# Annex 9: Needs severity score overview

*This annex should be read in conjunction with Annex 10 and is linked to guidance in the urban response analysis framework (URAF), developed by NRC* (Mohiddin *et al.*, 2017)*.*[[1]](#footnote-1)

**1. Purpose of the needs severity score:** To support objective discussions during response analysis, to prioritise responses in specific sectors (if needed) according to data on the severity of needs. The score can be calculated for one of more sectors that are included in the multi-sector needs assessment.

**2. Should all sector scores be added up and treated the same**? The scores from the following sectors can be added up as they relate to immediate and basic needs:

* Food Security,
* Income and Expenditure,
* WaSH, and
* HLP and Shelter.

Scores for ICLA, Education, Protection and Governance can be calculated **but should be treated separately as they do not relate to immediate needs** **and relate to protection concerns that should be central to all responses**.

**3. What is the score based on?** The score is based on responses to pre-selected essential question questions from the UMVAT. ***Up to five questions*** per sector have been selected (see Annex 10).

**4. How have the questions been selected?** Questions have been selected using the following criteria:

* Questions vital in understanding the severity of needs in their sector (therefore related to vulnerability, intensity and exposure)
* Questions with pre-determined answers (eg yes, no, big, small, 250) that can be pre-programmed with a representative score,
* Questions unlikely to have their pre-determined responses contextualised.

The questions selected for inclusion in the needs severity score matrix should be contextualised as urban contexts are not homogeneous.

**5. Who does the score relate to?** Demographic data from six questions (see Annex 10) should be used to **create potential target group profiles** from which scores are created. This will enable the generation of scores per potential target group for further analysis when targeting takes place (potentially using the Targeting in urban displacement contexts guidance note (Smith *et al.*, 2017).[[2]](#footnote-2)

**6. How have the scores been allocated?** Each sector is allowed a total score of 5. The questions in each sector are allocated a total score (between 0 and 5) depending on the question and the implications of the response option. Therefore, a response option, or question with a high value of 3 indicates an unfavourable situation. Due to variations between contexts, these scores can be modified accordingly and contextualised. See below for examples of questions and scores.

**7. What are the pre-selected questions and response scores?** See Annex 10 for a list of pre-selected questions, responses and scores pre response. Remember, these questions and allocated scores should be reviews and contextualised if needed. This is especially so for issues related to protection and governance.

**8. Combining sector scores and what they tell us?** In essence, the higher the score, the greater the needs (see below). As the multi-sector needs assessment can include from two up to five sectors, the maximum score a potential target group can score is 20. **The response analysis team should adjust the table according to the number of sectors being assessed**.

If fewer than five sectors are being assessed, the table below should be modified.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| For sectors relating to basic and immediate needs:  Food security, Income and expenditure, Shelter and HLP and WaSH | | |
| Total score | Meaning |  |
| 0 – 10 | **No immediate attention needed** (unless context changes or situation now is very good compared to the norm) | Sector does not require consideration for immediate assistance. **Situation should be monitored** |
| 10 – 15 | **Attention may be needed** – depends on context, coverage by others and implication of non-action. | Sector does require consideration for assistance. **Situation should assessed and monitored** |
| 15– 20 | Needs require **immediate attention** and if not addressed could have irreversible consequences on the household | **Immediate assistance required.** Assess and monitor situation alongside provision of assistance. |

**9. How is the score calculated?** A growing number of options are available including: Excel, SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Science), Joint IDP profiling Service (JIPS) Dynamic Analysis Reporting Tool (DART) and as [KoBoToolbox Excel Data Analyser](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/applications/kobotoolbox/document/kobotoolbox-excel-data-analyser-v123)[[3]](#footnote-3)

**10. What is done with scores related to ICLA, education, protection and governance? As suggested in the URAF Step 2, Table 2,** these scores can be presented alongside those of the sectors on to get a sense of wider needs.

**11. Where can I access additional support?** ACAPS have produced a number of documents including step-by-step guidance documents that can be referenced. These include: [ACAPS (2013)](http://www.alnap.org/resource/11439.aspx).[[4]](#footnote-4)

**Using the JIPS DART tool:** In the JIPS DART, users can explore and analyse the data collected in profiling exercises by selecting relevant indicators to create report-ready visuals. These visuals give an overview of the characteristics of a population group and allow users to compare two or more population groups side-by-side. The graphs, tables and maps created can furthermore be shared among partners to collaboratively discuss and refine interpretations of the data or to initiate a draft report.[[5]](#footnote-5)

Limitations: The DART is intended for analysis at a general level; while characteristics of a population can be further disaggregated or filtered to get more in-depth information on a specific subgroup, this may be insufficient for some operational needs. The application is not as flexible as others used for data analysis such as Excel or SPSS that allow users to apply multiple filters, calculate averages, create new variables, and analyse correlations between more than two variables.

Working with JIPS: [Upon request](http://www.jips.org/en/field-support/request-support),[[6]](#footnote-6) JIPS is available to provide more comprehensive support to the methodology development, implementation, and analysis of collaborative assessments in displacement situations, known as [profiling exercises](http://www.jips.org/en/profiling/about-profiling).[[7]](#footnote-7) In some cases JIPS can also support with preparation of the displacement data for the DART if it fulfills certain [criteria](http://www.dart.jips.org/about):[[8]](#footnote-8) the data was collected through a collaborative process with multiple partners and had a well-documented methodology. Displaying data on the DART requires the dataset to have already been cleaned, and that a description of each variable be prepared to instruct the DART how to read the data.[[9]](#footnote-9)

## References

ACAPS (2013) Compared to what? Analytical thinking and needs assessment. Technical Brief. Available at: [www.alnap.org/resource/11439.aspx](file:///C:\Users\nicole.IIED-AD\Downloads\www.alnap.org\resource\11439.aspx)

Mohiddin, L, Smith, G and Phelps, L (2017) Urban response analysis framework (URAF). Guidance note for humanitarian practitioners. IIED, London. Available at: <http://pubs.iied.org/10824IIED>

Smith, G, Mohiddin, L and Phelps, L (2017) Targeting in urban displacement contexts. Guidance note for humanitarian practitioners. IIED, London. Available at:

<http://pubs.iied.org/10826IIED>

1. <http://pubs.iied.org/10824IIED> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://pubs.iied.org/10826IIED> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/applications/kobotoolbox/document/kobotoolbox-excel-data-analyser-v123](file:///C:\Users\Laura\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\HQL61DPS\www.humanitarianresponse.info\en\applications\kobotoolbox\document\kobotoolbox-excel-data-analyser-v123) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [www.alnap.org/resource/11439.aspx](file:///C:\Users\nicole.IIED-AD\Downloads\www.alnap.org\resource\11439.aspx) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The About page describes the aim and intended audience of the DART: [www.dart.jips.org/about](http://www.dart.jips.org/about). A video on the homepage demonstrates the different features of the DART. This can be found at [www.dart.jips.org](http://www.dart.jips.org) or can be linked to directly here: <https://vimeo.com/186381706>. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. [www.jips.org/en/field-support/request-support](http://www.jips.org/en/field-support/request-support) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. [www.jips.org/en/profiling/about-profiling](http://www.jips.org/en/profiling/about-profiling) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. [www.dart.jips.org/about](http://www.dart.jips.org/about) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. JIPS can provide detailed instructions on how to prepare the description of variables (`metadata’) for adding a dataset onto the DART if needed; we typically do so on a case-by-case basis rather than including them on the website because some discussion is helpful when reviewing the instructions. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)