



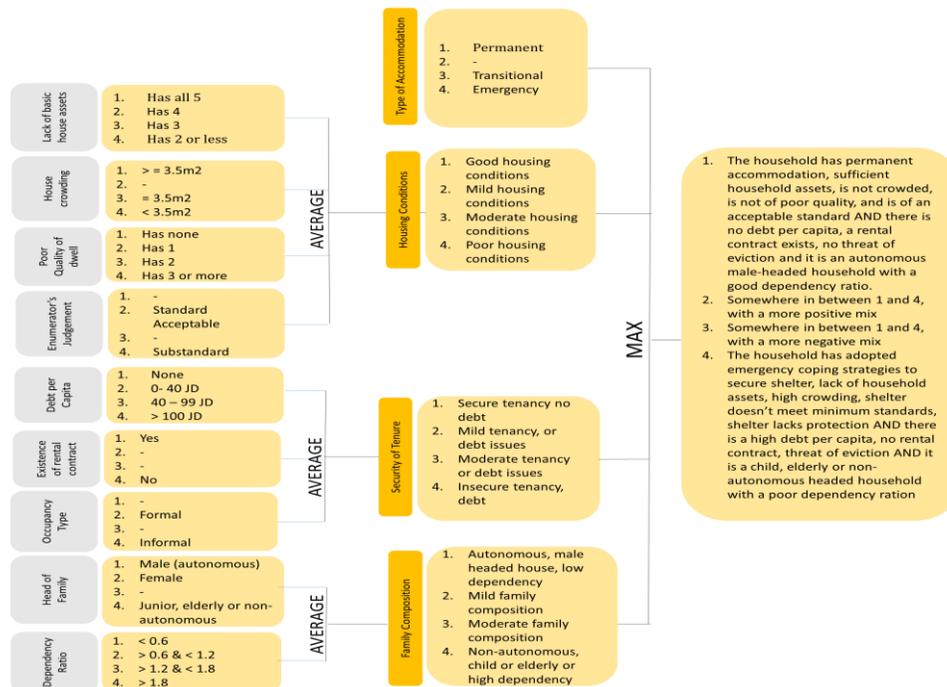
Vulnerability Assessment Framework

SHELTER SECTOR TREE FOR VULNERABILITY SCORING

The revision of the shelter sector tree for vulnerability scoring has been based on input from shelter actors who have used the existing decision tree in the evaluation of vulnerability, prioritization and targeting of Syrian refugees. The shelter sector provides a set of interventions each aiming at addressing particular shelter vulnerabilities. The sector overall score can only be used as a prioritization tool at national and local level, however the selection of both beneficiary and type of intervention should be based on a more sensitive analysis of the sub-categories scores. In order to mainstream the use of VAF scoring across shelter actors, the Shelter Working Group will include considerations of the VAF sector and sub-category scores in the existing technical guidelines for each of the shelter interventions.

SHELTER SECTOR TREE v. 1

Shelter sector original decision making tree



The sector working group identified that the existing shelter tree while comprehensive in capturing various indicators as visible above, it was agreed that some indicators are no longer relevant.. As a result the following changes have been made:

The Shelter Sector working group agreed to remove the following atomic indicator components from the original sector tree:

- **Lack of basic house assets** was determined to be irrelevant to current shelter interventions and more closely associated with Basic Needs / NFI intervention.
- **Debt per capita:** captured within the Basic Needs sector tree and Basic needs sector scores can be used complementarily with the shelter score to improve vulnerability identification (duplication removal)
- **Dependency ratio:** this data is currently captured as a universal indicator within the VAF and can be used with shelter score if required (duplication removal)

Restructuring of existing indicators:

- **House crowding:** there was a decision to shift away from the metric of > 3.5m², =3.5m² or <3.5m² and instead use the new definition for **“House Crowding (density)”**. There are no specific quantifiable standards applied for refugees living in urban shelters. The traditional surface area of 3,5m²/per person is considered as a minimum surface area for a temporary shelter. Given the variation in living standards, building configuration and challenges for enumerators to measure accurately the size of room(s) when conducting household visits and assessments. The original indicator was difficult to assess given complexity of architecture, time & equipment required. It was therefore proposed to define house crowding based on number of individuals, number of households and number of rooms (not including bathroom and kitchen) divided as per below:
 - i. ONE household (less than 4 individuals per room) will be categorized as “Low Vulnerability”; weighted 1.
 - ii. Two (2) households living in one room (less than 4 individuals per household) will be categorized as “Moderately Vulnerable”; weighted 2.
 - iii. ONE household with more than 4 individuals per room living in insufficient or limited space will be categorized as “Highly Vulnerable”; weighted 3.
 - iv. Two or plus (2+) household families living together in limited space area with or without partition wall for privacy will be categorized “Severely Vulnerable”; weighted 4
- **Poor quality of dwelling:** captured in greater detail as described below in new sector tree indicator **“Shelter Conditions”**
- **Enumerator Judgement:** will be removed, as **“Shelter conditions”** now highlights specific threats and risks in identifying required shelter repairs and maintenance.
- **Shelter type:** It was agreed to remove duplication by combining two of the original indicators in to one ‘Type of Accommodation and Enumerator Judgement’ and be reclassified as Shelter Type following the below formula:

Shelter type (New tree)		Type of Accommodation & Enumerator Judgement (Original tree)
Finished Building	1	If Permanent Shelter (Type) & Standard (Enumerator Judgement)
Non-finished Building	2	
Substandard Building	3	If Permanent Shelter (Type) & Sub-standard (Enumerator Judgement)
Informal	4	If Transitional Shelter (Type) OR Temporary/Emergency Shelter (Enumerator Judgement)

The four (4) categories under shelter type in the new tree are defined as:

- i. **Finished building:** Any type of building designed as accommodation, fully constructed with basic and running features i.e. electricity, plumbing, connection to services (water & sewage), with easy and safe access to building will be categorized “Low Vulnerability”; weighted 1;
- ii. **Non-finished building:** Any type of building designed as accommodation, and is under construction where some or all of the basic features are not yet available (electricity – plumbing – water & sewage connections) will be categorized “Moderately Vulnerable”; weighted 2;
- iii. **Sub-standard building:** Any type of building i.e. school, factory, warehouse, garage, shop, etc. Not designed as accommodation, which require some upgrade and transformation to meet the minimum requirement for accommodation with adequate access to standard features (water, sanitation, electricity, natural light and ventilation) will be categorized “Highly Vulnerable”; weighted 3.
- iv. **Informal accommodation:** Any makeshift shelter built by refugees themselves. The encampment is a basic shelter with or without connection to water and sanitation facilities, with or without adequate drainage and lighting will be categorized “Severely Vulnerable”; weighted 4.

Shelter conditions: NRC assessment results recognize that a majority of refugees share similar concerns about the need to maintain and/or repair their shelter/housing at varying degrees¹. This will be ascertained by recording the status of the shelter condition by scoring each category separately:

- Acceptable condition of natural ventilation, natural lighting, safety and electrical features and adequate protection from the elements (roof openings); weighted 1
- Substandard condition of natural ventilation and/ or natural lighting; weighted 2
- Substandard condition of safety and/or electrical features; weighted 3
- Substandard condition: Lack of protection from the elements (wind and rain) leaking roof and/or roof openings; weighted 4.

During the last 12 months, the reliability of the VAF Shelter section has been monitored based on the results from the sector tree. The results tend to underline gaps between refugees with severe vulnerability compared to low vulnerability rates. Review of February and September 2015 VAF Baseline assessment shelter data shows that cases with moderate vulnerability still need to be prioritized for response.



In translation at sector level and through VAF Baseline data, it is possible to reduce the number of moderately vulnerable cases by understanding in greater detail substandard shelter conditions to prioritize response and improving security of tenure. The new categorization of the shelter conditions will advise which interventions to undertake for the refugees while ensuring their security of tenure without further empowerment of the landlords. Using conditional cash transfer programming such as the upgrading of substandard shelters coupled with securing both rent reduction and lease agreement, is a good example.

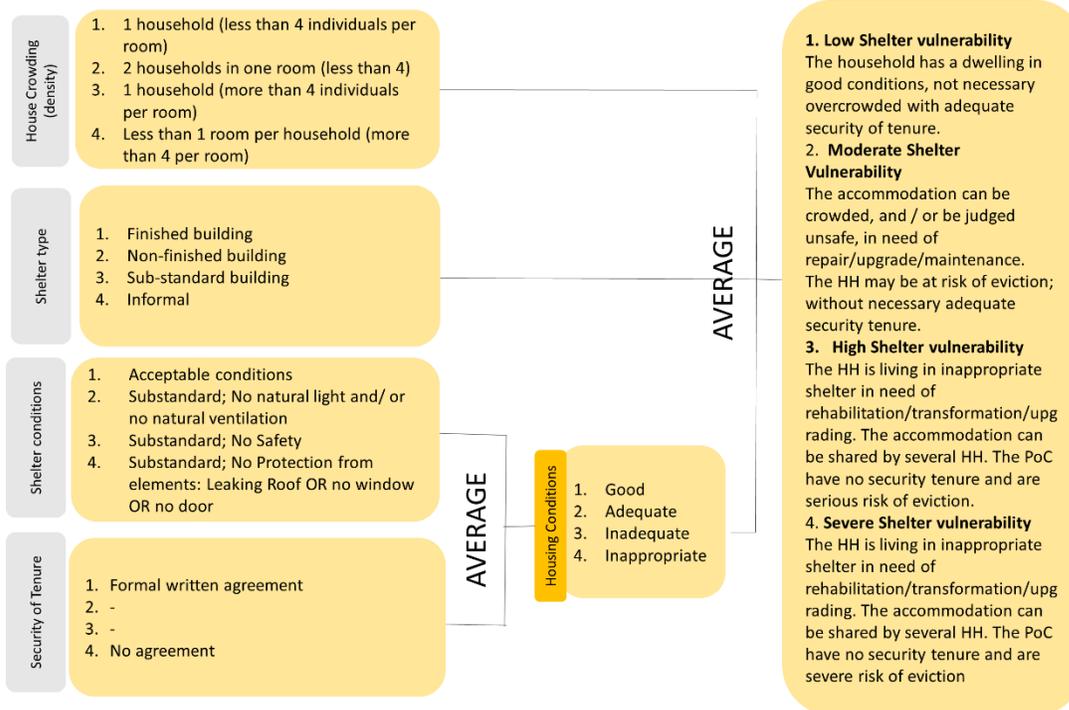
Security of Tenure

For the vast majority of the Syrian refugees living outside the camps, finding affordable shelter posed as their main challenge, it is also the most cited cause of tension with hosting communities. As a consequence many Syrian families are accepting substandard housing arrangements without any form of tenancy agreements. Security of tenure will provide the refugee tenant with necessary legal protection from eviction and will strengthen the balance of power between tenants and landlords. The type and formalities of rental agreement was agreed to be a stronger indicator of vulnerability regarding risk of eviction comparatively to the length of a rental agreement.

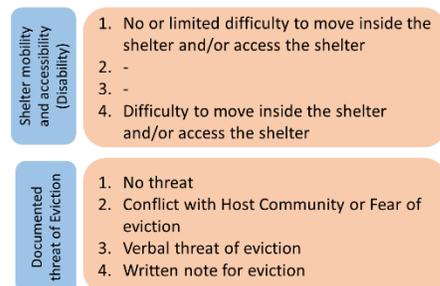
Existence of rental contract (New tree)		Existence of rental agreement (Original tree)
Formal Written Agreement	1	Rental contract exists + annually, or +bi-annually, or + monthly
No Agreement	4	Rental contract doesn't exist

¹ Fact Sheet Urban Shelter Programme NRC 2015: <http://reports.nrc.jo/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/IUSP.pdf>

SHELTER SECTOR TREE V.2



Supplementary Shelter sector scoring



If you would like any further information on the shelter sector tree revisions which has been endorsed and adopted by the sector please contact Vincent Dupin (UNHCR) dupin@unhcr.org, Richard Evans (NRC) richard.evans@nrc.no or Elias Jourdi (NRC) elias.jourdi@nrc.no. Or for further information regarding the VAF sector tree revision process please contact Olivia Cribb (UNHCR) cribb@unhcr.org