



# Vulnerability Assessment Framework

## VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK DATA SUPPORTING NRC SHELTER INTERVENTIONS



NORWEGIAN  
REFUGEE COUNCIL

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) became a Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) partner in early 2016 with the intended aim to use the VAF to complement NRC's own vulnerability scoring system and to support multi-sectoral data collection based on a standardised methodology. This complementarity provided NRC with a better understanding of Syrian refugees in urban areas vulnerabilities and therefore enabled NRC to improve selection of beneficiaries, targeting and prioritization. Although, the VAF's multi-sectoral assessment takes up to 40 minutes per household to assess, the time saved on avoiding duplication of assessment easily compensates for the length of time for assessment. It has been acknowledged that there is a strong benefit of using a multi-sectoral tool, which from one assessment you can target and prioritize caseload for several different sector interventions (i.e. shelter and basic needs), and that one assessment can potentially be used by more than one sector.

When reviewing the VAF questionnaire, most of NRC's own vulnerability assessment questionnaire was covered. The few questions not covered in the VAF questionnaire were added to the VAF data collection tool following NRC's request. This flexibility allowed NRC to fully capture its vulnerability questionnaire through the adapted VAF data collection tool.

NRC used the VAF module in the Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS) to compare the level of vulnerability of our beneficiaries against governorate and national level scores. In broader terms, VAF data is a useful tool for advocacy with assessments undertaken for more than 80,000 households. The large data pool provides a useful overview for national and governorate level analysis and enables sectors to highlight the most pressing needs across the population, but also supports advocacy and identification of selected caseloads with the highest vulnerabilities.

In areas where NRC's knowledge of the refugee population was extensive, such as in Irbid, Jerash and Ajloun, the VAF was used to cross check information already provided to NRC by refugees. VAF scores in welfare, shelter and dependency ratio were used complementarily as a prioritization tool for shortlisting potential beneficiaries from a long waiting list. In new areas of intervention, such as in Mafrq, NRC was able to use data provided through VAF for narrowing the intervention area down to the district level. The analysis of VAF data for a specific group of household using sector scores (shelter) enabled NRC to narrow down the target group from over 2,000 households down to few hundreds. When the overall sector scores were not sufficient to prioritize, NRC used relevant sub sector scores (categories scores).

**Targeted Cash for Rent (CfR) interventions:** NRC looked at the technical guidelines provided through the shelter sector, the shelter sector tree and the VAF data to select the group of beneficiaries who are the most in need and eligible for the CfR interventions. In addition to the general shelter and welfare scores, NRC used the debt per capita score, housing condition and the tenancy scores to narrow down the selection. The final shortlist included families who have reported the highest debt per capita and did not have any type of tenancy agreement. Families living in severely substandard or informal housing should not be targeted with CfR (given do no harm considerations) but rather with other types of interventions capable of ensuring security of tenure and safety of the refugees in the form of rehabilitation and/or renovation.