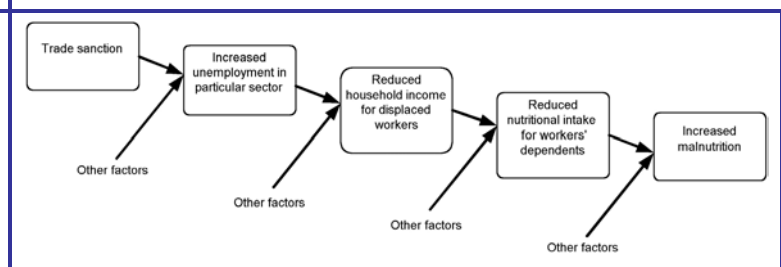


Field Guidelines

for Assessing the Humanitarian Implications of Sanctions

-- Final Review Draft --



OCHA Policy Development and Studies Branch
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Cover Images: (1) An Iraqi health worker uses a standing height board provided by UNICEF, to measure a small boy at a Community Child Care Unit (CCCU) in Baghdad. *PHOTO:* UNICEF/HQ03-0050/SHEHZAD NOORANI; (2) Simple example of causal model showing possible linkages (and intermediate steps) between targeted trade sanction and humanitarian conditions. *IMAGE:* UN-OCHA 2004.



1 Introduction

1.1 Objectives and Application of *Field Guidelines*

partner to *Sanctions Assessment Handbook*

This set of field guidelines is intended to provide guidance to humanitarian practitioners on identifying and measuring possible humanitarian consequences of sanctions. This document represents a concise, field-orientated version of a partner publication -- a *Sanctions Assessment Handbook* -- which provides more detailed information on assessing the humanitarian implications of sanctions.

The guidelines presented here are relevant to a [range of sanctions, including: arms embargoes, financial sanctions, travel-related sanctions and targeted trade sanctions](#). At the core of these guidelines is a sanctions assessment methodology, which facilitates evaluation of possible humanitarian consequences of sanctions. The methodology can be applied [in advance of-, during-, or following sanctions](#), and aims to address two key challenges associated with humanitarian assessments under sanctions: (I) accurate determination of the current status of humanitarian conditions, and (II) separation of the impacts of sanctions on health and well-being from those due to other causes.

methodology does not presuppose impact

The [sanctions assessment methodology](#) does not presuppose a particular type of impact due to sanctions. The impact of sanctions on humanitarian conditions in a particular case may be positive, neutral or negative.

1.2 Conceptual Framework

2 clusters: "4+4" human security subject areas

The conceptual framework underpinning the sanctions assessment methodology is based on the concept of human security. This approach operationalizes human security by establishing two clusters of humanitarian and socio-economic conditions, each of which contains four subject areas. These are referred to as the "**4 + 4**" **human security subject areas**.

Core Cluster: health, food & nutrition, WATSAN, education

The core cluster of four subject areas comprises groups of indicators of conditions related to immediate survival and development of humans. The subject areas in this cluster are: (1) Health; (2) Food & Nutrition; (3) Water & Sanitation; and (4) Education. Taken together, these four pillars represent the "vital core" of human security.

Systemic Cluster: governance, economic status; physical environment, demography

The second cluster deals with the systems and social context in which people strive to secure core human needs. The subject areas of this systemic cluster are: (1) Governance; (2) Economic Status; (3) the Physical Environment; and (4) Demography. Most of these data will be at the level of groups of persons or communities.

These two clusters of subject areas - the "core" and "systemic" clusters - provide a template covering most of the essential sectors and indicators for assessing and tracking humanitarian conditions.



2 Causal Modeling

Causal modeling identifies how one thing causes another to occur. In the realm of humanitarian assessments, this type of modeling is necessary to better understand the effects of one possible cause in the context of other factors that may also influence humanitarian conditions.

This chapter provides guidance on how to identify [whether a causal relationship exists between two factors](#) and on [how to build causal models](#).

2.1 Types of Causes and the Chain of Causation

types of causes used to identify relationships between variables	There are several different types of causes that can be identified when building models of cause and effect. Becoming aware of these different types of causes and their inter-relationships assists in exploring possible linkages between social, political and economic factors, and changes in humanitarian conditions.
proximal cause	A proximal cause is a cause that immediately precedes the outcome of interest. There may be prior events that lead to the proximal cause (See Figure 1). Such events that are more removed in the sequence of causal steps are referred to as distal causes. Causal pathways can be elaborated by tracing through intermediate steps, working backward from an outcome or forward from an initial event. The steps from distal and proximal causes to an outcome of interest are collectively referred to as a chain of causation.
distal cause	
chain of causation	
direct and indirect causes	The simplest models are composed of direct causes, where event <i>A</i> leads straight to outcome <i>B</i> . Indirect causes are those that operate through other, parallel causal mechanisms, or through additional intermediate steps. By building models and examining data, investigators can determine how direct and indirect causal variables relate to one another and act through a step-by-step chain, and which links in the chain are most susceptible to change.
necessary and sufficient conditions	An event is sufficient to cause an outcome if no other events are required for the outcome to occur. There may be many sufficient events, any one of which could cause the outcome. Among a group of events, there may be one factor that must always be present for an outcome to occur. This is termed a necessary condition, in that the outcome cannot occur without this factor. Any variable can be examined to determine if it is a proximal or distal cause of an outcome, and sufficient and/or necessary for the outcome to occur. This process assists in identifying where the variable acts in the chain of causation, and the importance of the variable to the observed outcome.

2.2 Inferring Cause Using Criteria of Causation

criteria of causation	There are several criteria that can be used to identify whether there is a causal relationship between two variables. These are referred to as criteria of causation and can be used to identify successive 'links' in chain of events linking cause and effect. Criteria of causation include: TEMPORALITY - The cause must always occur before the outcome. STRENGTH OF ASSOCIATION - How much do the causative variable and the outcome move together?
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CONSISTENCY – Is the relationship between cause and outcome found over and over, among different groups or countries?

SPECIFICITY – Does the cause lead to the same particular outcome over and over, or does it instead lead to different outcomes?

PLAUSIBILITY – Is there a reasonable explanation available as to how the variable is linked to the outcome? Is it a plausible linkage?

2.3 Building a Causal Model

how to build a causal model

A step-by-step approach to developing a causal model is presented in Box 1. This procedure includes the use of the different categories of causes and the criteria of causation identified above to construct a causal model working through successive levels.

multi-level approach used by UNICEF

The identification of several 'layers' of causes is similar to the multi-level approach to causal analysis used by UNICEF. This approach uses three levels of causes to assess changes in humanitarian conditions:

Immediate causes: such as disease and inadequate nutrition, which directly relate to life, survival and development rights;

Underlying causes: such as the status of household food and nutrition, as well as social services like water, sanitation, health, and education;

Basic causes: which relate to issues such as control and distribution of national resources, institutional arrangements, and social organization.

Two examples of causal models to identify some of the causes of child malnutrition are presented in Figure 1.

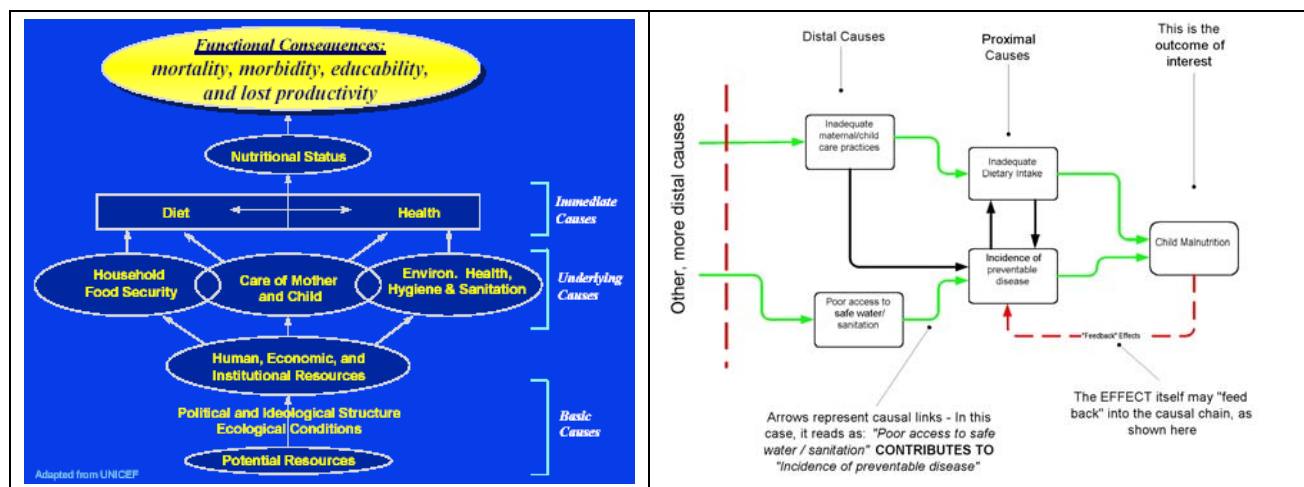


Figure 1 - Two examples of causal models used to explore the causes of child malnutrition. The causal model on the left illustrates the multi-level approach used by UNICEF.



BUILDING A CAUSAL MODEL

1: Be clear about the problem statement before starting

ACTION / QUESTIONS:

- Identify the particular actions and outcomes of interest

2: Associate variables that MAY belong in causal chains

ACTION / QUESTIONS:

- Are there variables that appear to be related to one another in a common process?
- Identify possible direct/indirect causes
- Identify potential necessary/sufficient conditions

3: Identify potential causes

ACTION / QUESTIONS:

- Do the variables satisfy many of the criteria of causation?
- Discount alternative explanations/causes
- Identify the causal mechanisms (how exactly does one factor causes another to occur?)
- Measure key variables in more detail
- Check for association by chance

4: Identify likely causes

ACTION / QUESTIONS:

- For each variable, think what could be its causes
- Are there other likely causes?
- Is there evidence of a specific chain of events?

5: Construct the causal 'pathways' linking cause and effect

ACTION / QUESTIONS:

- Identify which causal links or inputs are most important
- To what degree does a variable contribute to an effect?

[Note: As a starting point, identify the links immediately preceding/following the outcome/action, respectively]

Box 1 - A step-by-step approach to building a causal model



3 Humanitarian Indicators and Data Sources

PROCESS and OUTCOME indicators Humanitarian indicators measure people’s conditions of life. They may take the form of measures of PROCESS -- such as the number of children treated for malnutrition -- or measures of OUTCOME such as the percentage of children that are malnourished. The essence of the sanctions assessment methodology is to determine whether there are changes in humanitarian conditions (as measured by indicators) that may be due to sanctions.

This chapter provides guidelines on [sources and availability of information](#) and the [use of humanitarian indicators in causal models](#).

3.1 Sources and Availability of Information

primary versus secondary data collection Most of the data used in determining baseline conditions and assessing the possible effects of sanctions are garnered from existing sources, whereas original data is usually generated sparingly, to fill gaps. Existing sources of data are referred to as **secondary** data sources, while the collection of original data is referred to as **primary** data collection.

3.1.1 Collecting Original Information

primary data collection The advantages of original, or primary-, data collection are: (1) the timeliness of the data can be controlled; (2) it can help ensure that the data gathered in the survey group is representative of conditions in the larger population; and (3) careful design of the survey can result in data/information specific to the investigator's area of interest. Three types of studies are frequently used to gather original data on humanitarian conditions: cross-sectional studies, panel studies, and longitudinal studies.

cross-sectional studies The simplest type of primary data collection is a one-time survey, often called a cross-sectional study. This serves to collect information characterizing the humanitarian situation at a specific point in time. It provides potentially useful information about differences between groups but cannot elucidate trends over time.

panel studies A better approach than a cross sectional study is a panel study, where cross sections are taken periodically using a common, systematic method. Panel studies that do not follow-up with the same individuals during each panel have to examine whether the people in the different panels are indeed comparable. Sometimes panel studies focus too heavily on collecting information on the outcomes of interest rather than relevant process information.

longitudinal studies Where a cross-sectional study looks only at one point in time and a panel study repeats periodic cross-sections, sometimes it is possible to do on-going monitoring in a continuous manner. This is a longitudinal study. When longitudinal studies are properly controlled and track the same individuals over time, they provide statistically powerful results.

3.1.2 Sources and Availability of Existing Information

using existing (reliable) data When undertaking assessments of the humanitarian implications of sanctions investigators should make maximum usage of existing (reliable) information and data sources. Humanitarian indicators may already be available across a



number of sectors in the form of the [United Nations Common Country Assessment](#) (CCA) Indicator Framework (see Table 2), or in compilations of indicators from individual UN agencies and international organizations (e.g. United Nations Development Programme Human Development Report).

sources of secondary data

Existing, or secondary, sources of data include international, national and local institutions. National governmental agencies tend to be the dominant source of information, upon which many international (UN etc.) publications depend.

UN system data sources

UN organizations and international financial institutions, often in concert with national governments, engage in occasional large-scale surveys of economic and social conditions in many countries. Prime among these organizations are: the World Bank; UNICEF; the World Health Organization; UN Development Programme (UNDP); UNESCO; UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN-OHCHR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the UN Environmental Program (UNEP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

Outside the UN system, a broad range of humanitarian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), human rights organizations and civil society monitoring agencies -- such as Human Rights Watch and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) -- collect information on many countries.

health and demographic indicators

There are currently two widely available sources of representative sample information from surveys about important health and demographic indicators in most developing countries. The first is UNICEF's Multiple Indicator Cluster Sample Survey (MICS), which measures conditions of child and maternal health and well-being in more than 60 countries. The second is the series of "Demographic and Health Surveys" (DHS) which are nationally representative household surveys. Table 1 provides a select listing of sources of information for humanitarian assessments.

Potential Sources of Information	Types of Information
Armed Forces	Change in health of inductees
International organizations: 'in country'	Survey on child feeding practices
International organizations: regional or central sites	Regional comparisons and national projections of social and demographic indicators. Websites include: ILO, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNHCR, Relief Web, UN Statistical Division, UNAIDS, WHO, PAHO's Disaster library in Costa Rica, UNFPA
International donors and think tanks	Funding of humanitarian assistance across various sectors; program-specific indicators and changes in those indicators; Funding levels for Overseas Development Assistance (ODA)
Individual institutions, like schools, hospitals, or work places	Service statistics and data on costs
Government finance or planning offices	Imports, contract cancellations, trade barriers, demographic surveys
The Central Bank or equivalent	Exchange rates, financial reserves
Local NGOs	Changes in need among service users
Universities	Sociologic survey on women's coping methods in light of crisis
Consulting groups	Demographics, household economy, and other surveys
Local firms	Changes in production levels, economic inputs
Western Union	Trends in fund transfers, exchange rates

Table 1 - Potential sources and types of information for humanitarian assessments related to sanctions



3.2 Use of Qualitative Information

qualitative information in causal models	The term "qualitative" refers to conditions or information that can at most be only partially enumerated. Qualitative information is essential for developing useful causal models. It captures the contextual setting associated with information or situations affecting people's lives, and so can assist in characterizing the relationships of one variable in the chain of causation to the next. Qualitative information is derived mainly from:
sources of qualitative information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth interviews with key individuals; • Focus group discussions (that are semi-structured) with small groups; • Casual meetings with communities of interest; • Participant observation, to see what people do ... how, and why; • Site visits, to see the context in which they do it and to collect observations; • Reviews of public records, archives or official transcripts; • Critical incident questionnaires; • Snow-ball interviews, where the first interview leads to a second, more focused interview with another individual;

3.3 Comparisons Across Population Groups and Time

control groups	In many cases, sanctions are national in scope with the result that it may prove difficult to identify control groups (people within the country not affected by sanctions) with which to make comparisons. Control groups are the main way that different outcomes can be attributed to a particular cause. It is likely that 'external' control groups will also be lacking.
possible 'control' groups to use as comparison	Possible comparison groups that may highlight the impact of sanctions include: military versus civilians within a country, women versus men, those receiving rationed food versus those who do not, or employees in the public sector versus those in the private sector.
cross-time comparisons	Changes in conditions experienced by the same population group over time can be used to assess the impact of sanctions. The key principle in undertaking comparisons across time is to ensure that the analysis takes into account factors other than sanctions that may have come into play, or changed in their intensity, over the same time period.

3.4 Using Indicators in Causal Models

priority PROCESS and OUTCOME indicators	Table 2 provides a list of priority humanitarian indicators across the "4+4" human security subject areas. These indicators have been cross-referenced with the indicators used in the UN Common Country Assessment (CCA) framework to ensure maximum compatibility with existing assessment processes. Indicators of PROCESS and OUTCOME have been identified in each human security subject area.
PROCESS indicators for intermediate steps in causal model	When constructing causal models , the PROCESS indicators will generally relate to measurement of the intermediate steps in the chain of causation (proximal or distal causes) while the OUTCOME indicators will be used to measure humanitarian conditions. For both categories of indicator (PROCESS and OUTCOME) some can be used as reference benchmarks with which future changes can be compared (i.e. a 'Baseline' , see Section 4.1), while



**indicators for
baseline
conditions and
for measuring
change**

other indicators will be more suitable to measuring change during sanctions. Examples of the types of indicators that can be used for measurement of baseline and changes in conditions include:

- **Infant mortality rates** change slowly over time in most countries. They are frequently used to characterize the overall conditions of life in a country because they are influenced by many variables. For humanitarian assessments in crisis situations, measurement of **changes in the weight at time of birth** is usually more useful, as it changes quickly in a population as access to food during pregnancy changes.
- **Access to or lack of access to piped (indoor) water and sanitary waste disposal** improves or deteriorates slowly; whereas, changes in the **amount of water pumped** or the bacteriologic quality of water quickly changes quickly, depending on inputs of electricity and chlorine.
- **Household assets** (wealth, land, investments) accumulate over a long period of time and also in crises change slowly, whereas **household income** responds much more quickly to changes in employment, productivity, and rates of exchange.



Human Security Subject Area	OUTCOME INDICATORS	PROCESS INDICATORS
Health	Under-Five Deaths (UNICEF -WHO) Infant mortality rate (UNICEF - WHO) Maternal mortality ratio (UNFPA) HIV prevalence among 15-to-24-year-old pregnant women (UNAIDS-WHO-UNICEF) Prevalence, death rates associated with malaria (WHO) Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis (WHO)	Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles (UNICEF - WHO) Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (UNICEF - WHO) Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate (UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA) Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis (WHO)
Food and Nutrition	Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age (UNICEF - WHO)	Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption (FAO)
Water and Sanitation	Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source (UNICEF - WHO) Proportion of urban population with access to improved sanitation, urban and rural (UNICEF - WHO)	--
Education	Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 (UNESCO) Literacy rate of 15-24-year-olds (UNESCO) Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education (UNESCO)	Net enrolment ratio in primary education (UNESCO) Personal computers in use per 100 population (ITU) and Internet users per 100 population (ITU)
Governance	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (IPU)	
Economic Status	Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day (World Bank) Poverty gap ratio (incidence x depth of poverty) (World Bank) Share of poorest quintile in national consumption (World Bank) Unemployment rate of 15- to 24-year-olds, each sex and total (ILO)	Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector (ILO)
Environment	Proportion of land area covered by forest (FAO) Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) (UNFCCC, UNSD) and consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs (ODP tons) (UNEP-Ozone Secretariat)	Proportion of population using solid fuels (WHO)
Demography (& Community)	Proportion of households with access to secure tenure (UN-HABITAT)	--

Table 2 - Priority humanitarian indicators in each of the eight human security subject areas, categorized as indicators of PROCESS or OUTCOME. These indicators are drawn from the UN Common Country Assessment (CCA) indicator framework to ensure maximum compatibility with the CCA process.



4 Sanctions Assessment Methodology

This chapter describes specific requirements for [undertaking baseline assessments](#) of humanitarian conditions, and presents five steps that constitute the sanctions [assessment methodology](#). This chapter also includes guidelines on [applying the methodology to assessment of four categories of targeted sanctions](#).

4.1 Undertaking a Baseline Assessment of Humanitarian Conditions

baseline as reference point to measure changes	<p>A baseline assessment of humanitarian and socio-economic conditions around the time of the onset of sanctions provides a reference point against which future changes in humanitarian conditions can be measured. A baseline assessment should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels and rates of change of key humanitarian indicators in each of the "4 + 4" human security subject areas (See Table 2), over recent years ... and the relative stability of these conditions; • Factors influencing these conditions in the particular context of the country; • Regional variations in key indicators; • Role of the industry/service sectors likely to be affected by sanctions; • Monetary- and non-monetary contributions of various industry and service sectors to the national economy, government revenue and local society.
baseline 'checklist'	<p>A checklist of actions required to undertake a baseline assessment is presented in Box 2.</p>

4.2 Assessing Humanitarian Vulnerability During Baseline Assessment

vulnerability assessment key to baseline and on-going monitoring	<p>Humanitarian vulnerability is characterized by decreased access to essential goods and services relative to the needs of the individual. Assessment of the vulnerability of population groups to changes in humanitarian conditions as a result of sanctions is critical in establishing an effective baseline and for monitoring the possible impact on these groups over time.</p> <p>One technique employed to analyze and catalogue vulnerability is the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) approach used by the UN World Food Program (WFP) and other humanitarian agencies. Using this technique, analysis and mapping of vulnerability can be undertaken in four steps.</p>
four steps for Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping (VAM)	<p>First, indicators are identified in each of the subject areas of interest across three dimensions: availability, access and utilization. Indicators can be selected from the "4 + 4" human security subject areas (See Table 2). Second, the investigator must ensure that the 'direction' of all indicators is the same: that is, ensure that a high value across all indicators represents a consistently favorable or unfavorable indicator. Third, weighting factors are defined to rank the relative importance of the chosen indicators to overall vulnerability. Fourth, an overall vulnerability index is calculated using the indicators and weighting factors.</p>



Task	Description	Where to find more information ...
1	Gather Information on humanitarian conditions → Using primary and secondary sources, gather data/information for humanitarian indicators → Start with data already collected for other processes/assessments (CCA etc.)	<i>Sanctions Assessment Handbook (SAH), Section 4.3</i>
2	Assess current conditions and recent trends in each of the "4 + 4" human security subject areas → Using select humanitarian indicators in each of the "4 + 4" subject areas , develop an image of humanitarian conditions → Use indicators of PROCESS and OUTCOME to provide a basis for identifying factors that influence those conditions → Establish recent trends in those conditions	<i>SAH Annex II</i> <i>Field Guidelines (FG), Table 2</i>
3	Identify possible factors influencing those conditions → Identify proximal and more remote causes influencing the humanitarian conditions → Identify the sensitivities of particular indicators to changes in the influencing factors	<i>SAH Section 3.5</i>
4	Establish a profile of vulnerability within the population → Identify vulnerable groups within the population (type, size, extent of vulnerability etc.) → Undertake a mapping of vulnerable groups	<i>SAH Section 5.3</i> <i>FG Section 4.2</i>
5	Identify 'gaps' or deficiencies in existing data/information	<i>SAH Section 4.3</i>
6	Prepare to use baseline as reference for future assessment of changes in conditions → Identify those indicators best suited to measurement of change over time; → identify the existing capacity for information collection and the needs/opportunities to strengthen it → identify the frequency with which on-going assessments should be carried out.	

Box 2 - Checklist for undertaking a baseline assessment

4.3 Methodology for Assessing Humanitarian Implications of Sanctions

The sanctions assessment methodology is presented here in **five steps**, and is summarized in schematic form in Figure 2.

Step I : Clearly identify the sanction measures (types of sanctions proposed or in place) and outcome (humanitarian conditions) of interest

Identify the measures covered by sanctions, the nature and scope of humanitarian exemptions, and provisions for selective approval of exempt goods. These measures – for example, a prohibition on air travel for a particular country, or a ban on the sale and export of diamonds – constitute a starting point for the assessment.

To monitor humanitarian conditions investigators must identify potential indicators and associated data sources. Indicators of humanitarian conditions should span the "4 + 4" human security subject area. Table 2 outlines some priority indicators of process and outcome in each of the human security subject areas.



Step II : Undertake a 'baseline' assessment of conditions prior to sanctions

Using the indicators of humanitarian conditions identified above, carry out a baseline assessment of conditions prior to, or at the onset of, sanctions. (See Section 4.1 and Box 2). If the assessment is undertaken prior to the imposition of sanctions, current and historical conditions will serve as a baseline. If the assessment is being undertaken *during* sanctions, and a previous baseline does not exist, then a retrospective baseline drawing on historical data sources should be elaborated.

Step III : For each of the “4 + 4” human security subject areas, construct causal models to identify possible linkages between sanctions measures and humanitarian conditions

Identify possible causal pathways and intermediate variables that may link the sanctions measures to the potential effects (changes to humanitarian conditions as measured by indicators selected in Step I) in each subject area.

Begin with the four core subject areas (**Health, Food & Nutrition, Water & Sanitation, and Education**), as this will assist in identifying intervening variables for other subject areas. The **PROCESS** indicators in each of the subject areas in Table 2 represent possible intermediate variables. [Construct causal models](#) tracing forward individual sanction measures and tracing backwards from humanitarian conditions (to identify intermediate causes).

Step IV : Identify potential sources of information for each of the PROCESS and OUTCOME indicators identified in the causal models, and gather the necessary information to complete the models

Once the causal model associated with each human security subject area has been constructed (Step III above), identify sources of quantitative and qualitative information for each of the PROCESS indicators associated with the intermediate steps in the chain of events, and for the OUTCOME indicators that have been identified as possible areas of humanitarian impact in the causal models. Some of these OUTCOME indicators may be the same as those identified in Step I. Previously they were used for identifying baseline conditions, and now they will be used to measure changes in those conditions.

Collect the information and data from the identified sources, ensuring that the resulting PROCESS and OUTCOME indicator values reflect the vulnerabilities of particular population groups to changes due to sanctions.

Following completion of this step, the investigator should have data sources and information available for each 'node' or step in the causal models.

Step V : In each human security subject area, identify and extract the contribution of sanctions to the observed effects, separate from effects due to other causes

The causal models and associated indicators and data sources that have been constructed in the preceding four steps provide the basis for extracting the contribution of sanctions to changes in humanitarian conditions, which is the final step in the methodology. To do this, repeat the following process for each of the eight causal models (one for each human security subject area):



- A. Starting with the sanction measure(s), **trace a path through the causal model** for a human security subject area one intermediate step at a time. Identify additional intermediate variables as necessary if they are not present in the list of indicators in Table 2.
- B. At each intermediate step: Use the quantitative and qualitative information associated with the PROCESS indicators (gathered in Step IV) to **identify how much of an influence the sanction(s) has on that particular intermediate step**. In some instances it may indeed be possible to calculate the contribution of sanctions to the intermediate effect in a quantitative manner. However, in many cases, the investigator must make an informed estimate about the contribution of sanctions to the variable of interest based on available data.
- C. At each of these intermediate steps, take measures to **enhance the reliability of the assessment** by: (i) assigning a level of confidence to the assessment of the impact of sanctions; and (ii) using qualitative information to better inform judgments of how much sanctions impact the particular step.
- D. Proceeding along the intermediate steps in each causal model, **catalogue the contribution of sanctions**, at each intermediate step in the causal model. This can be done by simply compiling a list of the assessed impact of sanctions at each intermediate step.
- E. When this process of tracing terminates at the outcomes indicators of humanitarian conditions (the final step in the causal model), **the impact of sanctions on those conditions can be expressed as the cumulative impact of sanctions at each of the intermediate steps** leading to that outcome;
- F. **Present the findings as a direct sanction-outcome relationship, and also as a linked process.**

Once these five steps have been completed the results of the assessment are compiled and explained in an [assessment report](#) (See Section 5.2).

4.4 Applying the Assessment Methodology

This assessment methodology can be used prior to sanctions, during sanctions, and following the termination of sanctions.

existing conditions constitute baseline

Assessments Prior to Sanctions: Prior to the imposition of sanctions existing conditions constitute the baseline, and assessment of the impact of proposed or pending sanctions will require that causal models be constructed tracing forward from the proposed sanction measures to the likely effects. For this, the investigator must pose the question: "*What would be the effect of sanctions imposed on _____?*" Pre-assessments should identify the likely capacity of the sanctioned state/region to mitigate the effects of sanctions.

likely capacity to mitigate effects

Assessments during Sanctions: In assessments undertaken during sanctions, practitioners can develop causal models by tracing forward from the sanctions measures, and also by tracing backwards from the observed humanitarian conditions. During sanctions, assessments should be undertaken on a regular basis (3-6 months).

on-going monitoring

Assessments following Sanctions: For assessments following sanctions, investigators assess the impact of the prior measures, and must construct a retrospective baseline if one is not available from previous assessments. Following sanctions, investigators may actually have increased access to the previously-sanctioned area, and to quality up-to-date information.

4.5 Humanitarian Assessments for Particular Types of Sanctions

**assessments
under targeted
sanctions:
"areas of
interest"**

The shift towards more targeted sanctions in the mid- to late-1990s has highlighted four categories of sanctions that will most likely be applied in the future (rather than comprehensive economic sanctions): (1) arms embargoes; (2) financial sanctions; (3) travel-related sanctions; and (4) targeted trade sanctions. Table 3 summarizes areas of interest, indicators and data sources for these four categories of targeted sanctions.

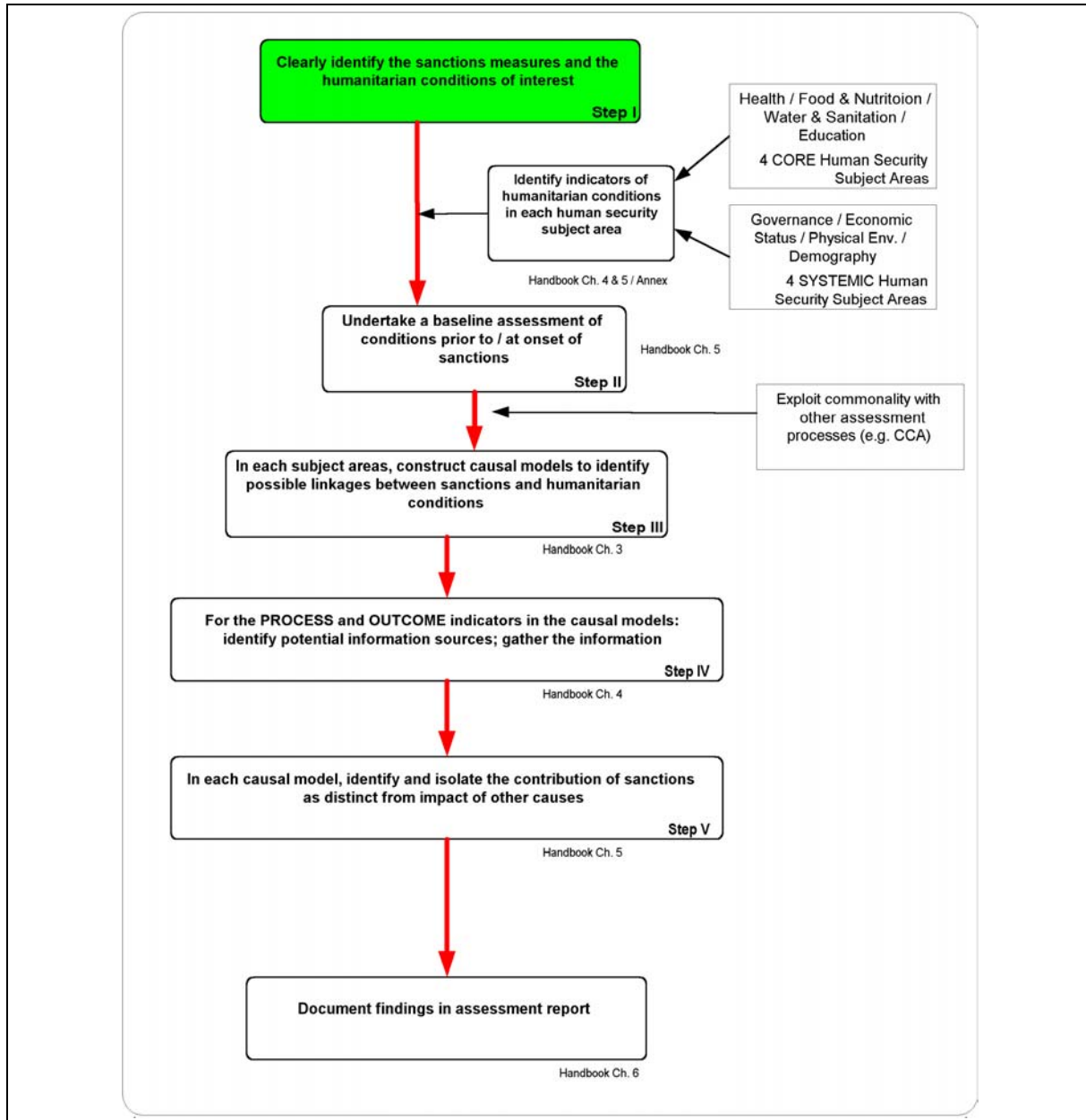


Figure 2 - Flowchart depicting the five steps in the Sanctions Assessment Methodology



Type of Sanctions	Characteristics, and what to look for ...	Indicators	Data Sources
Arms Embargoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Generally have minimal humanitarian impact → may result in reduced employment in domestic defense industries → Governments may divert more resources to procure banned weapons → may reduce potential for one/more parties to conflict to sustain hostilities, thereby resulting in improvements in humanitarian conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of employees in domestic arms industry Export value of conventional weapons Contribution of arms industry to state revenue Contribution of arms trade to sustaining conflict Impact on trade in protective equipment for humanitarian operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Databases on arms transfers (US Dept. of State; SIPRI Yearbook; IISS "Military Balance" publication) National statistics Arms industry journals / databases (e.g. Jane's Information Group) Small Arms Survey project
Financial Sanctions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → May increase inflation and reduce trade, depending on the extend of prohibitions → May impact sharply on local currency exchange rates, and hence on commodity prices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revenue flows to/from targeted group/state Revenue flows to targeted individuals Financial assets held outside the targeted country Reliance of targeted entity on sanctioned funds Impact of financial sanctions on trade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Monetary Fund (IMF) Economist Intelligence Unit The World Bank National financial institutions Institutions dealing with foreign remittances (e.g. Western Union) Local currency exchange rates
Travel-related Sanctions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → If targeted to specific individuals / groups travel-related sanctions will likely have minimal humanitarian impacts → If targeted against a particular 'mode' of transport (e.g. ban on all air traffic), access to critical medical supplies and urgent medical care outside the country may be impacted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliance of particular modes of transport for importing critical medical supplies Number of medical patients transported per month/year Impact of air/sea cargo on key industry sectors Number of tourists arriving by air/sea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National trade statistics IMF, World Bank, Economist Intelligence Unit International travel/aviation organizations International Maritime Organization American Bureau of Shipping Lloyd's Registry of Shipping
Targeted Trade Sanctions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → most likely to have impact on humanitarian conditions, depending on sectors targeted → May result in reduced employment in the targeted sector → Secondary employment and service industries may be affected → Attempt to identify alternative employment opportunities → Assess impact on Govt. revenues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of government revenue derived from trade and service sectors Number of employees supported directly and indirectly by particular sector(s) Number of dependents of industry sector workers Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inwards in sector Salaries/wages in targeted sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International trade organizations (sector specific) IMF, Economist Intelligence Unit ILO Commodity import/export databases (e.g. Global Trade Atlas, www.gtis.com) International auditing firms

Table 3 - Summary of "areas of interest", indicators and data sources for four categories of targeted sanctions



5 Standards for Humanitarian Assessments

5.1 Key Elements of a Humanitarian Assessment

must include determination of degree sanctions affect humanitarian conditions	<p>A sanctions assessment <i>must</i> present some determination of the degree to which sanctions are affecting humanitarian conditions, separate from the effects caused by other factors. In some circumstances it may only be possible to provide a qualitative assessment of the degree to which sanctions influence humanitarian conditions, or indeed it may be impossible to separate out the discrete effects of sanctions at all. In such cases, the investigator must highlight the indeterminacy of the situation.</p> <p>A <u>credible</u> assessment of the humanitarian implications of sanctions must include the following elements:</p>
baseline assessment	1. Characterization of the humanitarian conditions prior to the initiation of sanction -- 'baseline' conditions -- including a vulnerability assessment;
sources of information	2. Specification of the sources of information used, the quality and limitations of those sources;
vulnerability	3. Specification of the components of the sanctions regulations that could affect humanitarian conditions;
indicators sensitive to change	4. Identification of the indicators likely to be most sensitive to changes in humanitarian conditions; Identification of factors other than sanctions that are likely to have an important influence on those indicators.
causal pathways	5. Specification of the pathways by which sanctions or other factors would influence humanitarian conditions;
	6. Examination of process and outcome information, both quantitative and qualitative, on actual changes brought by sanctions through time and the changes in humanitarian conditions that follow.
relative influence of sanctions	7. Examination of the relative influence of sanctions and other factors in influencing changes in those conditions;
	8. Discussion of weaknesses in information available;
on-going monitoring	9. Recommendations for ongoing monitoring of sanctions' impact, and on how to minimize any unintended humanitarian impacts.

5.2 Writing a Humanitarian Assessment Report

assessment report 'template' Any written assessment of the humanitarian implications should include the sections outlined below. This can be used as a template or document outline by those tasked with undertaking humanitarian assessments under sanctions.

Introduction: Background to current study | Decisions by the sanctioning authority (e.g. UN Security Council) relevant to current assessment | Brief description of timing of assessment mission;

Procedure & Methodology: Actual sequential procedure followed by investigators (e.g. literature review, interviews, field mission) | Overview of methodology used along with the strengths and weaknesses of the methodology in the particular context | Main challenges in implementing methodology in the context of the current assessment;



Baseline and Prior Assessments: Assessment of humanitarian conditions (using indicators across multiple sectors) prior to sanctions | Results of prior assessments | Trends in conditions at baseline;

Assessment of Current Conditions: Assessment of current conditions (point values and trends) across multiple sectors using humanitarian indicators | Description of data / information sources | Overview of techniques for original data collection (if applicable);

Results of Causal Modeling: How causal models were constructed to identify causes of humanitarian conditions | Identification of causal pathways;

Humanitarian Implications of Sanctions: The impact of sanctions on humanitarian conditions (separate from other causes) | Identification of other factors influencing humanitarian conditions (and their relative importance compared to sanctions);

Findings: Summary of main findings including concise statement of the humanitarian impacts of the sanctions measures on discrete humanitarian conditions.