Vulnerability Assessment Framework

JORDAN RESPONSE PLAN
Key findings – June 2015

Developed under an interagency steering committee, including 5 NGOs, 5 UN agencies, BPRM and ECHO
Close to 85% of Syrian refugees are accommodated in urban areas.
Objectives of the VAF

1) Informs **targeting of assistance** at the refugee household (case) level, by providing a vulnerability ranking for each household

2) Provides a **vulnerability profile** of refugee households by welfare and sector models
Three Components to the VAF:

1) **Common Tools** for the collection of data: the VAF Questionnaire

2) **Data collection by VAF partners**, using the VAF Questionnaire
   - 50,000 Home Visits to date (UNHCR and WFP)
   - Recorded in a common database

3) **Common Models** for interpreting data: by Welfare and by Sector
VAF Welfare Model

- Developed with World Bank, following UNHCR-WB review of UNHCR’s cash targeting
- Using econometric modelling the VAF model is built on the combination of VAF indicators that best predicts a case’s expenditure, and therefore Welfare.
- Key VAF indicators combined in the Welfare model are:
  - Case size
  - Proportion of children
  - House crowding
  - Occupancy type
  - Gender of PA
  - Marital status
  - Whether entered Officially or Unofficially
  - Governorate where refugee is registered with the Jordanian government
VAF Welfare Model: Key Findings

- **86% of Syrian refugees** in urban areas are living below the Jordanian poverty line of 68JD per month.
- **Northern and Eastern Jordan** have the highest proportion of high and severely vulnerable refugees.
- Over **80% of Syrian refugees are using crisis or emergency coping strategies.**
- Severely vulnerable refugee families have **more family members, more children and a higher ‘dependency ratio’.**
- **81% of Syrian refugees are under 35;** compared to 73% of pre-crisis Syrian population.
SECTOR MODELS
Sector Models: Basic Needs Model

- Atomic indicator
  - Total debt per capita
  - Total expenditure per capita

- Composite indicator
  - Coping strategies
  - Dependency ratio

- Sector indicator
  - Economic state
  - Basic needs

Averaged values are shown throughout the model.
BASIC NEEDS (SOCIAL PROTECTION)

Results:

• 50% of cases are severely vulnerable; 42% are highly vulnerable.
• 50% of cases have severe or high dependency ratio.
• Average debt per capita is 157 JD, with higher debt to expenditure for severely vulnerable cases.
• The vast majority of cases, almost 80%, are resorting to emergency coping strategies.

Recommendations:

• Prioritize projects that reduce asset depletion of refugee households in urban areas.
• Continue to support female headed households, noting that male headed household are also severely vulnerable.
• Invest further in the capacity of refugees in communities, families and women, girls, boys and men to reduce exposure to negative coping mechanisms.
Sector Models: Education Model

- **Atomic indicator**
  - Child labour
  - Financial resources
  - Early marriage
  - Violence (physical & verbal)
  - Psychological distress
  - Children with disabilities
  - Mobility of family
  - Distance to school

- **Composite indicator**
  - School aged children
  - Formal education attendance
  - Missed education
  - Risks for non-attendance

- **Sector indicator**

  - Education status

Max

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Max
Results:

- 97% of school aged children are at high risk for non-attendance at school, based on a combination of social, economic and physical risks.

- Refugee financial situation is the most significant risk factor influencing non-attendance with 78% of cases being highly or severely financially vulnerable.

- 6% of cases are severely vulnerable due to the participation of at least one child in child labour.

- Protection-related barriers may also affect families' abilities to maintain children in school: early marriage, violence or perceived threats of violence, psychological distress, disabilities, mobility of the family and distance from school. These are under reported in the VAF, but are prevalent in other assessments.
Recommendations:

• Support through the Ministry of Education to increase the absorption capacity and increase enrolment rates of Syrian children.

• Bilateral support to Jordan to support the formal education sector (schools, teacher salaries, textbooks).

• Concurrently expand informal education to address the situation of 90,000 out of school children.

• Projects that reduce barriers to accessing education (distance, financial obstacles, child labour, violence in schools).
Sector Models: Food Security Model

Atomic indicator
- Dependency ratio excl. chronic sick
- Single headed household
- Food consumption score
- Expenditure on food
- Livelihood coping strategies

Composite indicator
- Social Vulnerability

Sector indicator
- Food Security Vulnerability
FOOD SECURITY

Results:

• 79% of refugees are highly or severely vulnerable to food insecurity, with 20% moderately vulnerable.
• 45% of female headed households are severely vulnerable, with 30% highly vulnerable. 7% of male headed are severely and 70% highly vulnerable.
• 46% have severe vulnerability scores for expenditure on food; and 72% are severely vulnerable due to the adoption of emergency coping strategies to meet food needs.
• With the continued reductions, the percentage in the severe or highly vulnerable category will increase.

Recommendations:

• Continuation of food assistance targeting vulnerable Syrian refugees in urban.
• In particular the WFP food voucher programme needs to be supported, targeted at the most vulnerable refugees, in the absence of alternative self-reliance opportunities for refugees.
Sector Models: Health Model

Atomic indicator:
- MOI Card
- Medical access
- Children < 5
- Adults > 60
- Disabilities
- Chronic illness
- Effecting daily life

Composite indicator:
- Accessibility and Availability
- Family composition
- Existing conditions
- Health Expenditure

Sector indicator:
- Health Status
HEALTH

Results:

• 41% of Syrian individuals are part of families with severe health vulnerability, 15% are part of highly health vulnerable families.

• 15% of cases were identified as severely vulnerable in terms of being able to access health services when needed.

• 16% of cases have the presence of pre-existing medical conditions (disabilities or chronic illnesses) that are negatively impacting a family members' day to day life.

• 10% of cases report that they spend more than 25% of their expenditure on health related items.

• Access to medical facilities has been positive indicator with the majority of cases rated as low vulnerable.

Recommendations:

• Continue to invest resources through the public health system as the primary provider of medical services to Syrian refugees in urban areas.

• Support projects that provide additional services not provided through the public health system, or where there are obstacles to accessing such services.
Results:

• Over 75% of individuals are highly or severely shelter vulnerable and 50% are highly shelter vulnerable.

• Over 50% of all cases have all the standard basic house assets

• 50% of the cases' dwellings are showing at least one sign of poor quality, and 34% identified as having two or more instances of poor quality.

• 23% of cases properties were judged to be unsatisfactory by the enumerator.

• 60% of cases have a high or severe debt per capita. One third of cases did not have a rental agreement.

Recommendations:

• In the face of the shortage of affordable and adequate shelters – resulting in rental inflation, eviction and multiple displacement – increase the availability of and access to such shelter through a scaled-up response.

• Such interventions should be complemented by programmes that strengthen security of tenure.
**Sector Models: WASH Model**

- **Atomic indicator**
  - Diarrhea
  - Sharing latrine / bathing facilities
  - Perception of security
  - Source of water
  - Frequency without water

- **Composite indicator**
  - WASH related health
  - Accessibility to facilities
  - Accessibility to safe water

- **Sector indicator**
  - Reliability of waste water
  - Reliability of waste management
  - WASH hygiene issues
  - WASH expenditure

**Max**
Results:

- 60% of Syrian individuals are severely vulnerable to WASH related risks.
- Solid waste management is the biggest cause, 80% of cases have experienced solid waste vector evidence more than twice in the last year and 20% of cases have experience waste-water overflows more than once in the last year.
- More than 50% of cases have secure access to bathing facilities; but 15% of cases are identified as severely vulnerable due to sharing facilities with three or more other cases.
- Nearly all cases surveyed have their water supplied through the municipality and 88% of cases report have never having had issues with water supply.
- The WASH expenditure rate varies significantly among cases. 32% of cases are identified as severely vulnerable due to spending over 25% of their expenditure on WASH items.

Recommendations:

- Increase the number and scope of community-level projects that benefit both Syrians and Jordanians in areas with high concentrations of refugees, together with greater investment in WASH infrastructure and services.
Example profile of a moderately vulnerable case

34 year old Syrian man living with mother, no children, high expenditure with no debt.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predicted expenditure</th>
<th>Predicted per capita</th>
<th>387 JOD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Documentation status</td>
<td>PA registration</td>
<td>PA is registered</td>
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<td>Family registration</td>
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<td>Coping strategies</td>
<td>No coping strategies being used</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dependency ratio</td>
<td>1 autonomous adult</td>
<td>1 dependent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic needs</td>
<td>Coping strategies</td>
<td>No coping strategies being used</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dependency ratio</td>
<td>1 autonomous adult, 1 dependent</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Economic state</td>
<td>No debt 387 JOD per month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Social vulnerability</td>
<td>2 adults 1:1 dependency ratio</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CARI score</td>
<td>FCS = 65 39% spent on food</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Access to services</td>
<td>No problems</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family composition</td>
<td>No 60+ or &lt; 5s</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Existing conditions</td>
<td>No conditions 0 health expenditure</td>
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<td>Shelter</td>
<td>Housing conditions</td>
<td>Missing 1 essential item</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Security of tenancy</td>
<td>No debt, has contract</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Family composition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wash</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>No issues</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Access to latrines</td>
<td>Not shared and safe access</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Access safe water</td>
<td>Municipality source instances without</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waste management</td>
<td>1 instance water 1 instance solid</td>
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Example profile of a highly vulnerable case

48 year old disabled female headed household, no children, living with elderly father.
**Example profile of a severely vulnerable case**

38 year old widowed Syrian female living alone with 4 children

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<th>Coping strategies</th>
<th>Dependency ratio</th>
<th>Economic state</th>
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<th>Dependency ratio</th>
<th>1 autonomous adult</th>
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<td>4</td>
<td>4 children</td>
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**Source data:** VAF Model - Baseline survey, real case data
Distribution of Basic Needs vulnerability across Central Jordan
Distribution of Education vulnerability across Northern Jordan
Distribution of Food Security vulnerability across Mafraq
Distribution of Shelter vulnerability across Central Jordan
Distribution of WASH vulnerability across Northern Jordan
Distribution of Universal indicator vulnerability across Mafraq