

ACCESSIBLE WASH FACILITIES
TO PROMOTE INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, INJURIES AND OTHER VULNERABILITIES
ZA'ATARI REFUGEE CAMP – JORDAN – NOVEMBER 2012



Access to water and sanitation facilities is a right for all people, including those with temporary or permanent impairments such as injuries and disabilities, and also other vulnerable groups including pregnant women, elderly people, overweight people and those with chronic disease to fulfil their basic needs. They represent usually at least 15% of a population and this is often higher in emergency settings (WHO and World Bank, 2011). Access to facilities should be promoted through physical accessibility as well as a positive attitude towards encouraging persons with particular vulnerabilities to use these accessible facilities.

Design and build camps and temporary settlements using minimum accessibility principles (**based on Universal design**) to make them **SAFE and USER FRIENDLY for ALL**.

The percentage of accessible and safely located WASH facilities is ideally twenty per cent (20%) of the overall WASH facilities. Concretely, one (1) latrine out of five (5) should be constructed in an accessible fashion.

References from Sphere Project:

“Acceptable facilities: successful excreta disposal programmes are based on an understanding of people’s varied needs as well as on the participation of the users. It may not be possible to make all toilets acceptable to all groups and **special toilets may need to be constructed for children, older people and disabled people e.g. potties**, or toilets with lower seats or hand rails. The type of toilet constructed should depend on the preferences and cultural habits of the intended users, the existing infrastructure, the ready availability of water (for flushing and water seals), ground conditions and the availability of construction materials.”

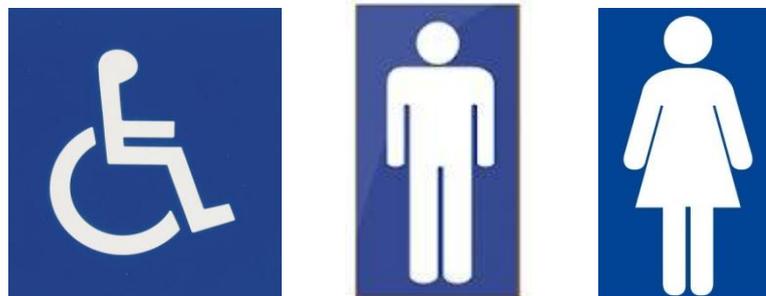
According to those recommendations, Handicap International encourages stakeholders involved in building camp’s facilities to apply the ideal following figures/ratio:

Refugee camp	Short term	Long term
Number of Accessible Toilet & Shower	10% (1 accessible facility to 10)	20% (1 accessible facility to 5)
Distance of Accessible facility from shelter	Maximum 50 meters	Ideally less than 30 meters

Camp planning and allocation should consider the geographical proximity of people with disabilities and vulnerabilities to the facilities including WASH points and other services. However it is important to disperse them amongst other people and avoid having a concentration of PWDs in one place.

1. ACCESSIBILITY AND COMMUNICATION

- Ensure all accessible facilities are clearly marked with large, simple accessibility symbols.
- Ensure all hazardous areas are marked as well and fenced.

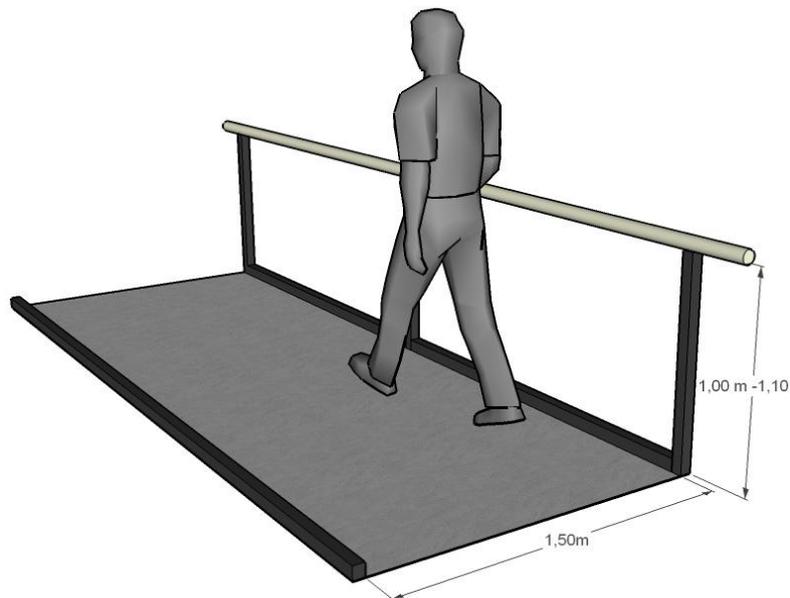


- Ensure all information is disseminated using appropriate and various communication means to consider people with visual, hearing, intellectual and mental impairments. (e.g. Large print, using loudspeakers / radio announcements, using simple, language, sketches and diagrams etc).

2. ACCESSIBILITY : TECHNICAL DRAWINGS and SKETCHES

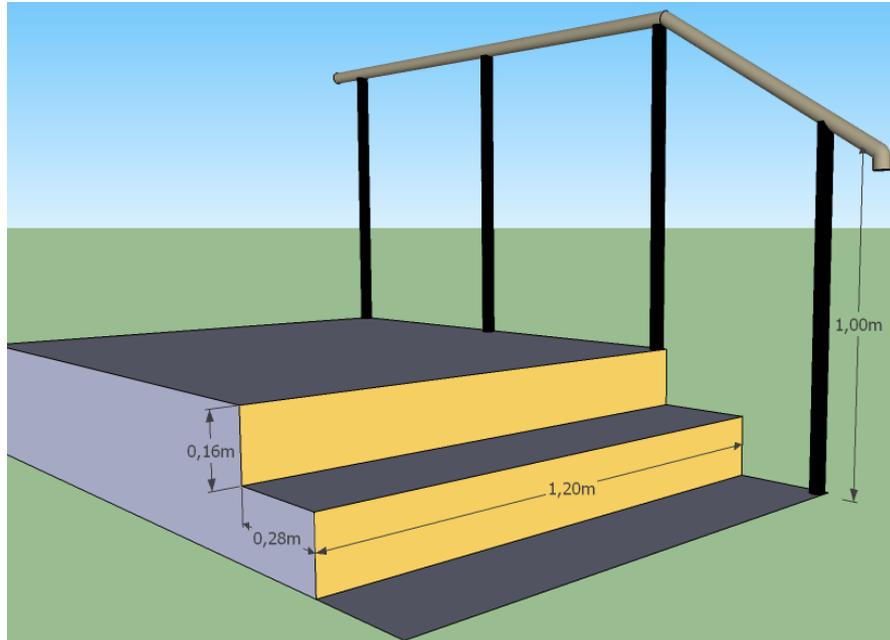
A. Public pathway

- The pathway should be at least 1,50 m in width. Public pathways should be clear of obstructions and using non-slip materials.
- Make sure tent ropes or other obstacles are not blocking pathways.
- Facilities should be built in an accessible place, meaning the way to access must be as level as possible in order to avoid any obstacle (trunks, branches, holes...)
- If possible, a handrail should be build from the beginning of the access path. It will help persons with visual impairment and persons with balance issues to walk up to the accessible facility.

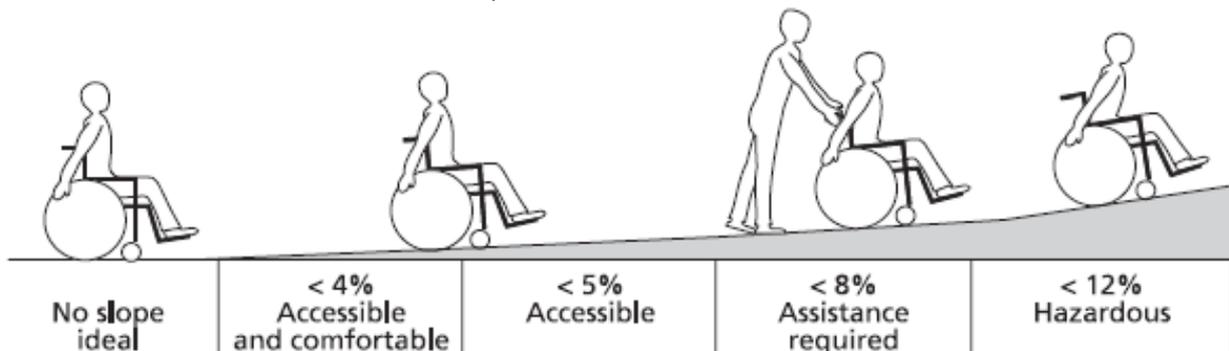


B. Facilities entrance

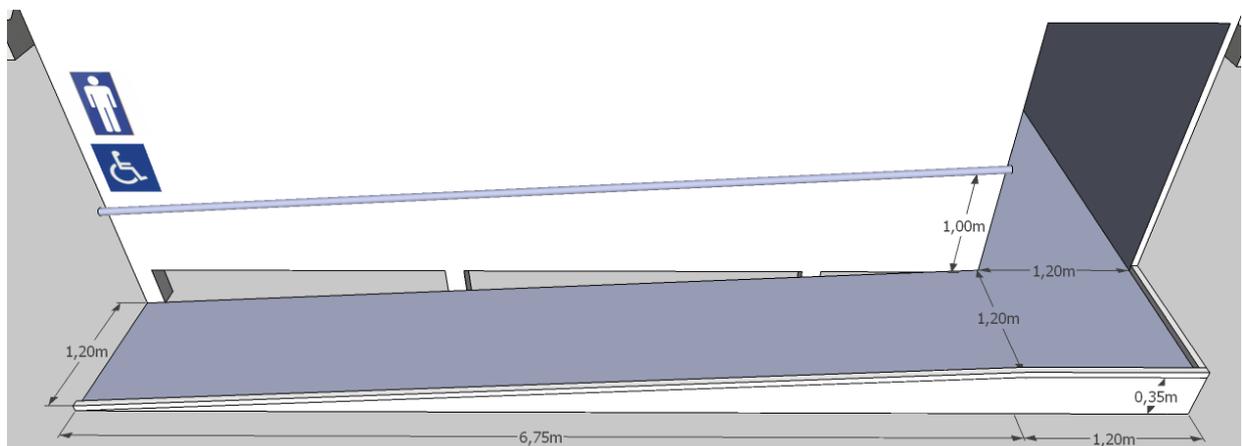
- **Preferably no steps** but if you build stairs, makes sure they are not more than 16cm height and at least 28cm depth.
 - For each stair built, a handrail should be installed.



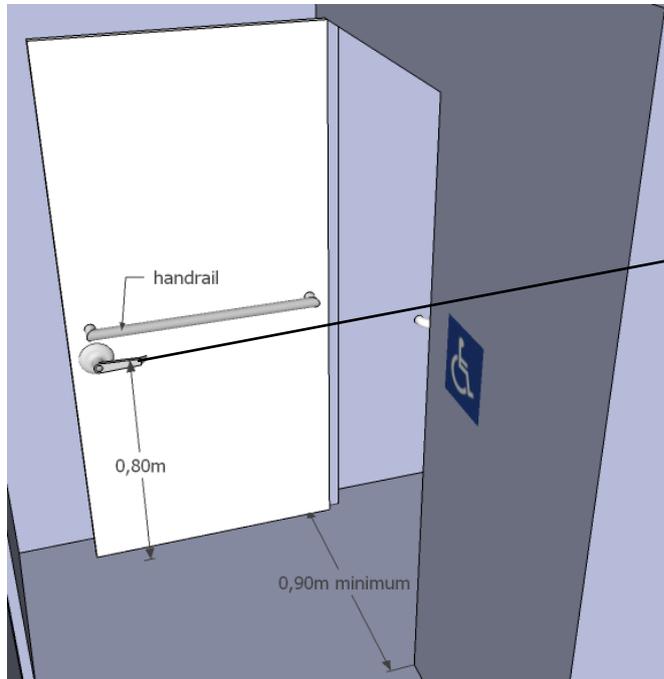
- A ramp is always better than stairs, the ideal gradient should be five per cent (5%) and it should have a smooth and non-slip surface.



- There should be a level space at the end of the ramp to allow the person to stop and turn.



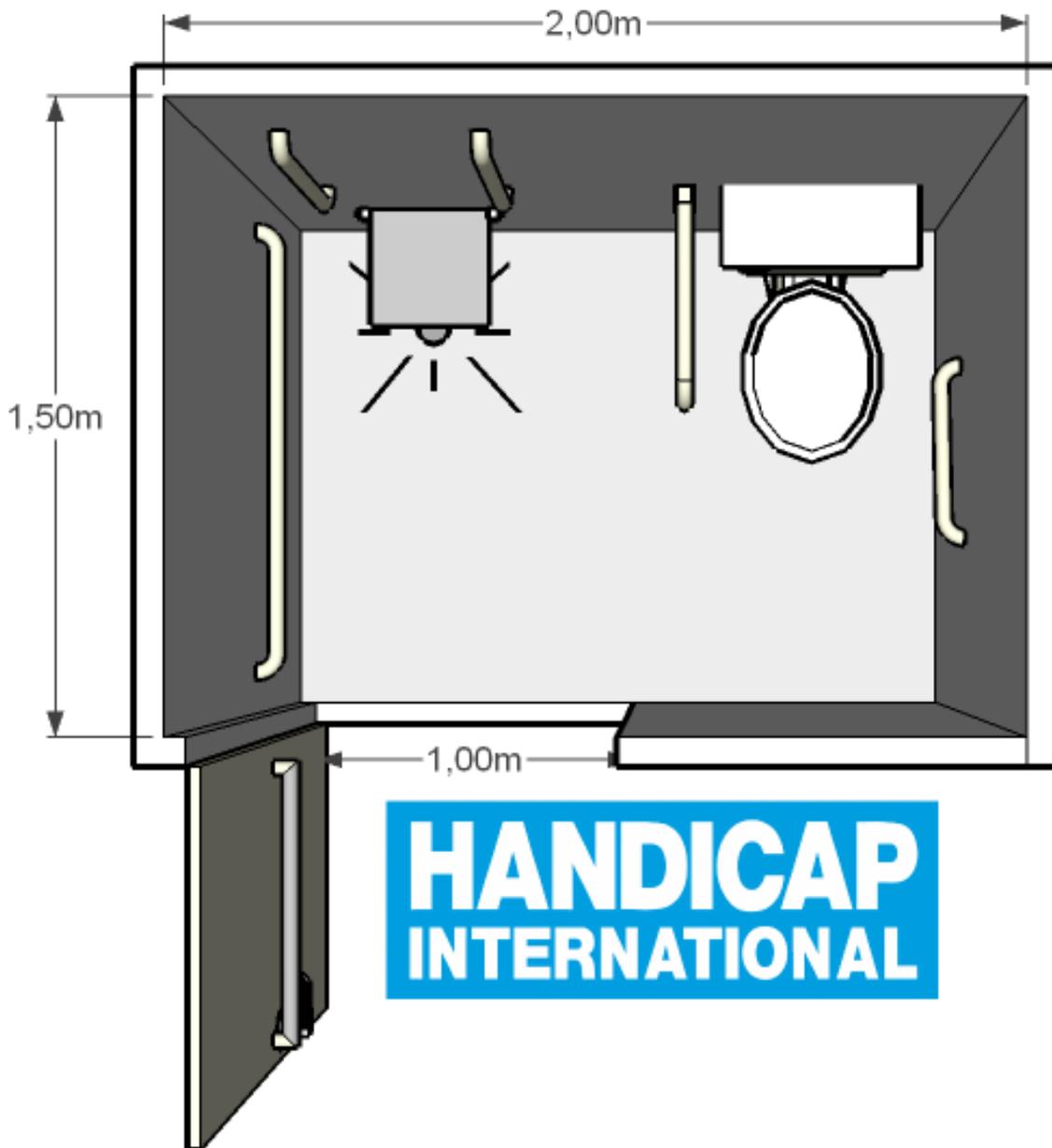
- Door's width should be minimum 0,90 m.
- Doors should open outwards to increase usable space inside.
- Doors' handle should be easy to use (no round handle)

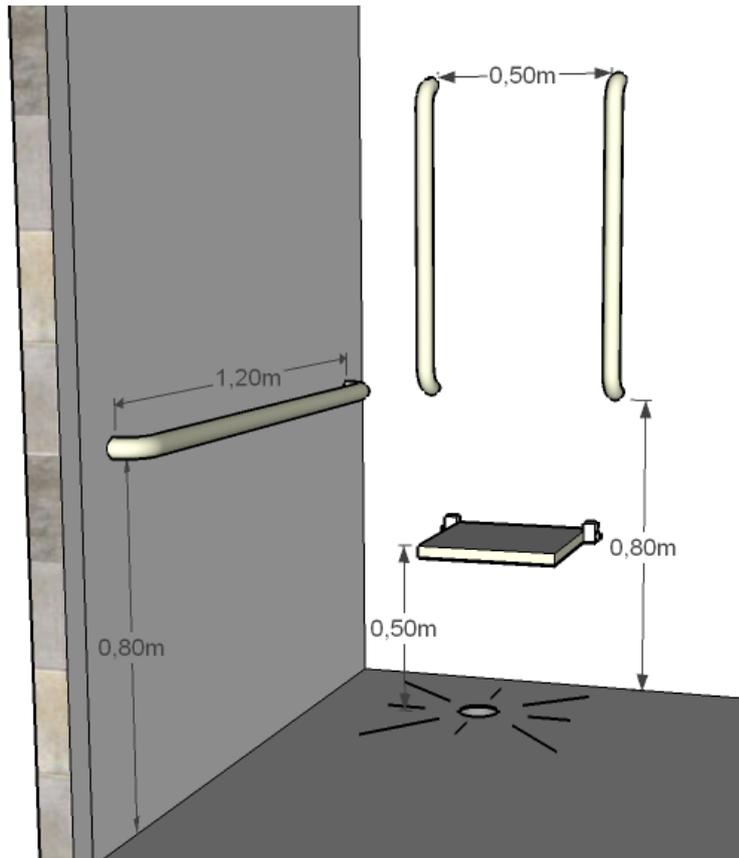


- The door's lock should be under the handle.
- The door's lock should be also easy to handle for people with problems of grip. An adaptation of the handle could be done on the existing locks.

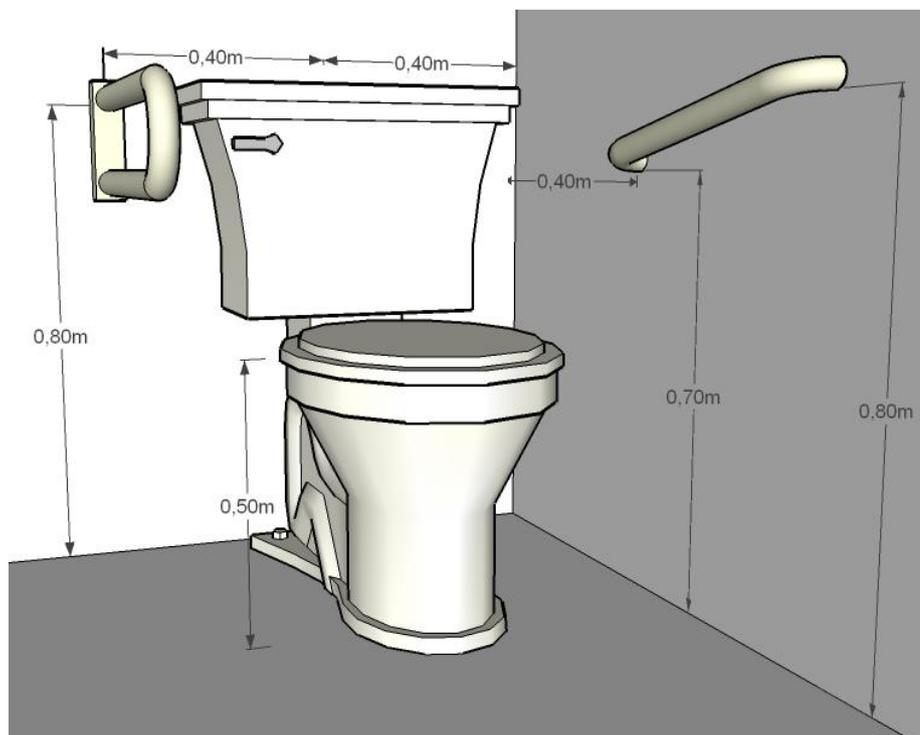
C. Inside design for adapted Toilet & Shower

The following design is valid for all the collective WASH facilities built in the camp

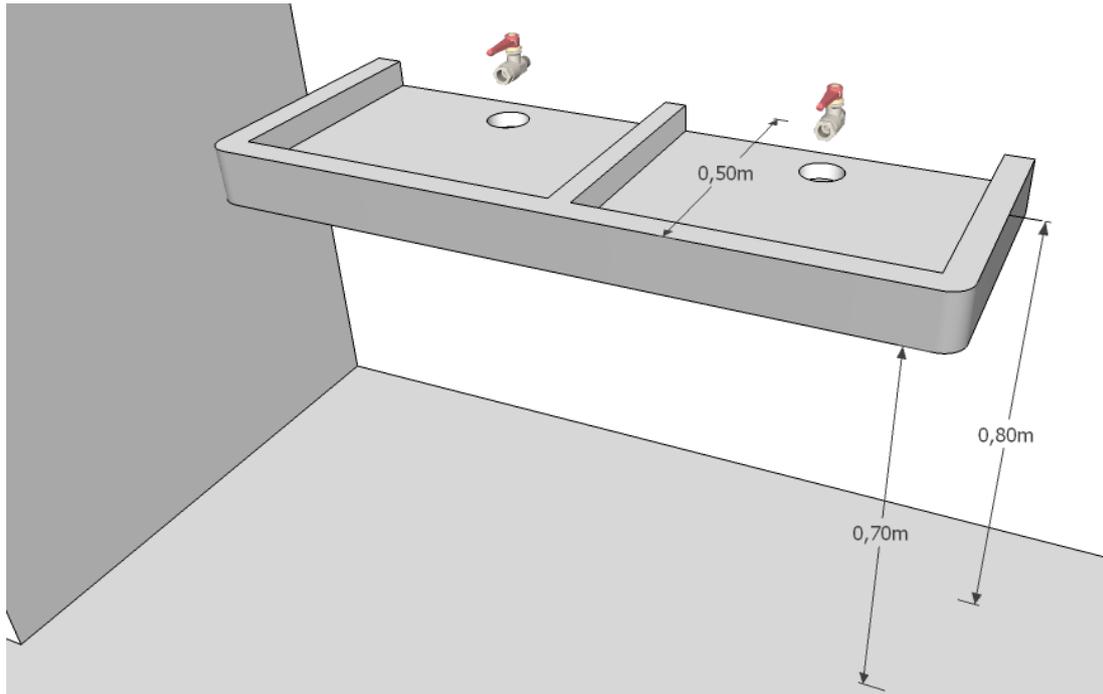




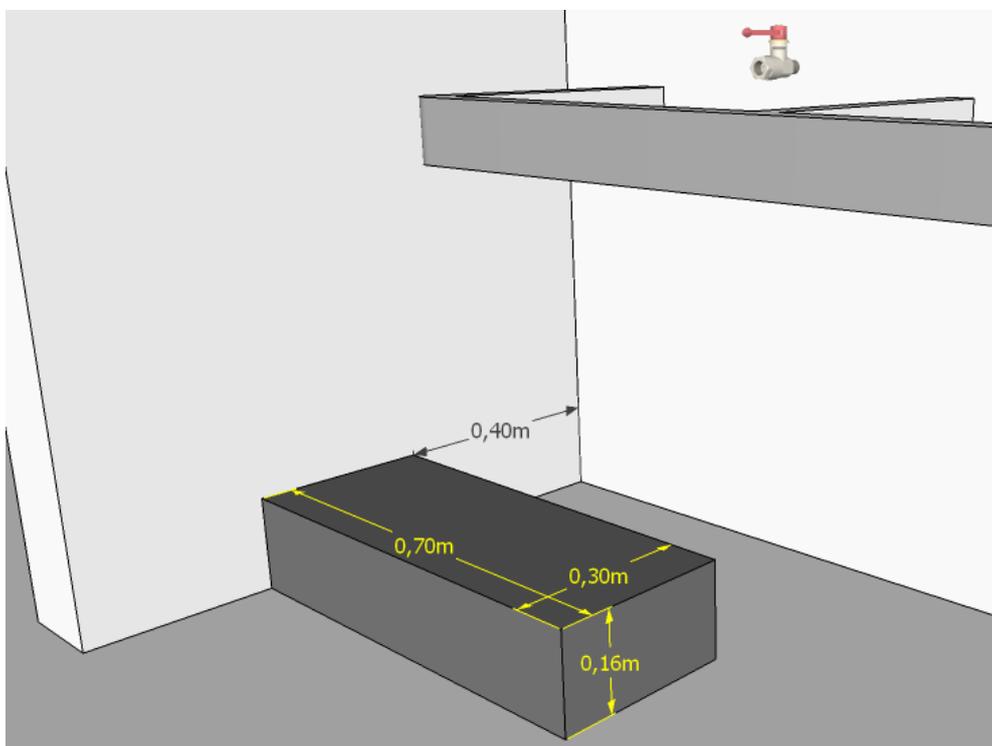
- A removable shower seat should be installed. Its measurements are 0,35m x 0,40m minimum.
- Handrails should be fixed in the shower and on each side of the toilet seat.



D. Hand wash facilities and laundry

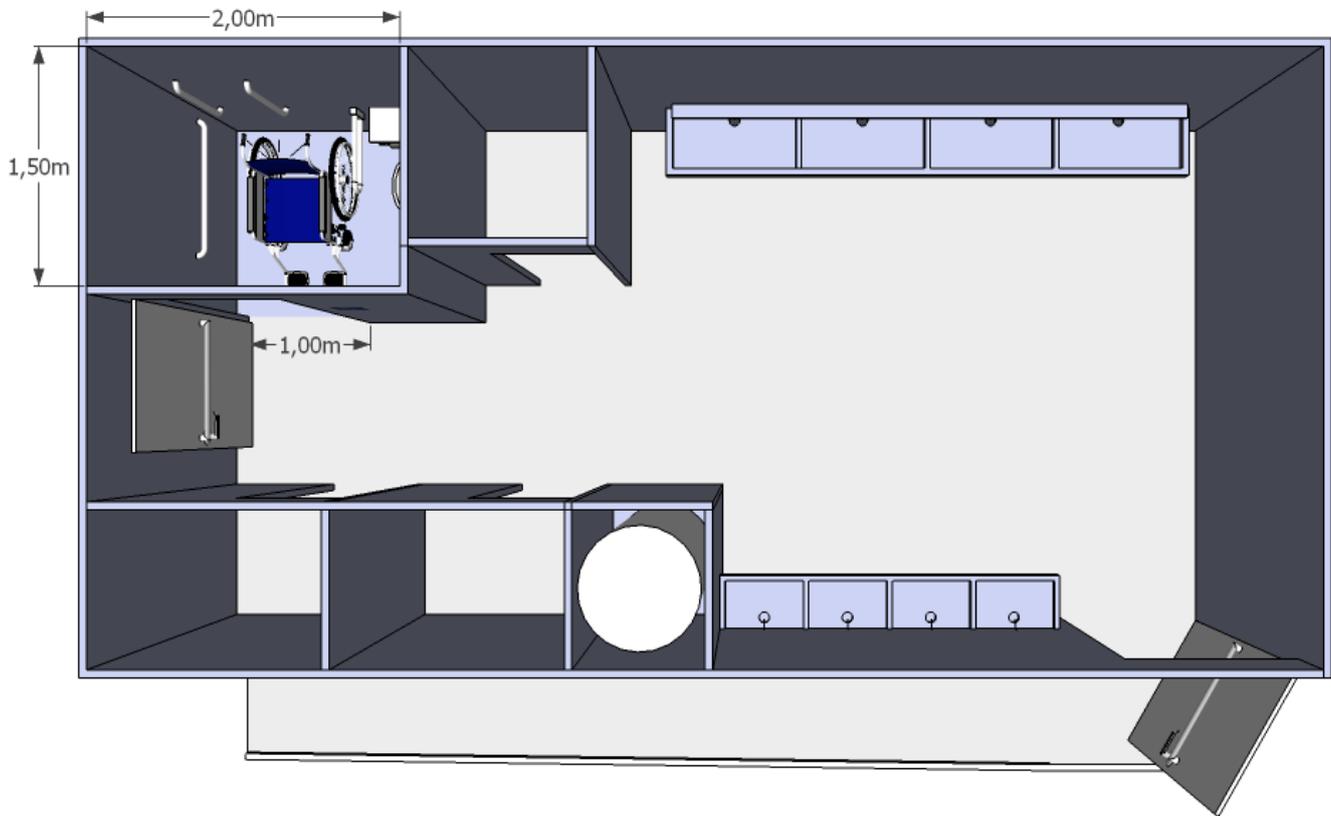
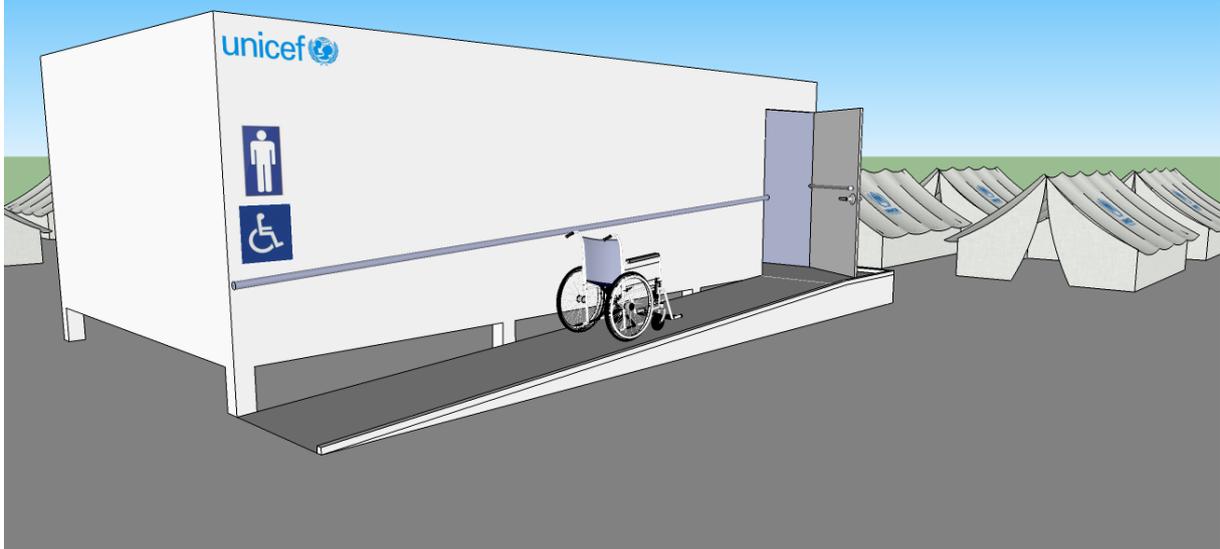


- Hand wash facilities should be accessible for person using wheelchair as well for children.
- Ideally, a step should be set up forward at least one hand wash per block to allow children using it.
- Taps should be used easily by persons with problems of grip.

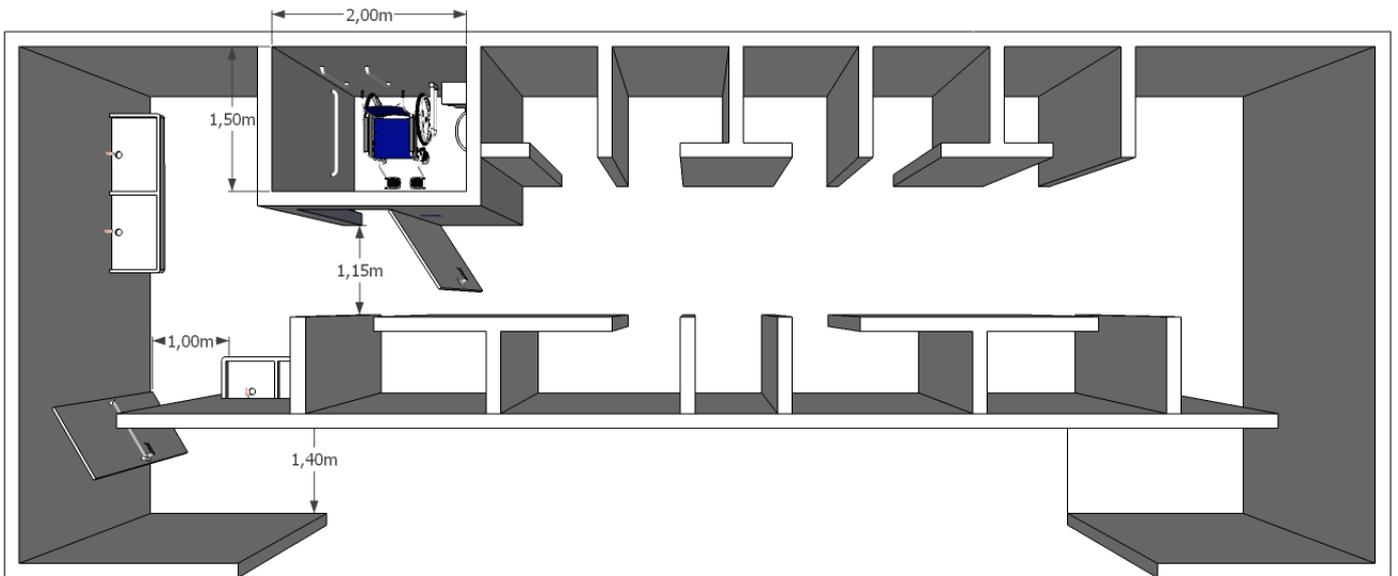
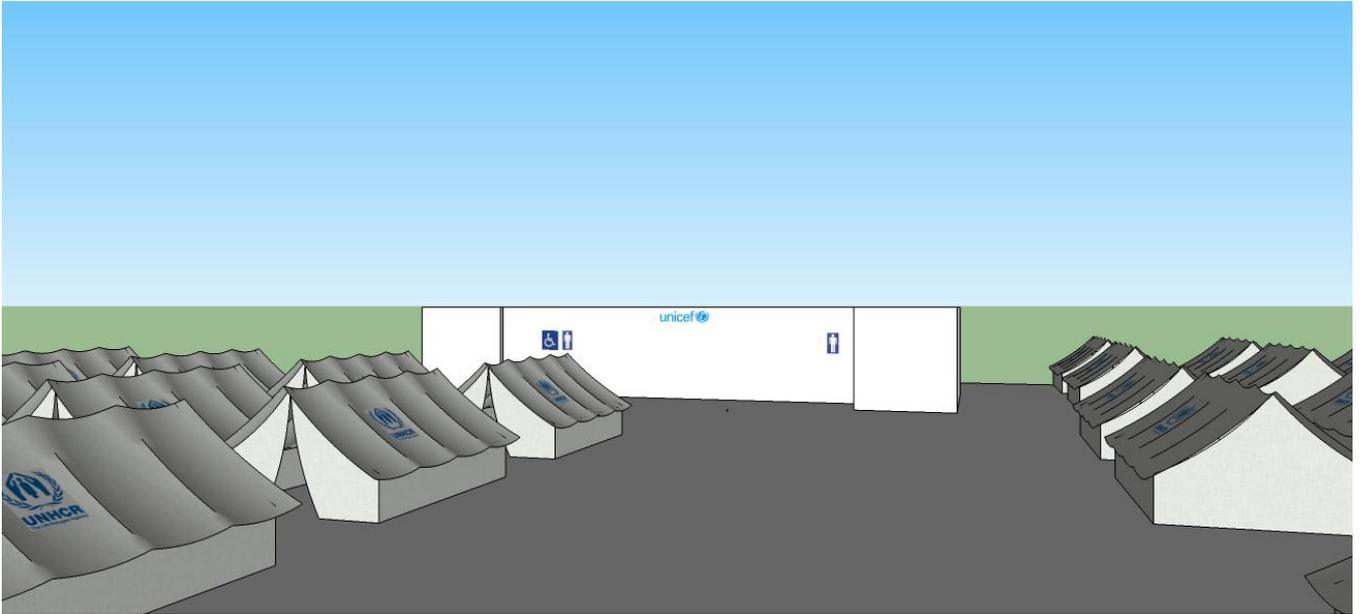


D. 3 possible designs for Toilet and Shower in Za'atari Camp

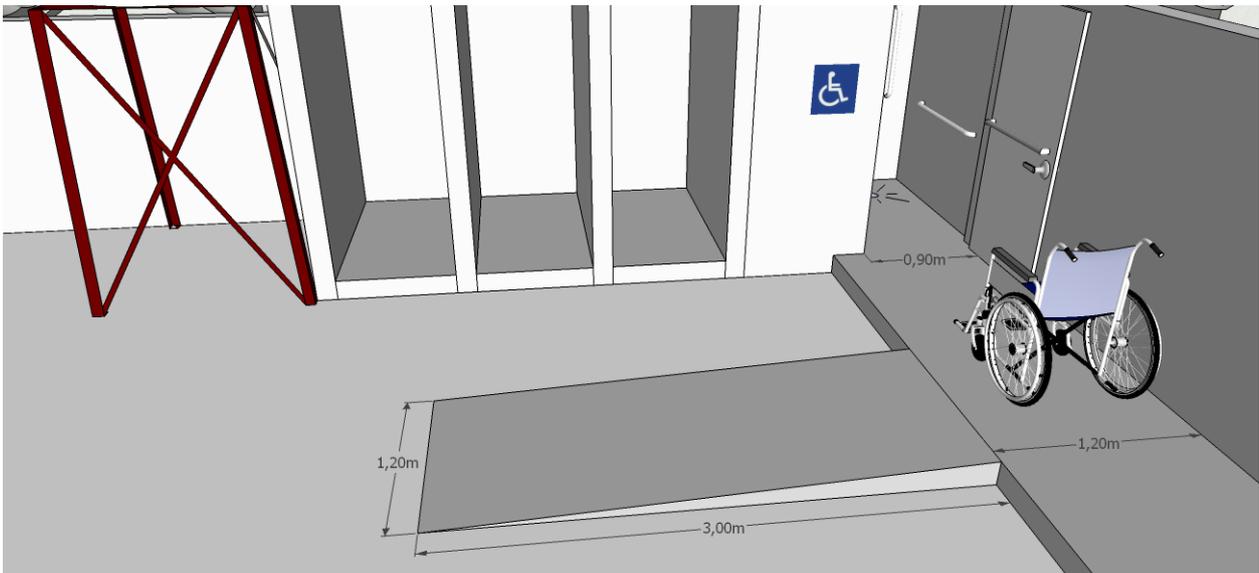
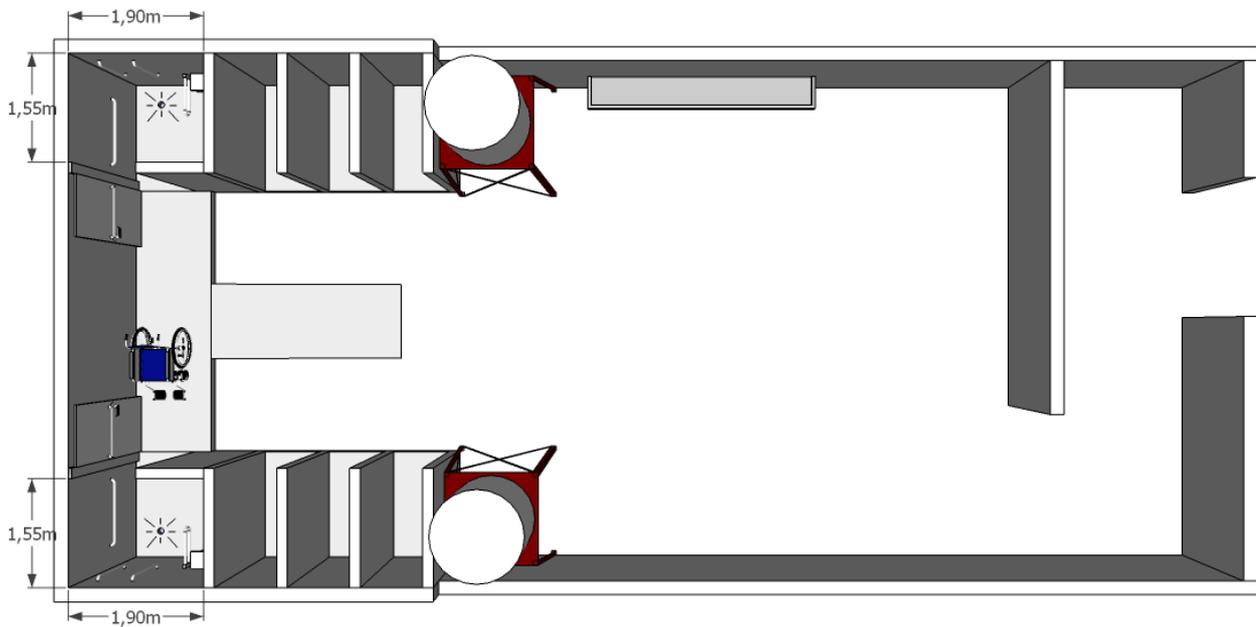
1/ Prefab design



2/ New concrete wash block design



3/ Existing wash block modification



Sources / References :

- “Prise en compte de l’accessibilité dans les camps de réfugiés” – Handicap International – Eric PLANTIER – ROYON – Juillet 2006
- “Promoting Universal Access to the Built Environment - Guidelines” – Christoffel Blind Mission – 2005
- “Shelter, Public Infrastructure, Water and Sanitation : *A Guide for Including People with Disabilities and Injuries*” – Handicap International
- “Water and Sanitation for Disabled People and Other Vulnerable Groups”, Hazel Jones, Water and Engineering Dept, Loughborough University, 2005
- “The Sphere Project 2011” - Practical Action Publishing