

## RESPONSE ANALYSIS

Response analysis is a process and not a product. It frames the process that is normally conducted in the SRP (former CAP) workshop. This step in the strategic response planning narrows down the number of people in need to a focused, targeted population and identifies mitigating interventions. The process involves agreeing upon:

- 1) the **planning assumptions** and the implications those would have on the number of people in need and the ability to respond
- 2) **setting the boundaries** for the response that identifies the need that can and will be addressed by organizations in the HCT
- 3) documenting the **intervention criteria** that will provide overarching criteria for building cluster response plans
- 4) **estimating the target population** projected for the upcoming SRP cycle and
- 5) **describing the classification within the response** that looks at, for example, the urgency of the need to be responded to, the seasonal dependency of the need, the geographic density of the need, the concentration of need in specific groups, etc.

### Step 1) Planning Assumptions

The HNO is used as the firm basis for the planning assumptions **as it was jointly developed with a forward looking eye to people in need, trends in specific needs and evolutions of the operational environment**. At this point the planning assumptions will augment or revise the findings from the HNO to produce a most likely scenario and the implications for the number people in need and the operational environment. Below could be an outline of the steps to take to get there:

- 1) review from the HNO the key humanitarian issues.
- 2) review from the HNO
  - the **drivers of the crisis**, particularly “the main drivers that are likely to change in the short, medium and long term”;
  - the **geographic scope and demographic profile** of the crisis, particularly the projected people in need disaggregated by sex and age and displacement trends and triggers for displacement;
  - the **situation of the affected populations**, particularly at the main problems the population faces (malnutrition, displacement, protection issues, loss of livelihoods, etc.) and how the problems are evolving over time.
- 3) review from the HNO annex
  - the **operational environment** and how it considers seasonal cycles and current and foreseeable political developments and their impact on response capacity, humanitarian access and security constraints.
- 4) determine if there are any events or variables that have not been factored into the HNO and that would affect the projections for the people in need and the operational environment.
- 5) lay out these other anticipated events or changing variables along with those from the HNO and document the implications they would have on the projected people in need and/or operational environment.
- 6) these are your planning assumptions.

## Step 2) Establish the Boundaries

Setting the boundaries relies upon the planning assumptions and findings from the HNO as the basis for the discussion. It is to set the criteria for responding to the current and projected need, determining what must and will be addressed. The boundaries set the scope of the plan, looking at the most pressing needs throughout the cycle of the SRP and if they are severe, compounded, urgent; concentrated in specific areas; prevalent within certain groups; or intensified at certain times throughout the cycle.

Not all needs will be addressed. **This is to hone in on those needs that will be addressed and the rationale behind it.** Below could be an outline of the steps to take to arrive there:

1) review from the planning assumptions or HNO the key issues and any maps or charts depicting the number and types of people in need; the nature of their need against thresholds; and the geographic concentration of the need.

2) establish the scope for what need will be addressed, for example

a) the most severe need. This may be determined by a combination of life-threatening circumstances; magnitude, the number of people affected; or defined thresholds that have been dramatically exceeded. These can be concentrated in a geographic area or in a group of people such as IDPs in spontaneous camps.

b) is the need planned to be met by others. The need may be addressed by local actors or the affected population, government, civil society or organizations outside the HCT.

c) humanitarian access and security constraints. Are these areas accessible or anticipated to be accessible. Will security constraints (internal or external) allow for delivery of humanitarian assistance.

d) where humanitarian ends and development begins. Do these needs require a humanitarian or development response?

## Step 3) Document the intervention criteria

These are the starting criteria the clusters will use for their cluster response plans (cluster objectives, cluster strategy and cluster activities). The clusters will augment these with their own cluster-specific criteria.

1) document the boundaries from above which tell who will be targeted for assistance, where they are and when the assistance needs to be delivered. This will include identifying:

- the most severe need to be addressed
- if the need is concentrated in specific groups
- where the need is
- the timing of the intervention to include urgency and seasonal considerations (lean season, flooding season, etc.)
- the scale of the intervention based on the severity of the need and magnitude

## Step 4) Estimate the target population

From the boundaries and intervention criteria document the number of targeted people (not all people in need will be targeted depending on the boundaries and intervention criteria set). The population should be broken down by location, type (such as IDPs living in camps) and possibly sector/cluster (for example food insecure populations).

## Step 5) Describing the classification within the response

The humanitarian imperative demands that the humanitarian community identify and address the most severe needs first – whether these are time bound, determined geographically, defined by population groups, sectors, issues or whether they fall into any other category.

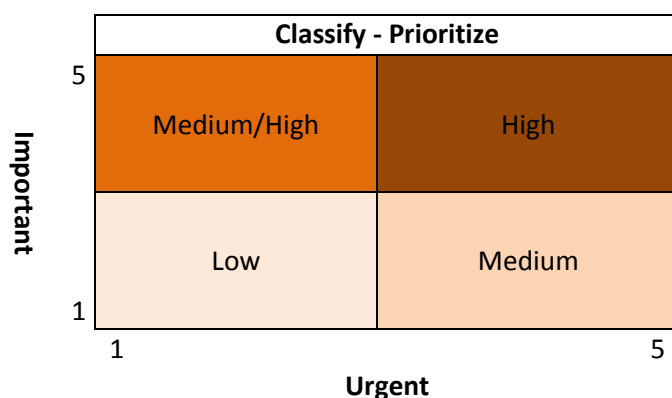
Consider the classification as a shift from an absolute and often static prioritization to a relative one i.e. established categories reflect possible priorities at different times. The classification can also be utilized as criteria to a classic prioritization (high, medium, low) or to categories such as:

- Life-saving (immediate action)
- Resilience and early recovery (medium term)
- Time critical or seasonal, such as planting season, winter, etc.
- Critical enabling
- Geographic (east vs west or rural vs urban)

This classification will be applied to projects during the cluster's coordinated project planning.

If the classic prioritization is preferred, the above can be categorized as high and medium.

There are also several methods that can be used to determine what is high, medium and low such as using the criteria of urgency and importance and plotting activities in one of the four quadrants.



The next step is to develop the country's strategic objectives.