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| **BACKGROUND** |

Since August 25, an estimated .x million Rohingya refugees fled Myanmar to Bangladesh. Though this is not the first influx of Rohingya refugees Bangladesh has seen, it is by far the largest. The new arrivals join an already existing Rohingya population of over 200,000 in Cox’s Bazar district and the speed and scale of the influx has resulted in a critical humanitarian emergency. Humanitarian actors have conducted numerous sectoral and multisectoral needs assessments to inform their operations. As the humanitarian situation evolves and the humanitarian operation grows, it will be necessary to proceed with needs assessments and analysis more collaboratively to ensure an integrated needs- based approach in data collection and analysis that is streamlined with reporting and monitoring.

This document provides an overview of the proposed common approach to coordinated needs assessment and monitoring of the humanitarian situation, and lays out actions to be undertaken to implement this vision.

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| COMMON APPROACH TO NEEDS ASSESMENT AND MONITORING OF SITUATION AND NEEDS |

**Enhanced coordination of assessments**

While multi-sector and single sector needs assessments have been undertaken in the crisis affected area, this can be reinforced through better harmonization and coordination of assessment processes. In line with IASC guidance on coordinated assessments, several proposals can be suggested to ISCG.

1. **ISCG to harmonize, collate and analyze assessment data already collected**. It is important to have strategic framework for harmonizing existing multi-sectoral and sectoral needs assessments and making the complementary to joint analysis and monitoring.
2. **ISCG to harmonize the ways in which field data is collected.** There are many needs assessments conducted by humanitarian actors, however they are not always comparable or consolidated to fill more in-depth information requirements. Only few sectors have core sector indicators and questions. There is an existing assessment registry set up and managed by the ISCG, however it is not comprehensively utilized by stakeholders and does not contain assessment plans. Harmonizing assessment planning will ensure that refugees are not overly assessed in some areas, and ignored in others. It can also help to ensure that partners do not take the time and expense of collecting data if the information already exists.
3. **Ensure that ISCG is prepared and able to undertake initial rapid assessments in a joint, multi-sectoral manner.** In case of a sudden escalation in the humanitarian situation, such joint assessments ensure a comprehensive picture of the situation, optimize the use of resources, and enhance the coordination of the response.
4. **Develop a methodology to track the severity of the situation throughout the affected sites**. A severity mapping system will be established to measure the situation in the different sites. The development of the tool will require the identification of “indicators” that “characterize” the situation at the grid/site level. The tool will be able to create maps and other visual products to provide a snapshot of the situation and of key problem areas.

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| THE WAY FORWARD KEY ACTION STEPS |
| Proposals | Activities | Responsible |
| Step 1: Update in-crisis baseline data and assessment planning SOPs | * 1. Develop inventory of available data items/indicators (including scale, frequency, source and latest results)
 | Assessment holders |
| * 1. Ongoing update of assessment registry to include plans for assessments
 | ISCG Secretariat,Extended IMWG |
| * 1. Update SoPs for assessment registry inputs
 | ISCG Secretariat |
| * 1. Include assessment and monitoring plans update to each sector and ISCG meetings
 | Sector leads, ISCG Secretariat |
| Step 2: Develop systematic and integrated approach to coordinated assessments | * 1. Extend ISCG Information Management Working group for coordinated assessments and include sector technical focal points, assessment experts and technical organizations
 | ISCG |
| * 1. Develop and endorse ToR for the Extended Information Management Working group for coordinated assessments
 | ISCG, Extended IMWG |
| * 1. Provide monthly meetings for the group
 | ISCG Secretariat |
| * 1. Establish core sector specific indicators/questions to be integrated to all sectoral/agency assessments
 | Extended IMWG |
| * 1. Develop and maintain fast referral operational mechanism for assessment findings
 | Sector leads, ISCG  |
| * 1. Update methodology, questionnaire and guidelines/SOPs for an initial multi‐cluster needs assessment in case of sudden onset escalation of the situation
 | Extended IMWG |
| Step 3: Develop and maintain methodology to track the severity of the situation throughout the affected sites | 3.1. Develop and maintain severity mapping methodology | ISCG Secretariat,Extended IMWG |
| 3.2. Endorse results of severity mapping exercise | ISCG |
| Step 4: Establish regular joint analysis and monitoring system across the sectors. | * 1. Provide regular joint and analysis and monitoring of situation and needs across key areas (Please see Table 1 Key areas for joint analysis)
 | Extended IMWG |

Table 1. Key areas for joint analysis

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| **Key areas for joint analysis** | **Sources of information** |
| Population data  | Family counting exercise, population statistics with projection |
| Key humanitarian issuesImpact of the crisisSector specific needs | Secondary data reviewExpert judgmentSector assessment indicators |
| Severity of needs | Severity mapping methodology |
| Access and operational presence | 4Ws |
| Info-gaps and assessment planning  | Assessment registry |