

NRC Solutions from the Start toolkit

Tool 2 – Situation Analysis MiniTool



Photo: Geety Sultani/NRC

NRC staff talking to the land recipients of Mawlana Township, Mazar-e-Sharif.

Situation Analysis MiniTool for Solutions from the Start

This tool is extracted from the Situation Analysis tool in the *One Response Design for Emergencies* package. This shortened version contains only the questions that are directly relevant to 'Solutions from the Start'.

If you are using the One Response Design Emergency package, then there is no need to use this tool.

If you are *not* using One Response Design for Emergencies, then this tool may be helpful to guide **analysis and decision-making on what 'Solutions from the Start' approaches could be used by NRC in an emergency response**. It should be used to look at the crisis and displacement situation from an integrated perspective to inform NRC's:

- Programme design.
- Partnership and external coordination as part of this overall response design (including collaborations with local actors *not* through partnerships).
- Advocacy strategy as part of response interventions.

Analysis Guidance

Objective

Situation Analysis MiniTool is a shortened version of the One Response Design Emergency Situational Analysis tool. It is designed to be used within the first week of a trigger event to build a shared understanding of the first 6 months of the crisis as it is likely to unfold in the geographic scope of the emergency.

This rapid analysis is broader than a humanitarian needs snapshot. It supports discussion on the operating context, the characteristics of affected communities, and the wider systems and actors shaping vulnerability, access, and feasible response options. The intent is to ensure that—even in an emergency – the context is analysed in a way that helps identify where early entry points for self-reliance and longer-term solutions may be feasible, without delaying life-saving action.

This is NOT a detailed Core Competency technical assessment. It does not replace sector-specific needs assessments or technical design work that will be done later as the response evolves.

The analysis of information and the subsequent discussion in the Emergency Response Design Workshop will help to build a common understanding and inform decision-making on where and how we will respond. This step provides the evidence base for the next steps of the Emergency Response Design Process.

The rapid analysis and subsequent discussion will inform decisions on the emergency response design, including:

- Where NRC should operate (geographic priorities)
- Who NRC should prioritise (target groups)
- NRC's role and the response modality (direct / partner / enable)
- Feasible "Solutions from the Start" entry points (systems, inclusion, local actor enablement) that can be planted early
- Immediate advocacy priorities based on barriers, risks, and constraints

- Partnership and external coordination (including collaborations with local actors not through partnership)

A Methodology to Review the Situational Analysis

The template is organised by themes that are essential for integrated response design in emergencies. It includes a focused set of questions drawn from the full One Response Design Tier 1 and Tier 2 questions, plus a small number of emergency-specific questions where needed.

No additional primary data collection is required to use this tool. Where information gaps are identified, these should be recorded for follow-up through routine mechanisms or future assessment planning (as appropriate).

The Process

1. The selected lead based on the geographic scope and emergency leadership (Area Manager; Head of Programme; Emergency Advisor) collects key information to answer the guiding questions. Suggested sources for each thematic have been provided however the lead should consider these simply as a starting point and any other sources should also be included.
2. In preparation for the Emergency Response Design Workshop, the Lead should ensure that the Situational Analysis is prepared in a PowerPoint template or concise narrative. It is encouraged to pull from dashboards and screenshots of analysis from secondary sources.

*It is encouraged that digital AI is utilized to assist with the situational analysis preparation to analysis secondary sources. Sources for information need to be checked and ensure the information is timely and correct.

Optional step: The lead can provide a written analysis of the findings of the situational analysis that may be utilised for fundraising. It is recommended that digital AI is utilised to draft the narrative, utilising the information collected.

Operational Environment Overview – barriers, capacities, local actors

This is an analysis of the change of situation that has prompted the emergency. As you consider your analysis for each theme, highlight what are the most significant changes are in the context.

Theme	Emergency Situational Analysis (for Solutions from the Start)	Suggested Sources of Information
Violence/ Conflict and Security	<p>What are the immediate conflict/security dynamics that shape safe access (only what's needed to operate)?</p> <p>What are the access barriers and constraints for NRC/NGOs to access displacement-affected populations?</p> <p>Who are the key stakeholders and what is NRC engagement plan with them that influence access?</p>	<p>INSO</p> <p>REACH</p> <p>UN DSS</p> <p>Stakeholder analysis/engagement plan</p>
Legal Policy and Frameworks	<p>Are there any modalities or sectors of response that are prohibited or constrained by authorities? If so, what are they and what is the potential to remove impediments?</p> <p>Are there significant variations between law/policy and practice at different levels (e.g. sub-national, local) that impact displaced people and their access to services and rights?</p> <p>Are there specific documentation/ HLP/ admin requirements that will block access to services or assistance (and which groups are most affected)?</p>	<p>HLP AoR</p> <p>Protection Cluster or Working Group</p> <p>NGO Forum</p> <p>Human Rights Watch</p>
Systems and Infrastructure	<p>Which local systems and services are still functional? If functionality has decreased since the crisis, why? <i>[E.g. damaged infrastructure; crisis impacted local authority / service provider capacity to run the service; systems are overwhelmed with increased demand]</i></p> <p><i>What is the status of key markets and supply routes,? Is there market inflation? Can they provide enough affordable commodities relevant to NRC's potential sectors of response?</i></p> <p>Can displaced people access the markets?</p>	<p>NRC mini-tools:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Market system map 2. Market failure analysis

What is the root cause of people not getting what they need from the market? What would need to change for the market to meet needs / continue meeting needs?

Governance, Coordination, and Other Actors

What roles do/could local government actors, and local authority service providers have in the response? What are the impediments to them taking on an increased or main response role?

Who are the non-government local actors at area level and which role do/could they have in the response? What are the impediments to them taking on an increased or main response role? *[E.g. National NGOs with significant capacity, Local NGOs, community-based organizations, faith-based groups, community volunteer groups. Private sector.] What is the perception of displacement affected communities toward these actors?*

Describe the coordination with any development sector/peacebuilding/stabilisation actors

Are any local actors implicated in conflict / diversion risks / exclusion risks that affect principled delivery or partnership choices?

5Ws Analysis
Sectoral (Cluster) Analysis
Stakeholder Analysis
Local Actor Mapping
H2R Analysis

Shocks and Climate

What are the climate conditions that may have a significant impact on the barriers that people face to access services and goods? (e.g. lean season, floods, drought).

bReady Scenarios from previous year

Affected Communities

This is an initial analysis of the displacement affected communities, who they related with each other and what are the barriers they are facing to access services and goods. This part of the analysis will allow to have a full picture of who are the conflict-displacement affected communities, what are their characteristics, vulnerabilities, intentions, risk exposure, and barriers to access services and goods.

Theme	Emergency Situational Analysis (for Solutions from the Start)	Suggested Sources
Displacement specific barriers, intentions, and preferences	Where are people located (sites/urban/dispersed), and which areas have the highest concentration of severe needs? What are the intentions and preferences of displaced persons in relation to settlement options (return, local integration, resettlement/relocation)? <i>In the short-term or long-term.</i>	JIAF; DTM for IDPs UNCHR Intention Surveys Needs Assessments

What are the specific barriers for displaced people that are impeding their access to services, housing, livelihoods opportunities and goods?

Barrier Assessments

What are the preferences and priorities of displacement-affected communities for how they would like to meet their needs and access services and goods?

Protection Threats and Specific Vulnerabilities

Are there specific barriers/ safety/ dignity constraints to accessing assistance/services (by gender /age /disability /displacement status)?

Protection Cluster/Working Groups

Are there specific protection threats that are impeding displaced people’s decision making related to their solution pathways?

Gender reports: e.g. UN Women/ CARE gender in Brief/Analysis

As for all NRC responses, a robust protection analysis should underpin decision-making on response design, activities, and actors to engage with. Attention to protection concerns must be ensured across the response plan and delivery.

Community Capacities

What actions are affected communities taking to address their needs and issues (and solutions they are already pursuing, e.g. *self-relocation, income strategies*), and which local community groups are particularly engaged in supporting or responding to these efforts (*are they inclusive of minority or vulnerable groups?*) – and what are their capacities and skills?

Intention Surveys
Needs Assessments

What are the community resources and structures?) [E.g. *community leadership, community networks (e.g., youth, women’s, or faith-based groups), mutual aid, diaspora, informal social protection networks etc.*] *What systemic barriers do they face to utilize these resources?*

How do different groups within the affected community relate and communicate with one another? What power dynamics, levels of social cohesion, or sources of tension or conflict exist?

Community Engagement Preferences

What information are people seeking?

Media interviews

How do affected communities prefer to communicate, with us (and other humanitarians) and do these preferences vary by gender, age, and diversity?

Community media (e.g. Facebook, WhatsApp/Signal Groups)

How do affected communities perceive NRC and other humanitarian organizations, and to what extent do they trust them?

How do affected communities want to engage with us and actively contribute to the design, implementation, and monitoring of the response?