



## INTRODUCTION

Traditionally, sandbags have been used to block doorways, drains and other openings into properties as well as to weigh-down manhole covers, and to block sink, toilet and bath drains to prevent water backing up.

## ADVANTAGES OF USING SANDBAG



They can keep water out for short periods which can be improved by using them in conjunction with plastic sheeting.



They can filter out some muddy sediments found in flood waters.



They are cheap and easy to obtain.

## SOME OF THE PITFALLS ARE



It takes two people to fill them, not convenient.



They can be difficult to handle.



Laying them can be very time-consuming.



Sacking material is biodegradable and will perish if left in place for a long time.



It is difficult to place sandbags in water and particularly in running water.



## PROTECTING YOUR SHELTER

Sandbags are of no use if your Settlement is already flooded – The PoCs should concentrate on protecting themselves, belongings and moving important items out of harm's way! The Shelter cluster recommends at least two layers of sandbags around the Shelters and the sandbags to be filled 2/3 to keep it flat, the alignment of the bags should be placed as shown in the attached drawings.

## FILLING THE BAGS

This is a two-person job; one to hold the bag open and one to fill.



Do not fill bags more than two-third full



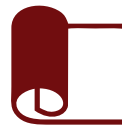
For a normal day this solution can be achieved by 2 paid workers for 2 days.



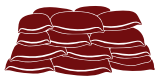
## ALIGNMENT AND PLACING THE SANDBAGS



Clear any debris from the area where the bags are to be placed.



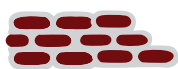
Place a plastic sheet of 2.5x6m on all sides of the shelter to protect the moisture from the sandbags.



Place the bags lengthways, tucking the open end under the filled half of the bag and position it pointing into the direction of water flow.



To lay sandbags in a doorway, it may be necessary to empty some of the contents out or shape the sandbags to achieve a good fit without overlapping.



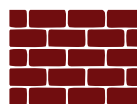
Stamp bags firmly into place to eliminate gaps and create a tight seal.



Have the neck of the sandbags facing the same direction.



Lay sandbags with seams and bag mouths facing inwards, as this is where moisture enters the bags.



Place bags in layers. Like a brick wall, make sure that in the next layer each bag overlaps the one below by half.