



CONCEPT NOTE GUIDANCE

Poverty Alleviation Coalition Monitoring System

BY POVERTY ALLEVIATION COALITION's
Technical Advisory Group

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Purpose

The objective of establishing a collective monitoring system for the PAC is threefold:

1. **Accountability:** keep track of the PAC's progress towards its tangible goal to alleviate poverty for 500,000 households across 35 countries.
2. **Learning:** build an evidence base on the adoption of the Graduation Approach in displacement contexts.
3. **Communication and fundraising:** demonstrate the value of the Graduation Approach in supporting the persons of concern to become self-reliant.

The intent is to keep the monitoring system as simple as possible; with a view to promoting accountability while recognising contexts the PAC operates in are different.

Indicators Aggregated at Global Level

The PAC will aggregate data at global level for the two following indicators:



Graduation rates

Number of households who graduated



Cost per household

These indicators will be reported to the Coalition HQs working group (via livihoods@unhcr.org) six (6) months after programme completion, in order to monitor the achievement of programme objectives¹

¹ During the development of this proposal for a monitoring system, the M&E working group considered the option of monitoring graduation trajectories – e.g. consider whether anyone has 'fallen back' below graduation thresholds – in addition to graduation rates. To begin with, it has been decided to focus on graduation rates, but country operations that have the capacity to track graduation trajectories may want to look into ways to do so, and hence contribute to the overall learning objective of the coalition



INDICATOR 1

Graduation rates

a. Minimum graduation criteria and country contextualisation

Graduation criteria are necessarily contextualised based on the specific conditions that create and entrench extreme poverty in a given context.

At country level, PAC members will define **graduation criteria and thresholds** across the following four areas at a minimum:

- Food Security improved
- Income levels increased
- Financial inclusion – Savings levels & access to financial services increased
- Social inclusion enhanced – Community integration

Additional optional graduation criteria (e.g. access to healthcare, school attendance, etc.) will be defined based on context specifics, programme objectives and donor expectations.

PAC members in one given context / country will commit to report against the global graduation rates indicator using the same contextualised graduation criteria and thresholds.

b. Measurement tools

PAC members will be required to collect data by their donors. Ideally, PAC members will agree on, and suggest to donors, using the same measurement tool to assess achievement of the graduation thresholds.

The following tested measurement tools could be used to this effect:

- **Self-Reliance Index** (including the additional questions on income which can be found in annex of this document)
- **Annual outcome monitoring**, monitoring changes in well-being against several indicators and setting thresholds for each. For example, Average score material deprivation index. Average Household Dietary Diversity Score, Household Asset Index, Hunger Gap, Community Efficacy, and Gender Role Attitude. Thresholds set:
 - Where the majority of the households would have fallen below the threshold at baseline or
 - By identifying evidence-based absolute figures (i.e. 4 food groups under Household Dietary Diversity)
 Having set thresholds, seeing how many households have passed the majority of these thresholds.



INDICATOR 2

Cost per household

The approximate cost of alleviating a household of extreme poverty has been established at USD 1,400 (based on initial projections from PAC members) on average – with the caveat that the amount may significantly vary depending on the country context (e.g. low income vs. middle income countries, design of the interventions, options to leverage other programmes, etc.).

Using this amount as a compass, the PAC members commit to monitoring the cost of their graduation programmes – bearing in mind that the objective is to establish how much it realistically costs to deliver programmes in different contexts (and not assuming that the lower the cost the better).

A harmonized methodology to define what costs are to be taken into consideration will be agreed upon by the PAC members and apply across contexts.

Adoption of the Monitoring System by country programmes

- Incorporating the PAC monitoring system into Graduation programmes whose implementation started after June 1, 2020 is a pre-condition for the programmes to be included under the PAC umbrella.
- Graduation programmes started prior to June 1, 2020 should strive to align their existing monitoring framework with this monitoring system as much as possible.

Reporting to PAC at a Global level

Implementing PAC members at a country level will report to the PAC globally (represented by UNHCR) through questionnaires responding to the above categories. They will respond through online surveys. It is not expected that additional data collection will be undertaken. The questions are the following:

MANDATORY REPORTING (6 months after programme completion)

Contextualised graduation criteria and thresholds	What graduation criteria and thresholds for the four minimum areas have been established in this context? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Food Security: ▪ Income levels: ▪ Financial inclusion: ▪ Social inclusion:
	# of households who graduated
	What measurement methodology(ies) was/were used?
Cost per household	Which programmatic costs (per component of the Graduation Approach Model) were considered in the calculations ² ?
	What is the average cost per household?

² For example, which % of the budget was used for consumption support (including transfer fees, etc.)?
Which % of the budget was used for trainings (including instructor fees, training venues, materials, transportation, stipends, etc.)?
Which % of the budget was used for coaching (including coach fees, transportation, stipends, etc.)?

COMPLEMENTARY REPORTING: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PER GRADUATION CRITERION (on an annual basis)

Food security improved³	Did food security of targeted households improve overall?
	Which % of households reported improved food security?
Income levels increased	Did income of targeted households improve overall?
	Which % of households reported improved income?
Financial Inclusion: Savings	Did savings of targeted households improve overall?
	Which % of households reported increased savings?
Financial Inclusion: Access to financial services	Did access to financial services of targeted households improve overall?
	Which % of households reported increased access to financial services?
Social inclusion	Did social inclusion and community integration of targeted households improve overall?
	Which % of households reported increased access to social inclusion and community integration?
Cost per household	What was the total project budget?
	How many households were targeted?

Towards a PAC evaluation framework?

The PAC will not adopt a global evaluation framework in 2020. Investments in rigorous evaluations will be driven by country operations, which will define the learning questions that are most pertinent to their context.

The PAC acknowledges the gaps in evidence with regards to the appropriateness and effectiveness of the Graduation Approach with refugees and will revisit the relevance of adopting a global evaluation framework in 2021.

³ Measures of improvement will give information about trends and outcomes of the programme, but the most meaningful measure will be the achievement of contextualized thresholds per domain.

Annex 1

Self-Reliance Index Income Domain questions

Note 1: A score from these additional questions will not yet be integrated into the SRI score but will be reviewed as part of the SRI Cycle 2 learning to be closed in December 2021 at which point it will be determined if these questions should be scored and if so, how.

Note 2: The list of possible income sources has been established with the context of Jordan in mind and may need to be adapted depending on the context where these additional questions are applied.

The index can be found online here: <https://www.refugeeselfreliance.org/self-reliance-index-request>

Domain 8: Financial Resources (original SRI 2.0)

1. In the last 3 months, how is your household supporting itself to meet its basic needs?

- a. Assistance
- b. Borrowing money
- c. Selling assets
- d. Previous savings
- e. Remittances/money/in-kind contributions given by friends or relatives
- f. Work (including formal and informal work, petty trade, handicrafts, services, etc.)

Expanded questions on income sources and levels

2. Specify the type(s) of income generating activity in your household.

[Asked if the response(s) to question 1 includes "Work"]

- a. Cash for Work program
- b. Construction
- c. Agriculture/livestock (own land/animals)
- d. Agriculture (seasonal farm work)
- e. Food production/distribution
- f. Restaurant/tourism/hospitality
- g. Education (teacher/childcare)
- h. Transportation/driver
- i. Electrician/mason/carpenter/mechanic
- j. Sales and distribution (Retail and wholesale)
- k. Waste management
- l. Municipal services
- m. Beauty and hair
- n. Sewing/knitting/garments production
- o. Handicrafts
- p. Nonprofit/social work
- q. Manufacturing

- r. Domestic work
- s. Administration
- t. Other, please specify

3. What is the income generated from {Name of income generated activity} over the last month?
[Question asked for each of the activity selected above]

4. What is the total monthly household income from all the different sources last month?