

2020 Vulnerability Criteria of the Shelter and NFI Cluster

The Socio-Economic Vulnerability Assessment Tool (SEVAT) developed by the Cash Working Group has been adapted to the changing context of Iraq (protracted crisis, with less new displacement, more returns and prolonged displacement). In a transition to more durable solutions in the post conflict phase, which implies a gradual departure from a status-based approach, the SEVAT is based on predicted consumption, computed using a range of household characteristics and behaviors, and how these affect the household's capacity to consume. Thus, SEVAT is not looking at the household expenditure but at its consumption and access to it, and if in order to consume a given quantity of goods and services the household had to adopt negative coping mechanisms (e.g. living in a sub-standard shelter).

This approach realigns with the model used by the Government of Iraq and the World Bank to assess households for MoLSA's cash transfers. In effect, SEVAT helps to target interventions at the most vulnerable households by decreasing reliance on under- or over-reporting of household expenditures. The SEVAT model allows for identification of families likely to be eligible for MoLSA's social safety net program and therefore, from a mid-term perspective, it is designed to facilitate the transition towards governmental programs. A vulnerability mapping of the country resulting from a wide usage of the tool would represent an advocacy tool and a practical instrument to facilitate the transition to post-conflict situation.

The model is based on the REACH Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (MCNA) data and takes per capita expenditure – an indicator of per capita consumption – as a proxy for vulnerability. Using a range of household characteristics and behavioural indicators that have been found to have a statistically significant relationship with consumption, the new tool estimates a value of per capita consumption for each household, which is a better proxy for household welfare. Using consumption as a proxy also allows to introduce an identified poverty marker as a cut-off¹.

Shelter/NFI component

Since late 2018, the Shelter Cluster has adopted the use of SEVAT for the identification of vulnerable people in potential need of shelter and NFI assistance. This is a requirement for SNFI partners², in order to ensure a consistent, predictable and solid identification of vulnerable cases by all actors. There are questions in the questionnaire that specifically ask about the settlement and shelter conditions, occupancy type, and basic NFI needs. Combined with the overall vulnerability score of the family, this data can help SNFI partners identify additional areas of intervention, support more accurate targeting of out-of-camp populations and facilitate more in-depth technical assessment.

Capacity Building

The CWG, with the support of the Shelter Cluster, has led a number of trainings in 2019 to facilitate the rolling out of the tool, especially with partners who have not used it in the past. The Shelter Cluster and the CWG will further roll out trainings for enumerators in March 2020. However, due to the high number of enumerators, the current CWG/SNFI strategy is to conduct Training of Trainers on the assessment tool for officers at sub-national level and specific training on the scoring model for data management staff, with support to enumerators to follow.

¹ The cut-off amount is currently 110,000 IQD per family, decreasing to 92,000 IQD per family from July 2020.

² The use of SEVAT is one of the criteria for partners to qualify for the Shelter Cluster HRP 2020