

# Assessing Shelter Vulnerability and Severity of Household Needs in Cameroon's Far North Region

## A Scorecard and Ranking System



## Overview

In 2023 the Shelter working group agree on a standard shelter household needs assessment tool to create a qualitative ranking to be used in a Shelter scorecard system to assess levels of shelter adequacy and vulnerability based on shelter household needs. A slightly modified version of the a/m tool/questionnaire has been used also by IOM for the Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment to feed the Humanitarian Needs Overview in 2024. The Far North household standardized tool is now available online available on the Far North Region page for partners assessments in the Kobo version at this link: <https://enketo.unhcr.org/x/tU8h6IPR>.

This note introduces the new standardized household tool for the Far North Region of Cameroon and explains the calculation for classifying the severity of needs with a new list of indicators. Lastly, the note outlines the next steps to continue operationalizing this analysis in the response of the Shelter Working Group partners in the Far North Region.



# Standardized Shelter Cluster HH Tool

The Shelter Coordination Team ranked the categories of shelter needs from best condition to least condition and provided a qualitative ranking. Following the ranking of the components, the Shelter Coordination Team established a formula to score each household per their conditions. The sub-indicators of the main indicators would be multiplied by their related main indicators. The main indicators use whole numbers, whereas the sub-indicators use fractions of the whole numbers. Where a sub-indicator response should not influence the score, the Coordination Team assigned it a score of 1, so that it would not reduce from the household's existing shelter score (which would make that household scoreless adequate). In the case of severity of damages, 1 was not made to be the best score for a minor damage as that would not indicate any issue with the shelter, so there was a need to ensure that all severities of damages received a score that corresponded to a fraction to show that the shelter condition was less adequate by nature of its type of damages.

To see the full list of main indicators and sub-indicators and the justifications for their inclusion on the ranking of Shelter severity conditions, please refer to the [Excel document](#) through the Shelter Working Group website.

A	B	C	D
Indicateur principal	Installation officiellement reconnue	3	
	Centre collectif	2	
	Installation Informelle (squatter)	1	
	Condition of location		
Indicateur principal	Le village est intact (construit)	3	
	Le village est totalement détruit	1	
	Le village est partiellement détruit	2	
	Type Abris		
Indicateur principal	Abris de fortune	2	
	Maison	6	
	Pas d abris/open air	1	
	Apartment	5	
	Centre collectif	4	
	Maison traditionnelle en paille	3	
	S'il s'agit d'une maison ou d'un appartement, de quoi est faite la structure ? (structure)		
Sub-indicator	Beton armee	1.333	
	Brique de boue	0.667	
	Bamboo	0.333	
	Etat de l'Abris (status)		
Sub-indicator	En bon état	1.333	
	Incomplet	0.667	
	Endommagé	0.333	
	Pour Abris endommages, quel est la cause?		
Sub-indicator	Brûlé intentionnellement	0.2	
	Endommagé accidentellement pendant un conflit	0.2	
	Catastrophe naturelle (Orage : inondation, vent, etc.)	0.2	
	Dégradation	0.2	

## Steps for the operationalization of the tool

Here following the steps to follow to analyze vulnerabilities and operationalize the tool:

1. Use the tool online to let the Shelter WG which assessment you are conducting and share immediately sectoral information on needs ;
2. Rank each household (Main indicator \* Sub-indicator \* Sub-indicator) + (Main indicator \* Sub-indicator \* Sub-indicator) + (Main indicator \* Sub-indicator \* Sub-indicator)...= The higher the result, the less important will be the vulnerability.
3. The [Global Guidance](#) advises for 5 categories of severities which are as follows: Minor Inadequacies (1), Limited Inadequacies (2), Moderate Inadequacies (3), Severe Inadequacies (4), Extreme Inadequacies (5). At household level each category corresponds to a level of shelter-adequacy and at area level to a defined % of household with adequate shelter.
4. The areas/households within categories 3-4-5 are the ones to be prioritized for Shelter/NFI assistance.

Why the use of this tool is crucial:

- The above/mentioned steps introduce a unique methodology to look at needs therefore promote transparency/equity among partners that must prioritize assistance for the most vulnerable.
- The outcomes of the tool if used by the whole partnership extensively could integrate the MSNA results and increase accuracy.
- The use of the standardized Assessment Tool will increase accountability overall and consistency in the sectoral response.