



Vulnerability
Assessment
Framework

VAF Sector Tree Review 2016

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK JORDAN
JORDAN MISSION 2016

Introduction:

In mid-2016 the Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) Secretariat with the assistance and guidance of the Sector chairs and Co-chairs (from Health, Basic Needs, Shelter, WASH, Education, Food Security and sub-sector Disability) undertook a formal review of existing VAF sector decision making trees. After more than a year since the inception of using the VAF, the utility of the information being captured at sector level was evaluated to ensure sector strategic and operational priorities were being reached in addressing and identifying the most vulnerable urban Syrian refugees to prioritize assistance and/or services.

What is a Sector Decision Making Tree?

Formal decision making tools or in this case sector decision making trees are implemented in complex decision / evaluation processes. Their usefulness not only depends on their detailed formal qualities but also on the quality of their implementation (structuring of the problem, communication with actors involved in the process, transparency of the decision making process, etc.) but having a sound theoretical basis is therefore necessary. Sector decision making trees imply collecting and assessing "data" of various types and qualities and manipulating the data in order to derive conclusions/vulnerability scoring for the purpose of improving sector level response operationally.

The scoring methodology between 1 and 4 results from decision making trees often appear as constructs that are the result of multiple options available (composite indicators or atomic indicators). Each sector played a role within the sector decision making tree review providing expertise on core identifiers of vulnerability in relation to their sector, as a result composite, atomic indicators and scoring mechanisms were reviewed.

Why review Sector Decision Making Trees?

After more than a year inception it was advised the sectors that the existing sector trees needed revision, highlighting incidents of over inflation, under inflation in the scoring mechanisms, and initial indicators in some cases that were earlier determined as sector priority were no longer relevant based on change in circumstance or the sector in terms of operational policy, and new objectives. Periodically adapting approaches to intervention and operational needs is required yet in this approach it was also important to take in to consideration the data and the process which had been adopted and undertaken since 2014 by VAF partners.

The following guiding principles were engaged throughout the review process:

- 1) Sector chairs were asked to provide feedback and inputs on the existing VAF Sector trees by drawing on their operations' experience with their previous use. This should focus on the suitability of existing structures, when or how it can be improved and better reflect the situation on the ground;
- 2) The review process ensured that the VAF data collected since 2014 can still be utilized and the scores can be recalculated after the review where possible. This legacy compatibility is critical in order to ensure that the revised form allows for comparability with existing VAF data. More than 90,000 VAF assessments have been conducted and it would be irresponsible and wasteful to preclude comparability and transferability of data. The key questions to bear in mind here is whether the new VAF form can be scored using the Sector Trees and whether existing data can be migrated into the new format resulting from the new form.
- 3) It was important throughout the review process to validate expectations and commitments that collected information will truly be used for the provision of services and assistance. It relates to the reciprocity and ongoing engagement between VAF partners and to the understanding that there is value and utility in the data being requested.

- 4) Knowing that a lot of collected VAF information is currently insufficiently used, the aim was to follow the principle for the Sector tree reviews that 'less is more' to ensure that VAF partners are able to use the available information effectively.
- 5) The VAF process and with it the VAF form cannot be an all-encompassing assessment. Instead it is a common denominator that establishes an efficient and cost-effective way of operational partners to share information that can be translated quickly into the delivery of services and assistance. Therefore, it is important to ensure that the VAF form provides sufficient information on the majority of issues and not strive for complete information on all the issues. The VAF process deals with the "normal" or "average" scenario among Syrian refugees. Any outlier or exceptional circumstances should be absorbed within the case management process of each organization or at the level of sector coordination.
- 6) The process was participatory ensuring that all issues raised by VAF partners and prospective VAF partners were considered if raised within the stipulated timeframes through Sector coordination mechanisms.

How has the VAF been used and what are the successes?

Since May 2014 to June 2016:

- 81,893 urban Syrian cases have been assessed using the Vulnerability Assessment Framework in Jordan's urban areas.
- 60,589 of those cases are unique and have not been previously assessed or re-assessed before.
- This equates roughly to around 300,000 individuals (average family size of 3-5 persons) which is close to if not more than half of the urban Syrian refugee population in Jordan (exact number of individuals unavailable due to changes in case/family composition).

Data collected from the VAF form has been used by multiple programmes and interventions:

- Eligibility and prioritization for DAFI scholarships
- Determining eligibility and prioritization for unconditional cash assistance (i.e. UNICEF Child cash grants)
- Determining eligibility and prioritization for monthly cash assistance/ regular cash assistance
- Winterization gap analysis, budgetary forecasting and identifying how many individuals within each governorate are in desperate need of winterization assistance
- Identification and prioritization of beneficiaries for Shelter rehabilitation
- Identification and prioritization of beneficiaries for WASH interventions
- Identification and prioritization of beneficiaries for Cash for rent
- Identification and prioritization of beneficiaries for Shelter renovation
- Eligibility and prioritization of beneficiaries to receive Food vouchers in Urban areas; and
- Aided as additional UNHCR criteria and selection process for Resettlement programme.

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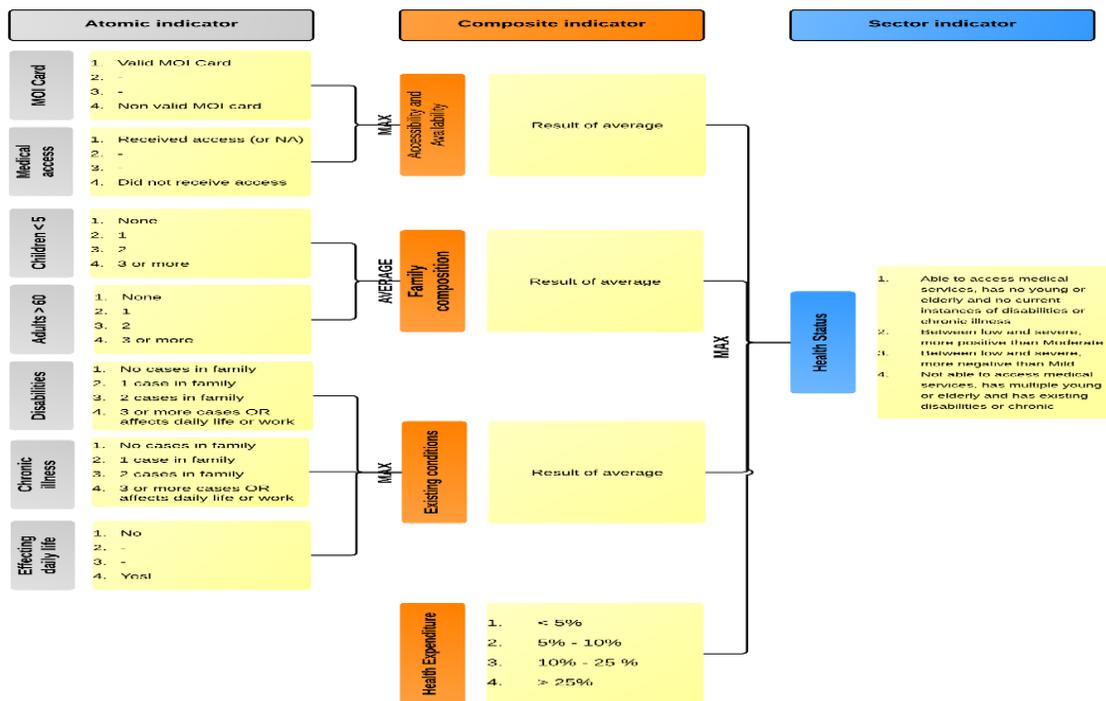
Vulnerability Assessment Framework

HEALTH SECTOR DECISION TREE FOR VULNERABILITY SCORING

As of November 2014 refugees are charged at the 'uninsured Jordanian rate' for access to Primary Health Care which is subsidized by the Government of Jordan. Nonetheless, families with chronic health issues or complicated health needs face considerable financial burdens. It should be noted that many Syrian refugees come to Jordan with pre-existing health conditions, both conflict and non-conflict related.

The Health sector vulnerability indicator is not aimed at assessing the extent of medical issues within families, rather it focuses on factors that are likely to impact a family's ability to mitigate health risks. The sector identified the following factors: access and availability of health care, family composition, the existence of existing conditions and the proportion of expenditure on health related items, as influencing health vulnerability.

HEALTH SECTOR TREE V.1



The Sector noted that the October 2015 VAF Baseline data found higher levels of health vulnerability than findings under the annual Health and Access Utilization Survey (HAUS), the sector wide assessment conducted in May 2015. While the VAF baseline data does capture a strong representation of health vulnerabilities in the overall health sector score, this figure does not take in to account the number of individuals/ family members receiving treatment in response to their condition, which the HAUS survey clearly identifies. As a result, cases including individuals with health conditions may score higher in vulnerability despite having adequate access to health services. Discussions held over a two-month period considered whether there is a need to revise the weighting system within the original health sector tree due to inflation in the overall sector scores.

Working in collaboration with Health sector members, two alternative sector trees were developed, tested and recalibrated in terms of the weighting schema to see if overall health sector vulnerability could be more appropriately captured. A newly recalibrated sector tree was recommended for use for the VAF.

ADJUSTMENT OF MODULE:

Late 2015 and based on baseline and follow up VAF survey findings conducted in 2015 its been found the health vulnerability rating are inflated compared to the data obtained for follow-up health and access utilization survey (HAUS) conducted in May 2015.

When data comparison conducted between both data set, it is found little discrepancies in individual common criterion. However, when general health VAF score calculated it showed major discrepancies between both survey's findings.

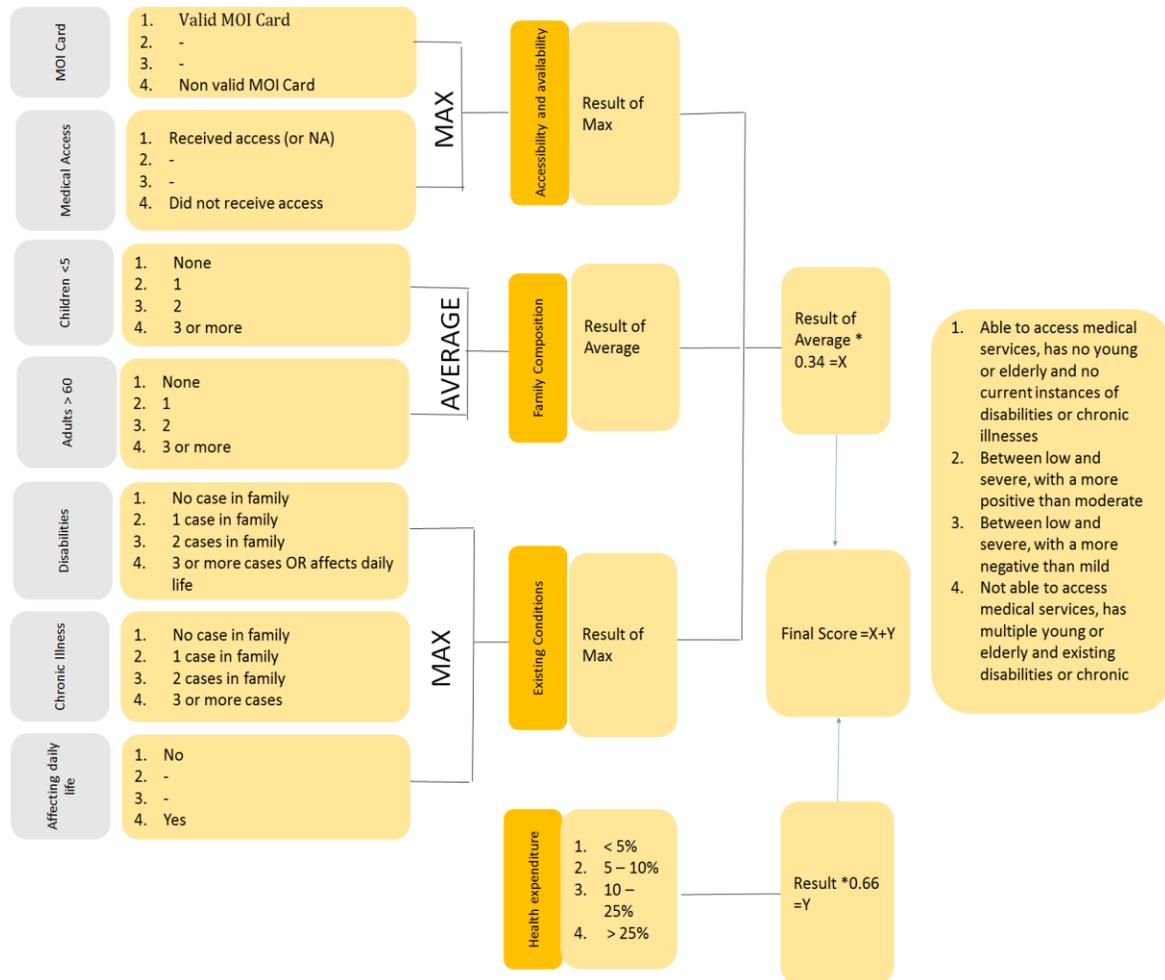
For instance October VAF data showed 12% of surveyed individuals had severe vulnerability related to lack of documentation while the HAUS survey showed 11% lack access to health due to documentation. When it comes to VAF health rating the VAF bassline survey found that 41% of surveyed individuals are living in case with sever health vulnerable and 15% livening with high health vulnerable while HAUS survey showed that 95.2% were able to receive care in first facility and 86.6% sought care among those who need it.

The above have highlighted the way that the VAF health rating developed and calculated since there are some common findings related to individual atomic indicator but huge discrepancies at side of sector indicator. At this point the health sector chairs decide to go through VAF tree and review the health rating calculation method to create logical frame that reflect actual health vulnerability weight among all atomic indicators.

The new sector tree presented below has been modified based on the result of baseline survey results, health services provision polices and the projected weight of atomic indicators.

The atomic indicators have been classified into two group; group A include indicators on access, household composition and existing condition while group B include expenditure on health. The group A indicators given a weight of 1/3 as its interrelated and one might affect the other in different way (e.g. poor access level will be less factored if existing condition has low vulnerability level or when existing condition and composition have high level vulnerable and access well granted). While the group B indicator (health expenses) has given 2/3 weight as it's the absolute factor reflect the combination of all other factors effect on the vulnerability.

HEALTH SECTOR TREE V.2



HEALTH STRATEGY TO MOBILISE VAF DATA AND WAY FORWARD

The Sector working group made clear that the health sector operates differently in comparison to the other sectors. The Health sector currently does not use the VAF health data to determine health sector strategic directions as HAUS can capably provide the needed information in a cost effective manner. HAUS enables greater analysis that is required pertaining to a broader understanding of accessibility and utilization behaviors to health services and health providers. Given the above, the health sector will greatly minimize the level of information capture by VAF monitoring form by leaving only two indicators there for the purpose of information triangulation across both surveys; those indicators will include prevalence of chronic disease and level of received access to health services.

The Health sector will aim to operationalize VAF assessment data at household level in 2017 through using household vulnerability levels in order to determine eligible cases for health assistance at different levels of care including cash for health.

In late 2014 the health access policy shifted from providing free health services to Syrian refugees in Urban areas holding a valid UNHCR registration and MOI card to charging them the '*uninsured Jordanian rate*'. As a result UNHCR has adopted a new access policy with the objective of identifying those that are severely or highly socioeconomically vulnerable and who have a greater chance of losing their access due to inability to afford health care fees.

The presence of comprehensive health vulnerability data at household level that available in RAIS will assist in determining eligible cases to receive cash for health assistance. Over the course of the last two years it has been challenging for the sector to manage manual lists for the inclusion and exclusion of cases which are eligible. RAIS and VAF however enables a common platform of assessment and access to data to improve decision making processes in terms of eligibility and prioritization and for partners to cross-check which cases have received what, for the purpose of avoiding duplication.

3RP REGIONAL SECTOR STRATEGIC OVERVIEW 2016-2017

Across the five countries, Ministries of Health, United Nations agencies and NGOs provide much-needed health care for Syrian refugees. The sheer demand for health services places enormous strain on public health infrastructure, and has resulted in overwhelming patient caseloads, overworked health staff and shortages of medicines and equipment. An example of the impact of Syrian refugees on the health systems is the decision of the Government of Jordan in November 2014 to charge Syrians the same fees charged to non-insured Jordanians in public health facilities. Prior to this, Syrians were treated as insured Jordanians which has seen the Government incur significant costs. The decision is reported to have negatively impacted access of vulnerable Syrians to public health services, including hospital-based delivery care.

1. The need for routine immunization of children against vaccine-preventable illnesses remains a key priority. Full routine vaccinations are being provided, in most cases for free, to all children under 5 years of age.
2. Management of non-communicable diseases is a major challenge. High prevalence of hypertension, diabetes and cardio-vascular diseases among Syrian refugees.
3. The pronounced need for emergency care remains, with surgical trauma and intensive care for severely injured patients from conflict areas requiring considerable inputs of equipment and human and financial resources.
4. Enhancing mental health care services is a key priority in all 3RP countries. One of the major challenges is the shortage of mental health specialists. Lebanon and Jordan have already started the integration of mental health services into the PHC level through the implementation of the Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP), which utilizes trained PHC workers to provide mental health services in PHC facilities.
5. The 3RP emphasizes the need to increase access to quality and equitable health care for refugees and impacted local populations, both through direct interventions and through strengthening national systems and capacities.
6. The Health Sector's priorities for 2016 include boosting routine immunization coverage for measles, polio and other vaccine-preventable diseases and strengthening disease early warning and surveillance systems.
7. Improving access to reproductive health care services for refugees, which includes clinical management of rape services and referral mechanisms for SGBV psychosocial services is another key concern.

JRP SECTOR STRATEGIC INDICATORS 2017-2019

HLTH [REF3] Strengthened access, uptake and quality of integrated community interventions

[REF3.1] Community health volunteer teams, including Syrian refugees, in place

[REF3.2] Community health volunteer network strengthened

[REF3.3] Appropriate infant and young child feeding practices promoted

[REF3.4] Community level mental health services provided

HLTH [RES1] Increased equitable access, uptake and quality of primary health care

[RES1.16] provide comprehensive reproductive health, women, new-born and child health services

[RES1.17] improve routine vaccination coverage of unreached and vulnerable children and women

[RES1.18] improve MoH capacity in prevention, early identification, assessment and providing services for developmental

[RES1.19] Improve the health status of population in selected governorates in providing comprehensive PHC services

[RES1.20] Ensure no stock outs of essential vaccines and nutritional items

HLTH [RES2] Increased equitable access, uptake and quality of secondary and tertiary healthcare

[RES2.10] Increase the number of Referral Hospitals accredited as baby friendly

[RES2.11] Ensure quality newborn health services are provided and maintained

[RES2.8] Enhance provision of quality life-saving comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care and reproductive health services

[RES2.9] Improve the provision of secondary and tertiary healthcare

HLTH [RES4] Strengthened adaptive capacity of the national health system to address current and future stresses

[RES4.37] Provide needed medical equipment to MOH Facilities

[RES4.38] Upgrade health information systems

[RES4.42] Ensure quality integrated school health services are provided and maintained

[RES4.43] strengthen the Nutrition Information System (including disaggregation

[RES4.44] Provide an equity fund for specialized referral care for children for both vulnerable Jordanians and Syrians established and contributing to Universal health Coverage

[RES4.45] Strengthen Emergency and Crisis management within the national health system

[RES4.46] strengthen public health surveillance and response in Jordan

CONCLUSION

The Health Sector Working Group determined there was no longer a need to capture wide range health information within the VAF. Instead, the Health Sector would utilize the information captured by the Health and Access Utilization Survey (HAUS), which incorporates access and availability to health services. While couple of indicators will be kept under VAF in order to triangulate data collected by HAUS.

VAF assessment data will be used by the sector to develop standardized provision policy and to maximize use of sector members resources by enabling access to the most vulnerable population data rather than using cash lists which is challenging and not sustainable.

UNHCR will aim to make this comprehensive vulnerability data available to all health partners on RAIS system (pending that they are RAIS and VAF Partners) in 2017. The Health sector will endeavor to continues to coordinate and work with health partners through 2017 to adapt provision policy that enable standardization of health care provision, maintain equity, direct organizations resources toward most at need population and eliminate possible duplication.



Vulnerability Assessment Framework

FOOD SECURITY SECTOR DECISION TREE REVISION FOR VULNERABILITY SCORING

FOOD SECURITY SIGNIFICANCE TO THE VAF

WFP provides targeted food voucher assistance to approximately 80% of the Syrian refugee population living outside camps. All refugees living in camps receive WFP food voucher assistance along with a daily provision of fresh bread. Nonetheless, the VAF analysis, in line with the 2014 WFP/REACH CFSME results, demonstrates that Syrian families still face considerable difficulties in maintaining their food security. A reduction in WFP food assistance would have a dramatic impact, putting many refugee families at risk of falling into high or severe food insecurity.

Previously WFP was able to provide blanket food assistance to all registered Syrian refugees in Jordan until October 2014. Since then WFP adopted a targeting methodology whereby to channel assistance to those most in need.

Nonetheless, the VAF baseline analysis, in line with the 2015-2016 findings WFP/REACH Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise (CFSME) results, demonstrates that Syrian families still face considerable difficulties in maintaining their food security. If funding limits WFP's ability to provide food assistance for the most vulnerable families, anticipated that there would be significant shifts in the vulnerability ratings - putting many refugee families at risk of falling into high or severe food insecurity.

FOOD SECURITY SECTOR V.1

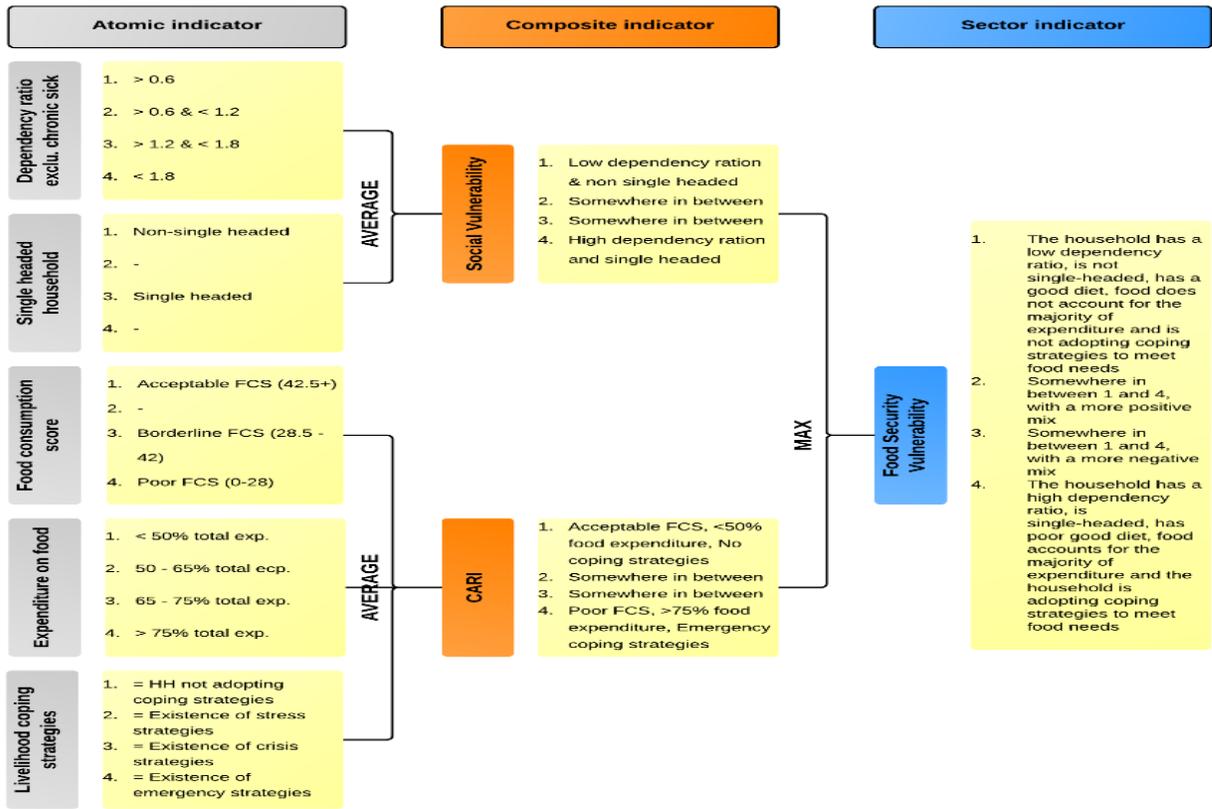
The original tree was created through consultation with the sector following a workshop using Home Visit data to predict vulnerability. The intention was to create a consistent approach to the assessment of the Home Visit data set across the sectors. In the original sector tree the Food Security sector identified factors related to food vulnerability based on globally recognized standards and tools. The CARI (Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security) is a WFP global methodology for assessing food vulnerability. In addition to the CARI the Food Sector identified Social vulnerability, which is assessed through identifying high dependency ratios and single headed households as significant in identifying vulnerability.

The Food Security working group reviewed the home visit data and provided draft versions of assessment criteria they deemed important and is reflected in the original sector tree as below:

- 1) Dependency ratio; excluding chronically sick
- 2) Single Headed Households (adjustment made in revised tree to assist in further identification of vulnerability amongst households and other vulnerable individuals e.g. disability, chronic disease,)
 - a. Thereby the following two components: Dependency Ratio score & Single Headed Households are used as proxy indicators to provide a **Social vulnerability score** between 1 (low), 2, (moderate), 3 (high) & 4 (severe).
- 3) Food Consumption Score (FCS)
- 4) Household monthly expenditure on Food
- 5) Livelihood coping strategies

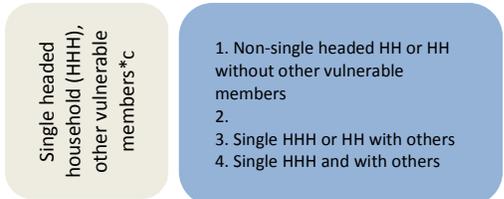
- a. WFP is using its corporate consolidated approach to reporting on indicators (CARI) of food security. Thereby the following three components are used as proxy indicators to assess refugees' food security: 1) food consumption score, 2) expenditure on food, and 3) livelihood/asset depleting coping strategies providing a **CARI vulnerability score** between 1 (low), 2, (moderate), 3 (high) & 4 (severe).

The overall **Food Security score** is calculated taking a maximum value from either the two composite indicators from the **Social vulnerability score** or **CARI vulnerability score**.

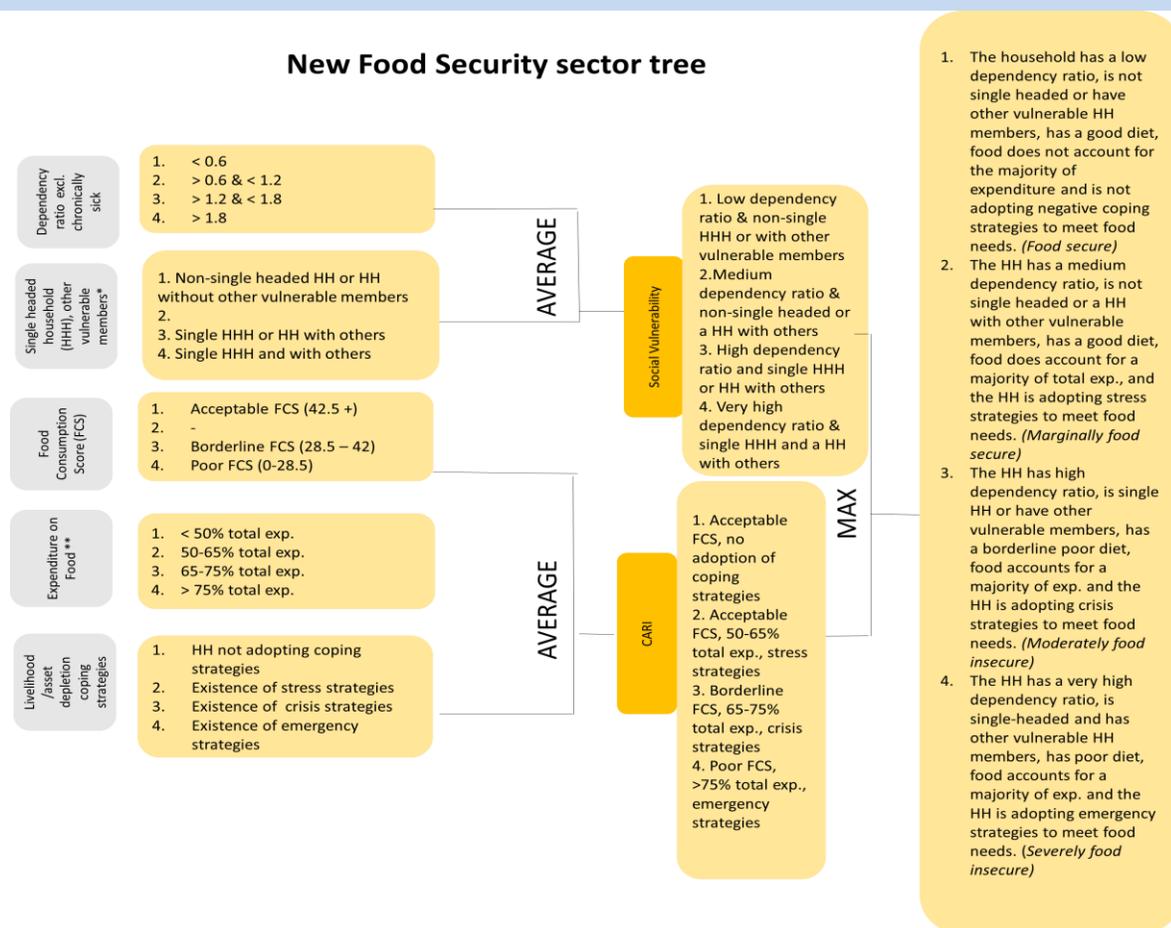


FOOD SECURITY SECTOR TREE V.2

In 2016, after a year of implementation and using the original sector tree, and following three months of consultations with the sector it was recommended by WFP in order to better identify vulnerable households (HH) and individuals within the HH that the new sector tree shall now include single headed households and/or households with other vulnerable members with disability and/or chronic disease as priority.



New Food Security sector tree



METHODOLOGY

1	Low	Low dependency ratio (less than 0.6) AND non- single headed case AND acceptable FCS (42.5+) AND less than 50% total HH expenditure on food AND is not adopting coping strategies to meet food needs.
2	Moderate	Medium dependency ratio (0.6-1.2), is not single headed HH or a HH with other vulnerable members, has acceptable food consumption, food accounts for approximately 50-65% of monthly HH expenses and HH is adopting stress coping strategies to meet food needs.
3	High	High dependency ratio(1.2-1.8,), single headed HH or has other vulnerable members in the HH, borderline food consumption (28.5-42), food accounts for approximately 65-75% of overall HH monthly expenditure, and HH is adopting crisis coping strategies to meet food needs.
4	Severe	Very high dependency ratio (greater than 1.8), is single headed HH or has other vulnerable members in the HH OR poor FCS (0-28), extremely high HH expenditure on food (more than 75%) , usage of is adopting emergency coping strategies to meet food needs.

The above Food Security sector tree has been reviewed, tested and endorsed by the sector. Currently WFP is using the Food Security sector tree complementarily with the welfare universal indicator to inform their inclusion or exclusion of food assistance.

On a monthly basis WFP are reviewing pending appeals and referral cases (from partners, hotline, internal staff, etc.) either through home visits we are conducting using the VAF questionnaire or by referencing the updated VAF scores in RAIS, if available. WFP have a step by step guidance note for the record that outlines the processes for inclusion. While these processes have not been shared with other sector colleagues WFP will look into having a reference document for other actors operating within the Food Security Sector.

At this stage the VAF food security score is used in partnership with the welfare score to inform whether these cases are re-included into assistance. Cases with a severity ranking of 3 or 4 are included where as those cases with a food or a welfare score of 1 or 2 are excluded. In terms of reviewing WFPs overall targeting methodology (particularly in regards to the exclusion error) WFP have requested to receive updated demographic case data on a regularized basis. WFP has advised that the expanded food consumption table inclusive of micro and macro nutrient deficiencies should be incorporated in to the baseline assessment rather than the VAF monitoring assessment. For more information on this process please contact Erin Carey at WFP erin.carey@wfp.org or Olivia Cribb at cribb@unhcr.org.

3RP REGIONAL SECTOR STRATEGIC OVERVIEW 2016-2017

The majority of Syrian refugees in the five regional countries rely on critical humanitarian food assistance as their primary source of food. Even with the support provided, evidence from assessments and monitoring reveals a startling deterioration in refugees' food security over the past year. This development is particularly worrying, as the assessments do not capture the impact of the recent cuts in humanitarian assistance. The dire situation particularly affects vulnerable groups such as female-headed households, children, the elderly, the chronically ill and people with disabilities. Refugee households report spending their savings, taking their children out of school to work, and relying on credit and selling household assets. They also report relying upon less expensive food, reducing the number of meals consumed each day and limiting portion sizes.

Food security and vulnerability assessments conducted annually in Jordan and Lebanon provide solid data to understand the changes in refugees' food consumption scores, dietary diversity, and usage of food-consumption and livelihoods-based coping strategies. The results from Jordan's 2015 Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise (CFSME) and Lebanon's 2015 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) confirm that refugee households are more food insecure than during the previous year. In Jordan, only 14 per cent of refugees were food secure compared to 53 per cent last year. In Lebanon, moderate food insecurity has doubled, affecting one quarter of refugee households, while the percentage of food secure households has decreased sharply from 25 per cent to 11 per cent. The reduction in refugees' food security can be attributed to a high dependence on food assistance, limited access to income and the overall decline in the amount of food assistance provided, which has left households more vulnerable. In Lebanon, the proportion of Syrian refugee households living below the national poverty line has increased by 40 per cent from the previous year. Among refugees living in communities in Jordan, food now constitutes 51 per cent of household expenditures, a 20 per cent increase since 2014 with food having replaced rent as the largest household expenditure. Vulnerable host populations are increasingly resorting to negative coping strategies in response to increases in rents and competition for local jobs, which in turn have resulted in lower wages and increased social tensions (3RP Strategy 2016-2017).¹

The primary goals of the Food Security Sector within the framework of the 3RP are to:

1. Ensure equitable and safe access to nutritious food for vulnerable refugees.
2. Mitigate the usage of food-consumption and livelihood-based coping strategies among the most vulnerable.
3. Strengthen the capacities of food and agricultural production systems to better respond to the food and livelihood needs of the populations affected by the crisis. (3RP Strategy 2016-2017)²

1 <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/3RP-Regional-Overview-2016-2017.pdf>

2 <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/3RP-Regional-Overview-2016-2017.pdf>

JRP SECTOR STRATEGIC INDICATORS 2017-2019

FOOD SECURITY: JRP AGREED INDICATORS (VAF RELEVANT INDICATORS ONLY)

[REF1.4] Improve food access and availability to sufficient, quality and diverse food for most vulnerable affected through E-voucher assistance (*Case/HH level*)

[REF1.5] Improve food access and availability to sufficient, quality and diverse food for most vulnerable affected through comprehensive assessment (*Case/HH level*)



Vulnerability Assessment Framework

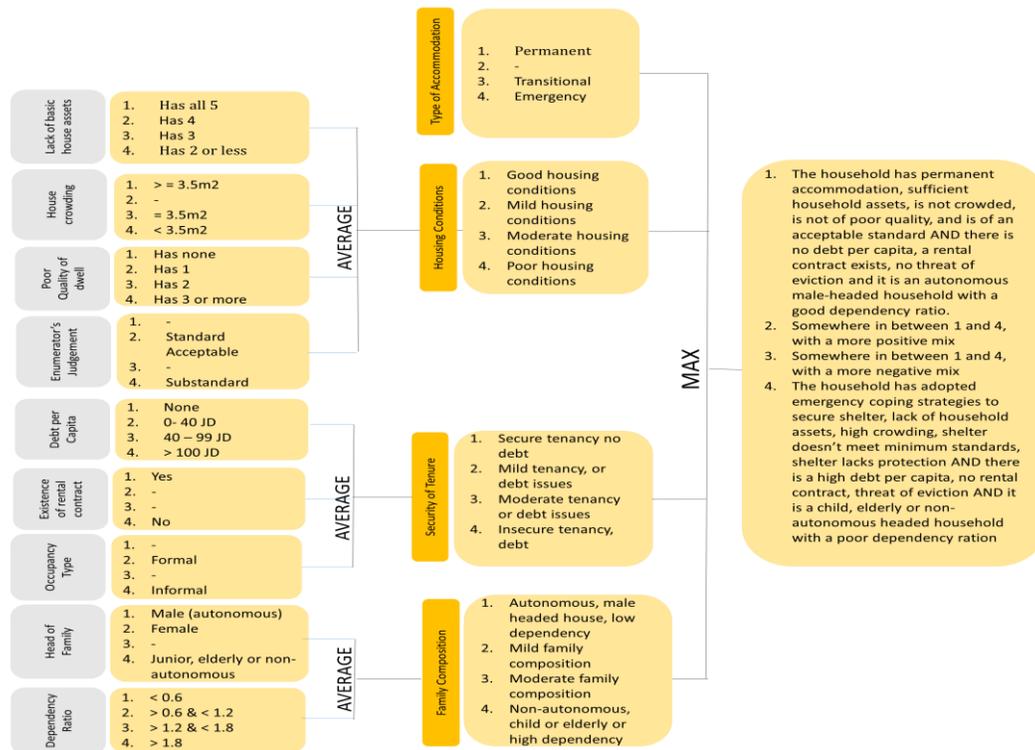
SHELTER SECTOR DECISION TREE FOR VULNERABILITY SCORING

The shelter sector's definition of vulnerability has to be adapted to the changing parameters of the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan. After five (5) years of conflict and tremendous learning at regional level particularly between countries hosting large numbers of refugees in urban and peri-urban areas such as Lebanon and Jordan, the aim of this document is to harmonize and standardize the vulnerability assessment framework for shelter in Jordan, using common parameters identified by the shelter sector collaboratively.

In urban areas, 25 percent of Syrians are severely shelter vulnerable and 50 percent are highly shelter vulnerable. An estimated 10 percent of Syrian refugees are under immediate threat of eviction. One in five Syrian refugee families in host communities do not have any form of rental contract which is not only a legal requirement for foreigners living in Jordan, but also elementary protection from eviction and a precondition for registration with the MOI. In 2016; 29 percent of out of camps Syrian refugees have moved at least once in the previous six months. Moreover, almost half of Syrian refugees have been on the move in the preceding year reflecting the difficulties refugees confront in order to secure stable accommodation. Syrian refugees are often forced to live in substandard and overcrowded accommodation increasing their vulnerability. According to the latest UNHCR home visits (2016): 28 percent of all out of camp Syrian refugees are living in substandard shelters, including 8 percent living within informal settlements. Out of the total refugee caseload in urban areas, 14 percent are living in one room and 12 percent are in houses with more than 4 individuals per room.

The revision of the shelter sector tree for vulnerability scoring has been based on input from shelter actors who have used the existing decision tree in the evaluation of vulnerability, prioritization and targeting of Syrian refugees. The shelter sector provides a set of interventions each aiming at addressing particular shelter vulnerabilities. The sector overall score can only be used as a prioritization tool at national and local level, however the selection of both beneficiary and type of intervention should be based on a more sensitive analysis of the sub-categories scores. In order to mainstream the use of VAF scoring across shelter actors, the Shelter Working Group will include considerations of the VAF sector and sub-category scores in the existing technical guidelines for each of the shelter interventions.

Shelter sector original decision making tree



The sector working group identified that the existing shelter tree while comprehensive in capturing various indicators as visible above, it was agreed that some indicators are no longer relevant. Other indicators can be removed as they are duplicative captured in the VAF and be used complementarily and lastly some of the existing indicators can be restructured to better reflect sector vulnerability. As a result the following changes have been made:

The Shelter Sector working group agreed to remove the following atomic indicator components from the original sector tree:

- **Lack of basic house assets** was determined to be irrelevant to current shelter interventions and more closely associated with Basic Needs / NFI intervention.
- **Debt per capita:** captured within the Basic Needs sector tree and Basic needs sector scores can be used complementarily with the shelter score to improve vulnerability identification (duplication removal)
- **Dependency ratio:** this data is currently captured as a universal indicator within the VAF and can be used with shelter score if required (duplication removal)

Restructuring of existing indicators:

- **House crowding:** there was a decision to shift away from the metric of > 3.5m2, =3.5m2 or <3.5m2 and instead use the new definition for **"House Crowding (density)"**.

House crowding (density)

There are no specific quantifiable standards applied for refugees living in urban shelters. The traditional surface area of 3,5m²/per person is considered as a minimum surface area for a temporary shelter. Given the variation in living standards, building configuration and challenges for enumerators to measure accurately the size of room(s) when

conducting household visits and assessments. The original indicator was difficult to assess given complexity of architecture, time & equipment required. It was therefore proposed to define house crowding based on number of individuals, number of households and number of rooms (not including bathroom and kitchen) divided as per below:

- i. ONE household (less than 4 individuals per room) will be categorized as “Low Vulnerability”; weighted 1.
- ii. Two (2) households living in one room (less than 4 individuals per household) will be categorized as “Moderately Vulnerable”; weighted 2.
- iii. ONE household with more than 4 individuals per room living in insufficient or limited space will be categorized as “Highly Vulnerable”; weighted 3.
- iv. Two or plus (2+) household families living together in limited space area with or without partition wall for privacy will be categorized “Severely Vulnerable”; weighted 4.

- **Poor quality of dwelling:** captured in finer detail as described below in new sector tree indicator “**Shelter Conditions**”
- **Enumerator Judgement:** will be removed, as “**Shelter conditions**” now highlights specific threats and risks in identifying required shelter repairs and maintenance.

Shelter type: It was agreed to remove duplication by combining two of the original indicators in to one ‘Type of Accommodation and Enumerator Judgement’ and be reclassified as Shelter Type following the below formula:

Shelter type (New tree)		Type of Accommodation & Enumerator Judgement (Original tree)
Finished Building	1	If Permanent Shelter (Type) & Standard (Enumerator Judgement)
Non-finished / Substandard Building	3	If Permanent Shelter (Type) & Sub-standard (Enumerator Judgement)
Informal	4	If Transitional Shelter (Type) OR Temporary/Emergency Shelter (Enumerator Judgement)

The four (4) categories under shelter type in the new tree are defined as:

- i. **Finished building:** Any type of building designed as accommodation, fully constructed with basic and running features i.e. electricity, plumbing, connection to services (water & sewage), with easy and safe access to building will be categorized “Low Vulnerability”; weighted 1;
- ii. **Sub-standard building:** Any type of building i.e. school, factory, warehouse, garage, shop, etc. Not designed as accommodation, which require some upgrade and transformation to meet the minimum requirement for accommodation with adequate access to standard features (water, sanitation, electricity, natural light and ventilation) will be categorized “Highly Vulnerable”; weighted 3.
- iii. **Informal accommodation:** Any makeshift shelter built by refugees themselves. The encampment is a basic shelter with or without connection to water and sanitation facilities, with or without adequate drainage and lighting will be categorized “Severely Vulnerable”; weighted 4.

Shelter conditions: NRC assessment results recognize that a majority of refugees share similar concerns about the need to maintain and/or repair their shelter/housing at varying degrees³. This will be ascertained by recording the status of the shelter condition by scoring each category separately:

- Acceptable condition of natural ventilation, natural lighting, safety and electrical features and adequate protection from the elements (roof openings); weighted 1
- Substandard condition of natural ventilation and/ or natural lighting; weighted 2
- Substandard condition of safety and/or electrical features; weighted 3

³ Fact Sheet Urban Shelter Programme NRC 2015: <http://reports.nrc.jo/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/IUSP.pdf>

- Substandard condition: Lack of protection from the elements (wind and rain) leaking roof and/or roof openings; weighted 4.

Safety and electrical features is newly integrated component as it is a frequent concern raised by the refugees, notably electrical installation concerns and unsafe access to the building. Very often when buildings are not yet completed, electrical sockets are installed temporarily, in occasionally an ad hoc and unsafe manner without necessarily being in accordance with building code regulations. As it is expected enumerators conducting the assessment will not have a technical/electrical background, therefore the evaluation is based on general observation and shall be adequately assessed

During the last 12 months, the reliability of the VAF Shelter section has been monitored based on the results from the sector tree. The results tend to underline gaps between refugees with severe vulnerability compared to low vulnerability rates. Review of February and September 2015 VAF Baseline assessment shelter data shows that cases with moderate vulnerability still need to be prioritized for response.



In translation at sector level and VAF Baseline data, the majority of the Syrian refugee population is displayed within the moderate vulnerability category. This is because the original sector tree did not place emphasis on substandard shelters and renovation and rehabilitation interventions

Capturing the physical conditions of shelters is vital to designing the adequate shelter intervention. Supporting households living in substandard shelters with cash for rent assistance will not mitigate any of the serious risks faced by the tenants in terms of health, safety or privacy. The new categorization of the shelter conditions in the shelter decision tree, will inform shelter actors in order to design interventions capable of addressing the living conditions of the refugees while ensuring their security of tenure without further empowerment of the landlords. Using conditional cash transfer programming such as the upgrading of substandard shelters coupled with securing both rent reduction and lease agreement, is a good example.

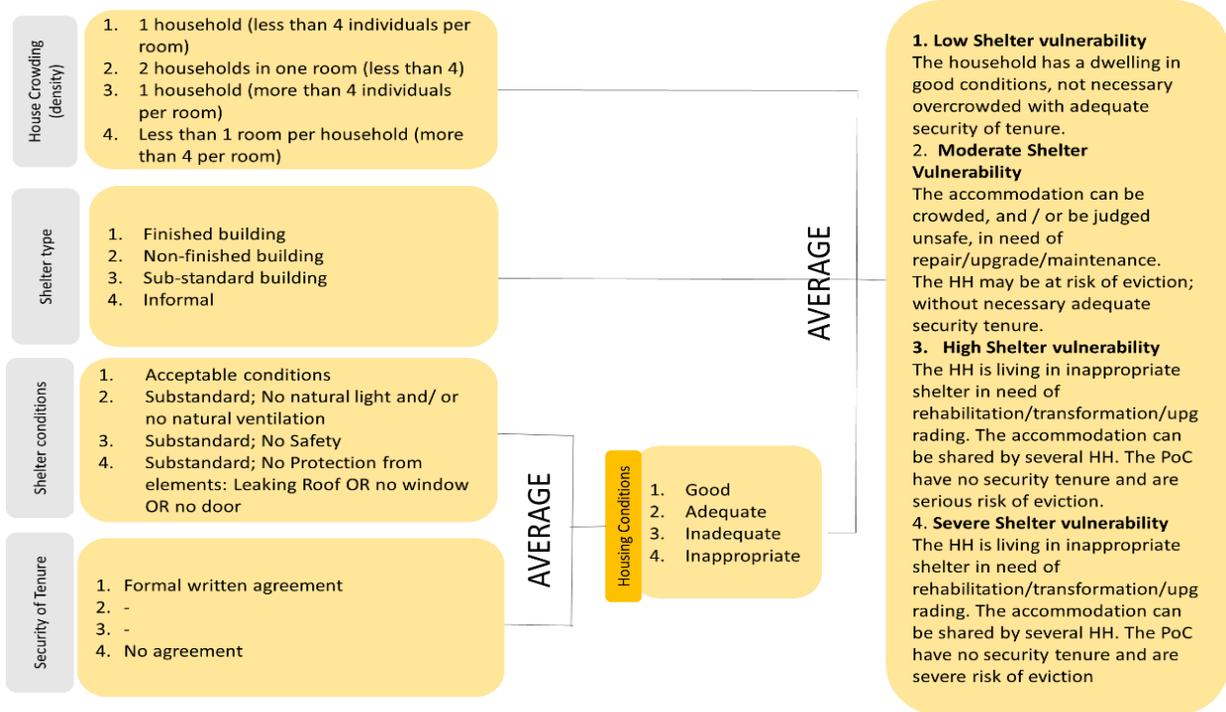
Security of Tenure

For the vast majority of the Syrian refugees living outside the camps, finding affordable shelter posed as their main challenge, it is also the most cited cause of tension with hosting communities. As a consequence many Syrian families are accepting substandard housing arrangements without any form of tenancy agreements. Understanding the relationship between the landlord and the refugee tenant is vital to ensure that any shelter intervention is sustained with a formal agreement where possible through a lease agreement (refer to Shelter Working Group technical guidelines). Security of tenure will provide the refugee tenant with necessary legal protection from eviction and will strengthen the balance of power between tenants and landlords. The type and formalities of rental agreement was agreed to be a stronger indicator of vulnerability regarding risk of eviction comparatively to the length of a rental agreement.

Existence of rental contract (New tree)		Existence of rental agreement (Original tree)
Formal Agreement	1	Rental contract exists + annually, or + quarter/biannual, or + monthly

These changes are intended to align with the interventions and assistance provided by sector partners, such as: Cash for Rent; completion of unfinished housing; and upgrading of substandard shelters: including provision of sealing off kits and tents.

SHELTER SECTOR TREE V.2



Supplementary Shelter sector scoring

- Shelter mobility and accessibility (Disability)**
 1. No or limited difficulty to move inside the shelter and/or access the shelter
 2. -
 3. -
 4. Difficulty to move inside the shelter and/or access the shelter
- Documented threat of Eviction**
 1. No threat
 2. Conflict with Host Community or Fear of eviction
 3. Verbal threat of eviction
 4. Written note for eviction

ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTARY SCORING OUTSIDE OF SECTOR TREE

The Shelter sector have determined **two** additional components be incorporated in the VAF questionnaire but shall appear as supplementary shelter scores (outside of the revised shelter sector tree, to ensure data comparability of existing data captured) which are to be used as additional shelter indicators.

- 1. Threat of eviction:** The threat of eviction is one of the main fears of Syrian refugees who first struggled to settle, before starting to integrate themselves in to Jordanian society. The threat of eviction materializes through several steps, increasing the vulnerability to the Syrian refugee family and this will assist shelter partners to understand the urgency of the intervention to prioritize response.

No threat of eviction (1) Low vulnerability

Conflict with host community / fear of eviction (2) Moderate

Verbal threat of eviction (3) High

Written notification for eviction (4) Severe

This indicator is complementary to the "Security of Tenure" indicator in the revised sector tree but provides additional prioritization insight based on a sense of urgency and state of escalation of the issue.

- 2. Shelter Mobility and Accessibility:** Shelter Mobility and Accessibility was an area raised for inclusion by the Disability Task Force in agreement with the Shelter sector; the need to ensure that the most vulnerable (i.e. elderly and/or persons with disabilities and/or impairments) are equally included and specialized responses factored for consideration.

- Can all members of the household (including elderly and/or persons with disabilities/ impairments) comfortably access and move inside and around the house?

Yes = (1) Low vulnerability

No = (4) Severely vulnerable

Very often the unsafe accessibility to the building may endanger refugees. Often buildings under construction don't have adequate access points. Stairs can be unprotected without handrails. Other type of buildings i.e. factory, warehouses, garages are often not equipped with adequate facilities for disabled persons for instance.

3RP REGIONAL SECTOR STRATEGIC OVERVIEW 2016-2017

The large majority of Syrian refugees live in urban, peri-urban and rural settings. The high demand for shelter, to which the local and national housing markets have not been able to adjust, has led to housing shortages and an increase in rental prices, affecting host communities and refugees alike. In Jordan alone, it is now estimated that 91,000 housing units are required, 184 per cent more than the estimated average annual domestic need of 32,000 units. Such pressure on the housing market has triggered tensions between communities. With vulnerability levels on the rise, many refugees cannot pay for adequate accommodation and live in substandard shelter conditions, in informal settlements or unfinished structures. These include homes with leaking roofs or plastic sheets in place of windows or with no running water or toilet. More than 50 per cent of the displaced Syrian population in Lebanon are estimated to need support so that their dwellings meet minimum standards. Moreover, refugees often have difficulties securing tenure and have no written rental agreements, which put them at risk of eviction or exploitation by landlords. Urban planning at the local level has not yet responded to the existing urban challenges, where substandard shelter conditions have often been compounded by a decrease in the quality of basic services provided by local municipalities.

The Shelter Sector, which is active in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, aims at ensuring sustainable and appropriate access to shelter and infrastructure for refugees and host community members. Sector partners will focus on the availability, affordability and quality of shelter and on improving security of tenure in a holistic manner, addressing both the

short- and long-term shelter needs of the most vulnerable refugees and members of the host communities. Close coordination and cooperation with local municipalities and national authorities will be sought throughout 2016. In urban, peri-urban and rural areas, substandard shelters will be upgraded by sustaining weatherproofing and other shelter enhancement activities such as raising of floors and fire protection. In order to enhance the availability of adequate and affordable housing, unoccupied structures such as unfinished houses, worksites and other structures will be rehabilitated and upgraded where possible. The value of the rehabilitation will be exchanged for accommodation free of charge or for a negotiated rental fee during a fixed period, guaranteed by lease agreements in compliance with national laws. This will provide adequate and secure shelter for Syrian refugees while also benefiting landlords. As the inability to pay rent continues to be one of the major issues faced by refugees, which ties into the risk of eviction, negative coping mechanisms and SGBV, conditional cash for rent will be provided to vulnerable refugees who are unable to pay their rent (3RP Strategy 2016-2017)⁴

JRP SECTOR STRATEGIC INDICATORS 2017-2019

SHELTER: JRP AGREED INDICATORS (VAF RELEVANT INDICATORS ONLY)

[REF1] Provide Sustainable and gender appropriate access to adequate shelter and basic facilities and services

[REF1.1] Provide adequate shelters (*Case/HH level*)

[REF1.3] Provide needed assistance to extremely vulnerable in covering rent and ensure security of tenure (*Case/HH level*)

[REF1.4] Improve access to extremely vulnerable to adequate housing and security of tenure (*Case/HH level*)

If you would like any further information on the shelter sector tree revisions which has been endorsed and adopted by the sector please contact Vincent Dupin (UNHCR) dupin@unhcr.org, Elias Jourdi (NRC) elias.jourdi@nrc.no or Olivia Cribb (UNHCR) cribb@unhcr.org.

4 <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/3RP-Regional-Overview-2016-2017.pdf>



Vulnerability Assessment Framework

WASH SECTOR DECISION TREE REVISION FOR VULNERABILITY SCORING

For the purpose of the VAF, vulnerability is defined 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”.⁵

Jordan is one of the most water scarce countries in the world and the country is facing chronic challenges to provide sustainable access to clean water and sanitation services to its population. With the influx of refugees in recent years, Jordan’s scarce resources are further stretched and the capacity of national institutions to deliver essential services remains limited. In host communities, an estimated 91 per cent of the population have access to a piped water system (Joint Monitoring Programme Update 2014).⁶ However, despite such high levels of access, leakage along the water network results in huge losses (up to 60 per cent in some areas) and inefficient operation modalities.

To address this, the WASH working group and partners operating within WASH are supporting the Government in rehabilitating existing water infrastructure in selected communities. The majority of Syrian refugee families and Jordanian host community families have access to the formal Jordanian national water and sewage networks; including regular mains water supply. However, in different areas of the country and at different times of year the Jordanian mains water supply varies in quality and reliability. The limited water resources are exposed to pollution and population growth as a result of the Syrian refugee crisis has increased the pressure on available resources. Similarly, sector assessments have identified that while mains water maybe available, the most severely vulnerable families may not have access to sufficient or safe water storage. Those that are more prominently afflicted by this are Syrian families rather than Jordanian families as access to water is very much relative to expenditure; for example costs involved to truck water if not connected to municipal piping, and cost and expenses related to water storage, and waste water management.

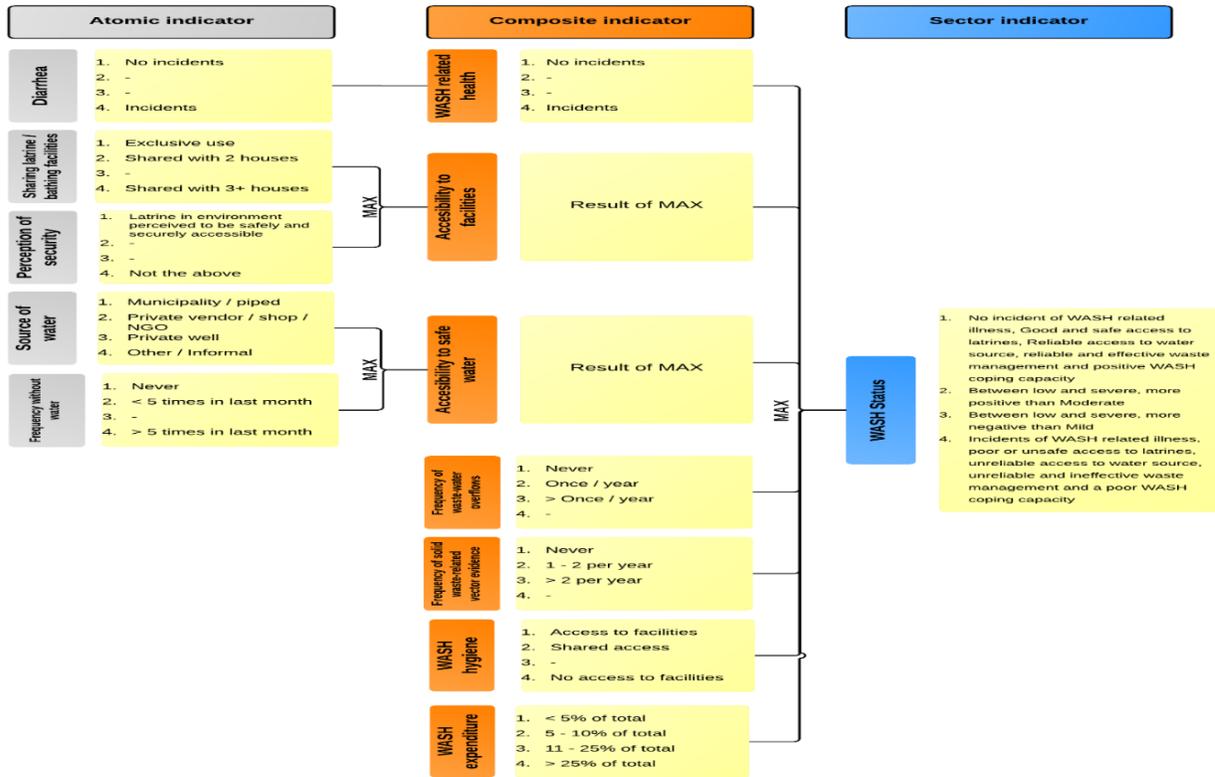
Access to WASH services is crucial to many aspects of a refugee’s daily life, from hygiene, to drinking water and waste disposal. As such there are many discrete, non-related, contributing factors that make up the WASH sector rating.

SECTOR TREE FOR VAF V. 1

The original sector tree identified the following characteristics of vulnerability, represented in the sector tree below:

⁵ VAF Modeling, 2014

a) WASH related health; b) Accessibility to facilities; c) Accessibility to safe water; d) Reliability of waste water; e) Reliability of solid waste management; f) WASH hygiene; g) WASH expenditure



REVISION

After a year in practice, the WASH working group determined that the sector tree could be more closely aligned to what had been learned in Jordanian context. The WASH sector requested a review of the existing tree and identified the following weaknesses:

- Agreement that taking a maximum value for all indicators created inflation in the vulnerability scoring. Instead the tool needed to be more diverse in scoring capability for case prioritization (weighting restructured)
- Source of water required increased vulnerability weighting for cases not connected to municipal water distribution systems (e.g. Other/not connected)
- WASH expenditure component needed revision on scale in original sector tree. Value of < or >5% of income expenditure on WASH was determined to be a more realistic indicator based on current WASH literature.
- Diarrhea/ WASH related health indicator not relevant to Jordan context and so (question or indicator) was deleted
- Solid Waste management needed increased weighting
- Sharing Latrine required increased weighting, at the same time eliminating the WASH Hygiene indicator as it duplicated information on sharing facilities
- Frequency without water was deleted. Source of water was identified as a more accurate measure of refugees access to water

Adjustment to methodology for calculating scores

The original tree took a maximum value from all indicators whereas the revised tree divides weighting by

- Accessibility to Toilet at 0.3(A),
 - Reliability of sanitation system at 0.3 (B),
 - Reliability of Solid waste management 0.1 (C) and
 - Accessibility to water at 0.3 (D)
- = a total sector score comprised of calculations from A, B, C and D.

1. Accessibility to Toilet

Sharing latrines and bathing facilities: The working group confirmed the number of persons per latrine and the safe access to it for all family members is more significant than the number of latrines per household or facilities sharing with other HH for assessing vulnerability..

- It was concluded by sector partners that the 'person per latrine' (rather than sharing toilet – going back to case v HH discussion) would provide a stronger understanding of vulnerability/overcrowding. The working group determined it would be valuable to include additional questions to incorporate # of persons per latrine. However, as this data was previously not captured under the original sector tree it cannot be transferred or recalculated to the sector tree scoring, and has not been included in the revised sector tree.
- **Scoring: in addition it was agreed that:**
 - Sharing: MAX 4 (4 is the most vulnerable score)
 - When a household has an open pit or no latrine they will be given the maximum vulnerability score for the type of latrine: MAX 4 (4 is the most vulnerable)
 - Weighting was increased for 'type of sanitation facility' and weighting was decreased for 'solid waste and/or water overflow vulnerability'
- **Diarrhea: (Removed)** The WASH sector working group determined that data on diarrhea, in the Jordan context, is not relevant when calculating WASH vulnerability, and therefore remove diarrhea-related data from the scoring and original sector tree, but to leave questions in the VAF questionnaire.

2. Reliability of Sanitation Systems:

- **Type of waste water disposal (sanitation):** Connection to the public sewage systems was seen as a stronger indicator than measuring wastewater overflow. As a result, the sector deleted questions on the frequency of wastewater overflow.

3. Reliability of Solid Waste Management:

Frequency of solid waste related vector evidence (sanitation): Task force members agreed that this component in the original sector tree remained relevant and fit for purpose but should be refined to shift to the baseline survey as it requires a community/municipal level response as opposed to case to case response. Slight increase in weighting was recommended.

4. Accessibility to Water:

- **Source of Water.** Connectivity to the municipal water distribution system remains a strong indication of vulnerability – but access to water storage is equally a critical factor. While in the sector tree itself it cannot incorporate additional questions to retain data comparability and transferability, it has been recommended that the following supplementary question be included within the VAF form revision: *Do you consider your water storage capacity (roof tanks, reservoirs, etc.) enough to cover all family needs (personal hygiene, cooking, house cleaning, drinking water)?*

5. **WASH expenditure as a measure of vulnerability**

WASH expenditure was addressed in 2016 MEB Review. Sources of household water presents varying HH cost implications. As most refugees are connected to the public water network, having the economic means to increase access to water through water storage (private water tank), or primary/supplementary water through water truck delivery is thus a key factor.

Suggested sources to calculate water vulnerability indicators are:

- Expenditure on water using minimum basket thresholds (MAX score 4, above 5% of MEB threshold)
- Type of water source (MAX score 4, if not connected to municipal water distribution system)

There is no internationally recognized cost to describe 'non-affordability' of the price of water. References to percentage of expenditures, as shown below, consider higher than 3, 4 or 5% of the HH budget spent in WASH is too expensive for vulnerable households. (UNPD: 3%; OECD & EU: 4%; Development Asian Bank: 5%) ⁷

In addition the 2016 MEB for WASH expenditure has been updated providing the average expenditure on WASH by family size.

Additional inclusions:

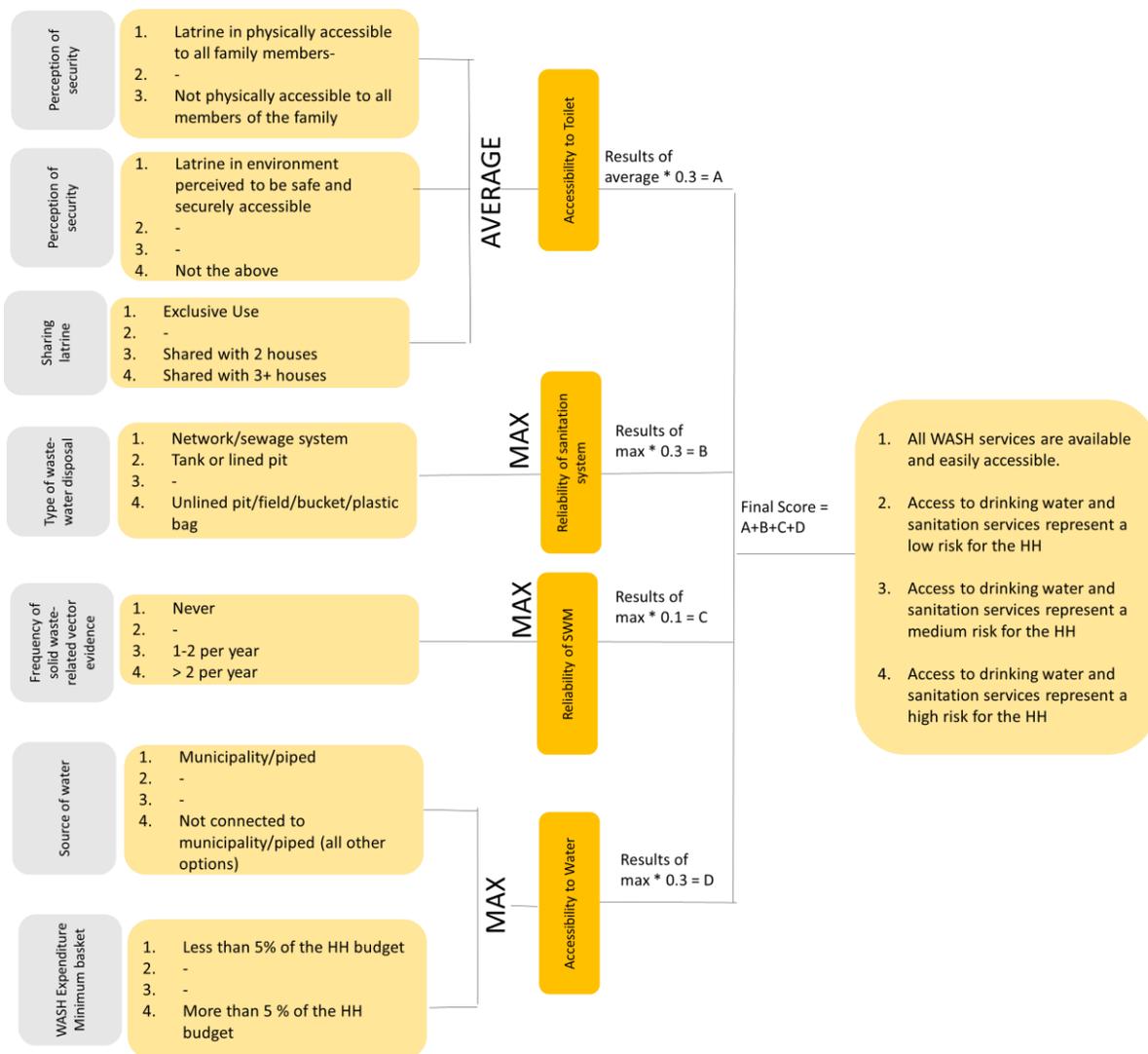
The following additions have been included within the sector at the request of the Disability Task Force (DTF) to ensure that elderly or persons with disabilities (PwDs) and/or impairments can physically access the latrine and WASH facilities.

WASH: Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (Household)	
- Is a latrine and WASH facilities physically accessible to all members of the household?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	<input type="checkbox"/> No
- Is the latrine located in an environment which is perceived to be safe (infrastructure) & securely (no personal risk) accessible to all members of the household?	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

PwDs may encounter specific difficulties in relation to the WASH sector when it comes to the use of latrine, shower and access to safe water. Two questions of relevance for inclusion within the WASH sector which are being included as a result of consultation and discussion with the WASH sector. This will enable the WASH sector to identify where specific responses are needed to accommodate vulnerable individuals; including elderly or PwDs. For example this should allow asses to what extent people with difficulties from the household are able to use the different hygiene equipment in their home. While a household which has access to toilet and/or safe water are considered as acceptable should be rated as ineligible from the sector perspective, the presence within the family of a person with disability should automatically lead to extra attention paid to the accessibility of the said equipment. If the family has no or un-adapted access to water or toilet and is considered as eligible, accessibility should remain important criteria if the household includes one person with disability.

⁷ [L'eau potable est elle d'un prix abordable?](#) (Smets 2008)

WASH SECTOR TREE V.2



3RP REGIONAL SECTOR STRATEGIC OVERVIEW 2016-2017

Water supply, sanitation and waste management services in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq were already strained before the Syria crisis. Jordan is now reported to be the second water-poorest country in the world, and in the last decade has had difficulties to address the increasing demand for water. Services in Lebanon have been negatively impacted by years of conflict, instability, and under-resourcing. Iraq has had difficulty in sustaining and adequately upgrading urban services due to the multiple conflicts. Some 11 per cent of the Syrian refugees across the region live in camps, with the remaining 89 per cent living in urban, peri-urban and rural settings - often in informal settlements, collective centres and substandard buildings and apartments. Other vulnerable groups include Palestinian refugees and vulnerable host populations.

With most refugees concentrated in areas close to the Syrian border or in the main cities there is pressure on local services. In northern governorates of Jordan daily per-capita water consumption has fallen in some areas from 88 litres pre-crisis to 64.5 litres at present, and while 97 per cent of households have access to piped water, an estimated 45-60 per cent of water is lost through leakage and unauthorized connections. As few as 43 per cent of households have access to sewage systems.

The enhanced support provided by host Governments to WASH services across the region in response to the crisis, including through water subsidies, has placed significant burdens on public finances. While there has been an increase in support to services in host communities, further support is needed to increase capacities for water pumping, solid waste management and reinforcing municipal services. Considerably more structural and long-term investment is needed. The 3RP partners will continue to focus WASH interventions on Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. Existing services available in Turkey and Egypt mean that there is less need for specific international assistance from the WASH Sector, and instead other sectors provide support for target groups to live in adequate shelters with satisfactory conditions of sanitation and hygiene, and to rehabilitate WASH systems in schools alongside provision of hygiene promotion. (3RP Strategy 2016-2017)⁸

JRP SECTOR STRATEGY 2017-2019

WASH: JRP AGREED INDICATORS

VAF Monitoring Form

[REF 12.1] Refugees have access to appropriate hygiene practices through supplies and promotion activities. In addition to vector control (insects, rodents, etc.) as per agreed minimum standards (*Case/HH & Community*)

[REF 13.1] Targeted vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian population have access to appropriate hygiene practices through supplies and promotion activities (*Case/HH level*)

[REF2.1] Vulnerable People have access to safe and equitable water as per agreed minimum standards, Household Water infrastructure improvement (*Case/HH level*)

[REF2.2] Targeted vulnerable population has improved access to safe and equitable water through water trucking (*Case/HH level*)

[REF3.1] Syrian and Jordanian population has improved access to safe and equitable water through repair, improvement and/or extension of existing water systems (wells, transmission lines, distribution network, water loss reduction) (*Case/HH level*)

[REF 7.1] Refugees have access to sanitation facilities and services as per agreed minimum standards through (Waste water trucking, WASH blocks maintenance and waste water treatment plants) (*Case/HH level*)

[REF 8.1] Targeted vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian population has improved access to sanitation facilities through repair or replacement of existing non-functional toilets or through installation of new toilets and wastewater management (*Case/HH level*)

[REF 9.1] Targeted vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian population has improved access to sanitation facilities and services through repair, improvement and/or extension of Sewerage systems (where existing) (*Case/HH level*)

Baseline

[REF10] Host Community sanitation in Schools (*Community level*)

[REF 10.1] Schools, Clinics and child friendly spaces have improved access to sanitation services through repair and improvement of sanitation facilities (*Community level*)

[REF 12.2] Schools, Clinics and child friendly spaces have access to hygiene promotion services and supplies as per agreed minimum standards (*Community level*)

[REF 13.2] Schools, Clinics and child friendly spaces have improved access to appropriate hygiene practices through supplies and promotion activities (*Community level*)

8 <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/3RP-Regional-Overview-2016-2017.pdf>

[REF 7.2] Refugees have access to sanitation facilities and services as per agreed minimum standards through sewer networks (*Community level*)

[REF 7.4] Refugees have access to Solid Waste Management facilities and services as per agreed minimum standards, with appropriate arrangements for Solid Waste collection, disposal, recycling and management (*Community level*)

[REF 7.3] Schools, Clinics and child friendly spaces have access to sanitation services as per agreed minimum standards. (*Community level*)

METHODOLOGY

The revision of the sector tree was undertaken by the members of a Task Force, comprised of WASH sector members. The Task Force included representatives from the following agencies: ACF, ACTED, REACH and UNHCR.

1	Low	All WASH services are available and easily accessible.
2	Moderate	Access to drinking water and sanitation services represent a low risk for the HH
3	High	Access to drinking water and sanitation services represent a medium risk for the HH
4	Severe	Access to drinking water and sanitation services represent a high risk for the HH

Cases which fall in either high or severe vulnerability categories based on the new sector tree mean that the case has a high or severe vulnerability in terms of access to drinking water or sanitation in terms of experiencing issues regarding sharing latrines with more than one household, issues pertaining to solid waste management and waste water disposal which affect overall sanitation and hygiene. Cases which assessed by the VAF and receive a score of 3 or 4 are prioritized for WASH intervention targeting by WASH intervention VAF partners or non-VAF partners under a data sharing agreement with UNHCR to share vulnerability data.

For more information on the WASH sector tree revision please contact Eva Diaz Ugena ugena@unhcr.org or Olivia Cribb cribb@unhcr.org.



Vulnerability Assessment Framework

EDUCATION SECTOR TREE FOR VULNERABILITY SCORING

Jordan has a population of 7.5 million including 2.9 million children under 18 years of age (SOWC 2015). Having ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991, Jordan has been one of the model countries in the region in protecting and promoting the rights of children. Jordan has achieved universal primary education, with the latest primary net enrolment ratio at 96 per cent for girls and 98 per cent for boys. In secondary schools, it stands at 86 per cent for girls and 89 per cent for boys (State of World's Children Report, UNICEF 2015)⁹. Education is compulsory up to completion of the Year 10 certificate.

The escalation of the Syria crisis has had a deep impact on Jordanian society. The massive influx of over 655,000 refugees has put an immense strain on the economy and public services, including health, water, education, energy and service delivery, and youth employment. With over 220,000 school aged Syrian children in Jordan as a result of the Syria crisis refugee influx, and the country is making every effort in providing learning opportunities for these children (UNICEF, 2016).¹⁰ The government is working closely with UNICEF and partners in strengthening its national institutions to ensure that vulnerable and disadvantaged children continue to access education.

At the commencement of the 2016 school year, to meet the urgent needs for adequate learning spaces, UNICEF collaborated with the Ministry of Education (MoE) in establishing an additional 102 double-shift schools (raising the total to 200) schools in camps and host communities. The new *Catch Up Program* (for children aged 9-12 years) is being implemented at these schools, to enable children who have missed more than three years of education to access certified education, and to re-enter the formal system. The MoE Non Formal Education 'Drop Out' Program (for 13-21 year olds) has increased in scale to address the growing population of adolescents and youth who have had interrupted education. This MoE certified program provides students with the Year 10 formal certification equivalence (over a two year period).

Access to Formal Education for Syrian Refugees

The number of the Syrian refugees with access to the formal education system is expected to increase by 75,000 in the 2016/2017 school year (with an additional 50,000 places available in the formal schools and 25,000 in the Catch Up Program).

Despite significant increases in available seats, it is anticipated that issues such as longer distances to the double-shift schools, the need for youth to contribute to the household income and children with a wide range of disabilities, will continue to pose access challenges for some.

⁹ <http://sowc2015.unicef.org/>

¹⁰ <https://www.unicef.org/jordan/overview.html>

Risk of Non Completion

The current priority has been for Syrian children to access the formal education system. However, of equal importance will be to ensure that all children can successfully be retained, and to complete up to a minimum of the Year 10 compulsory certificate. There are many factors which may contribute to early 'drop out' such as labor, marriage, difficulty 'catching up' after years of interrupted education, concerns for safety (double-shift schools finish later in the afternoons), transport issues and other challenges related to the double-shift system.

The VAF focus will be on two key areas: children who remain **out of school** despite the increase in available formal places; and children who are at **risk of not completing education** i.e. early 'drop out'. The results of the VAF will be used to identify trend data to inform education planning and management, as well as provide information about individual families/children who can be supported to access and/or complete compulsory education.

Access to education for registered Syrian refugee school aged children is currently free in Jordanian state schools; however Syrian families face a number of barriers to ensuring all their children are able to enroll and remain in education. These include social, protection, legal, economic and educational barriers: i.e. distance to school, availability of places in a school, financial/economic barriers, missed education, etc.

EDUCATION SECTOR TREE v.1

The original sector tree was developed by the Education sector chairs and partners in 2014. As the VAF is traditionally a case level assessment the education sector acknowledged the need to request specific information in relation to the individuals within the case that were of school age in order to respond more appropriately.

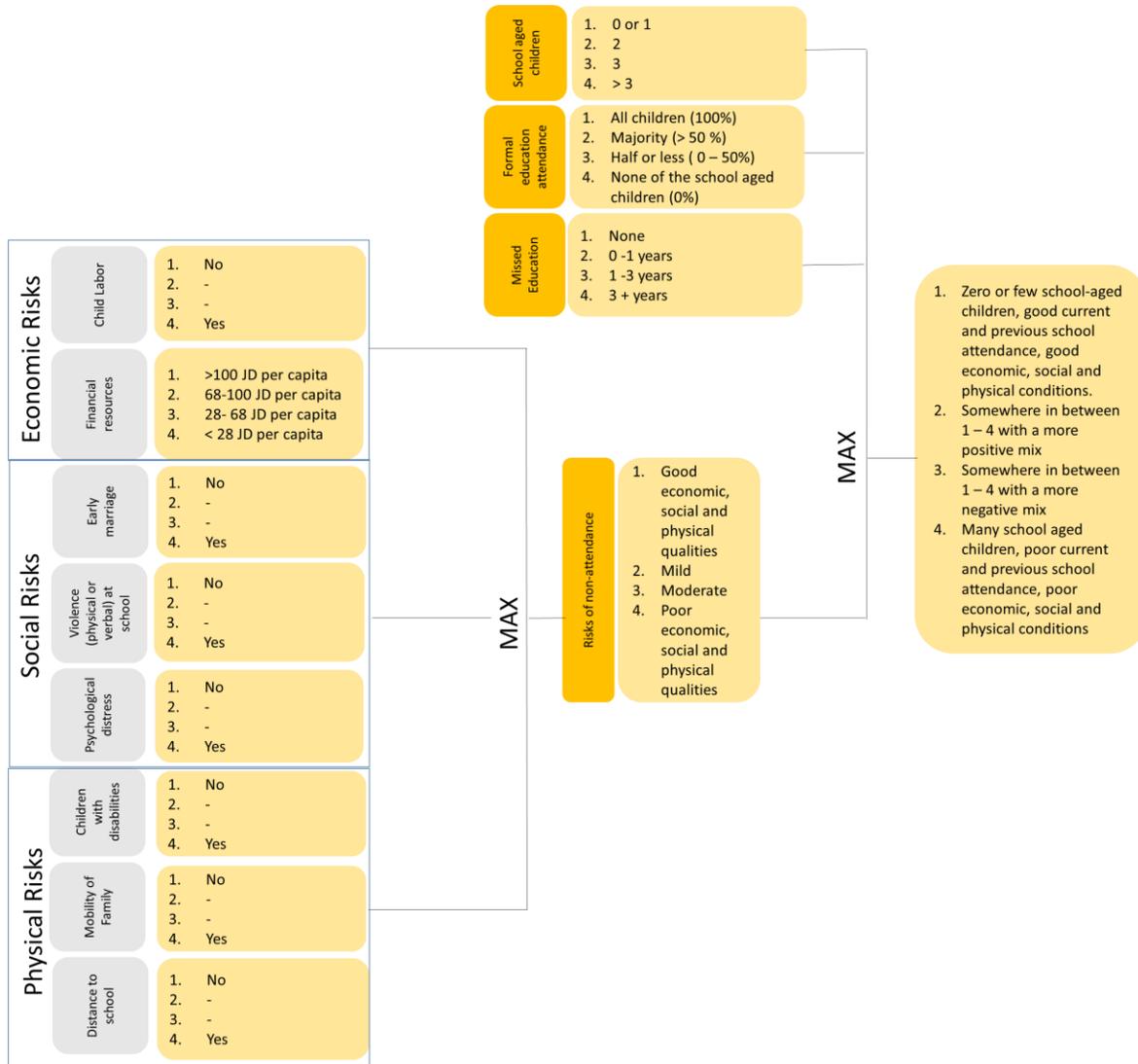
Composite indicators were based on the following:

- # of school aged children (0 - >3)
- % of children attending formal education (0%- 100%)
- # of years of missed education (0 – 3+)

The sector identified three primary factors as risks of non-attendance:

- 1) **Economic Risks;** comprised of the following sub-factors:
 - child labor;** and
 - financial resources** / debt per capita
- 2) **Social Risks;** comprised of the following sub-factors:
 - early marriage,**
 - violence (physical or verbal) at school;**
 - and **psychological distress**
- 3) **Physical Risks** comprised of the following sub-factors:
 - children with disabilities,**
 - mobility of family;** and
 - distance to school.**

EDUCATION SECTOR TREE V.1



A year after implementation, and having reviewed VAF data collected for the Education sector, Education partners reviewed the existing sector tree. Partners agreed that the above sector tree is limited in terms of scope, and restrained in terms of the questions it asks to provide an accurate vulnerability score.

The sector reviewed the appropriateness of the questions that were previously asked, It was decided by the members of the Education sector to dramatically change the existing model in to something more tightly aligned with the Education objectives within the JRP and 3RP.

The sector further identified that the existing model over-inflated vulnerability education scores, as a result of taking the 'maximum' value from both atomic and composite indicators and carrying it over to the final score.

In order to improve the identification and response to education vulnerabilities, and to enable the prioritizing individuals that are severely vulnerable, the Sector Working group established variance within the scores and looked at children as individuals rather than pooling them all collectively at case level.

3RP REGIONAL SECTOR STRATEGY 2016-2017

The overarching goals of the Education Sector in the five 3RP countries are to ensure access to safe, equitable and quality education for children and adolescents affected by the crisis and to strengthen the capacities of education systems and communities to deliver a timely, coordinated and evidence-based education response. Education interventions will prioritize school-age children who are currently out of school and children receiving low-quality education services.

Children in affected host communities will be supported to access quality education opportunities. Partners are working to overcome barriers in the education sector by **widening access opportunities** for children in formal and non-formal education, improving the quality of education (through **reducing risk of non-completion**) and supporting education systems to provide a better response to education needs. (3RP Strategy 2016-2017)¹¹

JRP SECTOR STRATEGY 2017-2019

VAF Monitoring Form

ACCESS: JRP AGREED INDICATORS

REF 1.2 Increase access for Syrian children (boys and girls) to public school education in camps and double shift schools in the host communities (*Case/Individual level*)

REF 1.5 Increase and expand access to certified Non-formal education for Syrian children (boys and girls) aged 9-12 who are currently eligible for public schools (*Case/Individual level*)

RISK OF NON-COMPLETION: JRP AGREED INDICATORS

RES 2.2 Increase and improve protective and safe learning environments for children and youth (*Case/HH level*)

RES 3.3 Provide remedial classes for vulnerable children grade 4-12 (*Case/HH level*)

Baseline

ACCESS: JRP AGREED INDICATORS

RES 2.1 Increase sustainable quality educational services for children and youth impacted by the Syria Crisis (*School/Community level*)

RES 3.4 Increase and expand access to certified Non-formal education for adolescents and youth (boys and girls) who are not eligible for public schools in Host Community (*School/Community level*)

RES 3.7 Increase the number of spaces for children through constructing new classrooms and WASH facilities, rehabilitation and maintaining the existing facilities. (*School/Community level*)

RES 3.8 Increase the number of spaces for children through rehabilitation & maintaining the existing facilities. (*School/Community level*)

RISK OF NON-COMPLETION: JRP AGREED INDICATORS

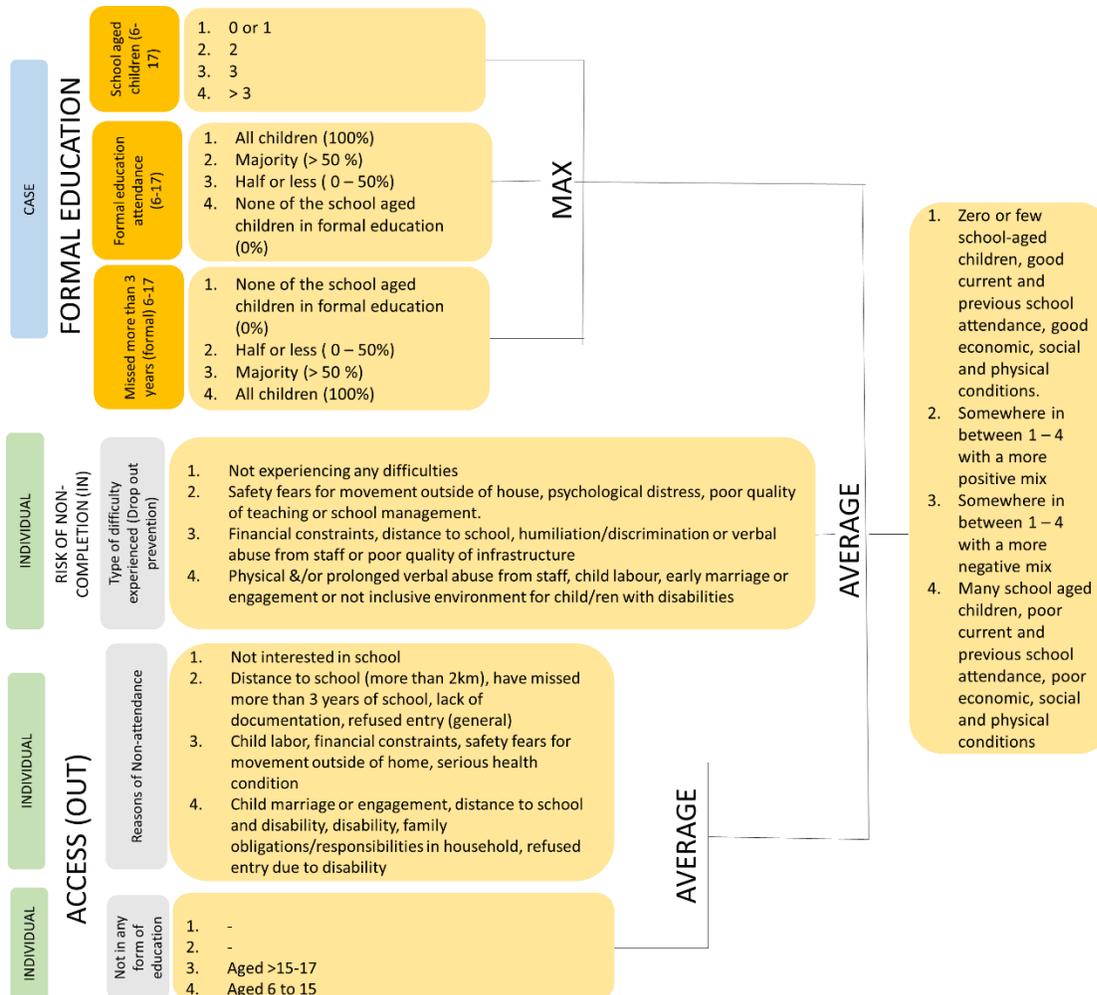
RES 2.3 Increase the use of technology to provide quality education for children (6-18) in formal schools (*School/Community level*)

EDUCATION SECTOR TREE V.2

The new phase of the 'No Lost Generation' campaign aims to improve quality formal and non-formal learning opportunities for children in the refugee host countries. This will be achieved by strategically focusing on the two primary problems faced in Jordan and in accordance with JRP/3RP and 'No Lost Generation' Campaign:

¹¹ <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/3RP-Regional-Overview-2016-2017.pdf>

1. **Access to Education** and capturing what are the risks of non-enrolment / non-attendance and the reasons why children are not attending school. It was identified that access to education can often be a multi-faceted issue and several underlying issues eventuating in a child not attending school.
2. **Risk of Non Completion**-focuses on identifying potential reasons why a child may drop out of school



Pertinent to both categories:

- # of children
- Gender
- # of children in formal education and not enrolled in school and age disaggregation

This shall cater to varying scenarios which cases may have some children in school and some children out of school and to identify the risk posed by the age).

As vulnerability increases with age, it was agreed that the following age disaggregation is more appropriate to understanding barriers to education:

6-12: caters to primary school children, it was noted that the between ages 6-12 is a crucial age for educational development, and for ensuring functional literacy and numeracy.

13-15: Middle school children and age 15 highlights the Jordanian compulsory formal education attendance age but where the risk of non-access and early drop out increases

16-17: considered as Youth, where high school education and vocational training are applicable to this age group, does not have to mandatorily attend school according with law in Jordan and can work.

18-24: considered as Youth where tertiary education and vocational training are applicable to this age group, does not have to mandatorily attend school according with law in Jordan and can work.

Are all of your children attending formal education?

Formal Education

1. All Children (100%)
2. Half and majority (>75%)
3. Half or less (0-50%)
4. None of the school-aged children are in formal education (0%)

1. ACCESS TO EDUCATION-Children who are currently out of school

Scaling up opportunities for equitable access to formal and non-formal education:

Using this methodology advocacy campaigns and programming can determine the cases which have children that are severely vulnerable and have multiple barriers to accessing formal education. This methodology will help identify:

- a) Placements needed vs placements available (particularly for the Catch Up and NFE Drop Out Programs, and geographical distances)
- b) Cash grants to assist children/ families at severe risk of non-enrolment
- c) Equitable access – disability

Increasing demand for learning by engaging families and communities in the education of their children.

- d) Targeting and prioritizing children not attending school and have not attended school for more than 3 years as priority for programming (by UN agencies and partner organizations)

Number of years of missed education

- Less than 3 years
- More than 3 years/ never been to school

If a child misses school for more than 3 consecutive years, they were previously not eligible to go back to formal certified schooling within MoE formal schools. The Catch Up Program seeks to address this but it is anticipated that these children will remain more vulnerable due to the challenges of 'catching up'. The revised sector tree enables the identification of children to be prioritized to assist the process of enrolling and supporting them to complete the Catch Up or NFE Drop Out Programs.

ACCESS- Is your child experiencing any difficulties to attending formal education? Please tick up to a maximum of 4 that apply

Please tick up to a maximum of 4 that apply:

Appropriate scores have been identified (1 low vulnerability, 2 moderate vulnerability, 3 high vulnerability, 4 severely vulnerable)

- 1 • Not interested in school (/cultural/not useful)
- 4 • Child marriage/engagement
- 3 • Child labor/work with other priorities
- 3 • Financial constraints (transport, uniforms, etc.)
- 2 • Distance to school (more than 2km excluding physical disability, with disability 4)
- 3 • Safety fears for movement outside the home
- 4 • Disability
- 4 • Serious Health Condition
- 2 • Missed more than 3 years of education
- 4 • Family obligations/ responsibilities in the household
- 2 • Lack of documentation (preventing higher education)
- 2 • Refused entry (general)
- 4 • Refused entry due to disability

2. Type of Education

Types of school/education service currently being attended were restructured to include only the necessary information needed for educational providers to design new educational interventions:

- Formal primary or secondary school (public or private)
 - a. Morning shift-regular school
 - b. Morning shift- double shifted school (e.g. does quality of education reduce in double-shifted schools, or is there propensity of bullying in schools that have converted to the double-shift system, i.e. conflict between Syrians and host community as a result of changes?)
 - c. Afternoon shift
- Government certified Non Formal Education (Catch Up or Non Formal Drop Out)
- Other educational services (learning support services, literacy and numeracy, community centers, Makani etc.)
- Government Certified vocational/training institution
- Government or Private Higher Education

3. Risk of Non Completion (i.e. early drop out)

Is your child/ren experiencing any difficulties while attending or to remain in formal education? Please tick up to a maximum of 4 that apply (not list read, open ended question to beneficiary).

This question is addressing the concerns regarding drop-out rates and retention rates. This portion identifies areas to be advocated for with the Ministry of Education, in terms of identification of teacher/school leadership training needs and/or infrastructure responses, cultural awareness and/or improvement of bus / transportation needs. The increasing incidences of bullying and/or violence occurring within formal education environments are reported to be a major deterrent for children to remain in school.

The following adjustments were made from the original sector tree to the new sector tree for the following reasons:

In reference to the original tree the options were too many and not phrased in a way serving the purpose of identifying an important problem in the eyes of education providers, to create new programs for and/or is a duplicate which was covered in the above questions e.g. concerns about physical and/or verbal abuse by staff, psychological distress/difficulties concentrating, family awaiting return to CoO, difficult dialect, moved to a new area.

As a result, a priority list in terms of risks of non-completion was developed:

Appropriate scores have been identified (1 low vulnerability, 2 moderate vulnerability, 3 high vulnerability, 4 severely vulnerable)

- 3 • Financial constraints (transport, uniforms, etc.)
- 3 • Distance to school
- 4 • Engagement or early marriage
- 3 • Need for family income
- 4 • Child labour
- 4 • Physical &/or prolonged verbal abuse from staff
- 3 • Humiliation, discrimination, verbal abuse from staff
- 3 • Bullying amongst students
- 2 • Safety fears for movement outside home
- 2 • Psychological distress / severely distressed
- 2 • Poor quality of teaching and/or management (service)
- 3 • Poor quality of infrastructure (i.e. WASH facility, classroom furniture etc.)
- 4 • Not inclusive for children with disabilities (environment)
- 1 • Not applicable

According to WHO CP Policy¹² and our education partners mandate define abuse as: All forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.

METHODOLOGY

1	Low	Zero or few school-aged children, good current and previous school attendance, good economic, social and physical conditions.
2	Moderate	Somewhere in between 1 – 4 with a more positive mix
3	High	Somewhere in between 1 – 4 with a more negative mix
4	Severe	Many school aged children, poor current and previous school attendance, poor economic, social and physical conditions

For more information on decision making processes in relation to the revised Education Sector tree please contact Farrukh Mirza (UNICEF) fmirza@unicef.org, Tatjana Klein (UNHCR) kleint@unhcr.org, Dina Al Masri from Middle East Children's Institute (MECI) dalmasri@mecinstitute.org or Olivia Cribb (UNHCR) cribb@unhcr.org.

¹² <https://www.unicef.org/violencestudy/pdf/CP%20Manual%20-%20Introduction.pdf>



Vulnerability Assessment Framework

BASIC NEEDS SECTOR DECISION TREE REVISION FOR VULNERABILITY SCORING

BASIC NEEDS SIGNIFICANCE TO THE VAF

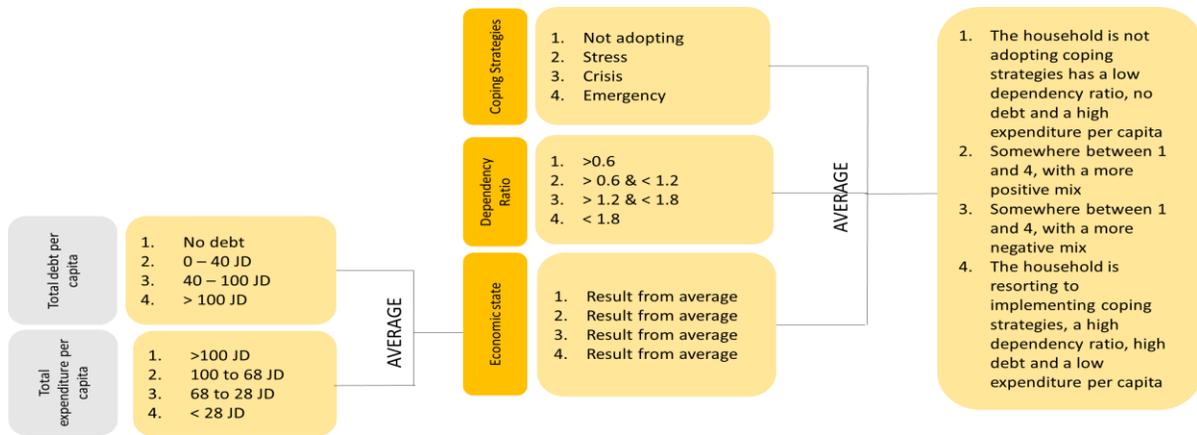
Basic Needs are the financial and non-financial minimum standards a family needs to be able to maintain their welfare and dignity. The vast majority of Syrian refugee families have limited access to sustainable livelihood options and are in need of financial, non-financial and non-food assistance. In particular refugees living in unfurnished apartments face considerable hardship during the winter months; lacking adequate bedding, heating and floor coverings etc.

BASIC NEEDS SECTOR TREE V.1

The Basic Needs sector identified the use of coping strategies, high dependency ratios, high levels of debt and a low level of expenditure per capita as the critical elements contributing to a risk of increased vulnerability. Families who exhibit these characteristics are considered to be unlikely to be able provide for their Basic Needs and would therefore be in need of sector specific assistance packages. High levels of debt per capita, low levels of expenditure per capita, high dependency ratios and the adoption of crisis or emergency coping mechanism make families vulnerable in this sector. Many families have depleted all assets and are living in unfurnished or semi-furnished apartments without access to regular income or financial support that would allow them to manage their own needs.

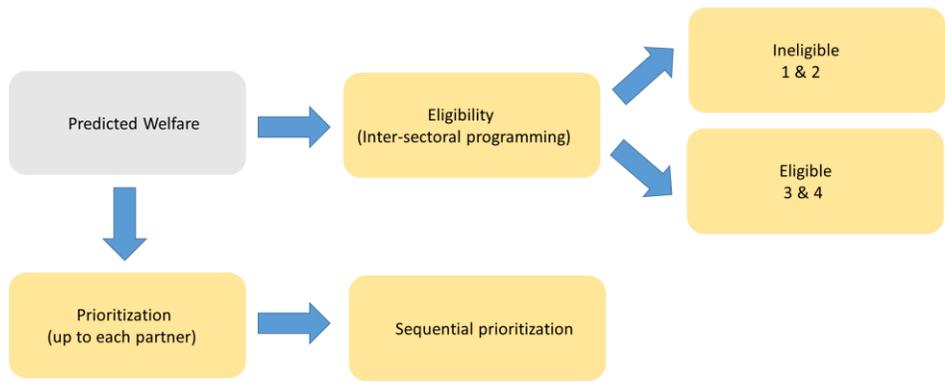
The characteristics of vulnerability for each sector were identified, for example:

- Coping strategies
- Dependency ratio
- Economic state

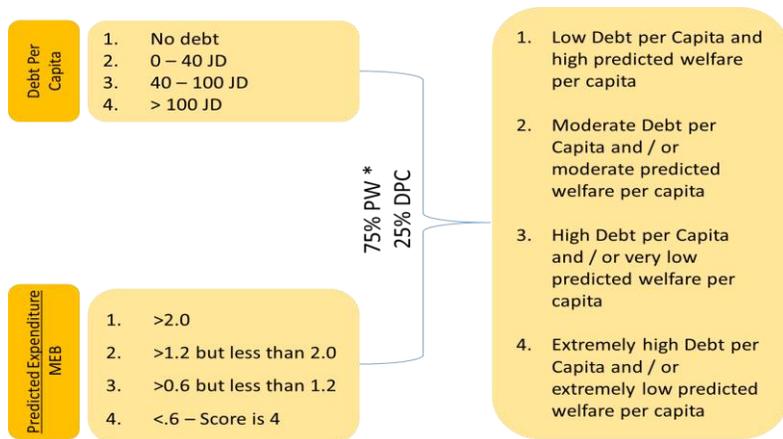


BASIC NEEDS SECTOR TREE ALTERNATE OPTIONS

Option 1 – Simplified



Option 2:



The decision to review the Basic Needs scoring tree was based on two main reasons:

- Basic Needs partners felt the initial scoring tree included more information than needed and was more complicated than necessary. Moreover, reviewed the scoring tree would allow to lighten the VAF questionnaire.
- Some partners were also concerned the initial scoring tree double counted some atomic indicator such as the dependency ratio.

In order to determine if the case was able to meet its financial needs, it was determined that:

- MEB divided by Predicted Welfare tells us how financial stable the case is
- 1 is a case living at the MEB poverty line
- Below 1 means the case is below the MEB poverty line
- Above 1 means the case is above the MEB poverty line

This gives enough detail to prioritize and can be converted into a score of 1 through 4 depending on the distribution of scores. For example:

1. >2.0
2. >1.2 but less than 2.0
3. >0.6 but less than 1.2
4. <.6 – Score is 4

How precarious is the financial situation of the case?

- The Debt Ratio can be used to estimate how vulnerable the case is (high debt ratio leaving fewer options to meet needs)

Using a weighted average of the two scores (75% Predicted Welfare /MEB and 25% Dependency Ratio) gives

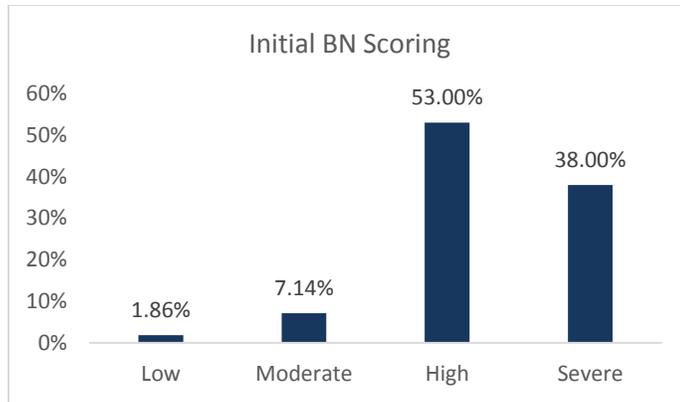
- Current and anticipated vulnerability; And,
- Finer distinction in vulnerability levels (3, 3.5, 4, for example)

Moreover, the Basic Needs Working Group partners agreed the scoring system should allow prioritizing rather than defining eligibility. The Working Group would not set firm lines for eligibility but provide guidance for agencies in making eligibility decisions on an agency by agency and project by project basis. Thus, several options were considered and discussed among the partners in order to design a new scoring tree allowing more accurate analysis of the vulnerability of the persons of concern and beneficiaries selection for partners.

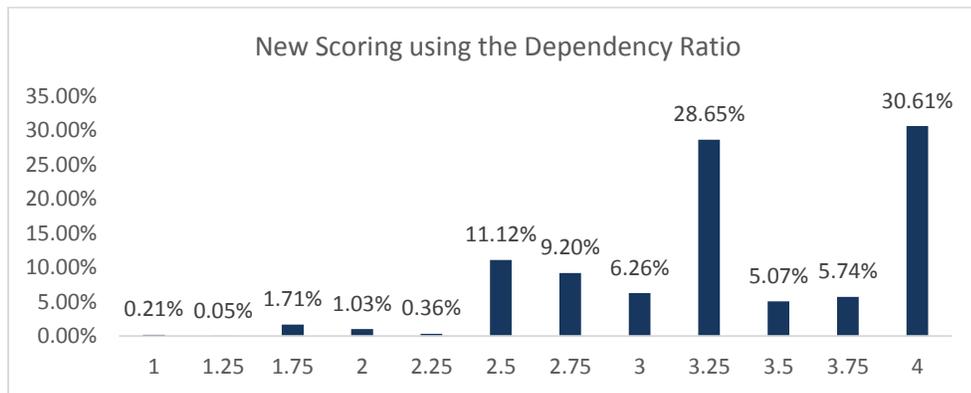
SECTOR TREE REVISION METHODOLOGY

The first option considered was to use the Predicted Welfare alone. In order to do so, the Predicted Welfare was compared with the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) to give a measurement if the households are spending more or less than the MEB and falling above or below the poverty line. This exercise gave a static view of the situation as it exist for the households but it did not necessarily capture the vulnerability of the households to future shocks and risks they faced. As a result, this methodology was not considered relevant as it does not take into account enough parameters. It was decided to factor in at least one additional indicator that as a measurable impact on the vulnerability of the households.

Two options came up at this stage, using the dependency ratio or the debt per capita. Calculations were run based on a sampling of 1934 households identified through outreach work in the communities. Using the initial Basic Needs scoring tree, this sampling led to the following ranking:



Looking at the options presented above, the dependency ratio did not give a clear picture of differences in vulnerability between households because the ranges forced almost all of them into level 3 and 4. Levels were artificial and forced rather than being an indicator of how the dependency ratio would really impact of the degree of vulnerability of the households.

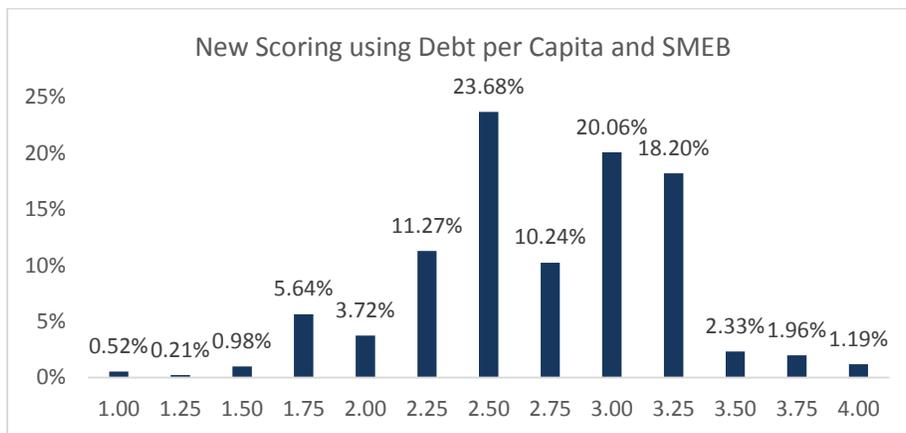
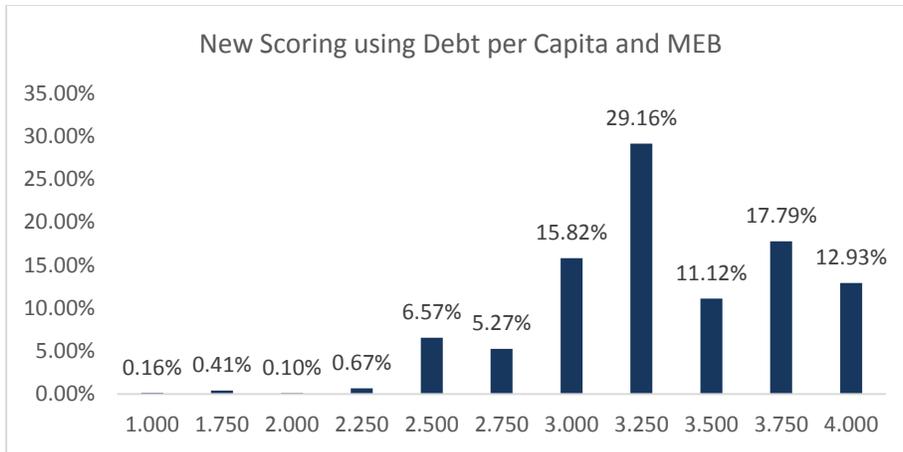


Moreover, the dependency ratio is also used as a stand-alone indicator to measure the general vulnerability of households. As a result, it was decided to drop this parameter.

Debt per capita was considered because it is a very clear measurable indicator of how much flexibility a household has to adapt to financial constraints; i.e. households with less debt have more flexibility when they have a financial situation. The debt per capita was factored into the Basic Needs score using a weighted average of 75% predicted welfare and 25% debt per capita. This helped to clarify the level of vulnerability from one household to another much more than the predicted welfare on its own. This methodology provides a clear tool for prioritization as well as advocacy and informed decisions on eligibility.

In addition, this new scoring system is accompanied by more distinctions inside the levels themselves with 0.25, 0.5 and 0.75. This allows for more specific analysis and prioritization for the agencies while starting from the assumption that all households reaching 3 and above find themselves below the poverty line and with a significant debts burden.

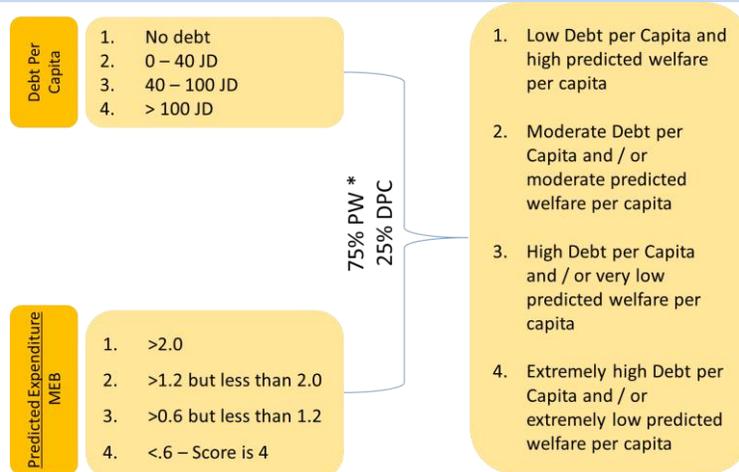
The question of using the MEB or the SMEB was also discussed and calculations were run comparatively as illustrated below. The use of the predicted welfare over the SMEB gave a more normal distribution of households but it led to only 44% of households scoring 3 and above. This did not seem to capture enough households actually living below the poverty line who should be considered for support. On the other hand, using the MEB led to 87% of the households ranking 3 and above with 13% reaching 4. This second option captures all persons living below the poverty line who should be considered for support while allowing agencies to prioritize their selection based on the ranking inside the levels.



In conclusion, the partners agreed on using the following formula and final tree. It appeared as the best option to capture all households living below the poverty line, assess their vulnerability more closely, and allow for agencies to prioritize their selection depending on their projects.

$$(PE/MEB \text{ Score}) * 75\% + (\text{Debt per Capita Score} * 25\%)$$

BASIC NEEDS SECTOR TREE V.2



2016 MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET

Jordan October 2016												
MONTHLY MEB (in JOD) - ABSOLUTE POVERTY LINE												
Sector	Items	Item in Survival MEB? (Y/N)	Family Size							Data Type	Data Source	2016 Action
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
Shelter / BN	Rent	Y	108.00	127.00	133.00	143.00	145.00	148.00	169.00	VAF data (All HV's)	Source all assessed VAF data - reported rent by governorate and FS	Updated
	Utilities	N	7.00	9.80	15.20	16.70	19.70	20.40	22.10	VAF baseline data	Sept/ Oct VAF Baseline data reported expenditure by family size	Updated
	Basic HH Items	N	3.40	4.30	6.80	7.90	8.60	8.90	10.00	VAF baseline data	Sept/ Oct VAF Baseline data reported expenditure by family size	Updated
Food	Rice	Y	4.90	9.80	14.70	19.60	24.50	29.40	34.30	Sector Standard	Food Basket documented in Food Security MEB 2016 Guidance Note	No change advised by sector
	Bulgur Wheat	Y	5.54	11.08	16.62	22.16	27.70	33.24	38.78	Sector Standard	Food Basket documented in Food Security MEB 2016 Guidance Note	No change advised by sector
	Pasta	Y	1.67	3.34	5.01	6.68	8.35	10.02	11.69	Sector Standard	Food Basket documented in Food Security MEB 2016 Guidance Note	No change advised by sector
	Lentils	Y	1.38	2.76	4.14	5.52	6.90	8.28	9.66	Sector Standard	Food Basket documented in Food Security MEB 2016 Guidance Note	No change advised by sector
	Vegetable oil	Y	1.49	2.98	4.47	5.96	7.45	8.94	10.43	Sector Standard	Food Basket documented in Food Security MEB 2016 Guidance Note	No change advised by sector
	Sugar	Y	0.68	1.36	2.04	2.72	3.40	4.08	4.76	Sector Standard	Food Basket documented in Food Security MEB 2016 Guidance Note	No change advised by sector
	Salt iodized	Y	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.08	0.10	0.12	0.14	Sector Standard	Food Basket documented in Food Security MEB 2016 Guidance Note	No change advised by sector
	Poultry	Y	2.05	4.10	6.15	8.20	10.25	12.30	14.35	Sector Standard	Food Basket documented in Food Security MEB 2016 Guidance Note	No change advised by sector
	Egg (hen, fresh)	Y	1.01	2.02	3.03	4.04	5.05	6.06	7.07	Sector Standard	Food Basket documented in Food Security MEB 2016 Guidance Note	No change advised by sector
	Cheese	Y	1.35	2.70	4.05	5.40	6.75	8.10	9.45	Sector Standard	Food Basket documented in Food Security MEB 2016 Guidance Note	No change advised by sector
	Leaves, Medium Green	Y	0.40	0.80	1.20	1.60	2.00	2.40	2.80	Sector Standard	Food Basket documented in Food Security MEB 2016 Guidance Note	No change advised by sector
	Access to Education (Transport)	N	-	13.00	26.00	39.00	52.00	65.00	78.00	Calculation by Sector	Sector agreed	No change advised by sector
	Uniforms	N	-	7.00	14.00	21.00	28.00	35.00	42.00	Calculation by Sector	Sector agreed	No change advised by sector
Supplementary school supply	N	-	4.00	8.00	12.00	16.00	20.00	24.00	Calculation by Sector	Sector agreed	No change advised by sector	
Daily allowance	N	-	6.00	12.00	18.00	24.00	30.00	36.00	Calculation by Sector	Sector agreed	No change advised by sector	
Health	Primary, secondary OPD and dental care	N	2.52	5.04	7.56	10.08	12.60	15.12	17.64	Calculation by Sector	As documented in Health MEB 2016 Guidance Note	No change advised by sector
	Hospitalisations	N	0.40	0.80	1.20	1.60	2.00	2.40	2.80	Calculation by Sector	As documented in Health MEB 2016 Guidance Note	No change advised by sector
	Catastrophic expenditure	N	1.25	2.50	3.75	5.00	6.25	7.50	8.75	Calculation by Sector	As documented in Health MEB 2016 Guidance Note	Updated
	Delivery	N	0.39	0.78	1.17	1.56	1.95	2.34	2.73	Calculation by Sector	As documented in Health MEB 2016 Guidance Note	Updated
WASH	Baby kit	N	0.05	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.25	0.30	0.35	Calculation by Sector	As documented in Health MEB 2016 Guidance Note	No change advised by sector
	Water (network, tanker, dislodging, bottled etc.)	Y	3.20	4.70	7.20	7.00	8.90	9.70	10.50	VAF baseline data	Sept/ Oct VAF Baseline data reported expenditure by family size	Updated
	Hygiene items	N	3.40	4.30	6.80	7.90	8.60	8.90	10.00	VAF baseline data	Sept/ Oct VAF Baseline data reported expenditure by family size	Updated
Protection	Transportation	N	6.40	6.50	10.10	10.20	9.60	13.40	11.90	VAF baseline data	Sept/ Oct VAF Baseline data reported expenditure by family size	Sept/ Oct VAF Baseline data
	Communication	N	3.50	3.50	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	UNICEF PDM Findings	Assessments conducted in June, August and November 2015	Updated
Total			160	240	319	388	451	515	594			
per capita			160	120	106	97	90	86	85			

See: Jordan Minimum Expenditure Basket 2016¹³

METHODOLOGY

The qualities of each of those characteristics are described for what it means to be 'Low vulnerability' and to be 'Severely vulnerable'.

1	Low	Low debt per capita and high predicted welfare per capita
2	Moderate	Moderate debt per capita and/or moderate predicted welfare
3	High	High debt per capita and/or very low predicted welfare
4	Severe	Extremely high debt per capita and/or extremely low predicted welfare

3RP REGIONAL SECTOR STRATEGY 2016-2017

The regional sector strategy is to achieve cost-effective outcomes through the use of coordinated assistance delivered through cash transfers to 1.3 million Syrian refugees. For the cash support programmes, the identification and selection of potential beneficiaries is a fundamental step to ensure prioritized attention to those in greatest need. An integral part of the resilience strategy across the region sees the continued coordination with the affected displaced population through their self-management structures to ensure decreasing dependency on direct assistance, as well as expanding the capacity of central and local social safety nets for the identification of needs and vulnerabilities. (3RP Strategy 2016-2017)¹⁴

¹³ <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=12277>

¹⁴ <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/3RP-Regional-Overview-2016-2017.pdf>

VAF Monitoring Form

BN[REF1] To provide life-saving basic needs assistance to Syrian refugee households and vulnerable families affected by the crisis inside the camps and in non-camp settings.

[REF1.2] Support towards basic needs (*Case/Individual level*)

[REF1.3] Support towards Winterization needs (*Case/Individual level*)

The above Basic Needs revised sector tree has been reviewed, tested and endorsed by the sector. For more information on this process please contact Fanny Marchand jor.progco@pu-ami.org or Olivia Cribb cribb@unhcr.org.



Vulnerability Assessment Framework

DISABILITY UNIVERSAL INDICATOR TO ASSIST IDENTIFICATION

DISABILITY SIGNIFICANCE TO THE VAF

Reliable data on persons with disabilities (PwD) in Jordan is limited but critical to ensuring the provision of care addressing the specific needs of a group of people with special needs. According to a Government of Jordan census from 2004, 1.23 percent of the population in Jordan has a disability, while the Higher Council of Affairs of Persons with Disabilities' estimate is 13 percent (not including refugees). The World Health Organization (WHO) puts the average worldwide prevalence of disabilities at 15%. As of 13 October, 2016, UNHCR has recorded 2.36 percent of refugees registered in Jordan with a disability. In the context of Jordan, where hundreds of thousands of civil war refugees reside, the number with disabilities is expected to be significantly higher.

Reasons for limited data on persons with disabilities can be attributed to a number of factors. First is the use of outdated tools for collecting data on persons with disabilities, and a lack of consolidation of data between national actors. Notably tools that define disability as a health issue ignore other aspects of disability, and do not allow for accurate identification of persons with disabilities.

With a view to addressing this gap, this paper advocates for humanitarian agencies providing direct services to refugees in Jordan to: 1) Use the Short Set of Questions developed by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics as a tool for screening and flagging disabilities, 2) Partner with UNHCR in becoming users of the (a.) Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) and (b.) Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS), and use disability data to improve equitable access to basic needs within the scope of the humanitarian response.

Objectives and achievements of the inter-agency Disability Task Force (DTF)

The DTF, co-chaired by UNHCR and Handicap International, was established in 2015 with two key objectives: 1) to improve identification and consolidate information on refugees and vulnerable host populations with disabilities in Jordan, and 2) to improve this groups' access to quality specialized services. Following the Disability Task Force (DTF) meeting 6th June 2016, consensus emerged on a plan to improve identification. Upon the recommendation of the DTF, UNHCR has endorsed the Washington Group questions as an effective tool for identification of PwD. The Washington Group questions are a set of six questions developed by the Washington Group on Disability Measurement, as a tool for identifying persons with similar types and levels of limitations in basic activities regardless of nationality or culture. It is specifically designed for screening and flagging disabilities, and is easily used by staff not specialized in disability identification. It is not recognized as a needs assessment tool.

The Sector and UNHCR have successfully:

- A.) Incorporated the Washington Group questions into its Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) Questionnaire, and by doing so will be ensuring that thousands of Syrian households are screened for disabilities. The VAF is a tool developed by the VAF Steering Committee in 2014 to 'facilitate better analysis and targeting of Syrian refugees with humanitarian assistance', on the basis of established vulnerability criteria. Through home visits conducted by UNHCR and its partners, refugees' vulnerability is assessed and the information gathered using a Home Visit questionnaire is used 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 the coordination and decision-making of the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The average number of home visits conducted by UNHCR-implementing partners is currently around 5000/month. By advocating for humanitarian agencies to become VAF partners, consolidation of information on people with disabilities across agencies would be achieved making it possible to capture and assess the vulnerability and special needs, of hundreds of thousands refugees.

(For more information on the VAF please see: <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/vaf.pdf>)

- B.) UNHCR piloted the Washington Group questions in ninety-eight registration interviews. The results of the pilot project yielded a 2points increase in identification of disabilities among persons of concern to UNHCR, up from 2.36 % to 27.55%. From the cohort of 98 households that were screened for disabilities using the Washington Group questions, 27 individual living with a disability were identified. UNHCR registration staff reported that the Washington Group questions were useful in identifying 'hidden' disabilities, those that are not visible to the eye or self-reported by the interviewee. Moreover, the neutrality of the questions, and particular avoidance of negatively-loaded terms, was also said to be useful to encourage disclosure of disabilities. Information collected by UNHCR registration staff is recorded in UNHCR's corporate data management system and data collection tool, ProGres, a desktop application used to protect and track refugees worldwide. Data stored in ProGres is specifically used for (a) referring refugees to appropriate service providers (b) identifying refugees with specific protection risks, including special needs, for resettlement (c) fund raising for humanitarian assistance and (d) statistical reports. It is thus critical that data on refugees with specific needs is accurately captured in ProGres.

As a next step, UNHCR will be training its registration staff country-wide in using the Washington Group questions during registration interviews.

To improve people with disabilities' access to quality specialized services in Jordan, the DTF has developed technical guidelines for prioritization of disability-specific services for refugees and other vulnerable populations in camp and non-camp settings. The guidelines highlight areas of intervention necessary for a holistic scope of specialized health services. They provide a set of minimum standards for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of specialized disability services.

A final deliverable of the DTF to date, is the mapping of disability-specific services for persons with disabilities in Jordan. Information on available disability-specific services for people with disabilities enables humanitarian agencies to identify programmatic gaps by comparing available services to the DTF guidelines. Information about services is useful at 2 levels: 1) improve referrals of people with disabilities to specific services by humanitarian agencies whenever needed, 2) identify the gaps in services and advocate for improving the scope of specific needs response.

In line with improving refugees' access to quality services, UNHCR is advocating for humanitarian agencies to partner with UNHCR in using the Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS). RAIS enables organizations to record, coordinate and report on the assistance provided to refugees. RAIS partner agencies are able to enter data on services provided to refugees, as well as monitor services down to the individual level that are provided by other agencies. This allows agencies to coordinate their efforts and ensure that limited resources are targeted in an efficient and transparent manner to the most vulnerable refugees, minimizing duplication of assistance and effort.

UNITS OF MEASUREMENT

The Disability Universal Indicator is used to ensure identification and initial flagging pre-needs assessment. It is built on the Washington Group Questionnaire originally developed for census-taking. [The Washington Group](#) was established by the Un Statistical Commission to develop a uniform disability measurement. [The Washington Group Questions \(WGO\)](#) are adapted from the WHO 2010 International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)¹⁵ and focus on basic activities to increase participation in environments which are less permissible.

¹⁵<https://www.google.jo/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=6&ved=0ahUKewiHp6KDsZvQAhVJOBokHSXMAyUQFgg8MAU&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.who.int%2Fclassifications%2Ficf%2F&usq=AFQjCNFY6mrtAK2OaEe79mMVjaD8pGgqlA&bvm=bv.138169073,d.d2s>

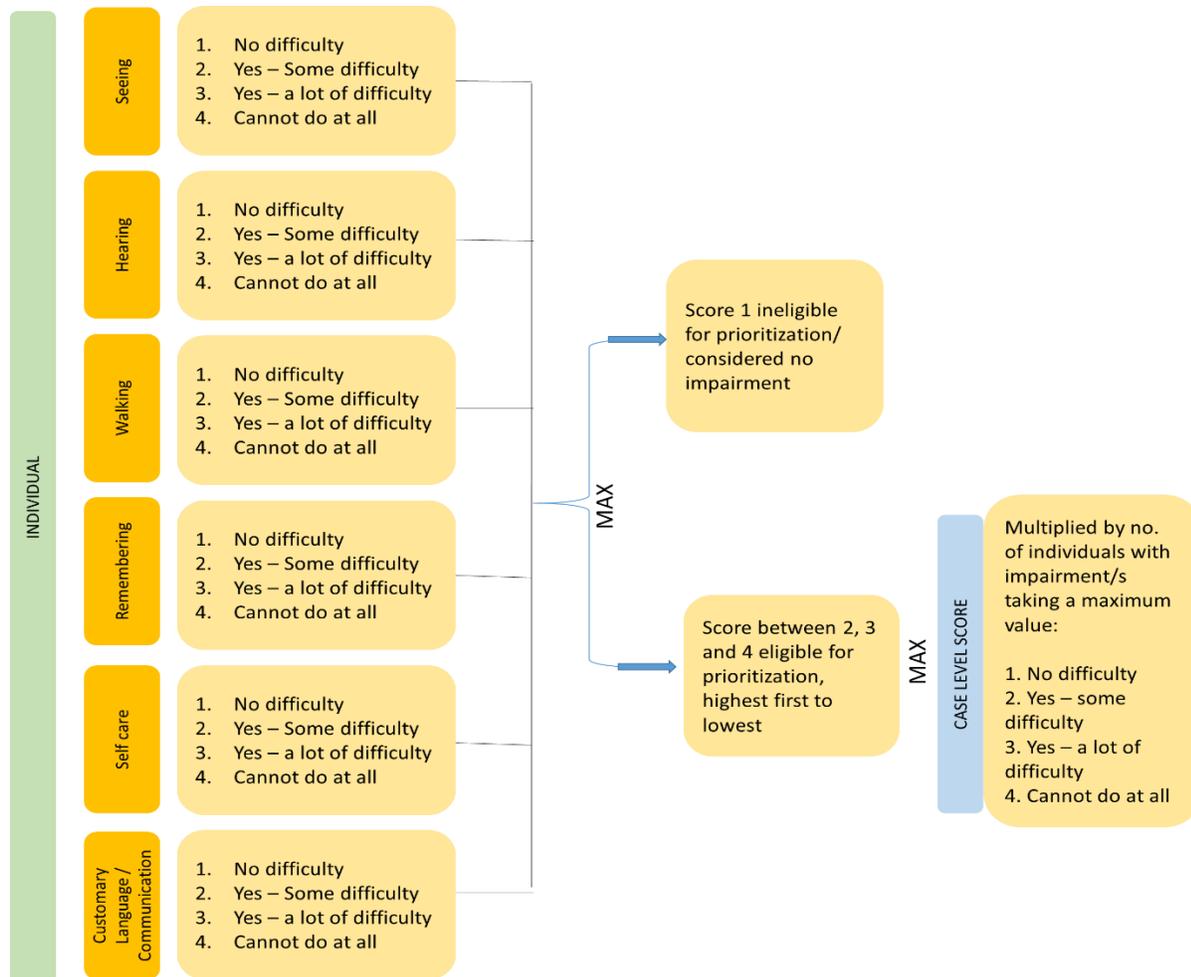
As disability is stigmatized in many cultures, the WGQ does not directly refer to this term and uses neutral language. WGQ is designed for children above 5 and adults (an adapted version is being validated for children under 5). *Disability* is often characterized by a diversity of situation. People with disabilities have different needs as well as common difficulties. Even those with similar impairments may not have the same needs. Consequently, individual case management for assistance is required. The Disability Universal Indicator provides information on disability prevalence among Syrian refugees, and the data may be used to inform strategic and programmatic planning, identification, targeting and response. The Disability Universal Indicator does not provide information about each individual's needs and must consequently be completed by appropriate needs assessment at sector level.

The WGQ is articulated around a set of 6 questions corresponding to 6 domains of functioning, which capture the majority of impairment types present within a population. These six questions have been included into the VAF questionnaire:

	No difficulty	Some difficulty	A lot of difficulty	Cannot do at all
Do you have difficulties to see, even if wearing glasses?	1	2	3	4
Do you have difficulties to hear/listen, even if using a hearing aid?	1	2	3	4
Do you have difficulties to walk or to climb stairs?	1	2	3	4
Do you have difficulties to concentrate or remember things?	1	2	3	4
Do you have difficulties (with self-care (such as) washing all over or dressing?	1	2	3	4
Using your usual language (native language) do you have difficulties to communicate for example understanding or being understood by others?	1	2	3	4

1	Low	No – no difficulty
2	Moderate	Yes - some difficulty
3	High	Yes – a lot of difficulty
4	Severe	Cannot do at all

DISABILITY UNIVERSAL INDICATOR



Data disaggregation: For each type of difficulty assessed, a score will be allocated within the VAF questionnaire which will also flag individuals with multiple impairments for prioritization. Individuals which return scores between 3- 4 in any of the difficulty categories are considered as disabled as per the WGQ methodology and consequently have to be prioritized level 4, then level 3.

WHY IS DISABILITY A UNIVERSAL INDICATOR?

Disability affects all aspects of life. Based on discussion amongst sector members it was more appropriate to frame Disability as a universal indicator rather than a standalone sector decision tree. The basis of this decision is that the disability universal indicator above will be used in initial identification/ flagging of cases for further needs assessment and response from the Disability Task Force members based on technical expertise: needs assessment, provision of assistive devices, therapy and counselling and so on. However beyond this role that the members of the Disability Task Force can play, it is also necessary to integrate additional criteria and indicators for specific sector responses where the Disability Task Force is not the appropriate lead to intervene.

As a result and in consultation with the WASH, Shelter and Education sectors additional disability relevant indicators have been introduced to ensure Persons with Disabilities are not excluded in sector level response or prioritization.

WASH

PwDs may encounter specific difficulties in relation to the WASH sector when it comes to the use of latrine, shower and access to safe water. Two questions of relevance for inclusion within the WASH sector which are being included as a result of consultation and discussion with the WASH sector. This will enable the WASH sector to identify where specific responses are needed to accommodate vulnerable individuals; including elderly or PwDs. For example this should allow asses to what extent people with difficulties from the household are able to use the different hygiene equipment in their home. While a household which has access to toilet and/or safe water are considered as acceptable should be rated as ineligible from the sector perspective, the presence within the family of a person with disability should automatically lead to extra attention paid to the accessibility of the said equipment. If the family has no or un-adapted access to water or toilet and is considered as eligible, accessibility should remain important criteria if the household includes one person with disability.

WASH: Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (Household)		
- Is a latrine and WASH facilities physically accessible to all members of the household?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
- Is the latrine located in an environment which is perceived to be safe (infrastructure) & securely (no personal risk) accessible to all members of the household?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Shelter

Building upon the current shelter sector tree it was proposed by the Disability Task Force in consultation with the Shelter sector to include an accessibility/mobility question. Two elements must be considered: the ability of the person with an impairment or disability to make use of the shelter i.e. to move autonomously within the shelter as well as its ability to move in and outside of the shelter, which has resulted in the below inclusion:

Shelter
Easy access and mobility inside and outside the dwelling (for all members of family) <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Sub-standard

Education

Barriers to Education are multifaceted and multidimensional whether a child has a disability or an impairment or not. However including disability / impairment as a factor enables partners to advocate where and how needed to cater to those which are more vulnerable advocating for inclusion and equal rights to education. Not all children with disabilities have special learning needs and all children with disabilities have capacities to learn. These are 2 critical principles at the core of the education analysis when it comes to disability. In the Syrian crisis environment where not all children can access school, whatever their abilities, the challenge consists in ensuring children with disabilities have similar opportunities to access school but also to perform at school and receive quality education adapted to their needs.

The Education Sector have categorised strategic response priorities in to two areas: **Risk of Non-Completion and Access.**

Risk of Non-Completion:

Children Enrolled in Formal Education (At risk of non-completion – IN SCHOOL) Open ended question not list read	
IF your child is attending school, what difficulties or challenges if any is he/she experiencing? Please tick up to a maximum of 4 that apply:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Physical &/or prolonged verbal abuse from staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial constraints
<input type="checkbox"/> Humiliation, discrimination, verbal abuse from staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Psychological distress / severely distressed
<input type="checkbox"/> Safety fears for movement outside home	<input type="checkbox"/> Bullying amongst students
<input type="checkbox"/> Poor quality of teaching and/or management (service)	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (no difficulties)
<input type="checkbox"/> Not inclusive for children with disabilities (environment)	

Access:

Access refers to barriers to non-attendance, not enrolled or attending formal education.

If a child with an impairment or disability is experiencing access related issues, the below format shall be able to capture up to a maximum of four issues that the child is experiencing to better equip partner organizations to respond to the need.

Children Not Enrolled in School (ACCESS) (aged 6-17)

What are the reasons? Please tick up to a maximum of 4 that apply? (Open ended question not list read)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not interested (cultural/not useful) | <input type="checkbox"/> Serious Health Condition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child marriage/engagement (6-15) | <input type="checkbox"/> Missed more than 3 years of education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child labor/work with other priorities (6-15) | <input type="checkbox"/> Family obligations/ responsibilities in the household (6-15) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial constraints (transport, uniforms) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of documentation (MOI Card/ UNHCR Card) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distance to school (more than 2km) | <input type="checkbox"/> Refused entry (general) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety fears for movement outside the home | <input type="checkbox"/> Refused entry due to disability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Enumerator judgement (1 low-4 severe) |

For more information on the disability universal indicator please contact Celine Abric (HI) cabric@hi-me.org or Olivia Cribb (UNHCR) cribb@unhcr.org directly.