

### III. Terminology and key definitions

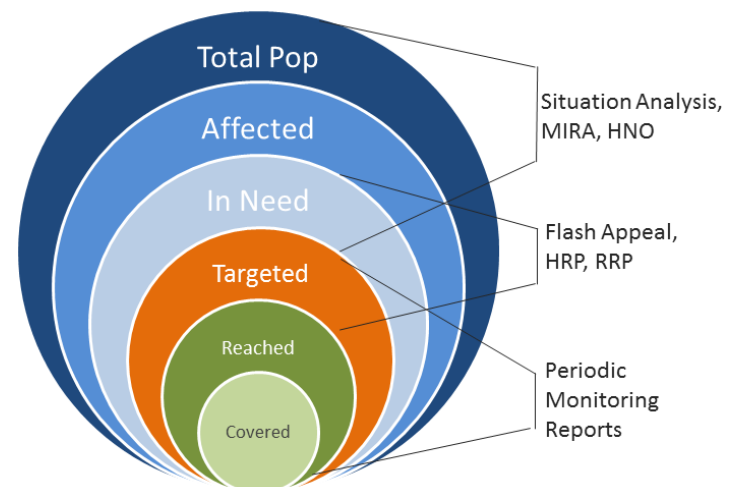
Figure 2 shows the relationship between sets of the total population of a given territory in an emergency response: Total, Affected, In Need, Targeted, Reached and Covered. Each of these sub-sets can be further broken down as required. The terminology is defined as follows:

1. **Total Population** includes all people living within the administrative boundaries of a nation state. Note there can be a crisis-specific strategic decision to calculate the total population looking only at a sub-national level, i.e. total population living in Nigeria's northern states affected by conflict.

**Example:** 8 million people live in country Alpha hit by a crisis. This includes 500,000 refugees who came to the country one year ago.

2. **People Affected** includes all those whose lives have been impacted as a direct result of the crisis. This figure is often the first available after a sudden onset emergency and often defines the scope or boundary of a needs assessment. It does not, however, necessarily equate to the number of people in need of

*Figure 2: Visual representation of overall humanitarian population figures categories*



humanitarian aid; it should not be confused or used interchangeably with the category People in Need. Characteristics of the category People Affected must include:

- being in close geographical proximity to a crisis;
- physically or emotionally impacted, including exposed to a human rights violation/protection incident;
- experiencing personal loss or loss of capital and assets as a direct result of the crisis (family member, house/roof, livestock or any other asset);
- being faced with an immediate threat from a crisis.<sup>10</sup>

When a crisis becomes protracted and its effects deepen and spread, the definition of Population Affected may need modification, to include population geographically distant from the centre of the initial shock and not having been physically/emotionally impacted but experiencing secondary effects of a disaster/crisis. These could manifest as economic implications, such as price increases and commodity shortages, or the consequences of damaged infrastructure, such as water supply or electricity.

Estimates of the Population Affected are among the very first information requirements at the onset of a crisis. Numbers of population affected are derived from the total population of the affected area, as they are a sub-set of that category. Identifying affected populations is always linked to identifying affected geographical areas, whether an area population has been displaced from or to, or an area that has been specifically hit by a flood, or cut off from all access to food.

**Example:** Country A has a Total Population of 8 million people. 6 million people living in three provinces were exposed to damages and destruction following an earthquake. The population suffered injuries, damage to dwellings and lives in areas that are at high risk of aftershocks – they are the Population Affected. 2 Million out of the country A's 8 Million were not affected.

3. **People in Need** are a sub-set of the Population Affected and are defined as those members:

- whose physical security, basic rights, dignity, living conditions or livelihoods are threatened or have been disrupted, AND
- whose current level of access to basic services, goods and social protection is inadequate to re-establish normal living conditions with their accustomed means in a timely manner without additional assistance.

This category is further broken down into sub-categories or by sector/cluster to provide additional detail about the intensity, severity or type of need (e.g., need of urgent life-saving assistance, food insecure population, people in need of shelter).

The definition of People in Need will need to be monitored and adjusted over time. At the onset or continuation of a shock, needs are more likely to be centred on sustaining lives; the more protracted the crisis, the more needs will be centred on re-establishing and sustaining normal living and livelihood conditions.

**Example:** In the most populous provinces, where 5 million people out of the 6 million People Affected reside, 90% of the buildings and infrastructure were destroyed in the earthquake, and roads rendered inaccessible. Those people are in need of assistance. Out of the 5 million, the number of those who have sustained critical injuries, are inaccessible or living in dwellings at risk of collapsing is estimated at 2 million. They are in need of immediate assistance.

4. **People Targeted** is a sub-set of People in Need and represents the number of people humanitarian actors aim or plan to assist. This projected number is typically smaller than the number of People in Need,

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<sup>10</sup> According to the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), affected populations are defined on the basis of type and degree of disaster effects, and their location.

given: (a) it is rare that international humanitarian actors can meet all needs; (b) needs are also being addressed by actors not participating in the joint plan, including national Governments; and (c) people in need are not always accessible. The number of people targeted is usually defined once there is some idea of available resources and access constraints. **See Annex III for further explanation.**

**Example:** 2 million out of the 5 million people in need will be targeted for the delivery of tents and shelter material as well as health assistance.

5. **People Reached** include those who have received some form of assistance. Without any additional information, this figure says little about how long and how well this assistance covers the needs of the affected population. Very often the term “people *reached* with assistance” is used interchangeably with “people’s needs *covered* by assistance”. A more meaningful picture is provided through the estimate of **people covered** as it clarifies the type and duration of assistance received. (e.g., 1,000 people received enough water to cover their needs of 15 litres per person, per day for the months of January, February and March. This will vary as per the agreed in-country target).

**Example:** 1.5 million people have received family tents and shelter material as well as access to medical services. 1 million people have access to materials to repair their housing fully within the next three weeks and their shelter needs are thus covered.

Chapter II will focus on how to estimate the figures in the five population categories in more detail, with a focus on populations Affected and In Need. The definitions and operationalization of the populations Targeted and Reached will be developed through further research and consultation and included in the next release of this Guidance.

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<sup>11</sup> The IMWG is responsible for defining agreed categories for the Humanitarian Profile above the red line. Thereafter, each individual Cluster can define the necessary categories for their own work, (as is needed) for categories below the red line.