

Minutes of the Working Session on Harmonization of the Vulnerability Criteria			
Meeting:	Vulnerability Criteria Harmonization Working Group		
Date:	18.01.2019	Time:	10:00-11:45 AM
Meeting Facilitator:	Mamen Sancha	Location:	Buea, SW
Minutes Prepared By:	Ivo Meh K	Location:	UNHCR Office
Participants (17): Poor and Needy, Plan International, DYWOVIS, NRC, WFP, OCHA, LUKMEF, MWDA, Demtou Humanitarian, IOM, FOCHIWE, UNHCR, KEY FARMERS, INTERSOS, IRUMAGFO, VOW, AMEF			
Agenda			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-introduction & round table 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and definition of key terms and some reasons why to harmonize it 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Approach 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How? Some examples from other emergencies and also from NGOs active in SWNW Cameroon crisis 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current status 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next step 			
Notes, Decisions, Issues			
Self-introduction & round table			
The meeting started at 10:10 AM, with a round of self-introduction by participants. The agenda was approved by the working group.			
Introduction and definition of key terms and some reasons why to harmonize it			
<p>The session started with an exposition of a few key definitions (vulnerability, people in need, target population), and the importance of reaching the most vulnerable first, of having a common approach for it and the role it plays for the accountability towards the population.</p> <p>The participants highlighted that vulnerability criteria should go beyond the status of the population (displaced, non-displaced) and provided examples of vulnerable population in different contexts in this crisis, e.g. population renting houses with very low income level; host families with low incomes; etc.</p> <p>It was also emphasized like in other occasions, the important differences in the shelter situation between those in urban setting and self-settled in the bush.</p>			
Common Approach			
<p>All participants agreed on the pertinence of having a common approach for prioritizing the support; as well as agreed on funding the approach on the target population's vulnerability; to avoid the creation added tensions within the communities.</p> <p>There was common agreement on the need to pay particular attention to persons with specific needs in affected areas and to collect disaggregated data by sex and age to better understand the population needs.</p> <p>It was mentioned the importance of post distribution monitoring activities and the special importance it takes when talking about most vulnerable population.</p> <p>It was flagged in terms of reporting, the need of avoiding being too generic when talking about the assistance (sometimes only offered at division level), which makes very difficult to understand to other actors the level of the response and possible gaps, specifically for hard-to-reach areas, from where is difficult to get information.</p>			



How? Some examples from other emergencies and also from NGOs active in SWNW Cameroon crisis			
Two examples of vulnerability prioritization criteria from clusters in other emergencies were presented as examples to visualize how could be the result of this working group efforts.			
There were shared also the criteria currently 2 SC partners are using, and participants were encourage to share also theirs for the following session work, with the intention to take the best parts of each of them and create a common one.			
Current status			
Plenary discussion about some good and less good points in the documents showed, as well as the way they were proceeding in their organizations and the challenges. The challenges of performing post distribution monitoring activities were also exposed and discussed.			
Next steps			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consolidation of the interested organization in a working group - Draft the first version - Share with other clusters for their inputs 			
Action Points			
Action		Responsible	Due Date
Share with the SC Coordinator or bring to the next meeting the Vulnerability criteria, scoring cards or other kind of material to work on it during the session		Working group participants	24 January
Next Meeting			
Date:	24 th January 2019	Time:	10-11:30
		Location:	UNHCR, Buea
Objective:	Work on the elaboration of the first draft of the Vulnerability Criteria		