RAIS
Refugee Assistance Information System

Vulnerability Assessment Framework

JORDAN MISSION –

VAF Module Training for using existing beneficiary lists

Determining Eligibility and Prioritization of Beneficiaries through Vulnerability Scoring

Training-of-Trainer Guide

The Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) defines vulnerability as:

"the risk of exposure of Syrian refugee households to harm, primarily in relation to protection threats, inability to meet basic needs, limited access to basic services, and food insecurity, and the ability of the population to cope with the consequences of this harm."

A key objective of the Jordan Refugee Response has been to ensure that humanitarian resources have been used efficiently and effectively, as a commitment to both donors, the Government of Jordan and to the refugees themselves. Targeting of assistance to the most vulnerable refugees is a part of this commitment. As a result in January 2014, the Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) process was launched in Jordan with the primary objective of developing a robust model that could be applied across the Syrian non-camp based population to assess multiple vulnerabilities and provide the humanitarian country specific information at Kingdom wide, district and household levels. The VAF is a combination of a number of components all of which build on the development of the Vulnerability Assessment Model.

Introduction to the Vulnerability Assessment Framework:

Historical Background

In late 2013 considerable amounts of data on Syrian refugees was available in Jordan. However, the tools used to analyse and collect this data varied between partners. The use of different vulnerability assessment criteria at the sector level meant data was not fully comparable between sector partner organizations or able to be combined to form a comprehensive picture. The terms 'vulnerable' and 'vulnerability' are common terms within the humanitarian aid and development sectors, but their use can be vague, or often viewed as substitutes for defining 'poor' or 'poverty'. Vulnerability has to be defined within the scope of what it is that a population is vulnerable to. The definition of vulnerability therefore requires specificity.

Against this background the VAF Steering Committee[1] was established in January 2014 to oversee the development of the Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) as a tool to facilitate better analysis and targeting of urban Syrian refugees with humanitarian assistance on the basis of vulnerability[2].

The VAF process seeks to put in place an observation and reporting system that, using a mixture of static and dynamic indicators, supports the humanitarian community to:

1: Establish a profile of vulnerability across Syrian refugee households and enable monitoring of changes in vulnerability over time;
2. Target assistance in a more efficient and equitable manner, based on the application of common vulnerability criteria; and
3. Strengthen coordination and decision making of the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

In 2014 UNHCR Jordan in collaboration with the World Bank started testing the use of econometric modelling for the purpose of measuring poverty, welfare and vulnerability across the non-camp based Syrian refugee population

The Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) Module in RAIS is located as below:

*New users requiring access to this Module first need to confirm that their organization is a VAF partner, if not please contact JORAMDAT@unhcr.org; or if is a partner the user can proceed to contact JORAMDAG@unhcr.org to request the additional module be added to their user account.

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[1] VAF Steering Committee Members: ACTED, CARE International, DRC, ECHO, Handicap International, BPRM, PU-AMI, UN-Women, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP and WHO (2014- mid 2016, Steering Committee disbanded for second phase VAF Advisory Board introduced mid 2016).
2 Methodologies for delivery of protection services and identification of protection vulnerabilities are conducted in parallel with case management referral tools.

Understanding the scoring system, see hypothetical scenario below:

INGO ABC has been approved funding to undertake a Basic needs Cash intervention based on the following criteria:

Target Group: The most vulnerable Syrian refugee families that are socioeconomically vulnerable, have a high level of aid dependency, are food insecure and engaged in negative coping mechanisms.

No. of Cases to receive 6 months regular cash assistance: 500

Areas of Operation: Governorate/ District: Irbid; Ramtha and Bani Obeid (District selection will be available to cater to specific areas of operation.)

Depending on the type of intervention your organization is responding to; the criteria in which is supplied by the donor or what other considerations you would like to include additionally as vulnerability factors. The VAF Module can be used to effectively improve eligibility, prioritization and targeting and used in such a way by allowing organizations to pick and choose their data based on their independent needs given the multi-faceted and multi-sectoral nature of the tool.

For example if organization ABC have been approved funding to provide 500 cases in Irbid with regular cash assistance for a period of 6 months, and although it is a Cash Based intervention, the target group doesn't not have to be limited to prioritization through the Basic Needs Score (socioeconomic vulnerability) but additional scores can be used in unison / parallel to improve targeting. This enables assistance and services to reach cases that are the most vulnerable at a multitude of facets when additional criteria can be applied based on programmatic requirements.

VAF Scoring can be interpreted by the following, irrespective of the sectors or universal indicators you select to filter from:
1 = low vulnerability
2 = moderate vulnerability
3 = high vulnerability
4 = severe vulnerability

INGO ABC applied the following scoring filters **Basic Needs**, **Food Security**, **Welfare, Dependency** and **Coping Strategies,** which resulted in:

Case A		Case B		Case C	
Basic Needs score:	4	Basic Needs score:	4	Basic Needs score:	3
Food Security score:	3	Food Security score:	4	Food Security score:	1
Welfare score:	2	Welfare score:	4	Welfare score:	2
Dependency:	2	Dependency:	4	Dependency:	2
Coping Strategies:	4	Coping Strategies:	4	Coping Strategies:	1

Based on results that the Score selection returns, as displayed in hypothetical scenario below: Case B, is most vulnerable compared to Case A and Case C, therefore similar profiles to Case B should be prioritized to receive assistance.

Using VAF scores for prioritization

1. Select Form: VAFver1 from drop down menu
2. Select Universal indicator scores if applicable to your programme
3. Select relevant Sector Scores
4. Copy and paste up to 1000 of your existing beneficiaries *(existing beneficiaries refers to beneficiaries which you organization already has biodata for; i.e. PA name, address, phone number etc. as the VAF module doesn't allow visibility of any biodata from this search. To request VAF data with biodata a different procedure has to be followed)*
5. Click 'Get Scores' to retrieve the results

Scores selection will appear at the bottom of the screen

To export results click excel icon to the right of the screen as shown below:

Excel Export visualization below:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Case No	_PA_Sex	Location	VAF Basic Needs Score	Economic State	Dependency Ratio Score	Coping Strategies	Dept Per Capita	Expenditure Per Capita	Family Size
2	199-	M	Zarqa,Qasabet Az-Zarqa	4.00	3.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	7.00
3	841-	F	Mafraq,Al-Badiah Ash-Shamaliyya al-Gharbeh	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	4.00	6.00
4	199-	F	Mafraq,Qasabet Al-Mafraq	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	2.00	4.00	10.00
5	841-	M	Amman,Ar-Rusaifeh	4.00	4.00	3.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	5.00
6	199-	M	Zarqa,Al-Hashemieh	3.00	4.00	2.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	4.00
7	841-	F	Zarqa,Qasabet Az-Zarqa	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	8.00
8	841-	M	Zarqa,Qasabet Az-Zarqa	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	4.00	7.00
9	631-	M	Zarqa,Qasabet Az-Zarqa	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	4.00	9.00
10	631-	F	Zarqa,Qasabet Az-Zarqa	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	10.00
11	199-	F	Ajloun,Qasabet Ajloun	3.00	4.00	4.00	1.00	1.00	4.00	7.00
12	841-	M	Zarqa,Qasabet Az-Zarqa	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	4.00	7.00
13	199-	F	Zarqa,Al-Rusayfa	3.00	4.00	2.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	4.00
14	199-	M	Mafraq,Al-Badih Ash-Shamaliyya	4.00	3.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	6.00
15	199-	M	Zarqa,Qasabet Az-Zarqa	3.00	4.00	2.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	4.00
16	631-	F	Zarqa,Qasabet Az-Zarqa	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	4.00
17	165-	F	Mafraq,Al-Badiah Ash-Shamaliyya al-Gharbeh	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	4.00	9.00
18	165-	M	Ajloun,Qasabet Ajloun	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	2.00
19	199-	M	Amman,Marka	3.00	4.00	1.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	2.00
20	199-	F	Zarqa,Qasabet Az-Zarqa	4.00	3.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
21	199-	M	Amman,Al-Jameh	4.00	3.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	6.00
22	841-	M	Zarqa,Qasabet Az-Zarqa	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	4.00	7.00
23	165-	F	Ajloun,Qasabet Ajloun	3.00	3.00	1.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
24	199-	M	Mafraq,Al-Badiah Ash-Shamaliyya al-Gharbeh	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	7.00
25	199-	M	Zarqa,Qasabet Az-Zarqa	3.00	4.00	2.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	4.00
26	841-	F	Mafraq,Al-Badih Ash-Shamaliyya	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	7.00
27	199-	F	Irbid,Qasabet Irbid	2.00	3.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00	3.00

Understanding Sector level indicators for programming prioritization and targeting:

For example the VAF basic needs score can be understood and interpreted by looking at the VAF Basic Needs Sector tree. All sector trees can be located at the following link. Sector trees provide you with the methodology for understanding the calculation of the scoring for each individual indicator, whether it is the universal or sector indicators.
For example the Basic Needs score is compromised of several different layers of indicators which appear as above; Economic state, Dependency Ratio score, Coping Strategies, Debt per capita, Expenditure per capita and family size which all contribute to the overall VAF Basic needs score.

In the above excel screenshot you can see that the Basic Needs Scores range from 2, 3 and 4.

1 = low vulnerability
2 = moderate vulnerability
3 = high vulnerability
4 = severe vulnerability

Therefore generally for targeting and prioritization purposes, it is recommended to select cases which appear in the 3 -4 level categories which are high or severely vulnerable.

For more information on the VAF methodology and scoring system please contact **JORAMDAT@unhcr.org**

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