

OVERVIEW OF NEEDS ASSESSMENT TOOLS FOR HEALTH

The following tools were developed based on feedback from the regions, with regards to tools that they would find most useful to have to conduct emergency needs assessment for health (May 2021)

Tool 1 – Rapid secondary data review

What: Process of desk-based data collection, synthesis, and analysis of relevant information available from various sources, including government, NGOs, media, UN agencies, international institutions. The data can inform preparedness measures and operational decision making. Information includes (1) pre-emergency information: population of interest, health care system, health situation (including mental health); (2) post-emergency information: type of emergency, general contributors, impact of the emergency on the population, including information on location, groups, humanitarian access, and basic health needs; and (3) response capacity: local (from authorities and non-governmental entities); international actors; and RCRC National Society.

When and where to use: Prior to the deployment of the assessment team to the field, at regional/HQ/NS office level.

Who can use it: Humanitarian aid experience, with a background in clinical or public health.

Note: The detail and amount of secondary data should be balanced with the urgency of the situation and the immediate needs of the population. This document is to guide the review and remains indicative only.

Tool 2 - Rapid Health Assessment Form

What: Essential information on (1) Demographics; (2) Health status (mortality, morbidity, EPI, malnutrition); and (3) Health services: availability and access.

When and where to use: Within 72 hours of the emergency, in the field.

Who can use it: Medical, paramedical, and public health profiles only.

Note: This assessment form focuses on gathering health data only and excludes information on social determinants of health (access to and availability of water, sanitation, protection, shelter, food security, safety, and security) which should be assessed by corresponding teams and shared with the health team. Given that different information may be provided by different key informants, each section should list the source of information and the contact details if needed for future reference.

Tool 3 – Health facility assessment form

What: This is a tool to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the functioning of an individual health structure following an emergency. It includes general information and demographics in the area; staff; available services; detailed statistics on mortality/morbidity/surveillance; drugs and supplies; structure (building) and transport.

When to use: Once a rapid health assessment has been conducted, in the field.

Who can use it: Medical or paramedical profiles only (MD, nurse, midwife).

Note: This tool may be used if following an initial rapid needs assessment, it is decided to support an existing health structure in any given modality (e.g., ERU deployment to support an existing health centre).

Tool 4 – Reference values for health needs assessments

What: Reference norms for main health indicators in emergencies.

When to use: During the analysis of the data collected during the health needs assessment (both primary and secondary)

Who can use it: Medical, paramedical, and public health profiles only.

Note: Content is indicative, and other reference values may be used if appropriate.