# RISK LIST

## CODEBOOK

November 2021

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# Introduction

This document explains how to access, understand, and use ACAPS Risk Lists. A Risk List enumerates the risks ACAPS analysts have identified. ACAPS analysts conduct daily monitoring and independent analysis of more than 150 countries to support evidence-based decision-making in the humanitarian sector. The information comes from publicly available sources and expert opinions.

## Objectives of risk analysis

Risk analysis supports strategic planning, creates awareness, and promotes discussion among humanitarian policymakers, aid workers, and donors by helping them understand the possible ways in which crises may evolve and where a notable escalation of a crisis may cause a spike in humanitarian needs.

Risk analysis enables ACAPS to:

- ensure that our monitoring of – and reporting on – countries and crises is forward-looking and our analyses are informed
- gain advance warning about countries and crises that call for more in-depth reporting
- publish specific risk reports as necessary

# Risk List methodology and structure

Each Risk List is created using the ACAPS Risk Analysis Methodology.

## Key principles of risk analysis

- Risk analysis requires a solid understanding of the context and an investigation of how interacting variables may cause or resist change.
- Risk analysis is not an exact science. An event identified as a hazard might not evolve or materialise as expected, or it might not have the projected impact. Events or factors (triggers) that had been expected to drive a shift or change in a situation may not occur, and new factors might arise that prevent the projected change or shift from happening.
- The probability of a risk does not need to be high to warrant concern. A hazardous event with a low or medium probability of occurring should be a cause for concern for humanitarians if we expect its impact to be medium, high, or very high.

## Key terms used in a Risk List

- Risk: the probability of a hazard (or multiple hazards) occurring combined with the estimated impact of the hazard(s). In other words: risk = impact x probability.
- Trigger: an event that, should it occur, may cause a risk to materialise.
- Vulnerability: the conditions determined by physical, social, economic, and environmental factors or processes that increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets, or systems to the impacts of hazards.
- Exposure: the number of people exposed to a hazard and requiring additional humanitarian assistance as a direct consequence of the hazard materialising (also known as People in Need or PiN).
- Impact: the expected overall humanitarian consequences of a risk. This includes both the increase in the number of people in need of assistance (the exposure of the event) and the increase in level(s) and type(s) of need(s) (the intensity of the hazard). Impact depends on exposure to the hazard, the intensity of the hazard, and the population's vulnerability and coping capacity.
- Intensity: the degree to which a hazard affects basic needs (i.e. essential goods and services).
- Probability: the chance of a hazard materialising, usually expressed as a number between 0 and 1 or as a percentage. While the terms' likelihood' and 'probability' are used interchangeably in the humanitarian community, ACAPS uses 'probability'.

**Data structure**

In an ACAPS Risk List, each entry represents one risk identified by our analysts.

Data is uploaded in the dataset according to the structure and coding system illustrated below.

| Column | Variable name | Format | Codes | Missing values | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Risk ID | Numeric and text | None | Not allowed | Unique code for each entry |
| 2 | COUNTRY | Text | (See country list in the annex) | Not allowed | |
| 3 | ISO3 | Text | ISO3 code | Not allowed | |
| 4 | Crisis ID | Numeric and text | | Allowed | If the risk is related with a crisis included in the INFORM Severity Index, then the related crisis ID is included here. |
| 5 | Risk title | Text | None | Not allowed | Brief description of the risk (up to 10 words) |
| 6 | Geographic level | Text | Subnational, National, Regional | Not allowed | The geographic coverage of the risk. If a risk is 'Subnational', it only concerns some areas of the country. If a risk is 'National', it concerns the whole country. If a risk is 'Regional', it concerns more than one country. |
| 7 | Risk type | Text | Marked deterioration in an existing crisis, the future impact of a hazard that has already materialised, or a new, emerging risk | Not allowed | |
| 8 | Date entered | Date | None | Not allowed | The date the risk is entered by the ACAPS analyst |
| 9 | Last risk update | Date | None | Not allowed | The date the risk has last been updated |
| 10 | Published | Date | None | Allowed | If this risk has been included in an ACAPS analysis or report, the date of the release is included here. This table may include information that was added after the release of the report mentioned. |
| 11 | Publication link | URL | None | Allowed | If this risk has been included in an ACAPS analysis or report, the link to the publication is included here. |

| 12 | Triggers | Text | None | Not allowed | The triggers of the risk are described here. |
|----|----------|------|------|-------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 13 | Rationale | Text | None | Not allowed | The narrative of the risk may include information on the causes of the risk and the potential impact on the humanitarian situation. |
| 14 | Exposure | Numerical range | <10,000 10,000–50,000 50,000–100,000 100,000–250,000 >250,000 | Not allowed | The number of people exposed to the impact and requiring additional humanitarian assistance because the hazard materialised. The exposure is represented as a predefined range. |
| 15 | Vulnerability | Text | None | Not allowed | We consider vulnerability and capacity elements together. This variable represents an estimate of the extent to which the affected community will be affected by the shock, considering its underlying vulnerabilities and its coping capacity and resilience. For more information on how vulnerability is estimated, check the ACAPS Risk Analysis Methodology. |
| 16 | Intensity | Text | None | Not allowed | Intensity is the strength of the hazard – an estimate of the degree to which a community will be affected. For more information on how intensity is estimated, check the ACAPS Risk Analysis Methodology. |
| 17 | Impact | Number | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 | Not allowed | The objective of estimating impact is to foresee the humanitarian consequences if the risk materialises. The impact is calculated by considering people's exposure to the shock, the intensity of the shock, and the vulnerability and coping capacity of those affected. For more information on how impact is estimated, check the ACAPS Risk Analysis Methodology. |

| 18 | Probability | Text | Very Low, Low, Medium, High, Very High | Not allowed | The probability of an event (or hazard) is the chance of its occurring. For more information on how probability is estimated, check the ACAPS Risk Analysis Methodology. |
| 19 | Risk level | Text | Low, Medium, High | Not allowed | ACAPS defines risk as probability x impact. We combine the probability with the impact for each hazard; this gives us the risk. Risks will fall into one of three categories: Low, Medium, and High. For more information on how the risk level is estimated, check the ACAPS Risk Analysis Methodology. |
| 20 | Status | Text | Active, Materialised, Not materialised | Not allowed | This describes the current monitoring status of the risk. If a risk is marked as Active, it is actively being monitored by the ACAPS team. If a risk is marked as Materialised or Not Materialised, it is no longer considered Active and therefore is no longer being updated. |

## Limitations

- Considering the diversity and complexity of crises, ACAPS cannot cover each one in detail. Instead, a Risk List presents the broad evolution of each crisis to flag potential deteriorations and inform operational, strategic, and policy decisions.
- In this tool, we do not consider unforeseen circumstances that may change the course of events (e.g. sudden-onset disasters, including natural hazards such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions).
- Information gaps limit the analysis.
- While ACAPS strives to ensure that all information is current, the fluidity of situations in some countries means that significant changes can occur quickly.

# Annex

## Country list, ISO codes, and regions

| Country name | ISO3 | REGION |
|---|---|---|
| Afghanistan | AFG | Asia |
| Albania | ALB | Europe |
| Algeria | DZA | Africa |
| Angola | AGO | Africa |
| Antigua and Barbuda | ATG | Americas |
| Argentina | ARG | Americas |
| Armenia | ARM | Asia |
| Australia | AUS | Pacific |
| Austria | AUT | Europe |
| Azerbaijan | AZE | Asia |
| Bahamas | BHS | Americas |
| Bahrain | BHR | Middle East |
| Bangladesh | BGD | Asia |
| Barbados | BRB | Americas |
| Belarus | BLR | Europe |
| Belgium | BEL | Europe |
| Belize | BLZ | Americas |
| Benin | BEN | Africa |
| Bhutan | BTN | Asia |
| Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | BOL | Americas |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | BIH | Europe |
| Botswana | BWA | Africa |
| Brazil | BRA | Americas |
| Brunei Darussalam | BRN | Asia |
| Bulgaria | BGR | Europe |
| Burkina Faso | BFA | Africa |
| Burundi | BDI | Africa |
| Cabo Verde | CPV | Africa |
| Cambodia | KHM | Asia |

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|---|---|---|
| **Cameroon** | CMR | Africa |
| **Canada** | CAN | Americas |
| **Central African Republic** | CAF | Africa |
| **Chad** | TCD | Africa |
| **Chile** | CHL | Americas |
| **China** | CHN | Asia |
| **Colombia** | COL | Americas |
| **Comoros** | COM | Africa |
| **Congo** | COG | Africa |
| **Congo (Democratic Republic of)** | COD | Africa |
| **Costa Rica** | CRI | Americas |
| **Côte d'Ivoire** | CIV | Africa |
| **Croatia** | HRV | Europe |
| **Cuba** | CUB | Americas |
| **Cyprus** | CYP | Europe |
| **Czechia** | CZE | Europe |
| **Denmark** | DNK | Europe |
| **Djibouti** | DJI | Africa |
| **Dominica** | DMA | Americas |
| **Dominican Republic** | DOM | Americas |
| **Ecuador** | ECU | Americas |
| **Egypt** | EGY | Africa |
| **El Salvador** | SLV | Americas |
| **Equatorial Guinea** | GNQ | Africa |
| **Eritrea** | ERI | Africa |
| **Estonia** | EST | Europe |
| **Ethiopia** | ETH | Africa |
| **Fiji** | FJI | Pacific |
| **Finland** | FIN | Europe |
| **France** | FRA | Europe |
| **Gabon** | GAB | Africa |
| **Gambia** | GMB | Africa |
| **Georgia** | GEO | Europe |

| Germany | DEU | Europe |
|---|---|---|
| Ghana | GHA | Africa |
| Greece | GRC | Europe |
| Grenada | GRD | Americas |
| Guatemala | GTM | Americas |
| Guinea | GIN | Africa |
| Guinea-Bissau | GNB | Africa |
| Guyana | GUY | Americas |
| Haiti | HTI | Americas |
| Honduras | HND | Americas |
| Hungary | HUN | Europe |
| Iceland | ISL | Europe |
| India | IND | Asia |
| Indonesia | IDN | Asia |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | IRN | Middle East |
| Iraq | IRQ | Middle East |
| Ireland | IRL | Europe |
| Israel | ISR | Middle East |
| Italy | ITA | Europe |
| Jamaica | JAM | Americas |
| Japan | JPN | Asia |
| Jordan | JOR | Middle East |
| Kazakhstan | KAZ | Asia |
| Kenya | KEN | Africa |
| Kiribati | KIR | Pacific |
| Korea (Democratic People's Republic of) | PRK | Asia |
| Korea (Republic of) | KOR | Asia |
| Kuwait | KWT | Middle East |
| Kyrgyzstan | KGZ | Asia |
| Lao (People's Democratic Republic) | LAO | Asia |
| Latvia | LVA | Europe |
| Lebanon | LBN | Middle East |

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|---|---|---|
| **Lesotho** | LSO | Africa |
| **Liberia** | LBR | Africa |
| **Libya** | LBY | Africa |
| **Liechtenstein** | LIE | Europe |
| **Lithuania** | LTU | Europe |
| **Luxembourg** | LUX | Europe |
| **Madagascar** | MDG | Africa |
| **Malawi** | MWI | Africa |
| **Malaysia** | MYS | Asia |
| **Maldives** | MDV | Asia |
| **Mali** | MLI | Africa |
| **Malta** | MLT | Europe |
| **Marshall Islands** | MHL | Pacific |
| **Mauritania** | MRT | Africa |
| **Mauritius** | MUS | Africa |
| **Mexico** | MEX | Americas |
| **Micronesia (Federated States of)** | FSM | Pacific |
| **Moldova (Republic of)** | MDA | Europe |
| **Mongolia** | MNG | Asia |
| **Montenegro** | MNE | Europe |
| **Morocco** | MAR | Africa |
| **Mozambique** | MOZ | Africa |
| **Myanmar** | MMR | Asia |
| **Namibia** | NAM | Africa |
| **Nauru** | NRU | Pacific |
| **Nepal** | NPL | Asia |
| **Netherlands** | NLD | Europe |
| **New Zealand** | NZL | Pacific |
| **Nicaragua** | NIC | Americas |
| **Niger** | NER | Africa |
| **Nigeria** | NGA | Africa |
| **North Macedonia (Republic of)** | MKD | Europe |
| **Norway** | NOR | Europe |

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|---|---|---|
| **Oman** | OMN | Middle East |
| **Pakistan** | PAK | Asia |
| **Palau** | PLW | Pacific |
| **Palestine** | PSE | Middle East |
| **Panama** | PAN | Americas |
| **Papua New Guinea** | PNG | Pacific |
| **Paraguay** | PRY | Americas |
| **Peru** | PER | Americas |
| **Philippines** | PHL | Asia |
| **Poland** | POL | Europe |
| **Portugal** | PRT | Europe |
| **Qatar** | QAT | Middle East |
| **Romania** | ROU | Europe |
| **Russian Federation** | RUS | Europe |
| **Rwanda** | RWA | Africa |
| **Saint Kitts and Nevis** | KNA | Americas |
| **Saint Lucia** | LCA | Americas |
| **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** | VCT | Americas |
| **San Marino** | SMR | Europe |
| **Samoa** | WSM | Pacific |
| **Sao Tome and Principe** | STP | Africa |
| **Saudi Arabia** | SAU | Middle East |
| **Senegal** | SEN | Africa |
| **Serbia** | SRB | Europe |
| **Seychelles** | SYC | Africa |
| **Sierra Leone** | SLE | Africa |
| **Singapore** | SGP | Asia |
| **Slovakia** | SVK | Europe |
| **Slovenia** | SVN | Europe |
| **Solomon Islands** | SLB | Pacific |
| **Somalia** | SOM | Africa |
| **South Africa** | ZAF | Africa |
| **South Sudan** | SSD | Africa |

| Spain | ESP | Europe |
|---|---|---|
| Sri Lanka | LKA | Asia |
| Sudan | SDN | Africa |
| Suriname | SUR | Americas |
| Swaziland | SWZ | Africa |
| Sweden | SWE | Europe |
| Switzerland | CHE | Europe |
| Syrian Arab Republic | SYR | Middle East |
| Tajikistan | TJK | Asia |
| Tanzania (United Republic of) | TZA | Africa |
| Thailand | THA | Asia |
| Timor-Leste | TLS | Asia |
| Togo | TGO | Africa |
| Tonga | TON | Pacific |
| Trinidad and Tobago | TTO | Americas |
| Tunisia | TUN | Africa |
| Turkey | TUR | Middle East |
| Turkmenistan | TKM | Asia |
| Tuvalu | TUV | Pacific |
| Uganda | UGA | Africa |
| Ukraine | UKR | Europe |
| United Arab Emirates | ARE | Middle East |
| United Kingdom | GBR | Europe |
| United States of America | USA | Americas |
| Uruguay | URY | Americas |
| Uzbekistan | UZB | Asia |
| Vanuatu | VUT | Pacific |
| Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | VEN | Americas |
| Viet Nam | VNM | Asia |
| Yemen | YEM | Middle East |
| Zambia | ZMB | Africa |
| Zimbabwe | ZWE | Africa |