
SIMAWG WORKSHOP REPORT

Needs Identification
Framework (NIF)
Kick-Off Workshop
Gaziantep
7-8 April 2015

BACKGROUND

The Whole of Syria Needs Identification Framework (NIF) kick-off workshop was conducted by SIMAWG in Gaziantep from 7 - 8 of April 2015 [Annex1 – NIF concept note].

The workshop brought together sector representatives from the Hubs, WoS sector focal points, INGOs, Syrian NGOs and technical expertise involved in established interagency assessment and monitoring processes: Area of Origin, Dynamo, SAMI's MSNA, NPM, SNAP and HTAU [Annex 2: participants list].

As tasked by the ISCCG, the purpose of the workshop was to kick-off the work on NIF and to develop a concrete work plan, next steps and ultimately recommendations for implementation. The group has a time-limited duration with end of May milestones, for reporting against progress, to guide future planning and to take tangible actions for implementation.

Note that the NIF focus is to create an inclusive whole of Syria Needs Identification Framework which capitalizes on strengthening existing methodologies. The focus of the group is to explore specific needs identification methodologies, without delving into the methodologies in detail or make specific recommendations for altering any of these initiatives, some of which are ongoing.

OBJECTIVES

The overarching objective is to:

“Identify and learn from needs identification methodologies, data collection, processing and analysis efforts taking place within the Whole of Syria (WoS) approach and develop timely interventions to improve decision-making and need-based response to populations affected within Syria by the current crisis to feed into the 2016 HNO.”

The main NIF workshop objectives were two-fold:

- 1) Bring together and learn from current and historical needs identification initiatives for the creation of a comprehensive WoS Needs Identification Framework.
- 2) Share expertise and knowledge in the area of needs identification in the Syrian context.

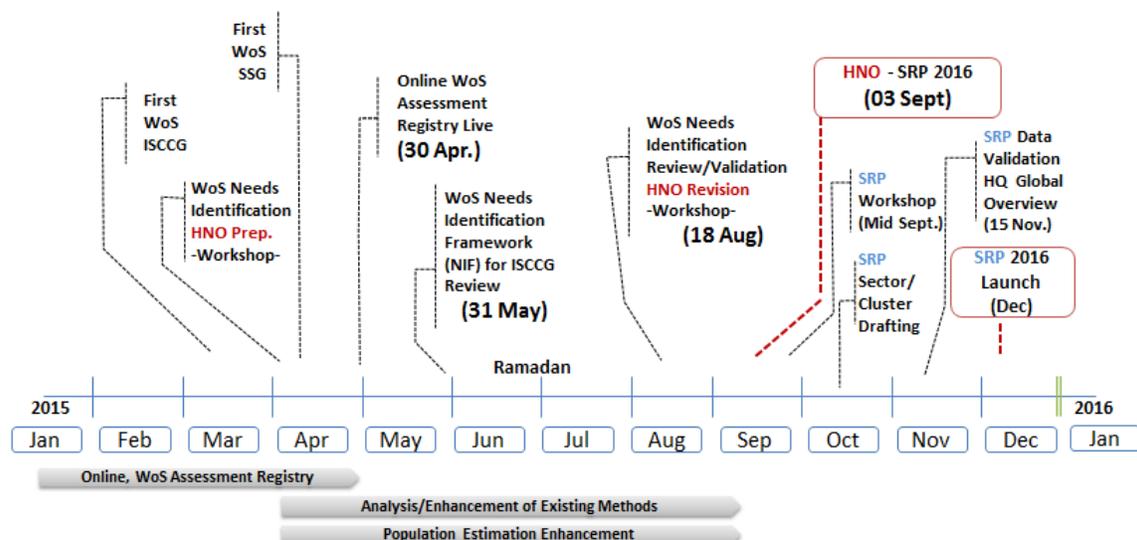
WHAT WAS PRIORITISED?

Over two days, the participants agreed on the following priorities:

- 1. Online, WoS Assessment Registry: Develop an inclusive WoS assessment and monitoring online registry** that will provide an overview of assessment and monitoring coverage as well as gaps. Analysis cases and products will be drawn from the registry to shed light on geographic, sector/cluster and temporal coverage requiring more attention.
- 2. Analysis/ Enhancement of Existing Methods: Undertake a comparative analysis of the existent data collection and analysis methods** that feed into the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC), Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the Strategic Response Plan (SRP). Such temporal, geographic and sector/cluster analysis will lead to harmonization in collection and analysis between the different methods where possible. It will also provide baseline for identifying complementary, gaps and overlap of existing multi-sector assessments for this year's HNO. **Identify and recommend putting into practice technical solutions that allow better needs identification analysis** by making use of sector/cluster and multi-sector/cluster data processes. Recommended technical solutions would include sequencing of reporting and standardization of; confidence levels, severity scales, common definitions, minimum common indicators, etc.
- 3. Population Estimation Enhancement: Conduct a review of Population in Need (PiN) estimation methodologies inherent in current initiatives and those under development** to recommend standardized methods or analytical processes to manage these figures within the WoS approach, while taking into consideration displacement tracking. **Review and suggest Total Population estimation methodologies** to arrive at the best estimations possible for use in operations.

This work is guided by the overall direction of moving towards systematic and predictable sectors' assessments ensuring better defined sectoral pins at sub-district level.

Milestone dates are highlighted in the calendar below and put into context of the WoS Humanitarian Programme Cycle.



WHAT MORE? [Annex 3 – Sessions report]

Through the discussions, the need for clarifying the roles and responsibilities' of the sectors/clusters and agencies within the NIF, became apparent. The guiding logic, for clarification, will be based previous SIMAWG work (Modifications to agreements on WoS 4Ws workflow).

Participants recommended the exploration of methods for balancing between quantitative and qualitative data and ensure that protection is mainstreamed into different methods including sex, age, disability and diversity disaggregation.

HOW WILL WE FOLLOW UP?

Workshop agreements will be reflected in the WoS Needs Identification Framework (NIF). The NIF will encompass the various work-streams and tie everything together into a guiding document, issued by the SIMAWG. It will be accompanied by technical briefs which will go into more detailed technical recommendations and best practices. The WoS Needs Identification Framework will be recommended by the SIMAWG to the ISCCG for feedback and approval.

For each work stream created as a result of the workshop, a concept note and detailed work plan will be developed and led by a SIMAWG subgroup or sprint team.

The different work-stream plans are compiled together under a master work plan that provides a holistic picture of the work and will keep it on-track [Annex 4 - work plan].

The group will continue virtually (a collaborative online forum has been established for coordination of the work) and in face-to-face SIMIWG Needs Sub-group meetings with frequent reporting to the SIMAWG and ISCCG.

By the end of May, a SIMAWG progress report will be submitted to the ISCCG with a next steps request for endorsement.

On behalf of the SIMAWG

Andrew Alspach

April 16, 2015

Amman