



Step 2: Mapping diversity

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Participatory assessment must seek to include as many diverse groups as possible from refugee, internally displaced and returnee populations, in order to gain a comprehensive picture of the protection risks they face.

To define whom to target in the participatory assessment, teams should map out the population of concern and identify the various social groups. Communities should be broken down according to age, sex, ethnicity, caste/clan, religion, legal status (asylum-seeker, refugee, stateless persons, etc.), socio-economic status, level of education, whether urban or rural, power relations, power-structures (including political affiliations, if applicable) and any other social distinction, in order to gain a representative sample. This process assists in identifying which groups may have been overlooked or might not have participated as yet.

If installed, the proGres database should be consulted for a statistical breakdown of the population (e.g. children according to age groups and ethnic background) and to identify people with specific needs (e.g. grandparents in charge of small children, persons with disabilities, unaccompanied and separated children). In urban contexts, proGres will provide information on where people are located. Mapping locations, access to services, employment, accommodation and security can highlight protection risks. When available, the Geographic Information System will also help to visualize the location of

different groups and their respective access to available resources and services.

Engaging the community in mapping exercises on services is a useful participatory method for identifying risks jointly and sharing information. Teams can sit with groups of people of concern to ask them to draw a map of the community, highlighting where certain people live (older persons, school-aged children, etc.) and where services are located (schools, hospitals, water points, etc.).

Multifunctional teams should plan to meet and discuss with:

- Subgroups of women and men separately;
- Subgroups of younger children, adolescents, young adults, and older adults separately.

Subgroups by age and sex		
	Female	Male
Children	10-13	10-13
Adolescents	14-17	14-17
Adults	18-40	18-40
People over 40	40 plus	40 plus

These age categories are provided as a guide; they may need to be adapted according to local culture and custom. Where refugee populations are divided into distinct groups, e.g. different ethnic or religious groups that live apart from each other, teams will need to meet groups of women, girls, boys, and men from each social or ethnic group. Good mapping will

help teams to determine how many diverse groups of people by age and sex they will need to meet in order to ensure a representative sampling of the population.

Teams should also plan to meet:

- **Groups and individuals with specific needs** (e.g. people with particular disabilities, unaccompanied and separated children);
- **Other key groups that have been identified as at risk** (e.g. single-parent households, a specific ethnic minority group, young girls and boys without any occupation, women and men without income-generating activities, grandparents with young children) or **groups on which limited information is available**.

Multifunctional teams should discuss how they will organize the participatory assessment exercise and inform the different structures in the community about the exercise. Teams should inform the refugee leadership, such as formal refugee councils, committees and associations (women’s associations, SGBV committees, youth groups, peer educators, etc.) about the exercise and its purpose; however, experience shows that refugee leaders do not necessarily represent the real interests of the community or may not take into account the interests of some members of the community. While it is important to enlist their support and cooperation, as direct consultation with various groups of concern should not be seen to bypass or challenge the credibility of existing leadership structures, multifunctional teams should ensure that they reach all different types of groups of persons of concern, and thus not only those who associate closely with leadership structures.

In order to facilitate coverage and to meet as many distinct subgroups as possible, larger multifunctional teams can split into smaller teams of two people each and, following the mapping exercise, determine which team will meet which groups in the community.