

**JOHN WESLEY THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

**OLTALOM CHARITY HOME**  
*(KTAK 136 - Environmental Certification and Condition Assessment)*  
*- Semester project -*

**PREPARED FOR:**  
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## INTRODUCTION

This project involves the environmental inspection and assessment of the Otalom Charity Home Temporary Shelter as part of my semester project for the Environmental Certification and Condition Assessment course at John Wesley Theological College. Environmental inspections are essential for evaluating how effectively facilities that support vulnerable populations comply with safety, sustainability, and operational requirements. Such evaluations help identify both existing strengths and areas that require improvement.

The Otalom Charity Home serves an important role by offering support during emergencies, including natural disasters, extreme weather conditions, and conflicts. This project assesses the shelter's preparedness by examining its energy efficiency, waste management systems, and overall capacity to respond to crises, ensuring it can sustainably fulfil its mission to assist those in need.

From a personal perspective, this project provides an opportunity to apply classroom learning to practical, real-world situations. It underscores the importance of adopting sustainable practices in humanitarian facilities, helping them remain environmentally conscious while effectively serving their communities.

### Auditee Profile: Otalom Charity Home Temporary Shelter

The Otalom Charity Home is a temporary shelter located at Dankó u. 15, 1086 Budapest, Hungary (FIG.1), with coordinates at (47.4906789, 19.082226).

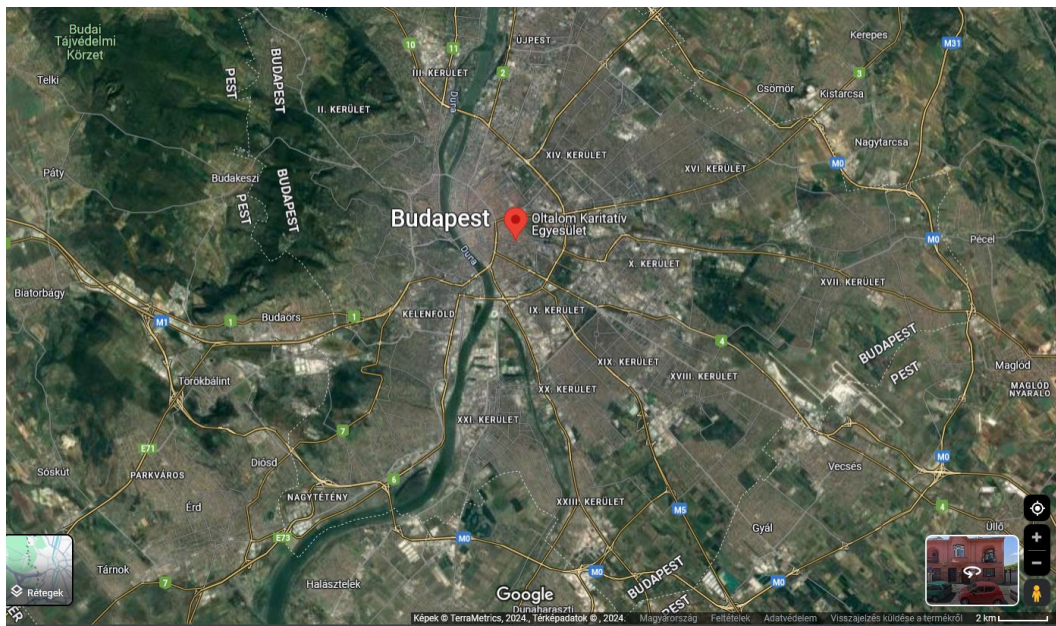


Fig. 1 - The Otalom Charity Home location

The Oltalom Charity Home is part of the Oltalom Charity Foundation located at 1086 Budapest, Dankó Street 9, Hungary. The home was founded on October 1996 providing comprehensive support for vulnerable individuals, including:

- ✓ temporary housing,
- ✓ medical care,
- ✓ psychological assistance, and
- ✓ legal advice.

The organization stands out for offering on-site healthcare services, such as access to doctors and nurses, often at low or no cost.

It also facilitates social reintegration through:

- ✓ job training,
- ✓ education, and advocacy for the rights and dignity of the homeless, addressing systemic causes of homelessness.

Additionally, Oltalom organizes community initiatives like meal distribution, clothing donations, and support for at-risk families, making it a vital resource for those in need. [2].

The shelter provides essential services to homeless individuals, offering them accommodation, food, and social support. Its purpose is to assist those in need by providing a safe, temporary place to stay while also offering services aimed at helping individuals transition to stable living conditions.

The facility is operated by the Oltalom Charity, a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing homelessness and social issues in Budapest.

The shelter operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, ensuring that individuals in need of immediate housing have access to a secure environment at all times.

The shelter can accommodate up to 100 individuals per day, with a maximum capacity of 300 daily. However, during the crisis season, which runs from October 1st to April 30th, the shelter can accommodate up to 130 individuals at a time, with a maximum of 390 daily.

The shelter's services are focused on homeless adults in the Budapest area. It also provides refuge during extreme weather conditions, such as winter, and offers emergency housing for individuals in crisis.

The shelter provides a range of essential services. It has:

- ✓ a fully equipped kitchen that prepares meals three times a day (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) for all residents.

The kitchen is designed to handle large volumes of food preparation, ensuring that all residents receive sufficient nutrition.

- ✓ There are adequate bathroom facilities for both men and women, with separate sections to ensure privacy. The bathrooms include showers, toilets, and sinks, all maintained to a high standard of cleanliness.
- ✓ Common spaces are also available for residents to relax, socialize, and access support services. These spaces include seating areas, recreational zones, and a small library for reading.

The common areas are designed to foster a sense of community and provide residents with the opportunity to engage with staff and other individuals in the shelter.

## **ENVIRONMENT INSPECTION**

The Otalom Charity Home is legally registered as a non-profit organization under Hungarian law and complies with all relevant legal frameworks for charitable activities and social service provisions. It holds the necessary permits for operation, including health and safety certifications, and adheres to local and national regulations concerning homelessness support services.

The shelter operates in full compliance with regulations related to:

- ✓ sanitation,
- ✓ building safety, and
- ✓ emergency preparedness

The shelter is committed to maintaining a clean and healthy environment. It follows waste management practices that include recycling and effective waste segregation.

The facility has energy-efficient lighting and appliances, though there is room for improvement in areas like insulation and energy usage awareness.

Water conservation is a priority, with low-flow fixtures in place and ongoing considerations for rainwater harvesting.

Additionally, the shelter is equipped with necessary fire safety measures, including smoke detectors, fire exits, and extinguishers, and conducts regular emergency drills to ensure the preparedness of its staff

## **INSPECTION METHODOLOGY**

### **AUDITOR PROFILE**

My name is Absatu Khadija Jalloh, and I am a student at John Wesley Theological College, currently studying Environmental Certification and Condition Assessment. For my semester project, I am focusing on assessing the environmental conditions

and certifications of Olatom Charity Home to understand their sustainability practices and how well they comply with environmental standards.

In this project, I am applying the knowledge I have gained from my coursework to conduct real-world assessments of facility conditions, reviewing their environmental impact, and evaluating their adherence to relevant regulations and certification standards.

The aim of my work is to provide insights into how organizations can improve their environmental management practices and achieve sustainability goals more effectively.

## AUDIT PROCEDURE

I carried out an inspection of the Olatom Charity Home Temporary Shelter, located at Dankó u. 15, 1086 Budapest, Hungary.

The inspection was conducted on 9th October 2024 at 10 am.

The objective of the inspection was to assess the shelter’s environmental conditions, operational efficiency, and adherence to relevant health and safety regulations. Additionally, I aimed to evaluate the shelter’s disaster preparedness, waste management, and overall operational capacity.

To conduct the inspection, I used a systematic approach that involved reviewing the facility’s infrastructure, including the bed capacity, kitchen, bathroom, and common spaces. [1].

I assessed their cleanliness, functionality, and suitability for accommodating residents. I also observed the shelter’s waste management practices, energy usage, and water conservation methods to determine the shelter’s sustainability efforts

As part of the inspection, I carried out a disaster preparedness assessment using a checklist I created from a template provided on the Safety Culture website. [4]

The checklist consisted of 10 critical (Yes/ NO) questions [3] that focused on emergency procedures, safety equipment, and staff preparedness (Table 1)

NO.	QUESTIONS
Q1	DO YOU HAVE A READY-MADE PLAN FOR EMERGENCY?
Q2	DO YOU TRY TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS AND DISASTERS?
Q3	DO YOU HAVE MEASURES IN PLACE FOR DISABLED SENIORS?
Q4	DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH WORKERS TO HELP WITH EVACUATION IF NEEDED?
Q5	HAVE YOU EVER HAD AN ACCIDENT/DISASTER BEFORE?
Q6	IS THERE A COMMUNICATION CHANNEL/DEVICES TO USE IN AN EMERGENCY?

Q7	DO YOU HAVE A STANDBY MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND FIRSAID?
Q8	DO YOU HAVE THE RESIDENTS PERSONAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION ON STANDBY?
Q9	DO GOVERNMENT HELP IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY?
Q10	DO YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY ALARM SYSTEM?

Table 1 – The set of questions used for the Audit inspection

The 10 questions were subsequently grouped according to their meaning into questions whose meaning has positive connotations and questions whose meaning has negative connotations.

To ensure accurate responses, I asked the operating manager and shelter staff these questions directly. However, I encountered a language barrier, as the staff members could not speak English fluently and only communicated in Hungarian. Since I also do not speak Hungarian fluently, I used Google Translate to facilitate communication and ensure that I could understand their responses and ask follow-up questions when necessary.

In addition to the disaster preparedness checklist, I examined the shelter’s safety features, including fire exits, extinguishers, and emergency preparedness protocols. I also assessed the general cleanliness of the shelter, including sanitation facilities, to ensure that they met health and hygiene standards.

Throughout the inspection, I made detailed observations of the shelter’s operations, focusing on its capacity during the crisis season. I noted how the shelter manages its resources during peak periods and how it delivers services to residents in need. Despite the language barrier, I was able to effectively communicate with the staff using translation tools, ensuring a thorough evaluation of the shelter's operations and safety preparedness.

## **INSPECTION RESULTS**

The Oltalom Charity Home Temporary Shelter was found to be well-maintained with sufficient bed capacity to accommodate the people coming in as they have day-care, night care and people that stayed both day and night. They have facilities for daytime warming and the day-care facilities was operational.

The kitchen, bathroom, and common areas were functional and were cleaned, sanitized and met basic hygiene standards.

Fire safety measures, including fire exits and extinguishers, were in place and up to code.

Waste management and sanitation facilities were well-maintained, and the shelter adhered to health and safety protocols. They also have enough staff and volunteering care givers while the shelter follows basic environmental sustainability practices, there is room for improvement in energy efficiency and insulation to reduce its environmental footprint.

I also got to speak with some the temporary residents there and they are pleased with services they are getting and how well they are running the home. I was not allowed in a lot of places because they were occupied, and I was not also allowed to take photos or video recordings

Out of the 10 questions I only had 1 bad question which is if they had any disaster/emergency before and they said yes, they had a fire incident. All 9 other responses were good questions and positive answers (FIG. 2).

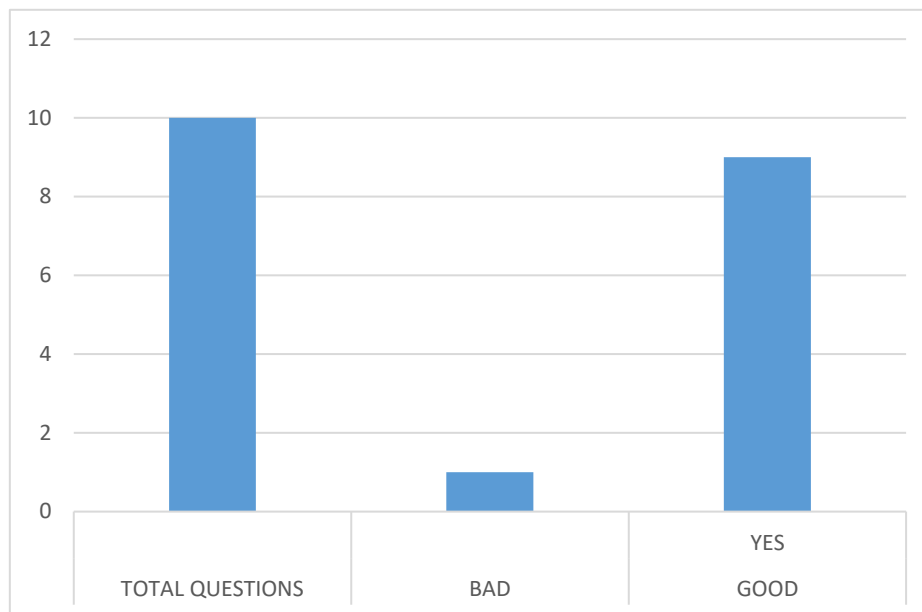


FIG. 2 Distribution of responses according to the meaning of the questions

### Discussion on Areas for Improvement

While the Otalom Charity Home Temporary Shelter provides essential services and maintains a generally clean environment, there are several areas that could be improved. First, energy efficiency could be enhanced by improving the building's insulation, which would reduce energy consumption and provide a more comfortable environment for residents, especially during the colder months. Additionally, expanding waste management practices to include composting, more detailed recycling, and waste reduction programs would promote sustainability and reduce landfill contributions.

Staff training on safety protocols and sustainability could be improved to ensure readiness in emergencies and reinforce operational effectiveness. Although the shelter has adequate disaster preparedness measures, regular drills and reviews of emergency protocols would better prepare staff for handling crises.

Although the primary focus of the Otalom Charity Home is on Hungarian citizens, the shelter also caters to refugees during crises, such as wars or natural disasters, which



presents potential communication challenges with non-Hungarian speakers. To address this, the shelter could hire multilingual staff or volunteers, provide basic language training for existing staff, and utilize translation technology for real-time communication. Additionally, creating multilingual signs, visual guides, and pictograms for emergency procedures would ensure refugees can understand essential information. These measures would enhance the shelter's capacity to provide inclusive and effective support during emergencies.

Lastly, while the shelter employs some sustainability practices, exploring initiatives such as rainwater harvesting or the use of sustainable building materials could further reduce its environmental impact and improve its sustainability efforts.

## CONCLUSION

The inspection of the Otalom Charity Home Temporary Shelter revealed:

- ✓ a well-maintained facility with adequate accommodations and essential disaster preparedness measures in place.
- ✓ the shelter operates effectively within its current framework,
- ✓ areas for improvement include enhancing energy efficiency, waste management, and staff training in disaster response.

Despite language barriers, the shelter can address communication challenges by employing multilingual resources to better serve refugees during crises.

Overall, with targeted enhancements in sustainability and preparedness, the shelter can continue to provide vital support to those in need while improving its operational and environmental standards.

## REFERENCES

1. Berko E.O., Mattos de Araujo Sant Anna B., 2022, Specifics-of-college-dormitory-life's-quality, REPORT,
2. Brid, D. K., 2009. The use of questionnaires for acquiring information on public perception of natural hazards and risk mitigation –a review of current knowledge and practice. *Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences*, 9: 1307-1325.
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## APPENDIX



<https://www.vasarnapihitek.hu/fokusz/kibontani-az-embert-oltalom-korhaz-ri-port-dec14-jotekonyasagi-gala>