JOINT INTERSECTORAL NEEDS ANALYSIS FOR EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE JOINT RESPONSE PLANNING

The past decade has witnessed a rapid increase in the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance globally: more than a tenfold increase in the last ten years. As a result, the financial requirements to respond have increased from around 9 billion USD in 2008 to well over 25 billion today, predominantly in complex and protracted crises.

The increasing scale and complexity of humanitarian crises require increasingly comprehensive and holistic responses if we are to ensure that the right type of assistance reaches the right people at the right time, and leaves no one behind.

Supporting the collective decision-making driving today’s Humanitarian Response Plans requires analysis of the humanitarian situation and needs that go beyond the sector–by sector approach that has been the tradition in the past. The analysis must be inter-sectoral, comprehensive, and place the affected people at the center.

As part of the Grand Bargain, signatory agencies and donors committed to developing a joint, comprehensive and methodologically sound approach to the analysis of needs to better inform strategic decisions on response and funding. As co-conveners of the Grand Bargain on Needs Assessment with ECHO, OCHA together with the Global Cluster Coordinators Group (GCCG) is leading an inter-agency initiative to develop a ‘Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework’ which contributes to honouring this commitment. The initiative is developed by an interagency group (Joint Intersector Analysis Group), representing an open community of practice with no barriers to entry other than a commitment to contribute to its goals.

Inter-sectoral analysis seeks to understand the extent to which the various sectoral needs coexist within the same population groups and/or areas, and how the sectoral needs and associated factors correlate, thereby aggravating (or mitigating) the problem. For example – a protection threat arising from insecurity can affect different population groups (based on such things as tribal/ethnic affiliations, livelihood strategies, age, disability and so on) differently in terms of their access to services and livelihoods, which then will have a differential effect, and for some of these groups it may lead to crisis-level outcomes depending on how these different factors come together. A better understanding of the interplay of these dimensions will lead the way to a better targeted and prioritised plan to respond.

The analysis framework will support and guide the holistic analysis of the humanitarian consequences of crises, and main underlying factors. It will entail a systematic set of procedures undertaken to set priorities and make decisions about strategy, programmes and allocation of resources.
PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The key objective of the JIAG is to develop a Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF), and the tools, methods, and training material that will allow the framework to be systematically applied, collectively, in humanitarian crises. The successful development of the framework is expected to lead to better prioritization and quality improvements of the Humanitarian Needs Overviews and Humanitarian Response Plans across sectors.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT & SYNERGIES

The project is managed within the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Group (JIAG), led by OCHA with the participation of Global Clusters under the leadership of the global Food Security Cluster, NGOs (REACH, ACAPS, JIPS and MapAction) and donors.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES & EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- Compilation and review of existing sectorial analytical and conceptual frameworks and of past multi-sector needs assessments to develop a cross-sector framework that can be easily adaptable to different contexts and type of crisis
- Development of an adaptable, scalable, modular and widely accepted inter-sector approach to perform joint needs analysis at crisis level and map/unpack linkages among sectors/categories
- Development of guidance and tools, initially addressed to in-country Inter-Cluster Coordination Working Groups to support their capacity of efficiently carrying out joint needs analysis.
- Validation of the framework (including guidance tools) through extensive field testing and lessons learned (comprehensive peer review and feedback before reaching final endorsement and roll-out
- Facilitation of the buy-in of a wide-ranging array of stakeholders (UN agencies, NGOs, civil society, Governments, donors) - by the Clusters leadership - and insurance that integrated needs analysis and planning are internalized in national processes and will last after deactivation of the Cluster system.

PROJECT DURATION AND TIMELINE:

18 months

From 15/01/2018 To 15/07/2019.

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WHAT IS AN ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK?

- An analysis framework is essentially a methodological ecosystem to guide and facilitate sense-making and understanding. Within this ecosystem we have:
  1. Theoretical framework: What is the problem we want to address, and why?
  2. Conceptual framework: what information and data will we need to measure/analyse to address the problem?
  3. Measurement model: how do we analyse the data?
- Analysis Frameworks help researchers to approach a problem in a systematic way, and to set a clear driving force behind their lines of inquiries.
- Frameworks break down the issue into sub-components and present a model, often visually, that provides a foundation and a guide for data collation and analysis.

Why is a Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework needed?

- There is no common structured method to gain insight into the relationship of
humanitarian needs across all sectors.

- Analysis capacity in and within the Humanitarian sectors is asymmetrical
- Opportunities to understand coexistence, correlation, and causality of needs comprehensively are not being utilized

Without a systematic way of examining the interrelationships of humanitarian needs, the opportunity to better prioritise response is missed. In the past this has led to humanitarian response plans that are not linked to the most critical dimensions of a crisis.

**What will the key outputs of the framework be?**

- Detailed accounting of people’s combination of needs and associated factors by population group and/or geographic area and seasonality of needs
- Survival and maintenance needs and their inter-relationship
- Identification of main factors or drivers of lives/livelihood needs (from primary onwards down the line)
- Coping/Response capacity
- Number of people in need
- Severity of needs
- Projection of needs

**What decisions will it inform?**

- What are the priority geographical areas and needs to be addressed in the first weeks and first month (what is needed, where, when, for how many), and should international assistance be provided, and what kind (broadly), to help meet these needs?
- Which type of interventions should be undertaken to meet the combination of survival, emergency and livelihood needs that specific population groups are facing?

- How these programmes should be sequenced, layered or integrated (sectoral and multi-sectoral)? And,

- During which timeframes should they be undertaken (time criticality)?
- To which programming phase will it be applied?
- As soon as possible, and repeated as necessary

**At what scale(s) is it applied in a crisis?**

Scalable, based on demands
JIAG RECENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

01-11 2017
- Deployed 4 times to support needs analysis in large-scale crises: Hurricane Matthew, Libya (2 x), DRC Kasais Crisis

10.2017
- 1st Comprehensive review of all multisector needs analysis frameworks completed – covering commonalities, strengths, weaknesses, gaps across nearly 50 existing analysis frameworks. This reference document serves as the “evidence base” for the JIAF development

2018
- Finalisation of the JIAF ‘Conceptual Framework’
- 08-09 2018:
  - Field testing of the Conceptual Framework in support of Humanitarian Needs Overviews in 3 crises:
    - Nigeria: 27 August - 07 September 2018
    - Central African Republic: 3-14 September 2018
    - Mali: 17-21 September 2018

NEXT STEPS
- Begin developing and standardising analysis methods:
- Define the measurement model to drive quantitative analysis
- Establishing key indicators and severity measures
- Design the analysis plan
- Define SOP, roles and responsibilities
- Continued support to 2018 field pilot countries

JIAG SUPPORTED BY: