Vulnerability Assessment Framework
Update December 2014
The 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 basic services, and food insecurity, and the ability of the population to cope with the consequences of this harm”
Vulnerability Assessment model so far
We are more confident in the VAF welfare model

Welfare Model characteristics

- House Crowding (people per room)
- Coping Strategies Used (food needs)
- Living with host family
- Savings Level
- Debt level
- Income per capita
- Family Size

1st Estimation
Sample Size: 700
R-squared: 0.49

2nd Estimation
Sample Size: 5000
R-squared: 0.57

3rd Estimation
Sample Size: 9000
R-squared: 0.60

All estimations show:

1. Same identified characteristics
2. Same directional effect of characteristics
3. High statistical significance of all characteristics (0.1%)

What Does This Mean:

1. Confidence in findings of model
2. Confidence in accuracy of model
3. Validation of model

Governorate Representative Estimation
Sample Size: 5000
R-squared: 0.60
Sector specific vulnerability rules
An example (education):
An example (food):

- **Dependency ratio excl. chronic sick**
  - 1 = < 0.6
  - 2 = 0.6 - 1.2
  - 3 = 1.2 - 1.8
  - 4 = > 1.8
  - 1 = Non-single headed HH
  - 2 = N/A
  - 3 = Single headed HH
  - 4 = N/A

- **Single headed**
  - 1 = Acceptable FCS (42.5+)
  - 2 = N/A
  - 3 = Borderline FCS (28.5-42)
  - 4 = Poor FCS (0-28)

- **Expenditure on Food**
  - 1 = <50% total expenditure
  - 2 = 50% - <65% total expenditure
  - 3 = 65% - 75% total expenditure
  - 4 = >75% total expenditure

- **Livelihood coping strategies/asset depletion**
  - 1 = HH not adopting strategies
  - 2 = Existence of stress strategies
  - 3 = Existence of crisis strategies
  - 4 = Existence of emergency strategies

**Coping strategies (scoring based on most severe per HH):**
- **Stress:** Spent savings, sold HH goods, bought food on credit
- **Crisis:** Sold productive assets, reduce essential non-food expenditure
- **Emergency:** Sent adults or children HH members to beg, high risk/illegal/socially degrading jobs
Validation Plan and VAF Sampling
Validation Plan and VAF Test Sampling

• Step 1.
  ✓ Peer Review Committee: A review committee of 5-10 people will review the models proposed and the methodology used to create the models and provide feedback on the technical aspects of the models only.
  ✓ This is a light review to ensure that experts external to the VAF development have validated the process of development.
  ✓ Proposed composition of Peer Review Committee: 3 INGO experts from across the region, 1 donor expert, 3-4 UNHCR technical specialist working on similar modeling in the region (Geneva, Lebanon, Egypt – based), 1-2 WFP VAM technical experts, Other?

• Step 2.
  ✓ Testing the Welfare model: Spot checks on individual household data (as per appeals process).
  ✓ Testing the Welfare model and the Sector models in the field: Groups of multifunction multiagency teams visit 68 randomly sampled households to assess vulnerability and feedback.

• Step 3.
  ✓ Feedback to Steering Committee/Sector and INGO working groups (Half day workshop).
2015 What we will do next

• Finalize welfare model formula estimated from VAF data
• Finalize sector-specific vulnerability rules/trees
• Work with DAG to develop computer algorithms
• Finalize animated webpage
• Customize sector/partner products
• Establish data sharing protocols
• Develop a ProGres Welfare model formula (based on HHs?)
• Create a methodology to inform our decisions for assistance provision - define thresholds
• Define VAF relationship to GENDER analysis
• Role out appeals module to partner INGOs?
2015 What we will do next

- Continue with validation process, including VAF formulas shared with peer review committees
- VAF data collection methodology to INGO partners
- Full VAF roll-out
- Establish VAF database/interface
- Analysis of VAF data to inform advocacy with donors/IM products/provision of assistance
- Support targeting and vulnerability assessment discussions in CAMP settings
- Regional workshop for greater harmonization
What could it look like