



GIMAC
GLOBAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT,
ASSESSMENT & ANALYSIS CELL ON COVID-19

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK GUIDE

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Preamble

This guidance is meant to present the key elements of the GIMAC framework to users and analysts, and to provide a “walk-through” of the analytical process recommended for the optimal use of the framework and achievement of expected outputs. This is not a prescriptive guidance and analysts should always take information needs, context and the intended specific scope of analysis into account. In order to ease the understanding of some of the concepts and analytical steps, the guidance includes some “real-life” examples, explanatory notes and a list of possible information and areas of analysis under each pillar of the framework. These are in no shape or form exhaustive.

GIMAC Analytical Framework is adapted from Joint Inter-Sectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF). The framework structure and analytical steps developed by the Global Information Management and Analysis Cell for COVID-19 (GIMAC) aims to guide secondary data review and joint analysis on the impact of the pandemic. The analysis resulting from GIMAC can be used in secondary data analysis that feeds into other processes such as HPC and analysis using the JIAF. The GIMAC process in general, and the framework development and revision work specifically, are expected to yield useful lessons learned that could be discussed and considered for guidance updates in 2021, such as HNO guidance.

1.

BACKGROUND

In response to the onset of the global COVID-19 Pandemic in March 2020 the Global Information and Analysis Cell (GIMAC) developed an analytical framework for the review and analysis of secondary data to: (1) improve situational awareness; (2) support the understanding of the global and country-specific COVID impact from a holistic and inter-sectoral perspective; (3) inform humanitarian programming and response; (4) provide evidence for decision-making at global and country-level.

As the COVID-19 pandemic presents an additional challenge to countries already struggling with ongoing humanitarian or protracted crises, it was important for the framework to maintain the ability to distinguish the situation before the onset of COVID and the additional burden on systems, populations and resources caused by the pandemic.

Understanding COVID-19 and its impact calls for an approach that at least attempts to capture second and third-order effects, such as constraints on public services and the economic structures that are needed for us to contain and rapidly respond to this crisis.

The interplay between different factors, such as, in the case of COVID-19, health, economy and society, all have the ability to impact negatively each other, compounding existing needs and vulnerabilities as well as creating new ones. The effects of that interplay drive exponential “stochastic” or unpredictable risk. Such risk

is not measurable, and dynamics today can produce unpredictable results making it difficult to even perceive causal relationships¹, but we can try and begin to organise available information, viewing it through a lens that considers future risk so it may be useful further down the road.

In order to understand and respond to the impact of the pandemic, it is likewise key to understand factors that are specific to different country contexts, that could either exacerbate or alleviate the effects of COVID-19 – for example, Governments that had established epidemiological early warning information systems are likely to have had an advantage in responding to the crisis, including the establishment of timely containment measures.

The intended analytical outputs of the GIMAC framework are:

- Enabling the identification of direct and indirect effects of the crisis
- Identifying changes in humanitarian conditions
- Supporting the identification of populations at risk and in need of preventive measures
- Singling out potential areas of concern
- Mapping out stated priorities and field recommendations
- Identifying information Gaps

¹ <https://rmi.org/covid-19-and-climate-risk-mitigation-and-resilience/>

2.

STRUCTURE AND KEY QUESTIONS

The framework follows a chain of causality approach (from left to right) to identify the impact of a shock, in this case more specifically COVID. It does so by looking at seven main elements:



Baseline	What was the situation at the time of the shock? Was there a humanitarian situation and, if yes, what did it look like?
Shock	What type of shock is it, what are its characteristics and what elements from the context can aggravate or mitigate its impact?
Effects	Based on the context, existing humanitarian structures (where applicable), the shock itself and elements that could alleviate or compound the situation – what primary and secondary (or immediate and long-term) effects can we expect?
Operational environment	What is the operational environment where these effects are taking in place? What are the capacities of national and international humanitarian responders to intervene? And if there is an ongoing response, how can we best describe it?
Coping capacity	Between the effects of the crisis and the existing capacities to respond, is there a gap? And if yes, what strategies are being deployed at the individual level to fill that gap?
Humanitarian conditions	From the pre-existing elements, the effects of the shock on that pre-existing situation, the capacities to respond of the humanitarian community, national actors and individuals – do we see humanitarian needs emerge or worsen? Has there been a change that requires a humanitarian response or an adaptation of the current response? Do we see risks that require immediate preventive action to avoid irreversible harm or increased disease burden?
Priorities and recommendations	What are the priorities and recommendations to intervene/respond do the changes in humanitarian needs identified?

The framework can be applied disaggregating the information by:

- Humanitarian Sectors
- Geographic Area
- Population Groups within the Humanitarian Profile (including Migrants, Camp and Non-Camp Displaced Populations)
- Other vulnerable groups (e.g. Persons with disabilities, female or child headed households, marginalized groups etc)
- Age and Gender

3.

APPLYING THE FRAMEWORK

BASELINE: THE POINT OF DEPARTURE

This framework is intended as a guide to help in the search for relevant information in order to enable a holistic understanding of the situation on the ground. It is important to remember that not all components will be relevant in all situations, but they should be looked for in order to not leave anything out. Furthermore, the list of examples is far from exhaustive, if something unexpected is found that is not listed below, it will be important to try to identify where it best fits within the wider framework so as not to exclude any pertinent data.

It has been a key point of interest for the GIMAC to enable analysis of the ongoing humanitarian situation with an added “COVID” burden to be able to understand the additional measures and resources necessary for the response. Therefore, the first part of the framework is looking at establishing a so-called baseline.

We define baseline as information describing the situation as comprehensively as possible prior to the

shock – in this case the declaration of global pandemic. The baseline will be compared to the post-shock situation in the analysis phase, to establish what changes have resulted from the shock.

The information collected and analysed in this section will respond to the question: What will we compare the in-crisis situation to? We will establish a baseline by reviewing and analysing information about the context, and where applicable, the pre-existing humanitarian situation – including pre-crisis needs, affected population, partners on the ground, services being provided, available humanitarian budget and/or underfunding, etc.

We consider that the context is described by looking at the economy, political system, socio-cultural characteristics, security, policy/normative frameworks, demography, environment, and infrastructure and basic social services.

BASELINE PILLAR

Category	Sub-category	Examples
Context	Describes all “umbrella elements” of the operational environment that generally pre-date shocks and crises. They may contribute to the existence of a crisis and can be compounded by the effects of the crisis but are “bigger” than the shock itself. They are the most fundamental aspects that describe life in that specific country.	
	Socio-Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key industries and export goods • Gross national income per capita • Labour force per sector and unemployment rate • Inflation rate • Poverty rate and geographic distribution • Indices such hunger, gender and HDI • Literacy rate • Life expectancy at birth • <5 mortality rate per 1,000 live births • GAM and SAM prevalence

Socio-Cultural

Information about socio-cultural structures and behaviours that are considered "standard" for a specific population group or affected area ("normal" here meaning before the deployment of mitigation strategies that may have impacted such behaviours). This includes details about tribal relationships, community structures, religious groups.

- Ethnic or tribal groups, %
- Languages, official and non-official
- Religions, %

Security

Information about the security situation in the affected area prior to or unrelated to the shock that is relevant to understanding the operational context.

- Existing armed groups
- Pre-crisis conflict, such as intercommunal clashes or ethnic tensions that boil over into episodes of violence, etc

Political

Information about the country's political system, including local/unofficial/community-level structures and processes

- Corruption perception Index
- Major political parties, brief description of current and former political authority.
- Upcoming elections or other political events

Legal/Normative Frameworks

Information about the legal and normative pillars that regulate countries' internal and external policies

- Ratification of major treaties, signed conventions, national frameworks
- Policies and practices in place, particularly regulating displacement, disaster prevention and response, access to justice, human and civil rights, etc

Demographic

- Population key figures, total population, urban and rural population, population density
- Birth rate per 1,000, death rates (total and for children under five)
- Annual population growth rate
- Age and sex distribution
- Average household size
- % People with disabilities

Environmental

Information about the general environment, including climate and geography of the country. This includes the seasonal profile (i.e. expected seasonal behaviour and past impact), available resources, landscape, etc.

- Country size, total sq.km
- Climate, temperatures, precipitation; average, maximum, minimum
- Rainy and dry seasons
- Arable land and forms of tenure, terrain
- Natural resources
- Natural Disasters Risk Index

Basic Infrastructure and Services

Pre-shock basic infrastructure, including public and private (e.g. water provision system) and availability and quality of social services pre-crisis (education, health, welfare, etc), public and private.

- Road infrastructure
- Transportations systems available
- Availability of education
- Available health infrastructures
- Vaccination calendar
- Availability of sanitation
- General water provision systems

Information and Communication

- Profiles of the main radio stations, TV channels, newspapers and news websites
- Media outlets that command significant national, regional, ethnic or religious Radio stations and TV channel listings in the country
- Mobile phone ownership and mobile network coverage
- Mobile phone usage by the local population and profiles of the main telecommunications companies in each country
- Information about traditional forms of communication such as religious institutions or community networks
- % of people with access to internet
- Quality, reliability and cost of internet access

Humanitarian Situation	Describes the humanitarian situation prior to the pandemic. How was the level of access? What were the scope and scale of needs? What were the capacities on the ground and the affected groups?
Humanitarian Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access of Humanitarian Actors to affected populations • Access of affected populations to humanitarian assistance • Denial of Need • Physical constraints
Humanitarian Profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of People Affected • Number of People in Need • Number of People Targeted for Assistance • Number of People Reached with Assistance • Number of People at Risk/in need of preventive action • Number of displaced people, displaced groups by status (i.e. refugees, asylum-seekers, etc), known intentions and push-and-pull factors
Pre-covid national response mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-covid humanitarian responses • Main government institutions in charge of the humanitarian response (civil protection, army, disaster management centre, etc.). • Preparedness measures in place, contingency plans
Pre-covid humanitarian Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on the humanitarian apparatus pre-shock i.e. what humanitarian structures were in place, partners, available funding, and staffing. • International, humanitarian country teams, clusters, national and local disaster management institutions, search and rescue teams, contingency plans, etc. • Regional and international, UN agencies and missions, main NGOs, and involved governments • Cluster presence, coordination fora, etc

→ NOTE ON CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Although it may sometimes seem trivial or obvious, it is important to keep in mind the scope of the analysis. As this framework aims at supporting analysis of the impact of COVID-19 specifically, we need to think of contextual elements that will contribute to that end. It is less about describing the context as a whole and more about setting the baseline.

When looking at context, it is useful to ask oneself the relevance question. Often, we come across information that may be interesting but – is it relevant? Will this

piece of context help me to understand the background against which COVID-19 struck in the specific context being analysed?

It is also important to keep in mind that the analysis coming from GIMAC aims to support decision-making and programming at field level and ground-truthed by field colleagues. Therefore, it is also important to ask oneself – is this something the field colleagues need to know in order to understand the situation?

DESCRIBING THE SHOCK

Once the baseline situation or point of departure is well described, the next step is to look at **the shock itself and its characteristics**, this includes identifying the factors that can influence the course of the shock. Those could be inherent gaps or vulnerabilities of the specific context that are derived from the information collected in the baseline – so to say predispositions or **aggravating factors**. Those could also include such factors that can influence the course of the shock favourably – they are called **mitigating factors**.

Understanding if the context itself could have such inherent predispositions will give an indication of how severe we can expect the effects of the shock to be on the population in the country, its systems and the capacity to respond and recover. In addition, the Government has deployed measures that have influenced the course of the shock. We look at those separately, as such measures can in themselves have significant effects, both positive and negative.

In the GIMAC context, **the primary shock we will examine is COVID**. Additional shock events are likely to occur simultaneously or after the declaration of the COVID pandemic – such as seasonal events (floods,

cyclones, droughts) or sudden-onset events. Understanding the impact of the specific shock will require to run along the chain of causality of the framework again for each event.

SHOCK PILLAR

Category	Category description	Examples
Primary shock	Information about COVID-19 in the country and how it has manifested	In the case of COVID-19, details about the disease e.g. outbreak epicentre, infection rate, contagion modalities.
Secondary shock(s)	Information about shocks that are concurrent to the COVID situation and are expected to also have a different set of effects or compound further the effects of COVID.	Details about the non-COVID shock. Information about the shock should include a general outline of the typology, magnitude, severity and frequency of the shock(s), if possible.
Mitigating Factors	Information about factors can reduce the possible effects of the event e.g. recent changes in infrastructure, announced increase in funding, etc. These should pre-date the shock.	
Aggravating Factors	Information about factors that can exacerbate the possible effects of event e.g. population density, shelter types, recent shock, pre-disposition to certain types of shocks etc. Aggravating factors are structural issues or context issues that pre-date the shock.	
Government Measures	Information about government measures to contain the spread of Covid-19 e.g. lockdown, curfews, social distancing, border closures etc. This category could be applied in other situations of disease outbreak or other types of shock where Government measures to contain the crisis can be a mitigating factor to the shock per se but have aggravating effects for a portion of the population, or where measures can have a mitigating effect for some groups and aggravating effect for others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lockdowns and curfews • Border closures • Limitation of the right of assembly • Sanitary measures such as mandatory use of masks

→ NOTE ON GOVERNMENT MEASURES

GOVERNMENT MEASURES² VS. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE³

One of the components of the GIMAC framework, which will be discussed a few pages ahead, is the notion of response -, including by national actors, such as government authorities. In recognition of potential difficulties in differentiating between government measures and government response, this note aims to clarify what is meant with each of these terms.

While government measures should be looked at from a more normative perspective, government response and capacities are analysed from an assistance delivery

perspective. For example, if a government imposes the mandatory use of masks, this is a government measure.

However, if the government delivers masks in a specific location particularly affected by COVID-19, that is a government response. Similarly, if a government imposes restrictions on the movement of goods, this is a government measure, however, if a government aids or facilitates the movement of medical equipment to an affected area, that is a government response.

² Government Measures are aimed to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster. (UNDRR, 2019. Available at: <https://gar.undrr.org/report-2019>)

³ Primary responsibility for disaster relief almost always rests with the government of the affected country. Response is an effort to lessen the impact of an incident on the public and the environment. A large or complex incident will require the cooperation of several agencies in the overall state response.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES VS. MITIGATING FACTORS

Government measures and mitigating factors differentiate themselves in two main dimensions: (a) time, (b) type of impact.

- A. **TIME** | While mitigating factors pre-date the shock and are aspects inherent to the context at the time of the shock, government measures are a reaction to the shock, more specifically in this case, COVID-19.
- B. **IMPACT** | while mitigating factors are necessarily those with a positive impact i.e. that helps reduce the potential effects of the shock, government measures can have either a negative impact, a positive impact or both, depending on which perspective or segment of the population the analysis is focusing on. For example,

while the closure of businesses will have little to no impact to the general public and will help reduce the risk of transmission, it may have a devastating impact for business owners or the country's economy in general. Similarly, while the closure of civil documentation services may have little to no impact for nationals with all documentation up-to-date, for refugees it may have serious consequences, such as lack of access to humanitarian aid and even risk of statelessness, in the case of birth registration. Or, it may affect livelihood opportunities for nationals that need to renew any type of documentation, such as a driver's licence.

ESTABLISHING THE EFFECTS

Once we know the context, the type of shock and elements of the pre-crisis situation that may influence the magnitude of the impact, we look into establishing the actual effects of the shock from a systemic perspective as well as at the population level.

When analysing the effects on systems and services it is helpful to look at the elements of the baseline situation that describe life in that specific context: what infrastructures and services were available and how have they been affected by the shock? Has the shock lead to policy changes? Has it created broad security challenges? How have supply chains and markets been impacted? Did they function before and how well do they function now?

In this pillar we look at the core systems that underpin the functioning of our societies and where we examine if

the shock manifests. These broader systemic effects are likely to have a trickle-down effect to the population level – a broken supply chain in vaccination and preventive medicines could see increased cases of a specific disease, i.e. a disruption in the physical integrity of one or several individuals, households or communities. Depending on the scale of said disruption, response capacities in place by national and international actors and individual level coping capacities, we could see a change in humanitarian needs. But that's further down the line – for now let's stick to the effects!

The GIMAC framework particularly emphasizes the need to look at displacement as a potential effect of systemic disruptions resulting from the shock, in order to embed it in the causal chain and link systems and people.

EFFECTS PILLAR

Systems and services	Definition	
Financial system	<p>Financial systems comprise the set of institutions, instruments, markets, as well as the legal and regulatory framework that permit transactions to be made by extending credit. Financial systems can be both formal and informal, large scale and community based.</p> <p>Negative disruptions on the financial system can cause high level macroeconomic effects such as high inflation rates and reduced trade, or can have lower level impacts on population purchasing power, ability to access credit for the purchase of basic goods or services, or engage in accelerated selling of assets or over extension of labour to cover costs, leading to long term negative impacts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in interest rates, cash liquidity • Changes in foreign reserves • Sharp increases in inflation, depreciation or appreciation of foreign exchange rates • Changes in the degree of access to credit for businesses/traders and households/individuals
Food Systems	<p>Information about the disruptions (direct or indirect) effect on Food Systems - including food production and processing, supply and demand for food, intra and cross border food trade, availability of food, access to food (physically, financially and socially) and stability of food sources/systems.</p> <p>Food systems encompass the entire range of actors and their interlinked value-adding activities involved in the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in the prices • Access to markets • Changes in food production (e.g. scale or modality)

production, aggregation, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal of food products. Food systems comprise all food products that originate from crop and livestock production, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the broader economic, societal and natural environments in which these diverse production systems are embedded

<p>Labour Market</p>	<p>Information about the disruption in the labour market (both formal and informal). Labour market refers to the place where labour services are bought and sold. In some labour markets, people are paid employees, selling their labour services to an employer in exchange for a wage or salary. In other labour markets, people are self-employed (also called own-account workers), in which they sell their labour services to themselves. Labour markets can be decomposed into informal and formal labour markets. An informal labour market is the nominal market in which workers looking for a job and employers offering informal jobs meet each other. The workers holding an informal job are called informal workers and are part of the informal labour force. The formal labour market is made of the remaining jobs in the economy, which are called formal jobs. The ability for a population to access income generating activities through formal and informal labour can have immediate implications for the ability to financially access basic services, such as health care, food, shelter, sanitation and water.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to type and number of income-generating activities available to the population, hiring and firing policies • Changes in wage rates • Labour costs fluctuations • Increased unemployment rate • Reduction in job safety, safe workplace policies, marketplace interactions, rate and modality of payment.
<p>Basic infrastructure and social services</p>	<p>Information about the effects of the shock on basic infrastructure such as roads, information and communication technologies, water and sanitation pipes, electrical power, as well as in the availability and quality of basic service provision. Basic infrastructure can be linked across multiple levels, private or publicly built/maintained and may be negatively affected through a disruption to each component, which can have secondary negative effects on a population.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption of basic infrastructure include damaged roads or access ways • Reduced access to basic communication and information services via costs increase, physical damage, social stigma, or physical restrictions • Changes in adequate access to clean water for consumption and domestic use • Reduction in physical access to sanitation services or lack of maintenance • Decrease in basic service provision, changes in stability, quality and price of electricity.
<p>Supply chains</p>	<p>Information about disruption of supply chains - both tangible and intangible disruptions should be documented.</p> <p>A supply chain is a system of organizations, people, activities, information and resources involved in moving a good or service from the initial supplier to the final consumption.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in transport capacity at all levels (global, regional, country, sub-national) • Increased time required for goods or services to move from point to point, • Increased transportation costs • Changes in availability of information for supply chain management or changes in ability to transport perishable goods or supplies • Changes in supply routes, including those linked to disruptions from mitigation measures in other locations • Other systems, such as food, labour, and financial, can have system specific supply chains disrupted also.
<p>Political and security</p>	<p>Changes to the political system that can be linked to the shock or impact to security. These would generally have a trickle-down effect on the operational environment, particularly the humanitarian access.</p>	<p>E.g. an uprising or civil war as a shock that culminated in a coup d'etat, change in representative or political system (transition from dictatorship to democracy).</p>

Physical environment Changes that affect the physical configuration of the locations affected by the shock. Similarly to the impact of the shock on political and security aspects, changes to the physical environment could have a trickle-down effect and impact the humanitarian access. E.g. landslides

Effects on population	Describes disruptions caused by the shock at the community, household or individual level, helping us understand how the people have been affected directly or indirectly (i.e. in which way the systemic impact has trickled down to the population).	
Shock-related or post-shock displacement	Information about new displacement related to the shock. Useful to identify general information for push factors - reasons why people are leaving their current place of residence or pull factors for reasons why people are going to their intended destinations, if possible. Protracted or pre-shock displacement should be recorded in the context.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New displacement • Returns, forced returns or refolement • Intentions to move due to COVID-19 restrictions • Type of new displacement (internal, external, secondary, primary)
Disruption of social behaviours and networks	Information about the disruption of social behaviours and networks due to the shock. COVID-19 and relevant shocks may lead to changes in social structures, behaviours and/or networks that the population normally would have access to, especially during crisis times. Policies which emphasize reducing social interactions and travel to outside locations, may limit a population's ability to access traditional resources or services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social stigma associated with outsiders • Loss of informal safety nets • Changes in social obligations or willingness to care for vulnerable populations • Inability to migrate to relatives or other locations to access resources or basic services.
Disruption of resources and assets	Information about the loss or disruption of resources or assets that support the population. Resources should be considered as both tangible and intangible which can be extracted for the benefit of the community, including natural resources, wildlife or markets. Assets are already owned or easily accessible by the population that can provide financial, health, productive or protective value. The level of assets and resources available to the population can determine the capacity (or lack thereof) to mitigate the effect of the shock, with or without negative consequences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in debt repayment periods, debt levels, insurance payments, community and household level financial safety nets • Liquidation of assets • Changes to household lifestyle and consumption patterns
Damage or disruption of physical integrity	Any effect of the shock that has immediate effect on the life (life is lost, people died as a result of the shock) or the health status of the population (people have become sick, have suffered injuries etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people sick • Number of people missing • Number of people injured or killed • Isolated incident or violence or human rights violation that does not immediately indicate a change in humanitarian condition or require a response
Disruption of right and norms	Information about the implication of the shock on the rights of the population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrictions on the right to assembly and protest, • Restrictions or changes to voting rights • Amendments or changes of national laws and regulations in reaction to the shock e.g. declaration of state of emergency or martial law, extension of the powers of the executive or legislative power or law enforcement

→ NOTE ON DISPLACEMENT

Generally, the GIMAC framework places the analysis of displacement related to primary and secondary shocks as an in-crisis effect and aims at having the causes and consequences of shock-related displacement analysed in conjunction with other effects on people and systems. Yet, if desired, emphasis can be put on displaced populations, where a comparison between the pre-crisis

and post-shock displacement is analysed together and at length.

In other words, should the analytical process and resulting report rigidly follow the structure of the framework, pre-shock displacement will appear as a contextual aspect. The context is where the pre-crisis humanitarian situation is expected to be described and

the humanitarian profile established, including displacement figures and other relevant information such as, but not limited to, intentions, push-and-pull factors and details on the displacement type. Post-shock displacement, on the other hand, will appear in the effects section and should likewise include figures and other relevant information.

Should the analytical process and resulting report focus on the impact on people or any of the aspects within that pillar, the placement of information on displacement could be different. For example, after presenting pre-crisis displacement figures in the context section, the report could expand on the topic in the effects section for the purposes of comparing shock-related and post-shock displacement, causes, consequences, intentions and other relevant aspects.

THE OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Now that the context, shock and effects have been identified, it is important to understand the “operational environment” where the crisis is unfolding. This refers specifically to the environment where responders will have to plan and deploy interventions and the aspects that may affect the implementation of these activities.

From the baseline analysis we know how the operational environment was but – has COVID-19

influenced it? Changed it? Limited it? Or has put in place requirements for new modes of operation?

By looking into the capacities and responses in place specific to the COVID-19 situation and changes in the humanitarian access, we will seek to understand what additional efforts are necessary and pre-empt where gaps may be.

OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT PILLAR

Category	Sub-category	Examples
Humanitarian access	Physical and security	The impact of conflict - security - or a landslide - physical - on the ability of humanitarian organizations to deliver aid). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denial of rights or needs by the government Denial of visas to humanitarian actors and personnel, etc).
	Information about disruptions in the humanitarian access, including physical and security considerations Access to/from aid	
International response and capacities	Information about factors that hinder populations to access aid or aid organizations to access the affected population that go beyond physical or security issues	
	International capacities Information about the capacity of humanitarian actors to respond to the shock, including preparedness plans relating to the shock. International response	
National/sub-national response and capacities	Information about COVID-19 (or associated shocks) associated measures, restrictions on movements, delivery options, and/or other reasons are affecting the capacity of humanitarian actors to deliver assistance. National capacities	
	Information about the government and other authorities' and actors (e.g. local humanitarian and development organizations) capacities to respond to the shock. National response Information about responses being put in place by national/local actors.	

INDIVIDUAL LEVEL COPING CAPACITIES

Looking at the effects of a crisis and how individuals, households, communities, government and actors are able to respond or mitigate the effect(s) of a single or cumulation of shocks – such as COVID-19 – will give us a sense of how needs may shift – including magnitude and/or scope. “Coping Capacity” refers to the ability of people, households or communities to diversify and expand access to various resources and basic needs, and thus to cope with a specific stress. Coping strategies can be positive, neutral, or negative in terms of their impact on livelihood systems and individual well-being with short- or long-term consequences. As a result, coping is used in the standard Risk analysis framework, expressed as the product of hazard and vulnerability, and mitigated by coping.

Often coping is analysed by examining the strategies employed to mitigate the negative effects of shocks or the needs associated with a crisis. Individuals, Households or Communities with difficulties in securing resources for basic needs may engage in unsustainable strategies, i.e. selling assets, decreasing expenses in education and health, activation of community social safety net and increasing child labour practices. Additionally, sudden onset shock(s), such as COVID-19, insecurity or climatic hazards, may lead to increased usage of more severe coping strategies, i.e. asset liquidation, distress migration or household fragmentation in search for safety or resources or engaging in self degrading employment. Further, the inability to cope, or exhaustion of coping capacity, particularly in protracted crises, is also critical to understand the resilience of an area or population group to withstand future shocks.

The degree of coping capacity for varying population groups may alter the relationship between vulnerability and hazard with outcomes – i.e. basic needs or living conditions. In addition to individual or household response to expanding needs – communities, government and humanitarian actors may also have to consider how an expansion of needs may be addressed given current capacity and additional gaps in needs.

Looking at the chain of causality, coping is analysed once again as a step in the process: what was the situation before, what is the shock and how strong will its effects be? Are they particularly exacerbated or alleviated by the preconditions of the baseline – and can those effects be absorbed by the population? All of this information will allow us to understand how severe the impact of the crisis will be – how big the difference between “before and after” will be and how this may incur in changes in the humanitarian conditions of the affected population.

Consider an area that is highly dependent on markets and movement to access basic needs. Given COVID-19 movement restrictions there is decrease trade and market integration in the area, limiting number of good available in the area and increasing prices of basic needs. Further, HHs are likely to experience a disruption to seasonal migration towards key resources or labour opportunities, reducing capacity to use movement as a coping capacity. Slightly better off groups may oversell or liquidate assets to cover the increase in prices – causing long term damage to their asset base but maintaining access to basic needs. However, worst off group, with minimal asset base, is unable to sell assets to cover the price increase nor able to migrate to commercial farms for labour – to cope, adult household members engage in begging and child are pulled from school to reduces education expenditures; however neither strategy is guaranteed to fully cover the gap in basic needs created by the shock. While both groups engaged in negative coping – including liquidation of assets - the negative effects of movement restrictions were likely more impactful for the worse-off household – associated with lower coping capacity, thus higher vulnerability and risk to negative outcomes, i.e. increased needs gap despite engaging begging and removing children from school.

While some coping strategies are clearly negative, such as high risk employment, survival sex, child marriage or even pulling children out of school – which could have several immediate and long term consequences -, there are a number of strategies that are not negative per se, but can have negative impacts when deployed long term or depending on the context.

When examining coping capacity some considerations include:

- Cultural norms and practices, along with seasonality and time period of coping
- How different coping strategies may limit the ability to engage in other strategies or put individuals at increased risk? For example, if a household sends members to an urban centre, is there increased risk of exploitation or harm?
- The protracted nature of the crisis – including simultaneous shocks or stressors that may reduce coping capacity and thus increase the risk.
- Capacity of actors to implement programmes or interventions – how has the shock also affected the ability to respond to the gap in basic needs created before, during and after the population has engaged in coping.

COPING CAPACITY PILLAR

Definition	Examples
<p>Coping is a capacity to respond and to recover from a shock/event at the community, household or individual level. Lack of capacity to cope or mechanisms to cope that include practices that are either harmful or pose a risk to one's well-being is often referred to as negative coping mechanisms/strategies.</p> <p>Although we generally look for negative coping strategies and the effect these may have in the humanitarian conditions, it is also possible to see positive strategies. These should be likewise documented for good practices and future reference in similar crises.</p> <p>Coping strategies, when negative, are often indications of incidents or needs themselves, or point to a risk that needs either preventive measure or remedies.</p>	<p>Negative coping strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selling assets • Decreasing quantity or quality of food • Returning to area of origin • Survival/transactional sex • Child labour • Child marriage • Avoiding seeking medical care due to costs, where access to income is an issue <p>Positive coping strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community/local mobilization (e.g. neighbours organize themselves informally to buy groceries for elderly to decrease their exposure to COVID) • Innovative approaches to foster resilience (e.g. creating apps or websites to coordinate donations, volunteers work or local initiatives)

CHANGES IN THE HUMANITARIAN CONDITION

After understanding how individuals and households are coping, it is necessary to profile the resulting humanitarian conditions that are derived from the combined impacts of all other factors. Humanitarian conditions can be both sectoral and/or cross-sectoral and look at both retrospective and risk-based needs. By incorporating not only the individual, household or community experiences, but the links to broader availability of services, potential cascading hazards that might stem from the shock itself or its mitigation measures, and potential additional hazards (such as cyclical natural disasters), humanitarian conditions provide a holistic overview of need that also incorporates risk. This allows us to understand needs not just retrospectively but based on inherent and concrete risk of needs arising.

All other dynamics will converge in humanitarian conditions. For example, increased COVID cases may result in mitigation measures being implemented that restrict movement of goods, which might elevate the normal experience of power outages to a more concerning level as fuel supplies are unable to reach hospitals. As a result, medicines requiring refrigeration may be at risk while standard procedures for moving

those medical supplies to alternate refrigeration units are hindered by movement restrictions. The decreased access to medication in areas where populations are already affected by humanitarian crises could be a present humanitarian condition – even before patients stop receiving medicines. This focus on risk-based need is essential to ensuring a timely response and providing relevant information for programmatic planning.

Humanitarian conditions have not been broken down into further categories because they can be realized in a broad variety of ways that will differ from one context to another. As guidance we have included the various types of information to look for using the different frameworks that have been developed by the humanitarian sectors. As these frameworks are each more robust for their individual purposes than any single framework can be that covers all sectoral needs, it is felt that utilizing their specific thought processes and melding them together like a patchwork quilt would provide a more comprehensive picture of need. This 'mosaic' approach ensures that each sector is well covered before an understanding of intersectoral needs is looked at

HUMANITARIAN CONDITIONS PILLAR

Sectors	Definition
Food Security	<p>The four pillars of food security:</p> <p>Availability - Food availability addresses the “supply side” of food security and is determined by the level of food production, stock levels and net trade.</p> <p>Accessibility - An adequate supply of food at the national or international level does not in itself guarantee household level food security. Concerns about insufficient food access have resulted in a greater policy focus on incomes, expenditure, markets and prices in achieving food security objectives.</p> <p>Utilization - Utilization is commonly understood as the way the body makes the most of various nutrients in the food. Sufficient energy and nutrient intake by individuals is the result of good care and feeding practices, food preparation, diversity of the diet and intra-household distribution of food. Combined with good biological utilization of food consumed, this determines the nutritional status of individuals.</p>

	Stability - Even if your food intake is adequate today, you are still considered to be food insecure if you have inadequate access to food on a periodic basis, risking a deterioration of your nutritional status. Adverse weather conditions, political instability, or economic factors (unemployment, rising food prices) may have an impact on your food security status.
Livelihoods	A livelihood, as defined by Robert Chambers and Gordon Conway, “comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living.” The livelihood strategies that displaced households develop to secure a means of living depend on how they can strategically utilize their livelihood assets; respond to the vulnerabilities they face in the unstable context in which they live; and the policies, institutions and processes that have an effect on their lives and livelihoods. The livelihood outcomes that households achieve with their strategies are a result of all these factors—their assets, their vulnerabilities and the policies, institutions and processes that either enhance or restrict their livelihood options. ^{1F}
Nutrition	Malnutrition rates (SAM, GAM)
WASH	Access and availability of services such as water, hygiene items and facilities, sanitation and vector control
Shelter	Availability and adequacy of shelters, including density as per sphere standards
Health	Health Services (their availability and the ability of people to access them) Compounding factors (elements that may increase pressures on health services such as outbreaks, displacement, injuries, conflict and violence, etc.)
Protection	Humanitarian conditions in protection can be looked at from several perspectives: (1) the life-saving pillars: this pertains to access to basic services; (2) the four AORs: child protection, SGBV, house, land and property and mine action; (3) more general protection themes such as safety and security, civil registration and documentation or human rights; (4) risks arising from other sectors that have a protection implication and require preventive action. Risk-based indicators and analysis are very important to understanding protection. Much more urgent than understanding what the need in the future will be, is to understand protection risks/threats that require immediate preventive action that avoids irreversible harm.
Education	Important changes in the humanitarian conditions pertaining to education follow the sector’s classic structures and disaggregations.
CCCM	For CCCM it’s important to differentiate between camp and non-camp populations and look at availability of services from a management and coordination perspective
Intersectoral	Needs that are present in more than one sector. Understand how these needs may compound each other and how they may play out in the near future. If IPC (Integrated Phase Classification) is in place, their analysis should be examined. For Example: Restrictions on transportation from overseas might impact on import of essential goods that could result in reduced food availability. With lower available food, nutrition concerns may increase. What might be a current need under food security could be a risk for nutrition. OR Some of the COVID mitigation measures have been identified as contributors to an increase in domestic violence that can have cross cutting impacts.

→ A NOTE ON RISK

IDENTIFICATION OF IMMEDIATE RISK

As mentioned above, capturing the aspect of risk is essential for humanitarian programming and decision-making, particularly for health and protection, including sexual and gender-based violence. This is due to the heavy importance placed on the necessity to identify the need for immediate and pre-emptive action⁴ to avoid irreversible harm, such as chronic illness, death as a result of illness, human rights violations and incidents of physical, sexual or psychological violence (e.g. rape, torture or harassment).

Risk is conceptually described as a function of the combined effects of hazards, the assets or people exposed to hazards and the vulnerability of those exposed elements. GIMAC uses the Sendai Framework definition of risk where **risk is the probability of an outcome having a negative effect on people, systems or assets**⁵.

For the purposes of the analysis using the GIMAC framework, we aim to examine and capture information on the probability of any outcomes that can have a negative impact on people, systems or assets.

We particularly understand risk similarly to the UNDRR, where “an outcome” is an existing humanitarian condition (i.e. something that has already a present negative impact) and the future “negative effect” would be considered an irreversible harm. In other words, a situation or condition that requires assistance in itself, and, at the same time, poses a *risk* of compounding existing conditions or contributing to the emergence of new ones. Therefore, they require a cross-sectoral response, that includes pre-emptive interventions.

⁴ Also referred to as risk mitigation.

⁵ <https://www.undrr.org/fr/inode/41>

A COVID-19 EXAMPLE

Situation: Several displaced households in an urban context have lost their daily wages as a result of COVID-19 lockdown and are unable to pay rent. They have now been forced to seek shelter in a severely overcrowded reception centre, where the population lacks access to water and proper latrines with lighting, locks and allocations per gender. Because local authorities are overwhelmed, this overcrowded shelter is also hosting unaccompanied or separated children.

The described situation in itself already points to deteriorating humanitarian conditions that require a cross-sectoral intervention, namely in WASH and shelter. In addition, a number of risks can be identified:

Risk 1: Being this a COVID-19 analysis, we point to the increased risk of contagion as lack of access to water and overcrowding are an impediment to recurrent handwashing and physical distancing – some of the cardinal anti-corona measures. This is therefore a health risk that may prompt colleagues in the sector to increase the delivery of hand sanitizers and masks to this specific shelter.

Risk 2: Latrines that are not properly lighted or locked and that have to be shared between men and women generally are seen as GBV risks. This may prompt the GBV AoR to start an awareness raising campaign targeting this shelter to avoid sexual violence as well as to set up a hotline to report incidents and referral mechanisms to ensure survivors have access to proper care.

Risk 3: The fact that UASC are being hosted together with families and single men or women may increase the

risk of child abuse. This may prompt UNICEF and Save the Children to team up for the establishment of a child-friendly space and child services in the shelter. It may also prompt UNHCR to increase capacity in the area to support best interest assessments (BIAs).

In the example above, beyond the very practical cross-sectoral interventions such as putting locks on doors or distributing water-bottles, the possible interventions in health, GBV and child protection would be aimed at avoiding certain incidents or conditions, and are therefore an integral part of effective humanitarian programming.

RISK AS ANALYTICAL OUTPUT

More recently, the notion of systemic risk has been increasingly discussed. This looks at systemic aspects that would otherwise not be recognized as risks, but in fact could have a negative effect on people, systems and assets.

Identification of systemic risks and their interlinkages is something the GIMAC framework can inform but is not currently in the scope of the analytical outputs.

Yet, it is possible that elements observed throughout the analytical steps prior to humanitarian conditions also point to important risks and causal linkages. It is therefore recommended that analysts keep such possibility in mind and flag risks other than the so-called immediate risks. To give an example: if information is available about the failure of the banking system, this would be understood as a risk with severe cascading consequences. While further analysis would have to be done separately, the information could still be tagged as a risk using high-level tags.

PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The **priorities** of affected populations are a key element to shaping a response. Findings from situational analyses that aim to effectively contribute to programming and decision-making must be examined alongside people's priorities in order to allow for a more relevant and accurate formulation of humanitarian conditions and needs. For this reason, the Priorities Pillar comes last in the analysis process to allow for triangulation. Do stated priorities confirm the analysis? If not, why not? Has information been missed? Should certain needs come out more strongly than others as a key request from the population? This pillar allows analysts to fine tune.

There is a growing body of data that reflects the priorities as stated by the affected population. A few examples include data coming from humanitarian feedback mechanisms, participation of affected population in programme design, inclusion in MSNAs of specific questions on prioritized needs or on preferred response modalities. It is important to note that priorities stated by the population will likely not fit the language or sectoral logic that humanitarian actors are

used to and may need to be broken down. Yet, it is still important to consider this information. as.

Similarly, important to the analysis are **recommendations** made by actors on the ground or with good knowledge of the situation. These include recommendations derived from field mission reports, sector workshops, economic trends analysis, etc. Comparing the initial findings of the secondary data review with what is coming out from experts in the country would help confirm or add nuance, or otherwise may raise questions that will allow to reframe the findings. Of particular interest are recurring recommendations from a variety of sources that would likely confirm a similar/same need.

The aim of the priorities and recommendations pillar is not to develop GIMAC-issued recommendations, but together recommendations found in the available documentation that help triangulate and calibrate the findings. It is also important to remember that recommendations serve as a guide and are only suggestions, that may or may not suit the purposes or scope of a specific response or response actor.

4.

FROM THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK TO THE TAGGING FRAMEWORK ON DEEP



OVERVIEW TAGGING

In line with other initiatives and inter-agency commitments and practices, GIMAC co-leads and partners have opted for the use of DEEP as the main tool for the analysis. The rationale for this choice is the platform’s recognized benefits in facilitating collaborative analysis, centralizing multiple data sources and providing the opportunity to use tailored/flexible analytical frameworks for tagging large volumes of text-based secondary data. The central elements of the GIMAC framework have been organized in 2D matrices that include categories and sub-categories as described in each section of

this document, and group them according to “pre-crisis”, “shock/event” or “in-crisis” information.

The overview is meant to provide the space for first-level tagging according to the framework, while the list tagging will provide the space for more detailed information and disaggregations. This is discussed further below.

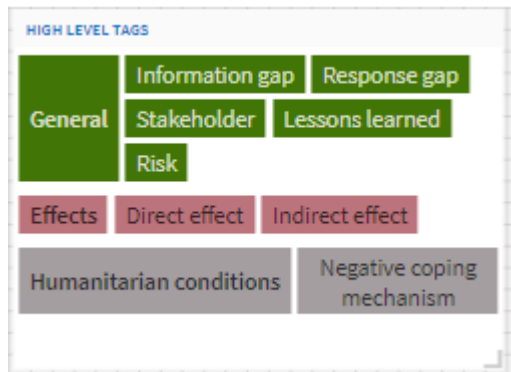
All of the pillars described heretofore can be seen in the overview tagging page of DEEP, albeit in a different visual format.

THE GIMAC FRAMEWORK ON DEEP

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION	Humanitarian access																
	Humanitarian profile																
	Pre-covid humanitarian operations																
	Pre-covid national response mechanisms																
CONTEXT	Economic																
	Political																
	Security																
	Socio-cultural																
	Policy/normative framework																
	Basic infrastructure and social services																
	Environmental																
	Demographic																
	Information and communication																
SHOCK/EVENT																	
Cross-sector Health Protection WASH Shelter Food security Livelihoods Nutrition Education CCCM																	
SHOCK INFORMATION	Event characteristics																
	Aggravating factors																
	Mitigating factors																
	Government measures																

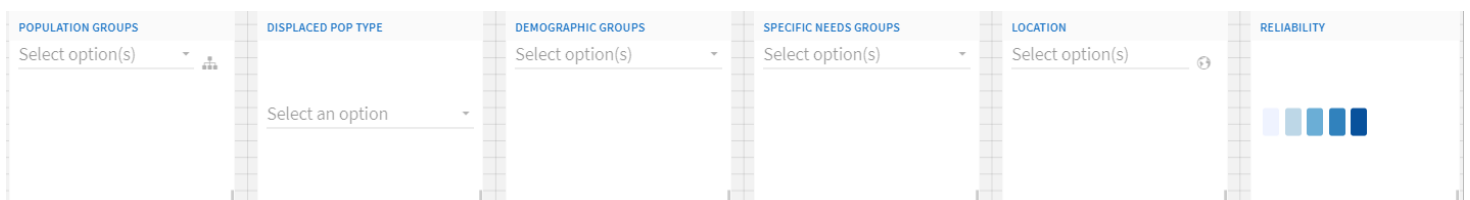
IN-CRISIS		Cross-sector	Health	Protection	WASH	Shelter and NFIs	Food security	Livelihoods	Nutrition	Education	CCCM
EFFECTS SYSTEMS AND NETWORKS	Financial system										
	Political system										
	Basic Infrastructure and social services										
	Labour market										
	Food market										
	Supply chains										
	Physical environment										
EFFECTS ON POPULATION	Post-shock displacement										
	Disruption of social behaviors and networks										
	Damage to resources and assets										
	Disruption of rights and norms										
	Damage to physical integrity										
COPING CAPACITY	Positive adaptive mechanisms and responses										
	Negative coping strategies										
OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT	Humanitarian access										
	International humanitarian response and capacities										
	National response and capacities										
HUMANITARIAN CONDITIONS	Humanitarian condition										
	Risk										

HIGH-LEVEL TAGS



In the overview section, high-level tags are available to allow for aspects that are considered important to be easily flagged. These include direct or indirect effects of COVID-19, individual or household level practices that are considered negative coping mechanisms and other general aspects such as identified information or response gaps, lessons learned and stakeholders involved in a certain response, incident or contextual aspect, such as service provision, and more general risks that are not necessarily associated with a humanitarian condition.

LIST TAGGING AND DATA DISAGGREGATIONS



In addition to the first-level tags available in the overview, DEEP also offers the possibility of second-level tagging to include more detailed information through the “list tagging”. For GIMAC it is important to make use of these as often as possible. The detailed information may help colleagues understand age or gender groups that are particularly affected, population groups within the humanitarian profile that may need targeting or vulnerable households that require tailored responses. Second-level tagging for GIMAC includes population groups, displaced population per type, specific needs groups, demographic groups and geographic location.

AGE BRACKETS AND GENDER DISAGGREGATIONS

Under demographic groups, users of the framework on DEEP will find multiple options for age and gender breakdowns. This is first and foremost to facilitate age

and gender sensitive analysis. The use of age and gender disaggregations is strongly encouraged and should be used as specifically and as often as possible.

For some sectors and specific needs groups, one would need information for a very specific subset of children. For example, nutrition would likely look into 0-2 infants, while health would be interested in under five mortality, and protection in birth registration for the same group. Should information for specific brackets be unavailable, taggers are encouraged to use the “umbrella” brackets i.e. Children <18, Youth (18-24), Adults (25-60) or Older persons (60+).

Similarly, umbrella brackets have been divided into “gender-agnostic”, male and female, so that taggers may flag a specific gender subset of these groups, where information is available.

AVAILABLE DISAGGREGATIONS

Population groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All All/not affected All/affected All/affected/Not displaced All/Affected/displaced All/affected/displaced/returnees All/affected/displaced/refugees All/affected/displaced/migrants All/affected/displaced/IDP All/affected/asylum seeker All/affected/asylum migrants/others All/affected/asylum migrants/pendular All/affected/asylum migrants/in transit All/affected/asylum migrants/permanent All/affected/non displaced /non host All/affected/non displaced / host
Specific needs groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Female Head of HH Child Head of HH Elderly Head of HH Single woman (including widows) Persons with disability Pregnant or lactating woman Chronically Ill (Chronic illness ??) Ethnic minority Religious minority Unaccompanied or separated children (UASC) LGBTQI community member Stateless No legal documentation GBV survivors
Demographic groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infants 0-2 Children 0-4 Children 5-17 Children male (>18) Children female (>18) Children <18 Youth (18-24) Youth male (18-24) Youth female (18-24) Adult (25-59) Adult male (25-59) Adult female (25-29) Older persons (60+) Older persons female (60+) Older persons male (60+)

→ NOTE ON SPECIFIC NEEDS

To avoid the need of extensive adjustments for each project in which the GIMAC framework is deployed, a comprehensive list of specific needs is available taking into account the most common groups for which added vulnerabilities can be found and specific targeting and programming is required. Yet, as the list is not exhaustive, certain contexts may still have different or additional requirements. For example, in Colombia, indigenous groups would be a particularly relevant group and has been included in the list of

specific needs for the UNHCR/DFS secondary data review project for the Venezuela Situation. Similarly, refugee contexts may have other particularly important groups associated with international refugee and human rights law, such as individuals at risk of *refoulement*. In sum, specific needs groups should always be revised when setting up a new project or adding a new country to an existing project, as these will sometimes need to be adapted to reflect the specificities of that context⁶.

5.

ANALYTICAL OUTPUTS

Information gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Details on key missing information. Can be presented at the sub sector level or at geographical level o Assessment of data quality, comprehensiveness and usability
Direct and indirect effects of crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Looking at the situation that has developed post-shock, what direct and indirect effects have impacted systems, populations, individuals and the operational environment? It may be that indirect impacts have caused the most severe and immediate needs, as they were not foreseen. Is this the case? The analysis should describe the humanitarian conditions and then relate/explain these by the analysis of the effects of the COVID and non-COVID shocks and stresses, themselves influenced by the pre-shock situation.
Changes in the humanitarian conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Comparing the baseline or pre-shock situation, the shock, its effects and impact on humanitarian conditions -- what has changed?
People potentially at risk and in need of preventive measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Taking into account what has changed and risks in the new humanitarian conditions, which groups of people or what sectors should consider preventive action? Here we shouldn't consider the increase in people who will need assistance in the future, or people who will need curative or palliative action in the future should the situation continue, but rather people who are at risk of facing a specific outcome (as a result of current conditions) should no preventive action be taken (e.g. conditions A, B and C pose a situation of risk for a particular population group. This group is in need of preventive action to avoid that this risk becomes a reality).

⁶ <https://emergency.unhcr.org/entry/43322/persons-at-heightened-risk#1.1604151196353>