Vulnerability Assessment Framework

FOOD SECURITY SECTOR DECISION TREE REVISION FOR VULNERABILITY SCORING

FOOD SECURITY SIGNIFICANCE TO THE VAF

WFP provides targeted food voucher assistance to approximately 80% of the Syrian refugee population living outside camps. All refugees living in camps receive WFP food voucher assistance along with a daily provision of fresh bread. Nonetheless, the VAF analysis, in line with the 2014 WFP/REACH CFSME results, demonstrates that Syrian families still face considerable difficulties in maintaining their food security. A reduction in WFP food assistance would have a dramatic impact, putting many refugee families at risk of falling into high or severe food insecurity.

WFP was able to provide blanket food assistance to registered Syrian refugees until October 2014. Since then it has incrementally reduced food assistance by adopting targeted assistance. The VAF Baseline reflected similar findings to WFP Food Security monitoring conducted in 2015. If funding limits WFP's ability to provide food assistance for the most vulnerable families, anticipated that there would be significant shifts in the vulnerability ratings.

FOOD SECURITY SECTOR V.1

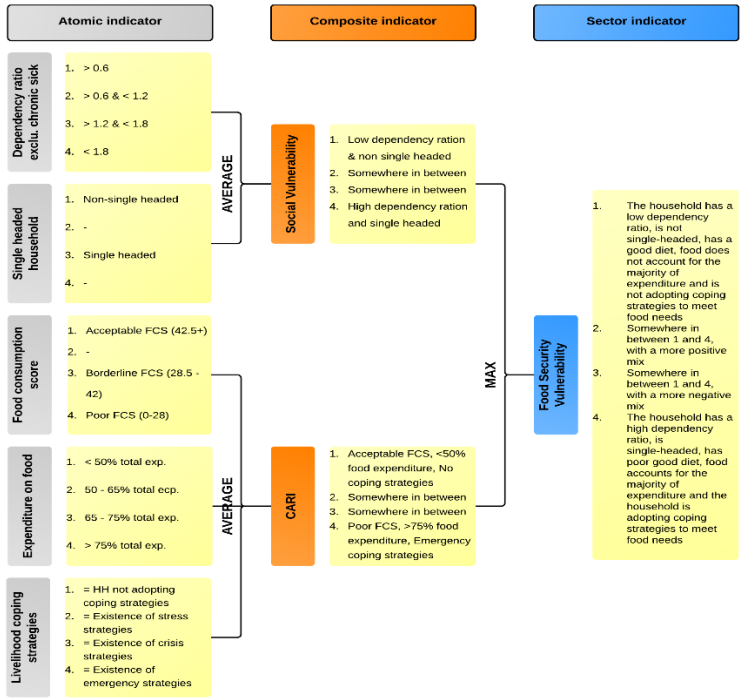
The original tree was created through consultation with the sector following a workshop using Home Visit data to predict vulnerability. The intention was to create a consistent approach to the assessment of the Home Visit data set across the sectors. In the original sector tree the Food Security sector identified factors related to food vulnerability based on globally recognized standards and tools. The CARI (Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security) is a WFP global methodology for assessing food vulnerability. In addition to the CARI the Food Sector identified Social vulnerability, which is assessed through identifying high dependency ratios and single headed households as significant in identifying vulnerability.

The Food Security working group reviewed the home visit data and provided draft versions of assessment criteria they deemed important and is reflected in the original sector tree as below:

1) Dependency ratio; excluding chronically sick
2) Single Headed Households (adjustment made in revised tree to assist in further identification of vulnerability amongst households and other vulnerable individuals e.g. disability, chronic disease,)
    a. Thereby the following two components: Dependency Ratio score & Single Headed Households are used as proxy indicators to provide a **Social vulnerability score** between 1 (low), 2, (moderate), 3 (high) & 4 (severe).
3) Food Consumption Score (FCS)
4) Expenditure on Food
5) Livelihood coping strategies
    a. WFP is using its corporate consolidated approach to reporting on indicators (CARI) of food security. Thereby the following three components are used as proxy indicators to assess refugees' food security: 1) food consumption

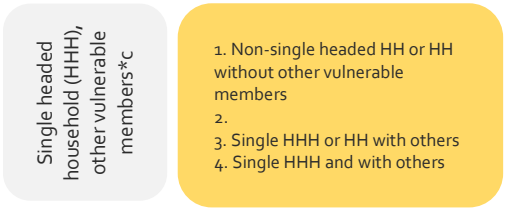
score, 2) expenditure on food, and 3) livelihood/asset depleting coping strategies providing a **CARI vulnerability score** between 1 (low), 2, (moderate), 3 (high) & 4 (severe).

The overall **Food Security score** is calculated taking a maximum value from either the two composite indicators from the **Social vulnerability score** or **CARI vulnerability score**.

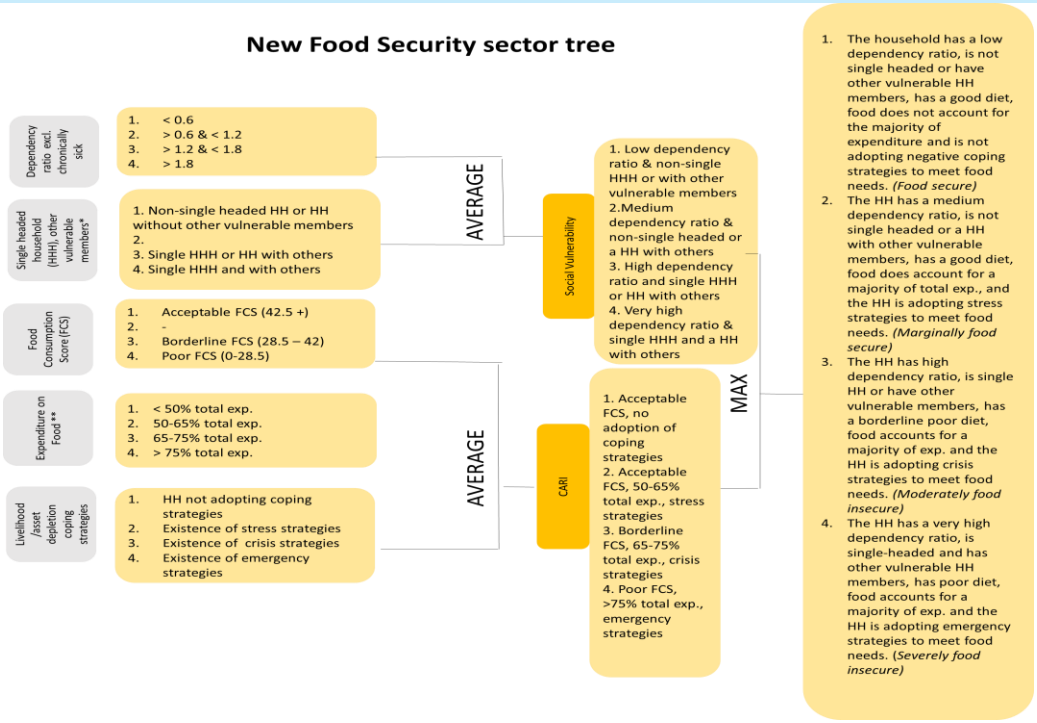


FOOD SECURITY SECTOR TREE V.2

In 2016, after a year of implementation and using the original sector tree, and following three months of consultations with the sector it was recommended by WFP in order to better identify vulnerable households (HH) and individuals within the HH that the new sector tree shall now include single headed households and/or households with other vulnerable members with disability and/or chronic disease as priority.



REVISED SECTOR TREE



METHODOLOGY

1. The qualities are ranked are assigned a weight from 1 - 4;

1	Low	Low dependency ratio above 0.6 AND non- single headed case AND acceptable FCS (42.5+) AND less than 50% total expenditure AND no coping strategies.
2	Moderate	Medium dependency ratio, is not single HH or a HH with other vulnerable members, has a good diet, food does account for a majority of expenses and HH is adopting stress strategies to meet food needs
3	High	High dependency ratio, is single HH or have other vulnerable members, has a borderline poor diet, food accounts for a majority of expenses and HH is adopting crisis strategies to meet food needs
4	Severe	Very high dependency ratio (less than 1.8), is single HH case OR poor FCS (0-28), less than 75 % food expenditure, existence of emergency coping strategies

The above Food Security sector tree has been reviewed, tested and endorsed by the sector. Currently WFP are using the Food Security Sector tree complementarily with the welfare universal indicator to for appeal cases to provide cash assist for food. For more information on this process please contact Erin Carey at WFP erin.carey@wfp.org