



Vulnerability Assessment Framework

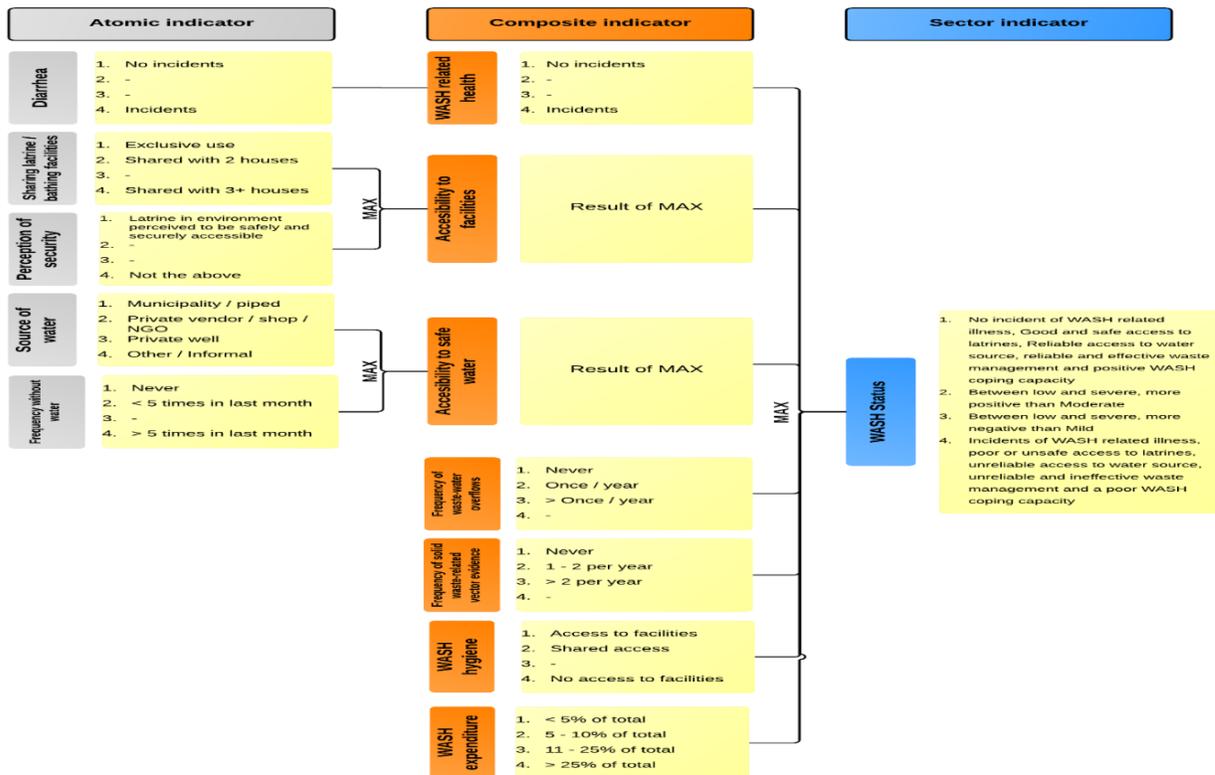
WASH SECTOR DECISION TREE REVISION FOR VULNERABILITY SCORING

For the purpose of the VAF, vulnerability is defined as, “the risk of exposure of Syrian refugee households to harm, primarily in relation to protection threats, inability to meet basic needs, limited access to basic services, and food insecurity, and the ability of the population to cope with the consequences of this harm”.¹

WASH SECTOR TREE v. 1

The original sector tree identified the following characteristics of vulnerability, represented in the sector tree below:

a) WASH related health; b) Accessibility to facilities; c) Accessibility to safe water; d) Reliability of waste water; e) Reliability of solid waste management; f) WASH hygiene; g) WASH expenditure



¹ VAF Modeling, 2014

REVISION

After a year in practice, the WASH working group determined that the sector tree could be more closely aligned to what had been learned in Jordanian context. The WASH sector requested a review of the existing tree and identified the following weaknesses:

- Agreement that taking a maximum value for all indicators created inflation in the vulnerability scoring. Instead the tool needed to be more diverse in scoring capability for case prioritization (weighting restructured)
- Source of water required increased vulnerability weighting for cases not connected to municipal water distribution systems (e.g. Other/not connected)
- WASH expenditure component needed revision on scale in original sector tree. Value of < or >5% of income expenditure on WASH was determined to be a more realistic indicator based on current WASH literature.
- Diarrhea/ WASH related health indicator not relevant to Jordan context and so (question or indicator) was deleted
- Solid Waste management needed increased weighting
- Sharing Latrine required increased weighting, at the same time eliminating the WASH Hygiene indicator as it duplicated information on sharing facilities
- Frequency without water was deleted. Source of water was identified as a more accurate measure of refugees access to water

Adjustment to methodology for calculating scores

The original tree took a maximum value from all indicators whereas the revised tree divides weighting by

- Accessibility to Toilet at 0.3(A),
 - Reliability of sanitation system at 0.3 (B),
 - Reliability of Solid waste management 0.1 (C) and
 - Accessibility to water at 0.3 (D)
- = a total sector score comprised of calculations from A, B, C and D.

1. Accessibility to Toilet

Sharing latrines and bathing facilities: The working group confirmed the number of persons per latrine and the safe access to it for all family members is more significant than the number of latrines per household or facilities sharing with other HH for assessing vulnerability..

- It was concluded by sector partners that the 'person per latrine' (rather than sharing toilet – going back to case v HH discussion) would provide a stronger understanding of vulnerability/overcrowding. The working group determined it would be valuable to include additional questions to incorporate # of persons per latrine. However, as this data was previously not captured under the original sector tree it cannot be transferred or recalculated to the sector tree scoring, and has not been included in the revised sector tree.
- **Scoring: in addition it was agreed that:**
 - Sharing: MAX 4 (4 is the most vulnerable score)
 - When a household has an open pit or no latrine they will be given the maximum vulnerability score for the type of latrine: MAX 4 (4 is the most vulnerable)
 - Weighting was increased for 'type of sanitation facility' and weighting was decreased for 'solid waste and/or water overflow vulnerability'
- **Diarrhea: (Removed)** The WASH sector working group determined that data on diarrhea, in the Jordan context, is not relevant when calculating WASH vulnerability, and therefore remove diarrhea-related data from the scoring and original sector tree, but to leave questions in the VAF questionnaire.

2. Reliability of Sanitation Systems:

- **Type of waste water disposal (sanitation):** Connection to the public sewage systems was seen as a stronger indicator than measuring wastewater overflow. As a result, the sector deleted questions on the frequency of wastewater overflow.

3. Reliability of Solid Waste Management:

Frequency of solid waste related vector evidence (sanitation): Task force members agreed that this component in the original sector tree remained relevant and fit for purpose but should be refined to shift to the baseline survey as it requires a community/municipal level response as opposed to case to case response. Slight increase in weighting was recommended.

4. Accessibility to Water:

- **Source of Water.** Connectivity to the municipal water distribution system remains a strong indication of vulnerability – but access to water storage is equally a critical factor. While in the sector tree itself it cannot incorporate additional questions to retain data comparability and transferability, it has been recommended that the following supplementary

question be included within the VAF form revision: *Do you consider your water storage capacity (roof tanks, reservoirs, etc.) enough to cover all family needs (personal hygiene, cooking, house cleaning, drinking water)?*

5. WASH expenditure as a measure of vulnerability

WASH expenditure was addressed in 2016 MEB Review. Sources of household water presents varying HH cost implications. As most refugees are connected to the public water network, having the economic means to increase access to water through water storage (private water tank), or primary/supplementary water through water truck delivery is thus a key factor.

Suggested sources to calculate water vulnerability indicators are:

- Expenditure on water using minimum basket thresholds (MAX score 4, above 5% of MEB threshold)
- Type of water source (MAX score 4, if not connected to municipal water distribution system)

There is no internationally recognized cost to describe 'non-affordability' of the price of water. References to percentage of expenditures, as shown below, consider higher than 3, 4 or 5% of the HH budget spent in WASH is too expensive for vulnerable households. (UNPD: 3%; OECD & EU: 4%; Development Asian Bank: 5%)²

In addition the 2016 MEB for WASH expenditure has been updated providing the average expenditure on WASH by family size.

Additional inclusions:

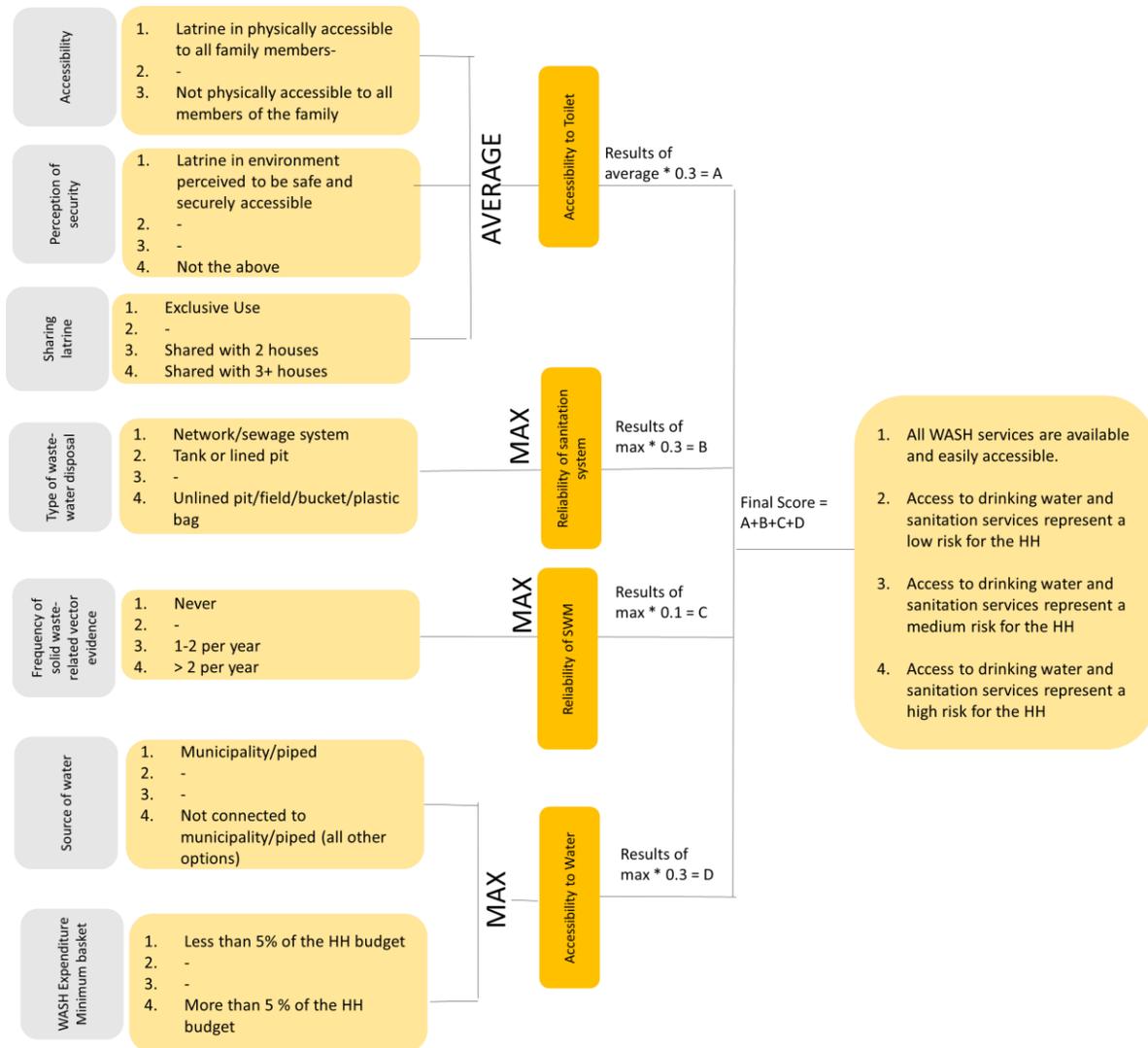
The following additions have been included within the sector at the request of the Disability Task Force (DTF) to ensure that elderly or persons with disabilities (PwDs) and/or impairments can physically access the latrine and WASH facilities.

WASH: Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (Household)		
- Is a latrine and WASH facilities physically accessible to all members of the household?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
- Is the latrine located in an environment which is perceived to be safe (infrastructure) & securely (no personal risk) accessible to all members of the household?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

PwDs may encounter specific difficulties in relation to the WASH sector when it comes to the use of latrine, shower and access to safe water. Two questions of relevance for inclusion within the WASH sector which are being included as a result of consultation and discussion with the WASH sector. This will enable the WASH sector to identify where specific responses are needed to accommodate vulnerable individuals; including elderly or PwDs. For example this should allow asses to what extent people with difficulties from the household are able to use the different hygiene equipment in their home. While a household which has access to toilet and/or safe water are considered as acceptable should be rated as ineligible from the sector perspective, the presence within the family of a person with disability should automatically lead to extra attention paid to the accessibility of the said equipment. If the family has no or un-adapted access to water or toilet and is considered as eligible, accessibility should remain important criteria if the household includes one person with disability.

² [L'eau potable est elle d'un prix abordable?](#) (Smets 2008)

WASH SECTOR TREE V.2



METHODOLOGY

The revision of the sector tree was undertaken by the members of a Task Force, comprised of WASH sector members. The Task Force included representatives from the following agencies: ACF, ACTED, REACH and UNHCR.

1	Low	All WASH services are available and easily accessible.
2	Moderate	Access to drinking water and sanitation services represent a low risk for the HH
3	High	Access to drinking water and sanitation services represent a medium risk for the HH
4	Severe	Access to drinking water and sanitation services represent a high risk for the HH

Cases which fall in either high or severe vulnerability categories based on the new sector tree mean that the case has a high or severe vulnerability in terms of access to drinking water or sanitation in terms of experiencing issues regarding sharing latrines with more than one household, issues pertaining to solid waste management and waste water disposal which affect overall sanitation and hygiene. Cases which assessed by the VAF and receive a score of 3 or 4 are prioritized for WASH intervention targeting by WASH intervention VAF partners or non-VAF partners under a data sharing agreement with UNHCR to share vulnerability data.

For more information on the WASH sector tree revision please contact Eva Diaz Ugena ugena@unhcr.org