Situation analysis- looking at vulnerabilities and prioritizing at risk individuals/groups

The following questions should be taken into account when conducting a situation analysis. Situation analyses are conducted at the onset of a crisis and used for project/programme design purposes but could be repeated as situations change and help redress issues during project implementation. These questions contribute to identify the factors having an impact on the vulnerability of the individuals affected by the crisis and help in prioritizing the most at risk of neglect, discrimination, exploitation and abuse.

Look at the different types of affected population (e.g.: population type such as IDPs, stranded migrants, victims of trafficking, host communities etc.) and identify the dangers/threats/hazards they are exposed to and their level of exposure. At the end of this analysis you will be able to identify which community or group or individuals are most at risk within a given population type and decide who to prioritize and what elements should be taken into account to reduce/mitigate risks during the design of your project.

In order to complete this questionnaire, you could organize a focus group with key informants, conduct a participatory observation, or cross-check information with existing report and accounts and/or conduct interviews. The methodology could change according to the context and available resources. Please comply with IOM data protection principles.

Questions follow a specific rationale which allows for an analysis of the interplay between the crisis or pre-crisis factors, events and processes (A), the locations of the affected population you are looking at (A) and their socio-demographic characteristics (B). At the end of the analysis, you could draw final conclusions (C).
A. Analysis of danger/threats/hazards facing the affected population

A.1 Describe the location in which the affected population is currently living and possible risks (safety and dignity risks including violence, coercion, deliberate deprivation, abuse, neglect, exploitation) associated with this location, including how risks might differ for men, women, girls, boys and other relevant groups. Please elaborate on risks (some suggestions below).

A.2 What are the situations the affected population are subject to, and which community, group or individuals are or might be subjected to these situations? Choose the applicable elements or add others if none of them is matching your findings.

- Lack of family links/disruption of family links/family separation
- Lack of documentation (ID and travel documentation)
- Lack of access to limited resources
- Limited access to resources (financial and/or in kind)
- Multiple displacements
- Protracted displacement
  Exploitation (forced labor, sexual exploitation)

A.3 What are the community or individual practices having a negative impact on the communities, groups or individuals? To what extent these negative consequences are caused or worsened by the crisis?

e.g.: early-forced marriage; female-genital mutilation; child-labor; domestic violence; family separation, food/cash for sex etc.

A.4 If known, who are the perpetrators of some of the practices described in question A.2 and A.3?

N.B.: Enough to know the general profile of the perpetrators for analytical purposes and not for investigation or case-management purposes. It should be more about the type of actors and the general situation; it should not lead to investigations of individual cases or even victim case management – except by trained specialized staff (see protection mainstreaming guidance note).
B. Analysis of socio-demographic characteristics of affected population to determine the exposure to above described dangers/threats/hazards

B.1 What are the main gender, age and disability groups in the affected population(s)? What are the power relations between these groups? Are there internal conflicts or tension?

e.g.: Age Distribution (estimates), Sex distribution (estimates), Gender relations (including gender roles and responsibilities, gendered power dynamics, etc.), Ethnic/religious/political affiliation, People with disabilities (mental and physical), Composition of the households (estimates): Economic/livelihood, unaccompanied or separated children and elderly

B.2 On the basis of the above analysis, how are the described segments of the affected population differently impacted by the risk, dangers or violence from section A?

e.g.: on men, women, girls and boys; on unaccompanied and separated children; on larger households; etc.

B.3. What are the positive coping mechanisms adopted by the affected population? What are the resources/capacities of response of the affected population?

e.g.: Identify the individuals and community strengths in order to build resilience.

B.4 What other information about this affected population is missing to be able to appreciate the level of exposure to threats/danger/hazards?

C. Conclusions

C.1 Who are the communities, groups or individuals most at risk within the affected population and why are they most at risk?

C.2 What are the elements to be taken into account when designing the project so as to avoid causing harm and mitigate the exposure to risk? Please consider how the exposure to risk can change over time – in general and/or for each groups at risk identified?.

C.3 What are the immediate actions to be provided to the identified community, group or individuals at risk?

a. Safety (check on you and the safety of the affected person):
   
b. Provide information and refer:
   
c. Report and follow-up: