiene management and handwashing facilities with soap adjacent to toilets further aligns with good hygiene practices. A PWD-specific toilet is also available.

		STA.CRUZ				
CRITERIA		CHECK	RATING	REMARKS	LINKS	REFERENCE
3.5.2	LAUNDRY SPACES	6/6	4.33	HIGH COMPLIANCE		
3.5.2	Laundry area with roofing and lights	✓	★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021
3.5.2	Connected to an existing drainage and water tap	✓	★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021
3.5.2	1 hand basin per 10 persons	✓	★★★★☆	6 basin		JMC No 02 s2021
3.5.2	1 was bench (4-5m) per 100 persons	✓	★★★★☆			JMC No 02 s2021
3.5.2	2 laundry platform (3m double-sided) per 100 persons	✓	★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021
3.5.2	Laundry area should be able to accomodate 20 persons at any given time	✓	★★★★☆			JMC No 02 s2021

Table 7. Laundry Spaces (High Compliance:4.33/5)

**Laundry Spaces:** The provision of 6 hand basins accommodating 20 persons is a positive step. However, the lack of adequate wash benches is a drawback, making laundry tasks more challenging for evacuees.

		STA.CRUZ				
CRITERIA		CHECK	RATING	REMARKS	LINKS	REFERENCE
3.5.5	<b>SANITATION AND HYGIENE</b>	3/3	5.00	FULL COMPLIANCE		
3.5.5	Water or other anal cleansing materials must be readily available. For Water Seal toilets should only be constructed if there is a sufficient water available for flushing within the immediate proximity of the facility	✓	★★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021
3.5.5	Handwashing facilities must be designed into or nearby the facility (maximum distance 10m from the facility)	✓	★★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021
3.5.5	Assigned groups for maintaining the cleanliness	✓	★★★★★			JMC No 02 s2021; added
3.5.6	<b>SUPERSTRUCTURE CONSIDERATIONS</b>	4/4	5.00	FULL COMPLIANCE		
3.5.6	Latrines for persons with disability (1 in 10) should include design features (rails, ramps, seats) that enable safe access and defecation in safety and privacy according to age, gender, and disability, with a minimum of 1 disabled toilet per site	✓	★★★★★			
3.5.6	Gender separation and sign posting of cubicles are required	✓	★★★★★			
3.5.6	PRIVACY: door should be lockable and latrines should be lit at night	✓	★★★★★			
3.5.6	Resistant to normal rain and wind conditions to protect users	✓	★★★★★			
3.5.7	<b>HYGIENE PROMOTION</b>	1/1	5.00	FULL COMPLIANCE		
3.5.7	WASH Sub-team established	✓	★★★★★			
3.5.8	<b>MAINTENANCE OF WASH FACILITIES</b>	5/6	4.60	HIGH COMPLIANCE		
3.5.8	Maintain sufficient water and anal cleansing materials as well as soap and water for handwashing	✓	★★★★★			
3.5.8	Regular Cleaning of facility	✓	★★★★★			
3.5.8	Maintain locks and monitoring walls and door from peepholes	✗	☆☆☆☆☆	not maintain		
3.5.8	In women's block, clearly-marked receptacles for baby's diapers and sanitary napkins	✓	★★★★★			
3.5.8	Ensure lights at night and clean and safe pathways	✓	★★★★★			
3.5.8	Adequate maintenance systems in place for latrines	✓	★★★★★			

Table 8. Laundry Spaces (Full Compliance: 5/5)

The **SANITATION AND HYGIENE** section demonstrates "FULL COMPLIANCE" with a perfect 5.00 rating, indicating that water/anal cleansing materials are readily available, water seal toilets are appropriately located, and handwashing facilities are well-designed and accessible.

The **SUPERSTRUCTURE CONSIDERATIONS** also achieved "FULL COMPLIANCE" with a 5.00 rating, ensuring that latrines are accessible for persons with disabilities, gender-separated, adequately private, well-lit at night, and resistant to normal rain and wind, with proper cubicle provisions.

The **HYGIENE PROMOTION** is also in "FULL COMPLIANCE" with a 5.00 rating due to an established WASH sub-team.

**MAINTENANCE OF WASH FACILITIES** section, while rated as "HIGH COMPLIANCE" at 4.60 out of 5, reveals a notable flaw: maintaining locks and monitoring walls and door from peepholes is marked as not maintain, despite other aspects like maintaining cleansing materials, regular cleaning, providing receptacles for baby's diapers, and ensuring safe pathways being in compliance. This specific lapse in maintenance indicates a potential security and privacy vulnerability that requires attention.



Table 9. Desludging and Sewage Disposal (Not Complied: 0/5 for both)

	CRITERIA	CHECK	RATING	STA.CRUIZ REMARKS	LINKS	REFERENCE
3.5.9	DESUDGING	0/3	0.00	NOT COMPLIED		
3.5.9	Sealed-up/closed/emptied containment vessel	<input type="checkbox"/>	☆☆☆☆	none		
3.5.9	Sludge and black water removal and treatment: (1) Emptying into sewage treatment plants OR (2) Lime stabilization	<input type="checkbox"/>	☆☆☆☆	none		
3.5.9	For Portalets, Septic Tanks, and Pit Latrines: Waste must be manually emptied or pumped into sealed tanks or barrels for off-site removal. Transportation containers must be securely sealed to prevent to prevent leaks. Workers must wear appropriate protective gear, and any spills must be immediately contained and thoroughly cleaned.	<input type="checkbox"/>	☆☆☆☆	none		
3.5.1	SEWAGE DISPOSAL	0/8	0.00	NOT COMPLIED		
3.5.1	Prevention of environmental contamination and spillage of excreta, and exposure of general population to health risks. Use of final disposal sites.	<input type="checkbox"/>	☆☆☆☆	none		
3.5.1	Protective clothing, tools, and health and safety advice to workers involved in the management, emptying, transport, treatment or disposal of excreta	<input type="checkbox"/>	☆☆☆☆	none		
3.5.1	Disposal Site: Lime Stabilization Area for portalets and school septic tanks	<input type="checkbox"/>	☆☆☆☆	none		
3.5.1	2 pits at the landfill (4mx3mx1.5deep) lined with layers of tarpaulin and plastic to reduce seepage into the ground	<input type="checkbox"/>	☆☆☆☆	none		
3.5.1	Emptying of sewage into a pit mixed with hydrated lime (5kg/1000lrs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	☆☆☆☆	none		
3.5.1	Target PH is 12 to kill all pathogens If full, second pit will be started. First pit will be emptied of the disinfected sludge and spread over the landfill as cover.	<input type="checkbox"/>	☆☆☆☆	none		
3.5.1	Requirements: Supply and storage of hydrated lime and other equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	☆☆☆☆	none		
3.5.1	Schedule of emptying of septic tanks and portalets, coordination with pumping company, landfill for access, and EC management to ensure access for trucks	<input type="checkbox"/>	☆☆☆☆	none		
3.5.1	SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT	2/2	3.00	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE		
3.5.1	Rubbish bins ratio (1:10 households)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	☆☆☆☆			
3.5.1	Central collection receptacle at designated areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	☆☆☆☆	mayong ma pick-up		

**Desludging and Sewage Disposal**, this is Critical deficiency. Both sections received a 0.00 rating. There is no evidence of sealed/emptied containment vessels, sludge/black water removal/treatment, or proper sewage disposal practices. This severe failure in managing human waste poses immediate and significant environmental and health hazards to evacuees.

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT** fares slightly better with a PARTIAL COMPLIANCE rating of 3.00 out of 5. While a "Rubbish bins ratio (1:10 households)" is checked off, the "Central collection receptacle at designated areas" is noted with a remark of "mayong ma pick-up" (meaning "no pick-up"), suggesting that while bins might be present, the crucial step of waste collection and disposal is not consistently managed. These findings collectively highlight severe sanitation and waste management failures that pose immediate and serious health risks to evacuees, demanding urgent and comprehensive intervention.

**Specialized Rooms and Features** Beyond the core facility standards, the Sta. Cruz Evacuation Center incorporates several specialized features that enhance its functionality and responsiveness to diverse evacuee needs:

**Health Facilities:** Rated Low Compliance, indicating substantial areas for improvement in health services. While the center is better equipped than PAGCOR, it notably lacks a dedicated wellness/mental health space and adequate nutrition supplies. These are critical components of holistic humanitarian health support, particularly in addressing the psychological toll of displacement and ensuring vulnerable groups receive adequate sustenance. The presence of an established breastfeeding room is a commendable strength, supporting the specific needs of mothers and infants.

**Child-Friendly Space:** Rated Partial Compliance, reflecting progress but also room for enhancement. A designated child-friendly space is available and equipped with kits containing toys and materials, promoting a sense of normalcy and play for children in a stressful environment. The facilities are noted as being more

inclusive and age-appropriate compared to other centers, which is a positive step towards meeting the specific protection and developmental needs of children in emergencies.

**Prayer and Conjugal Rooms:** The center provides a designated prayer room and a conjugal room, both designed appropriately. These facilities acknowledge and support the spiritual and personal needs of evacuees, contributing to their dignity and well-being during displacement.

**Area for Livestock:** Uniquely, Sta. Cruz features a designated area for livestock. This provision is particularly significant in agricultural communities, as it allows evacuees to bring their essential animals, preventing loss of livelihoods and reducing distress, a practical adaptation that goes beyond typical evacuation center provisions.

## CONCLUSION

The Sta. Cruz Evacuation Center, despite Naga City's commendable proactive stance on disaster preparedness, currently falls short of providing truly safe, healthy, and dignified conditions for evacuees, both human and animal. While it exhibits strengths in basic facilities like shelter, accessibility, and dedicated spaces such as the community kitchen, storage, prayer, conjugal rooms, and even a unique area for livestock, critical operational and infrastructural deficiencies severely undermine its overall effectiveness. The most alarming issues are the "NOT COMPLIED" rating for desludging and sewage disposal, which presents immediate and severe public health risks. Furthermore, significant gaps in information management, particularly the absence of pre-disaster family profiling, hinder targeted and efficient aid delivery. The lack of a readily accessible Camp Management Plan and insufficient training for the Camp Management Team also reveal crucial weaknesses in governance and coordination. The center's location in a flood-prone area and inadequate structural resilience further compromises the safety of evacuees. Without urgent and comprehensive interventions in these identified areas, the center's capacity to function as a reliable and humane refuge during crises remains significantly compromised.

## RECOMMENDATION

To transform the Sta. Cruz Evacuation Center into a truly effective and dignified refuge, here's the following urgent and comprehensive interventions recommendation;

### Strengthen Governance and Coordination:

**Develop a Detailed and Accessible Camp Management Plan (CMP):** This plan must be physical, readily accessible, and comprehensive, clearly outlining operational procedures, roles, and responsibilities for all stakeholders.

**Strengthen and Train the Camp Management Team (CMT):** Implement robust, regular, and comprehensive capacity-building activities and refresher courses for all CMT members and volunteers to ensure operational readiness and effective camp management according to humanitarian standards. Clarify specific roles and responsibilities within the CMT.

### Enhance Information Management:

**Implement a Robust Pre-disaster Profiling System:** Urgently develop and implement a systematic approach for pre-disaster profiling of all families, such as the Family Access Card in Emergencies and Disasters (FACED) or another approved profiling system. This is fundamental for swift, targeted, and dignified humanitarian response and understanding specific needs and vulnerabilities of potential evacuees.

**Establish a Standardized Database:** Transition from personal databases to a comprehensive, shared, and interoperable database for tracking assistance providers and aid distribution to prevent duplication, identify gaps, and ensure equitable distribution.

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## Overhaul Sanitation and Waste Management Infrastructure:

**Address Desludging and Sewage Disposal Immediately:** This is the most critical area. Implement proper systems for sealed containment vessels, sludge and black water removal and treatment, and safe sewage disposal practices to mitigate severe environmental and health hazards.

**Improve Solid Waste Management:** Ensure consistent and reliable waste collection and disposal, addressing the "no pick-up" issue, to maintain hygiene and prevent health risks.

**Enhance WASH Facility Maintenance:** Address the lapse in maintaining locks and monitoring walls and doors from peepholes to enhance security and privacy for evacuees.

## Address Safety and Security Vulnerabilities:

**Mitigate Location Risks:** Explore strategies to address the risks associated with the center's location in a flood-prone area and on potentially unstable land. This may involve structural reinforcements or alternative evacuation strategies for high-risk scenarios.

**Improve Structural Resilience:** Install essential safety features such as cyclone shutters for windows and doors, vital in typhoon-prone regions.

**Enhance Perimeter Security:** Strengthen perimeter fencing to ensure the safety and security of evacuees within the center.

## Improve Health Facilities:

**Establish Wellness/Mental Health Spaces:** Allocate and equip dedicated areas for mental health support, acknowledging the psychological toll of displacement.

**Ensure Adequate Nutrition Supplies:** Consistently provide sufficient nutrition supplies, particularly for vulnerable groups.

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