

Understanding the community

Sourcing demographic data¹

Introduction

Collecting and analysing demographic data is important at the beginning of a community-based protection programme to better understand the community and its composition. Knowing the different groups a community is made up of and which special needs may exist can help humanitarian organisations both in selecting intervention communities and in designing the programme.

How to collect the data?

Demographic data can often be obtained from others who have already collected it, e.g. other teams in one's own organization, local authorities, humanitarian coordination systems (e.g. clusters, OCHA), or other humanitarian organizations.

Since non-protection programmes will also need demographic data, teams should work together across sectors to avoid duplication, for instance during assessment missions.

A questionnaire (such as that in [Annex 1](#)) can be used to obtain demographic data from others who have already collected it, e.g. key informant in local government institutions.

Which demographic data to consider?

Demographic data that should be analysed includes, but is not limited to:

- Number of people and households;
- Gender and age (to allow disaggregation);
- Number of refugees and/or internally displaced people, and how long they have been there;
- People living with disabilities (number/type);
- Ethnicity; and
- Religion.

¹ This global tool builds and further expands on existing guidance documents produced by Oxfam's Global Humanitarian Team and the Global Protection Cluster's Rapid Protection Assessment Toolkit which can be accessed here: https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/_assets/files/tools_and_guidance/RPAT_v_5July-EN.zip

Sensitive data and data protection

When sourcing demographic data about a community, especially when collecting them first-hand, it will include potentially sensitive data. It is important to [analyse the risks](#) involved in compiling, storing, using and sharing this data. Those collecting data must prevent putting communities at risk and identify ways to mitigate such risks.² Note: no information should be included that could identify specific individuals.

2 For more information on responsible data management, see Oxfam, "Responsible Program Data Policy", 2015, available at <https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/575950/ml-oxfam-responsible-program-data-policy-en-270815.pdf;jsessionid=8B219C390D75B44F7D6CA4239DB62850?sequence=1>, and Oxfam, "Responsible Data Management Training Pack, 2017, available at <https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/responsible-data-management-training-pack-620235/>

Annex 1: Questionnaire for collection of demographic data from key informants with access to original data

NB. This questionnaire is to be adapted for each context and can be shortened or extended as needed.

Demographic data				
Enumerator:		Latitude: Longitude:		Date:
Location type: <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-urban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Camp <input type="checkbox"/> Non-camp		Population type: <input type="checkbox"/> Displaced (IDPs and/or refugees) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-displaced <input type="checkbox"/> Both		
District:		Sub-district:		Village:
Key informant name:				Contact number:
Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Identifies as other <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say				Role:
Total population:		Number of households (HH):		Average household size:
Total non-displaced population in location				
	Female	Male	Total	
Aged <5				
Aged 5–17				
Aged 18–59				
Aged >60				
Total				
Source of information:			Data valid as of (date):	
What types of disabilities exist among the non-displaced population?			Which languages do the non-displaced population prefer?	
Which religious groups can be found among the non-displaced population?			Which ethnic groups can be found among the non-displaced population?	
Is there a male representative for the non-displaced community in this location? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown			Contact information for male non-displaced community representative: Name: Title/function: Phone number: Preferred language:	
Is there a female representative for the non-displaced community in this location? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown			Contact information for female non-displaced community representative: Name: Title/function: Phone number: Preferred language:	

Total displaced population in location			
	Female	Male	Total
Aged <5			
Aged 5–17			
Aged 18–59			
Aged >60			
Total			
Source of information:		Data valid as of (date):	
What types of disabilities exist among the displaced population?		Which languages do the displaced population prefer?	
Which religious groups can be found among the displaced population?		Which ethnic groups can be found among the displaced population?	
<p>Is there a male representative for the displaced community in this location?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		<p>Contact information for male displaced community representative:</p> Name: Title/function: Phone number: Preferred language:	
<p>Is there a female representative for the displaced community in this location?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		<p>Contact information for female displaced community representative:</p> Name: Title/function: Phone number: Preferred language:	