### **Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)**

### INITIAL RAPID ASSESSMENT (IRA): FIELD ASSESSMENT FORM

ASSESSMENT TEAM	Institution		Tiele/a asiei au	Duefaccion/avalifactions
Name (Team Leader first)	Institution		Title/position	Profession/qualifications
IRA SUMMARY				
Date(s) of field assessment:/		/	_ Admin level I name:	
Principal contact(s) at the site:			Admin level II name:	
Position in community:			Admin level III name	:
Telephone #:			Site name:	
GPS coordinates in decimal degrees:			P-code:	
<ul> <li>overall judgment of humanitarian situseverity of needs identified</li> <li>short-term outlook (whether the cribecoming less serious)</li> <li>underlying causes of problems and remaining the complex of the cribecoming less serious.</li> </ul>	isis is worsening or	• pc	sk-factors that could wo	
Problems and priorities identif	ied by the affecto	ed popu	lation	



KI - Key Informant interviews

**GD** - Group Discussions

O - Observation

Source of information code

Red	Key issu	Company   Comp								
Severity ranking   Situation of concerns surveillance required		Red	Sev	ere si	tuatic	n: urg	gent intervention required			
Value   Supply   Value   Value   Supply   Value   Va	Key for	Orange								
Section	severity									
Section	ranking							isis: no further action required		
Population										
Sites & shelter  Sites	2ec	tion	K	0	Y	G				
Sites & shelter  Sites										
Sites & shelter  Sites	Population									
Essential non-food items  Water supply  Sanitation  Hygiene  Food security  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services	Population									
Essential non-food items  Water supply  Sanitation  Hygiene  Food security  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services										
Essential non-food items  Water supply  Sanitation  Hygiene  Food security  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services										
Essential non-food items  Water supply  Sanitation  Hygiene  Food security  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services										
Water supply  Sanitation  Hygiene  Food security  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services	Sites & shelt	er								
Water supply  Sanitation  Hygiene  Food security  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services										
Water supply  Sanitation  Hygiene  Food security  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services										
Water supply  Sanitation  Hygiene  Food security  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services										
Sanitation  Hygiene  Food security  Nutrition  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services	Essential nor	n-food items								
Sanitation  Hygiene  Food security  Nutrition  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services										
Sanitation  Hygiene  Food security  Nutrition  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services										
Sanitation  Hygiene  Food security  Nutrition  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services										
Hygiene  Food security  Nutrition  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services	Water supply	у								
Hygiene  Food security  Nutrition  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services										
Hygiene  Food security  Nutrition  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services										
Hygiene  Food security  Nutrition  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services										
Hygiene  Food security  Nutrition  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services	Sanitation									
Food security  Nutrition  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services										
Food security  Nutrition  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services										
Food security  Nutrition  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services										
Food security  Nutrition  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services	Hygiene									
Nutrition  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services	1.78.6									
Nutrition  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services										
Nutrition  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services										
Nutrition  Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services	Food socurit	v								
Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services	1 00d securit	7								
Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services										
Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services										
Health status & health risks  Health facilities & services	Niusaisi									
Health facilities & services	Nutrition									
Health facilities & services										
Health facilities & services										
Health facilities & services	Health status	s & health								
services										
services										
services										
services	Health facilit	ies &								
Other (specify)										
Other (specify)										
Other (specify)										
Guer (specify)	Other (sheet	f <sub>v</sub> )								
	(speci									

1.1			DESCRIP	PTION			
	Resource pe	ersons and	d other inf	ormati	on sources	:	
1.2	Registration	l					
1.2.1	Are the crisis a	ffected peop	ole being reg	jistered,	or have they	been registered (Check	k one)?
YE	s no	Not	necessary	DN	IK		
1.2.2	If yes, which by	which insti-	tution(s)?				
1.3	Size of crisis-	affected	population	n			
1.3.1	Total estimated	current pop	ulation of sit	e 7	# People:		
1.3.2	Source of these	e population	data (sever	al respo	nses possible	<del>)</del> )	
Es	stimate by local auth stimate by affected p egistration				Census/na	from # households and # me list (specify the date of ecify)	the census)
1.4	Movement to	and from	this site				
1.4.1	Is the population staying about the		e increasing,	decreas	sing, or	1.4.2 If changing, period, e.g. 1	by how much (note tin # per day)
Ind	creasing De	creasing	About the	same		per	
1.5.1	site, indicate th				i the displace	d people (If different di	spiaced groups are in
1.5.2	Organisation of separately for e		nent (Check	all that a	apply. If differe	ent displaced groups ar	e in this site, answer
Ca Ca DI			nent (Check a	:	Staying with ho	ent displaced groups are ost families in a rural area ot families in an urban are lement in large buildings	
Ca Ca DI	separately for eamp in rural area amp in urban area NK ther (specify)	each)		:	Staying with ho Staying with ho Collective sett	ost families in a rural area ot families in an urban are	
Ca Ca DI O	separately for eamp in rural area amp in urban area NK ther (specify)	each) een the disp		ne host d	Staying with ho Staying with ho Collective sett	ost families in a rural area ot families in an urban are lement in large buildings Check all that apply)	
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Ca Ca DI O	separately for eamp in rural area amp in urban area NK other (specify) Relations betwo st community willing People dead,	each) een the disp	placed and the	ne host d	Staying with ho Staying with ho Collective sett community? ( Other (specify)	ost families in a rural area ot families in an urban are lement in large buildings Check all that apply)	a DNK
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Ca Ca Dl Oi 1.5.3 Ho 1.6.1 [1.6.2 N 1.6.3 I	separately for eamp in rural area amp in urban area NK where (specify) Relations betwoost community willing People dead, Dead Missing Injured Vulnerable gr	een the dispose to assist  missing of the dispose to assist  missing of the dispose to assist  missing of the dispose to assist the dispose the	people people people people people people	lastlast	Staying with ho Staying with ho Collective sett community? (a Other (specify))  the crisis a days days days	ost families in a rural area ot families in an urban are lement in large buildings  Check all that apply)  t this site  DNk	DNK
1.5.3 Ho 1.6 1.6.1 [ 1.6.3 ]	separately for eamp in rural area amp in urban area NK where (specify) Relations betwoost community willing People dead, Dead Missing Injured Vulnerable gr If there is inforr	een the dispose to assist  missing of the dispose to assist  missing of the dispose to assist  missing of the dispose to assist the dispose the	people people people people people people	lastlast	Staying with ho Staying with ho Collective sett community? (a Other (specify))  the crisis a days days days	ost families in a rural area ot families in an urban are lement in large buildings  Check all that apply)  t this site  DNk  DNk	DNK
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**SHELTER AND ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS** 

Resource persons and other information sources

**SECTION 2** 

2.1

### SECTION 3 WATER SUPPLY, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

### 3.1 Resource persons and other information sources

### 3.2 Existing capacities and activities

	Organisation or person(s) responsible	Since when?	Normal / current activities	Limitations to capacity or performance (lack of staff, materials and equipment, funds, access etc.)
3.2.1 Water supply				
3.2.2 Sanitation				
3.2.3 Hygiene				

### KI,0 3.3 Water supply

ΚI

Water resources: note in this table data concerning sources of water available for the population at the site	3.3.1 Number of water sources of each type	3.3.2 Water source most used for human consumption at this site	3.3.3 Water source most used for animal consumption at this site	3.3.4 Any water sources producing dirty- looking water	3.3.5 Check if likely that the quantity of water available will decrease in the near future
Borehole or well with functioning motor pump					
Borehole or well with functioning handpump					
Protected spring					
Protected open well					
Piped water					
Unprotected spring					
Unprotected open well					
Surface water (specify if a lake, a river or other)					
Traditional water sellers (specify the source)					
Other (specify)					
Borehole or well with non- functioning handpump					
Borehole or well with non- functioning motor pump					

			Organisation or person(s)	Since	# of children	Geograph
	(pres	vity specification sent/absent)	implementing these programmes NOW	when?	enrolled in TFC	coverage
4.2.1 Management of seacute malnutrition (facili community based)	ity or In	patient therapeutic reding (TF) only n- and outpatient TF Outpatient TF only				
4.2.2 Management of macute malnutrition	oderate Se fe Bl	elective supplementary eeding lanket supplementary eeding				
4.2.3 Micronutrient supplementation progra (e.g., vitamin A, iron)	ımmes YE	ES IO				
4.2.4 General food distr	Y	ES IO				
4.2.5 Other nutrition pro (e.g. school feeding, infeeding support, HIV fee	ant	ify				
4.3 Changes in average	the total am	ount of food tha	at people are eating	since t	he crisis bega	ın, on
Amount consumed			Amount consume DNK	ed is about	the same	
4.4 How many	people in the	community cu	rrently have food sto	ocks in	their househo	lds?
Most	About half	Som	e None	:	DNK	
4.5 On average	e, how long w	ill food stocks I	ast in the household	s, acco	rdina to the co	ommunit
Cereals and roots/tube			I-2 weeks		2 weeks	
Pulses and legumes	< I wee		I-2 weeks		2 weeks	
Oils and fats	< I wee	ek	I-2 weeks	>	2 weeks	
4.6 Does the c	ommunity ha	ve physical acc	ess to functioning n	narkets	?	
YES NO	DNK					
	t milk produc mergency?	ts (e.g., baby fo	ormula) and/or baby	bottles/	teats been dis	stributed
YES NO		If YES, by whom?				
4.8 What perce	entage of infa	<u>.</u>	are formula fed /for			
None	< 10%	10-25	5% > 25%	6	DNK	
4.9 Has the co		Ith staff identifi	ed any problems in	feeding	children < 2 y	ears sin
YES NO		If YES, what prob	lems?			
4.10 Describe th	ne current liv	elihood/food sit	uation in this area			
4.10.1 What are the	e major livelihod	ods in the area?	4.10.2 Has the cri markets ar			hoods,
Agriculturalists Agro-pastoralists Pastoralists	Other	sinesses/trading	Livelihoods disru Food prices incre Food stocks disr Other (specify)	eased upted/dep		
			_ circi (specify) _			
4.10.3 What popula	ation groups are	most affected?	4.10.4 What are the population	ne prioriti concerni	es expressed by ng livelihoods, fo child feeding?	

Children/youth

Elderly people

Women Men Different religious/cultural/

socio-economic groups (specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_ Other

(specify)

SECTION !	5 <b>HEALTH</b>	RISKS ANI	HEALTH	STATUS				
5.1 R	Resource persons	and other in	nformation s	sources				
5.2 He	ealth profile							
	<u> </u>	11 1	alconium la at 7 d	I 0 I I I			U I	1 10
	low many BIRTHS ha		-	1				t present?
# Births (to	otal) # Births	(w/ skilled attend	lant)	# visibly p	oregnant wo	men at the s	ite	
Morbidity	(disease in population	)						
5.2.2 N	lain health concerns f	rom clinic reco	ords or reporte	d by health	profession	als (list)		
		# cases in	# deaths in				# cases in	# deaths
Measle		last 7 days	last 7 days	Chalan			last 7 days	last 7 day
Malari				Choler: Injuries				
Diarrh	oeal diseases			•	ncy-related o	onditions*		
Acute	respiratory infections			Other	(specify)			
5.2.3 H	lave there been any re	eports of any u	inusual increas	ses in illnes	ss or rumou	ırs of OUTE	BREAKS?	
NO	YES (specify)							
	are patients suffering fi e.g. heart disease, ins							
NO	YES (specify)					# Patients		
5.2.5 H	lave there been report	ts of SEXUAL	VIOLENCE?					
NO	YES (specify)					# Cases in	last 7 days	
5.2.6 Is	s there evidence of PS	SYCHOSOCIA	L TRAUMA an	nong the at	ffected pop	⊔ ulation? If s	o, describe	
NO	YES (specify)							
5.2.7 H	lave there been report			SKS (e.a. e	xtreme colo			
NO	YES (specify)			, 5		•	, i	, ,
5.2.8 H	lave there been report			NCE USE	(e.a. injecti	na druas. h	eavv alcohol	use)?
NO	YES (specify)				(-3 )	<u> </u>	,	,
	( (							
Disease co	ontrol and prevention							
	there a functioning E			•			ported?	
NO	YES	at least wee		east monthly		er (specify) _		_
	ocal measles vaccinat at 12 months)	ion coverage (	of under-five	5.2.11	programm	nes?	disease contr	ol
5 0 40 J				NO	YES (sp		-1	
	npact of crisis on disea	ase control pro	ogrammes? (c.		pletely	Somew	-	Jnaffected
Disease Co	ond of programme			I	rupted	disrupt		Juliected
						·		
	umanitarian health			· .				
	umanitarian health inte	erventions		es	Main	4		
Organizatio	ווכ		Since when?		Main activ	ity		

\*including severe anaemia, hypertension, pre-eclampsia, eclampsia, and diabetes

SECTION 6 H	IEALTH FACI	LITY ASSESSM	ENT (F	ILL ONE PE	R FACILITY	VISITED)
6.1 General inf	ormation					
6.1.1 Name of fac	ility		6.1.2	GPS location i	n decimal degr	ees
Contact :						
6.1.3 Facility type			6.1.4	Management		
Hospital Health centre		alth post her	Mir NG	istry of Health	Other	· (specify)
6.1.5 Is facility tempo	rary or permaner	nt?	6.1.6 H	as facility been o	damaged?	
Temporary	Permanent		YES	NO		
6.1.7 Physical acc	cess to facility (ch	neck one)	6.1.8 Financial access to facility (check one)			
Easy With obstacles (ex Very difficult (explo Distance in km: Number of hours by no	nin)		Sm: Lar	e of charge all payment (expla ge payment (expla r consultation in l	in)	
	ype of closest ref			Are vehicles of available for re	r other means o	of transport
			YES	NO	D DNI	K
		services delivered in rovides and how man		nt area of the	YES	NO
# village m # commun	idwife/midwives ity health worker(:	s)	# - # -	traditional others (spe	healer(s) cify)	
6.2. Resources						
6.2.1 Who provide	es health care in t	this facility? (Check a	II that ap	ply)		
	# staff	# consultations/day			# staff	# consultations/day
Nurse Medical doctor				lwife technician		

What are the priorities expressed by the population concerning health?

	# staff	# consultations/day		# staff	# consultations/day
Nurse			Midwife		
Medical doctor			Lab technician		
Medical assistant			Public health officer		
Vaccinator		Midwife Lab technician Public health officer Other es and supplies			
6.2.2 Essential dr	ugs, vaccines and	supplies			
	Available	Unavailable		Available	Unavailable
Antibiotics			Tetanus toxoid		
ORS			Measles		
Anti-malarials			DPT		
Antipyretic			Polio		
Contraception			BCG		
Dressing materials			Functioning cold chain?		

GD

5.4

### KI,0 6.3 Checklist of services available

	-	Area/Sub-sectors		Health Services (RH MISP Services in bold)	Y
	CO	Collection of Vital	C01	Deaths and births	Ĺ
		Statistics	C02	Others: e.g. population movements; registry of pregnant women, newborn children	
			C21	IMCI community component: IEC of child care taker + active case findings	
	C2	Child Health	C22	Home-based treatment of: fever/malaria, ARI/pneumonia, dehydration due to acute diarrhoea	
			C23	Community mobilization for and support to mass vaccination campaigns and/or mass drug administration/treatments	_
			C31	Screening of acute malnutrition (MUAC)	_
	C3	Nutrition	C32	Follow up of children enrolled in supplementary/therapeutic feeding (trace defaulters)	_
	_		C33	Community therapeutic care of acute malnutrition	
. Community	C4	Communicable Diseases	C41 C42	Vector control (IEC + impregnated bed nets + in/out door insecticide spraying)	-
Care	04	Communicable Diseases	C42	Community mobilization for and support to mass vaccinations and/or drug administration/treatments  IEC on locally priority diseases (e.g. TB self referral, malaria self referral, others)	
			C51	Community leaders advocacy on STI/ HIV	
	C5	STI & HIV/AIDS	C52	IEC on prevention of STI/HIV infections and behavioural change communication	
			C53	Ensure access to free condoms	
	C6	Maternal & Newborn	C61	Clean home delivery, including distribution of clean delivery kits to visibly pregnant women, IEC and behavioural change	
		Health	001	communication, knowledge of danger signs and where/when to go for help, support breast feeding	
	C8	Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental	C81	Promote self-care, provide basic health care and psychosocial support, identify and refer severe cases for treatment, provide needed follow-up to people discharged by facility-based health and social services for people with chronic health conditions,	
		Health		disabilities and mental health problems	
	C9	Environmental Health	C91	IEC on hygiene promotion and water and sanitation, community mobilization for clean up campaigns and/or other sanitation	
			P11	activities Outpatient services	
		General Clinical	P12	Basic laboratory	
P1 Services	Services	P13	Short hospitalization capacity (5-10 beds)		
		P14	Referral capacity: referral procedures, means of communication, transportation		
			P21	EPI : routine immunization against all national target diseases and adequate cold chain in place	
	P2	Child Health	P22	Under 5 clinic conducted by IMCI-trained health staff	
			P23	Screening of under nutrition/malnutrition (growth monitoring or MUAC or W/H, H/A)	
			P31	Management of moderate acute malnutrition	
	P3	Nutrition	P32	Management of severe acute malnutrition	
			P41	Sentinel site of early warning system of epidemic prone diseases, outbreak response (EWARS)	
	<sub>D4</sub>	Camanairahla Diaaaaa	P42	Diagnosis and treatment of malaria	
P4   Communicable Dis	Communicable Diseases	P43	Diagnosis and treatment of TB		
			P44	Other local relevant communicable diseases (e.g. sleeping sickness)	
	!		P51	Syndromic management of sexually transmitted infections	1
	i		P52	Standard precautions: disposable needles & syringes, safety sharp disposal containers, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE),	
	i		P53	sterilizer, P 91  Availability of free condoms	
	1	P5 STI & HIV/AIDS	P54	Prophylaxis and treatment of opportunistic infections	
	AREA		P55	HIV counselling and testing	
P. Primary	¥		P56	Prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT)	
Care	ALTH		P57	Antiretroviral treatment (ART)	
	Ϊ́		P61	Family planning	
	_ ≝		P62	Antenatal care: assess pregnancy, birth and emergency plan, respond to problems (observed and/or reported), advise/counsel on	
	5		P63	nutrition & breastfeeding, self care and family planning, preventive treatment(s) as appropriate  Skilled care during childbirth for clean and safe normal delivery	-
	RODUCT		$\vdash$	Essential newborn care: basic newborn resuscitation + warmth (recommended method: Kangaroo Mother Care - KMC) + eye	
	REPR	P6 Maternal & Newborn	P64	prophylaxis + clean cord care + early and exclusive breast feeding 24/24 & 7/7	
	& R	Health	P65	Basic essential obstetric care (BEOC): parenteral antibiotics + oxytocic/anticonvulsivant drugs + manual removal of placenta +	
	ہّ ا			removal of retained products with manual vacuum aspiration (MVA) + assisted vaginal delivery 24/24 & 7/7	
	SEXUAL		P66	Post partum care: examination of mother and newborn (up to 6 weeks), respond to observed signs, support breast feeding, promote family planning	
	S			Comprehensive abortion care: safe induced abortion for all legal indications, uterine evacuation using MVA or medical methods,	
	i		P67	antibiotic prophylaxis, treatment of abortion complications, counselling for abortion and post-abortion contraception	
	i		P71	Clinical management of rape survivors (including psychological support)	$\vdash$
	!	P7 Sexual Violence	P72	Emergency contraception	
	!		P73	Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for STI & HIV infections	ļ
		Non Communicable	P81	Injury care and mass casualty management	
	P8	Non Communicable Diseases and Mental	P82	Hypertension treatment  Pichetes treatment	-
		Health	P83	Diabetes treatment	
			P84	Mental health care: support of acute distress and anxiety, front line management of severe and common mental disorders	<u> </u>
	P9	Environmental Health	P91	Health facility safe waste disposal and management	_
			S11	Inpatients services (medical, paediatrics and obstetrics and gynaecology wards)	_
		General Clinical	S12	Emergency and elective surgery	_
	S1	Services	S13	Laboratory services (including public health laboratory)	_
Secondon			S14	Blood bank service	_
S. Secondary and Tertiary			S15	X-Ray service	
Care	S2	Child Health	S21	Management of children classified with severe or very severe diseases (parenteral fluids and drugs, O2)	_
	S6	Maternal & Newborn Health	S61	Comprehensive essential obstetric care: BEOC + caesarean section + safe blood transfusion	
		Non Communicable	S81	Disabilities and injuries rehabilitation	
	S8	Diseases and Mental	S82	Outpatient psychiatric care and psychological counselling	
		Health			

### Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) - Health, Nutrition and WASH Clusters

### INITIAL RAPID ASSESSMENT (IRA): AIDE MEMOIRE FOR FIELD TEAMS

### Purpose of an IRA

- -The purpose is to provide a rapid overview of the emergency situation in order to identify the impacts of the crisis, make initial estimates of needs, and define the priorities for humanitarian action in the early weeks of response. It should answer the following core questions:
  - 1. What has happened? Is there an emergency situation and, if so, what are its key features?
  - 2. How have the population and essential services been affected? Who are worst affected and likely to be most vulnerable? Why? How many people are affected? Where are they?
  - 3. Are interventions required to prevent further harm or loss of life? If so, what are top priorities?
  - 4. What continuing or emerging threats could escalate the emergency?
  - 5. What resources and capacities are available? What are the most important, immediate capacity gaps?
  - 6. What are the key information gaps that should be addressed in follow-up assessments?

# When should an IRA be undertaken?

-An IRA should be initiated as soon as possible after the onset of a new sudden-onset crisis (within 72 hours, maximum I week). The whole process including analysis and preparation of a report should be completed within I to 3 weeks.

-An IRA may also be undertaken when an area in an ongoing conflict/complex emergency becomes newly accessible, or in a protracted emergency affected by a sudden, additional shock or deterioration in conditions.

## What is expected of IRA teams?

-Each team is expected to provide the best possible picture of the situation that it can develop in a few days for its assigned geographic area based on a review of secondary data and primary data collected at the sites visited. Data must be collected from a variety of sources, using different methods, and triangulated in a conscious effort to ensure accuracy and minimize bias.

-Teams should visit relevant district/administrative headquarters before proceeding to individual sites, whenever feasible. Data collection at each site should take no more than 2-3 hours with a team of 3-4 members. Teams should use a standard IRA form to summarize the situation and priority needs for initial response at each site visited.

### The IRA Form

-The form is divided into 2 parts:

- I. Summary conclusion sheets: to be completed by the team leader at the end of each site visit, with input from all team members AFTER the rest of the form has been completed.
- 2. Data sheets: are divided into 6 sections, covering demographics; shelter & NFIs; water, sanitation & hygiene (WASH); food security & nutrition; and health

-It should be customized to the country situation while maintaining the basic structure, and be translated, if necessary. Ideally, this should be done in advance as part of inter-agency contingency planning.

### How the IRA Form should be used

-One form should be completed collectively by the team for each site visited. Team members may also use the form as a checklist and worksheet for recording observations and taking notes during interviews.

-Each question has a code suggesting the source(s) from which to collect the data. These codes are explained on the front sheet of the form. Some questions have more than one code, indicating that multiple sources should be used and the data triangulated.

### Who should do an IRA?

-The IRA form is designed for use by individuals without advanced training in the sectors covered. However, broad public health and/or food security training and experience, and familiarity with rapid appraisal methods and best practices in the major content areas, are advantageous.

### **Activities prior to site visits:**

- Before going to the field: collect and rapidly review available secondary data on the areas to be visited (this include both data on the pre-crisis situation see Annex C to the guidance note and available data on the current, in-crisis situation); get a thorough briefing on how the IRA is to be undertaken, how reports are to be submitted, and an indicative list of the key informants that all teams should seek to interview; agree within the team on how you will proceed and organize yourselves during visits to district headquarters and individual sites.
- At district level, interview local government and line ministry officials, referral health-care facilities, national and international organizations already in the area, local businesses, etc. to find out more about: (i) conditions before the crisis including the way in which services are normally organized; (ii) the extent to which services have been affected, the most affected locations, the main impacts of the crisis; and (iii) any relief activities that are already underway or planned.

### **Selecting sites to visit:**

In most cases it will be necessary to choose a small number of sites to visit in the time available. Choices must be made to include sites that will enable you to understand the situation in the affected area as a whole including but not limited to the worst-affected localities and population groups.

• From secondary data and information from key informants, determine whether the impact seems to be similar throughout the area and for all population groups. If so, randomly select a small number of areas. If not, map out the areas where impacts are believed to be different and establish itineraries that take in a number of the worst-affected localities but also some sites representing less-affected areas and population groups

### **Primary data collection:**

On-site tasks should be clearly divided among team members according to skill sets and experience for maximum efficiency. Each team member should have a defined role and be ready to conduct his/her own enquiries related to particular sources of information for completing the IRA form while also being sensitive to the information needs of the team as a whole.

### Identifying and interviewing key informants (KIs):

- At the start of the site visit, meet with local authorities and/or community leaders. (Where there are no such obvious starting points, contacts with people in the street or in/around the administrative centre can help identify people knowledgeable on the community situation or context with regard to each theme in the IRA form.)
- Other KIs at each site would normally include health workers, teachers, community development workers, relief workers, traders and NGO programme managers. All are likely to be sources of important information.
- Where a site includes both resident and displaced populations, some KIs may be able to provide perspectives on both groups for some issues e.g. major health issues. However, be aware of potential bias and select KIs from each population, wherever possible.
- When an interview is clearly not yielding the kind of overview perspective needed, politely bring the discussion to an end and identify other KIs to talk with.

### Holding group discussions:

Select participants based on the issues to be discussed and look for convenient ways to get groups together on specific
topics, e.g.: questions about water access and use can be discussed with a queue at a water point; questions about infant
and young child feeding with mothers at an ante-natal clinic. But be aware of possible bias arising from the situation in
which groups are found, e.g. people waiting to see a doctor are not representative of the whole population in terms of
health issues.

#### Observing conditions:

- Walk across the site along a *transect* not following existing lines such as roads or paths to obtain a cross-section of points for observation and provide a balanced, representative view of conditions.
- Key sites for observation include water collection points, food distribution queues, latrines, communal showers, storage facilities, grave sites, and drug stocks in health facilities.
- Observe the site from above, if possible, to get a sense of the conditions and variations across the site.

### Visiting households (HHs):

- Where impacts are differentiated by location or by group within a community, this will suggest where to go for HH visits. Within a specific area, choose HHs that have specific characteristics, e.g. the most poor-looking.
- Directly observe at least four HHs including one less affected HH and that of a community leader chosen as a KI. The more heterogeneous the population and the more uneven the impact of the crisis, the more careful the sampling approach needs to be and the greater the total sample size in order to be able to confidently draw conclusions.

#### Assessing health facilities and services:

Section 6 of the IRA form requires investigation of the status of the health facility (HF) and the services currently provided:

- Collect information through interviews with HF staff and direct observation of activities, supplies and equipment.
- If there is no HF at the site, complete only section A (green) of the form.
- When assessing a primary facility, complete section B (yellow) of the form.
- When assessing a secondary or tertiary facility, complete both sections B and C (yellow and red) of the form.

### Synthesizing and recording your findings:

- Wrap up each visit by collectively discussing the data gathered at that site for each sector and consolidating them in a single IRA form. Reconcile, as much as possible, any inconsistencies among data collected by different team members or using different methods. Highlight any unresolved issues at the end of each section of the form.
- Transmit the completed form to the central analysis unit as soon as possible using the agreed communication channels.

### Box 1: Some Do's and Don'ts for IRA fieldwork

Do:

- Divide tasks by according to expertise of team members, so each can collect information independently.

- Choose a limited number of key topics to discuss with a particular KI or group, or during HH visits.
- Once on-site, after introduction to local authorities/leaders, fan out to collect information individually (or in pairs)
- Record observations and any information volunteered that may be related to topics other than your own.
- Introduce yourself properly and give people time to talk about their priority issues or grievances, before asking more targeted questions.
- Find the 'person who knows' who has already gathered most of the data you're looking for but beware of bias.

### **Don't:** - waste precious time talking as a whole team to one respondent (apart from initial introduction to authorities, etc.).

- interrogate respondents as an extractive process; instead, let them talk while guiding the conversation.
- keep any respondent busy for more than half an hour; especially in times of crisis, people have their own priorities.
- limit yourself to one respondent's information with regard to any topic: triangulate by asking other persons.