

Annex B

Types and phases of assessment in a humanitarian crisis

The table below (adapted from *Emergency Food Security Assessment Handbook*, first edition, WFP 2005) summarizes the typical main data collection and analysis processes involved in responding to the health aspects of a humanitarian crisis/emergency.

Types of Assessment – When, Why and How They are Undertaken					
Assessment type	When	Typical time frame	Purpose – main outputs	Main methods used	Knowledge and skills needed
Preliminary assessment, reconnaissance <u>1/</u>	Onset of a new emergency	<i>Sudden-onset:</i> 1-2 days <i>Slow-onset:</i> first week	Preliminary determinations of the areas, population groups and numbers (rough estimates) of people affected, and the likely impact on health and health systems. Recommendations for: immediate life-saving assistance and injury and disability prevention, if needed; the localities and priority topics on which a follow-on rapid assessment should focus, if required; and the type and scale of external assistance, if any, that might be needed.	Rapid secondary data review Contacts with key informants at national and local levels, military, press A few quick site visits, if possible, with purposive sampling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • observation • key informant interviews • satellite imagery, over flight • drive/walk through 	Knowledge of the area & pre-existing situation, Knowledge of the impact of similar crises in other contexts Skills in collecting & analysing secondary data
	New crisis or access to a new area during an ongoing operation				
(Initial) Rapid assessment	Following preliminary enquiries at the onset of a new sudden-onset emergency	<i>Sudden-onset:</i> 5-10 days <i>Slow-onset:</i>	An early rapid assessment aims to provide the best possible overview of the situation and priority needs -given the data and time available and other constraints-, define the geographic extent of the crisis and estimate the population	Secondary data review Visits to main administrative centres (and logistic hubs for health supplies)	Local knowledge Experience of assessments in similar

Types of Assessment – When, Why and How They are Undertaken

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	Following a major change or new crisis in an ongoing operation, or access becomes available to a previously inaccessible area	first month	<p>at risk, thus providing key information for planning an initial response and start mobilising additional resources..</p> <p>Analyses of the impact of the crisis, the present situation, how it is expected to evolve and future risks in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the health status of individuals; • the capacity and performance of health services including management and surveillance; • the capacity of key actors; • the relevant contextual factors (mainly security and other factors critical to the access to the area) • public health risks. <p>Recommendations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring that people’s vital needs are met, • ensuring that populations have access to essential health care services; • measures that could mitigate health risks, and promote initial recovery of services; <p>what needs to be monitored, how and the contingencies to be planned for, including responsibilities</p>	<p>Visits to a sample of sites (purposive sampling):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key informant and community group interviews • analysis of records & other information • a few subgroup interviews <i>or</i> a quick survey (MUAC, household, etc) 	<p>situations</p> <p>Skills in facilitating group and household interviews, simple quantitative analysis, epidemiology & public health, analysis of qualitative data</p>
Detailed sub-sector assessments; surveys	When the initial rapid assessment has identified a need for more detailed information on specific aspects	3-4 weeks when required	<p>These assessments will provide more detailed analyses of the situation, risks, opportunities and constraints.</p> <p>They identify priorities for short- and medium- term action and provide a basis for planning both humanitarian and early recovery activities (including estimates of sub-sector resource requirements)</p>	<p>Thorough secondary data review</p> <p>Extensive site visits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key informant and community group interviews • household survey with probability sampling <i>or</i> multiple in-depth subgroup discussions • analysis of health sectors • Analysis of capacity of key actors 	<p>Skills in: survey design and management; health system analysis; epidemiology; data management; statistical analysis of quantitative data; qualitative data analysis health system analysis; health planning</p>
Damage/ needs/	After a major disaster	Month 2	This assessment aims to kick-off the recovery process, by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainly review of secondary data: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epidemiology

Types of Assessment – When, Why and How They are Undertaken

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losses assessment for health-sector recovery & reconstruction <u>2/</u>	In a (post-)conflict situation when conditions allow for recovery (e.g. peace agreement, reduction in violence, return of refugees and IDPs, interest of donors to invest in recovery)	1-2 months when the situation allows	identifying key priorities for the short-medium term (next 3-5 years) within a broader reconstruction framework. It focuses on few strategic objectives and related strategies and priority outputs concerning key components of the health sector (HR, infrastructure, pharmaceutical sector, financing, main interventions and modalities of service delivery). It constitutes the basis for developing a macro-plan, mobilizing resources at a donor conference or appeal and for and, based on this, plans at a lower level (province(s), district(s) etc).	HIS, databases & surveillance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to strategic, selected sites and health facilities • Interviews with key informants • Modelling of data, based on scenarios 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health system analysis • Health planning • Statistical analysis

Notes:

1/ This may include multi-sectoral preliminary assessments led by external teams such as UNDAC

2/ These may include World-Bank-led *Damage and Loss Assessments* (DALAs) or UNDG/UNDP/WB-led *Post-Disaster Needs Assessments* (PDNAs)