

INFORM SEVERITY INDEX

DATA COLLECTION MANUAL

ABOUT THE DOCUMENT

This document aims to establish a standardised approach to data collection. It outlines key principles and approaches that ACAPS employs during the data collection process for the INFORM Severity Index, guiding INFORM Severity Index users on ACAPS data and analysis teams’ key decisions.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, which contributed its expertise and time to review and refine these guidelines.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, reach out to the ACAPS team at info@acaps.org. Please mention “INFORM Severity Index Data Collection Guidelines” in the subject of your email to help the support team classify your request. Your feedback and inquiries are always welcome.

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ABOUT INFORM

INFORM, a partnership of 28 organisations, is a multistakeholder forum tasked with developing shared quantitative analyses relevant to humanitarian crises and disasters. INFORM includes organisations from across the multilateral system, including the humanitarian and development sector, donors, and technical stakeholders. The forum's scientific lead is the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. INFORM has developed the following tools:

- [INFORM Risk Index \(operational\)](#)
- [INFORM Warning Tool \(in development\)](#)
- **INFORM Severity Index (operational)**
- [INFORM Climate Change \(operational\)](#).

ABOUT THE INFORM SEVERITY INDEX

The **INFORM Severity Index** provides decision makers with a consistent and reliable summary of information about the severity of humanitarian crises globally.

The **INFORM Severity Index** is a regularly updated and easily interpreted model coherent with other types of ACAPS severity analyses at the local and subnational levels. It enables comparisons of the scale and severity of crises across the world, assesses humanitarian access levels in various contexts, and investigates the level of humanitarian needs for certain population groups.

The INFORM Severity Index aggregates information from a range of credible publicly available sources and provides a reliability level estimate for each crisis. It also provides information on the **distribution of severity** (i.e. the number of people who fall into different severity categories within the same crisis, which constitutes the second pillar of the model). Crises do not equally affect people, and different levels of need require different responses. This distribution is important in understanding the overall severity of a crisis.

The INFORM Severity Index is a composite index bringing together 31 core indicators organised in three dimensions: **impact, conditions of affected people, and complexity**. All the indicators are scored on a scale of 1–5. These scores are then aggregated into components, the three dimensions, and their overall severity category based on the analytical framework.

The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission is responsible for the methodology of the INFORM Severity Index, while ACAPS is responsible for the data collection process. This document presents the manual for data collection processes, while INFORM stakeholders have published and agreed upon a [full description of the methodology](#)¹. ACAPS has extensively employed this methodology document to refine and expand this data collection guideline, making it more comprehensive and detailed.

¹ Poljansek, K., Disperati, P., Vernaccini, L., Nika, A., Marzi, S. and Essenfelder, A.H., 2020, INFORM Severity Index, EUR 30400 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020, ISBN 978-92-76-23014-4, doi:10.2760/94802, JRC122162.

INFORM SEVERITY INDEX – SCORING

The INFORM Severity Index indicators are scored on a scale of 1–5. These scores are then aggregated into components, the three dimensions, and their overall severity category based on the analytical framework (Figure 1).

Figure 1. INFORM Severity Index model

Severity score	INFORM SEVERITY INDEX										
Dimensions	Impact of the crisis				Conditions of people affected		Complexity of the crisis				
Categories	Geographical		Human		People in need	Concentration of conditions	Society and safety		Operating environment		
Components	Affected area	People in the affected area	People affected	People affected by categories	Extreme		Social cohesion	Rule of law	Safety and security	Diversity of groups affected	Humanitarian access
					Severe						
					Moderate						
					Stressed						
					None/minimal						

INFORM SEVERITY INDEX – CRISIS

A humanitarian crisis **is activated (added in) and logged** in the INFORM Severity Index system when both of the following criteria are met:

the number of people affected is at least 30,000 OR 1% of the population

the number of people in need (PIN) is at least 10,000.

A humanitarian crisis is **deactivated (removed)** from the INFORM Severity Index when the crisis does not meet the above criteria anymore, based on the monitored sources, for three consecutive months in the case of sudden-onset disasters or longer (no strict rule depending on the type of crisis) in the case of protracted crises or slow-onset disasters and no updates are available or humanitarian needs are no longer reported or have ceased.

These criteria apply to all types of crises except aggregated crises.

Humanitarian crises in the INFORM Severity Index can differ by the following characteristics:

- the hazardous event or a combination of hazardous events driving the crisis
- the extent of the geographical area the crisis affects
- the number of crises in a country.

The hazardous event may be:

- natural (such as a cold wave, drought, earthquake, or flood)
- human-made (such as conflict, violence-driven displacement, or political and economic deterioration or issues)
- an overlapping of different hazards or geographical areas. More often, a hazardous event can be a combination of both natural and human-made hazards coupled with pre-existing vulnerabilities and structural issues (socioeconomic vulnerabilities, lack of governance, lack of critical infrastructure and basic services, etc.). Even the categories of people affected could overlap. In cases such as this, it is impossible to split the crisis by individual drivers.

The individual crisis vs. country crisis:

- There is always a Severity Index score assigned to collectively represent the crises within a country. If a country is experiencing only one crisis, the country-level score will match the score of that single crisis. If the country is actively facing multiple crises, however, the INFORM country-level score is the aggregate of the scores of all individual crises, which may or may not overlap geographically and can have different causes, sometimes leading to varied humanitarian outcomes.
- The aggregation process combines the individual crisis scores to reflect the cumulative severity. This involves summing up the figures of different indicators for non-overlapping crises or considering the crisis with the highest impact when there is a geographical overlap. This approach ensures that more severe crises have a greater influence on the final country-level score while avoiding duplication in areas where crises overlap.

Geographically, crises can be:

- subnational, affecting one or more specific geographic areas (admin1) within a country
- national, affecting the majority of the country's landmass and affecting the whole country
- connected, those that share drivers over multiple countries (or admin units) and/or impacts. In the second case, crisis do not need to be near geographically, they can belong to the same country or not, be in non-neighbouring countries, continents, etc. Connected crises include the previously called regional crises that have phased out.

INFORM SEVERITY INDEX FRAMEWORK – DATA COLLECTION

As previously mentioned, there are 31 core indicators in the index; 22 are the responsibility of the ACAPS analytical team and need regular updates for each active crisis (Figure 3). The remaining core indicators, which are relevant to society and safety categories, are typically updated annually based on the available information. Please see the content of the data collection tool and mandatory indicators below.

Figure 3: INFORM Severity Index data collection view

[illegible]

Data collection for the INFORM Severity Index involves searching for numbers or figures that correspond with each part of the index. This data can be available from many sources, so we need to carefully decide on which figures to use based on the importance, accuracy, and recency of the information. We must always be able to clearly justify the reason for using one figure and source over another (for both quantitative and qualitative information). Choosing the most recent accurate data from sources with high reliability (or considered the most reliable when high reliability is not possible) helps us capture the most current picture of the crisis.

As the INFORM Severity Index is a composite indicator, it primarily relies on the aggregation of its parts. Its robustness or limitations heavily depend on the quality of the sources. Because of this, thoughtful and detailed attention to data quality and consistency is imperative to ensure the reliability and validity of the resulting composite indicator.

When ACAPS collects data for the INFORM Severity Index, we consider the following.

- The monthly data collection is a **snapshot in time** using the best available information. If there are exceptional circumstances at the time of release, and additional data comes in later, we update and consolidate the previous information accordingly.
- Look for the most **up-to-date resources** and dashboards that have **regular updates**.
- When deciding to use a figure (over another, from a specific source, etc.), we need a valid reason that is apparent in the justification (e.g., multisectoral analysis over IPC when neither drought nor food security drives the crisis).

When looking at different information sources and types, we consider the following **five standard questions** to determine which source or figure to use.

Who?

- Who provided the information? ACAPS identifies the source (e.g. UNHCR, WHO, World Bank) and assesses its reliability.
- Whom does the crisis affect? ACAPS analysts need to clarify which population groups the information covers (e.g. refugees, displaced people, communities in disaster zones).

Where?

- Where was the information obtained from? ACAPS analysts need to specify the geographic location of the data source, such as a specific country or region.
- Where is the crisis taking place? We need to indicate the affected areas that the information covers.

What?

- What does the information represent? The analysts needs to describe the type of data provided (e.g. the number of displaced people, food insecurity levels, disease outbreak statistics).
- What is the context of the information? The analysts explain the circumstances or conditions under which the data was collected.

When?

- When was the information collected, published, or updated? ACAPS analysts will ensure that data is current and relevant to the present situation.
- When did the crisis occur? We contextualise the information within the crisis timeline.

Why?

- Why was this source or information chosen? The analyst will provide a justification for the selection of the source based on its reliability, comprehensiveness, and relevance.
- Why is this information important for understanding the crisis? We highlight the significance of the data in informing response efforts and assessing needs.

Box 1. General examples of questions (should be applied for each subindicator)

Example: Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan

Who?

Who is involved in this crisis? Who provided the information, and how reliable are they?

The crisis involves Syrian refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers as well as host communities. Organisations such as UNHCR, IOM, government institutions, and local NGOs working with refugee populations could provide information on the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan.

The total number of registered Syrian refugees is about 628,100 (UNHCR accessed 30/06/2024). This is the number of Syrian refugees (in and out of camps) under the UNHCR mandate. The reliability of this source is high considering UNHCR's credibility, the specificity and recency of the data, and the comprehensive nature of the count.

The total number of Syrian migrants is nearly 1,225,900, about 597,700 of whom are unregistered (UNHCR 08/07/2024). UNHCR's credibility and expertise make the overall reliability of this source medium; however, it is essential to acknowledge that the inherent difficulties in accurately counting unregistered migrants can introduce some uncertainty.

Where?

Where was the information obtained from? Where is the crisis taking place?

Information can come from UNHCR reports and publications, the Jordanian Government, or humanitarian organisations operating in Jordan, such as iMMAP, REACH, CARE International, Save the Children, and local NGOs.

Based on the reports, what are the main areas hosting the largest number of Syrian refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers?

Jordan is divided into 12 admin1 locations (governorates). Four governorates host about 90% of the Syrians in the country – Amman (29.8%; 187,424 refugees), Mafraq (25.7%; 161,232), Irbid (19.6%; 123,120), and Zarqa (14%; 92,292) (UNHCR accessed 30/06/2024). The source has medium reliability for understanding the distribution of Syrian refugees in Jordan. While it provides valuable, detailed information for the main governorates, the absence of data on the remaining governorates and unregistered refugees limits its comprehensiveness.

What?

What does the information represent? What is the context of the information?

The information should represent various aspects of the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan, including refugee demographics, living conditions in camps or host communities, education and healthcare access, food security levels, and the crisis impact on host communities.

For refugees outside camps, 2% are severely food-insecure, 61% are moderately food-insecure, and 37% are food-secure. For refugees in camps, 1% are severely food-insecure, 55% are moderately food-insecure, and 44% are food-secure (WFP 18/07/2023).

The data comes from a credible source and is specific, making it reliable to an extent. The data is from the first quarter of 2023, although its lack of detailed information necessitates some caution. The numbers can be used as a medium-reliable estimate for assessing the needs and severity distribution.

When?

When was the information collected or published? When did the crisis occur? Is the information typically collected and published periodically?

The information is updated on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis.

Based on the population clock – a real-time estimate of the population size in Jordan – the country's total population was about 11,630,300 on 11 July 2024 (DOS accessed 11/07/2024). The population clock is continuously updated to serve as a dynamic snapshot of population changes, including information on births, deaths, and migration. The reliability of this source is high considering its up-to-date demographic information, including various types of migrants (including Syrian migrants), which is critical data.

Why?

Why was this source or information chosen over another? Why is this information important for understanding the crisis?

This source or information might be chosen over others because it provides comprehensive and reliable data on the Syrian refugee situation in Jordan, it provides monthly updated information, etc.

There are 1,300,000 Syrian refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless people, along with 520,000 host community members, who are in need in Jordan (UNHCR 02/02/2023). This source was chosen over the regular dashboard update, as the latter does not provide overall numbers of Syrians or affected Jordanians, nor does it provide PIN detail (UNHCR accessed 30/06/2024). The older report offers comprehensive information to explain the context better. The WFP food security status data is used to estimate the severity distribution (WFP 18/07/2023). Considering the outdated PIN number and the lack of updated food insecurity data for 2024, the reliability score of these estimates is considered low.

- **If there is not enough information for any indicator**, we leave the figure's cell empty and, in the justification, we write a couple of sentences about the crisis, clearly state that there is no available source to track the indicator and we explain why the information might be lacking.
- It is **better to use humanitarian sources**. If these are lacking, we can use nonhumanitarian sources as long as they are appropriate (i.e. well-related to the indicator), reliable, and consistent.
- Consistency in data sources is essential for reliable analysis. We **avoid switching between different sources for the same indicator**. Using the same sources consistently allows for better comparison of trends over time.
- In the justification, we try to explain the **gaps, challenges, or considerations** for the source or figure.

INFORM SEVERITY INDEX FRAMEWORK – CORE INDICATOR COMPONENTS

INDICATOR	TOTAL POPULATION
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This indicator pertains to the total population of the country adjusted to population movement. This number should include all people living within the boundaries of the country minus (–) all the people who have left the boundaries of the country. <p><i>Total population = Residents + Incoming refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers – Outgoing refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers</i></p> <p>For an active crisis, the total population of the country is updated monthly, quarterly, or annually, depending on data availability.</p> <p>This indicator refers to the whole population, whether the crisis is at the national (country) or subnational level.</p>
Tips and justification	<p>The justification should include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> which categories have been included which categories have not been included the baseline number from which year the data has been taken, and if it is old, why why the source has been used instead of another. <p>1. <u>Using local statistics/census department</u></p> <p>Example: Jordan – Syrian refugee crisis: 11,545,334 (DOS accessed 19/02/2024)</p> <p>This was the population of Jordan by February 2024 using the country's Department of Statistics as a source. This source has been prioritised over others as it already uses the population from the main data source: the General Population and Housing Units Census. The source considers the numbers of births, deaths, immigration to the country (arrivals), and emigration from the country (departures), and it is up-to-date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a source does not consider people coming into and going out of the country, we do the calculation ourselves. <p>2. <u>Using the World Bank</u></p> <p>Example: Colombia – Venezuela displacement in Colombia: 54,874,024 (WB accessed 19/02/2024 a; UNHCR accessed 19/02/2024 a)</p> <p>This is the population of Colombia in mid-2022 using the World Bank estimate, which counts all residents regardless of legal status or citizenship but lacks net migration data. By the end of 2022, there were about 2.5 million Venezuelans in Colombia and 500,000 Colombians returning from Venezuela. The figure includes the sum of both numbers. Because the crisis involves Venezuelan refugees, no migrants of other nationalities have been included.</p> <p>3. <u>Using OCHA</u></p> <p>Example: Afghanistan – complex crisis: 43,100,000 (OCHA 23/01/2023).</p> <p>This is the population of Afghanistan in 2023 using OCHA's Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) as a source. This has been chosen over the World Bank or other local sources as it provides more up-to-date figures and considers population growth, internal displacement, and migration into and out of the country.</p>

INDICATOR	LANDMASS AFFECTED
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This indicator includes the total number of square kilometres that a crisis has affected. This could be the country's entire landmass or a specific admin1/admin2 landmass.
Tips and justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First, we identify the affected admin1 or admin2 landmass based on the crisis and its impact. The analysts match the admin1 or admin2 landmass with the square kilometres from the baseline data to get the total number of square kilometres affected. We explain which admin1 or admin2 areas have been included. We explain the inclusion of these areas and add a couple of sentences describing the crisis. The World Bank has two indicators for landmass: land area (excluding territorial waters) and surface area (including territorial waters). We only consider the land area (square kilometres). Look for a source or dataset that reports this data, and consistently we use it as reference.

<p>Tips and justification</p>	<p>Example: Morocco – al-Haouz earthquake: 53,091.76 (OCHA 27/09/2023; IBC 27/11/2024)</p> <p>On 8 September 2023, a magnitude-6.8 earthquake struck Morocco at a depth of 18.5km. The worst-hit provinces were al-Haouz, Azilal, Chichaoua, Marrakesh, Ouarzazate, and Taroudant. The sum of the landmasses of these provinces has been included as the landmass affected in square kilometres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • al-Haouz: 6,009.57 • Azilal: 9,253.37 • Chichaoua: 7,119.69 • Marrakesh: 2,597.83 • Ouarzazate: 12,191.59 • Taroudant: 15,919.68. <p>Example: Central African Republic – complex crisis: 622,980 (OCHA 11/01/2023; WB accessed 19/02/2024 b)</p> <p>Violence against civilians, forced displacement, insecurity in areas outside urban centres, and food insecurity affect the entire country, and the situation continues to deteriorate. Considering this, the crisis is considered to affect the whole landmass area from 2021. The source is old but considering the landmass areas are almost fixed over time so it won't affect the figure.</p>
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INDICATOR	DISPLACED PEOPLE
<p>Description</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This indicator pertains to the total number of people the crisis has displaced, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » IDPs » incoming refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers » returnees » outgoing refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers. • Write a couple of sentences about what drives the displacement. • Clarify in the justification if the available displacement data might be overestimated or if there is a chance of double counting. <p>We only consider people displaced directly by the crisis we are logging information for. For example, if the crisis is food insecurity in Chad, we do not count the people displaced by the Boko Haram or Central African Republic refugee influx crises. Those people would, however, be counted among the population affected or in need if food insecurity also affects them. Another example could be the mixed migration crisis in Yemen. Here, we would only count as displaced the refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants coming to Yemen from other countries and not IDPs.</p>
<p>Tips and justification</p>	<p>Look for dashboards or sources that give monthly updates instead of one fixed update about the displacement.</p> <p>Example: Kenya – refugee situation in Kenya: 623,000 (UNHCR accessed 31/10/2023; OCHA 21/11/2023)</p> <p>Kenya is hosting about 623,000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Somalia, and South Sudan. The majority reside in Garissa, Nairobi, and Turkana.</p> <p>Example: Syria – Syrian conflict: 15,051,398 (OCHA 21/12/2023; UNHCR accessed 08/02/2024; UNHCR accessed 30/04/2023; UNRWA accessed 19/02/2023; 3RP 02/02/2023)</p> <p>More than 12 years of conflict, a persistent economic crisis, protracted displacement, and the erosion of basic services have affected Syria. As a result of the violence and other shocks, the population movement has occurred internally, into neighbouring countries, and across seas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are about five million registered displaced Syrians living in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Türkiye, and countries in North Africa. • Approximately 162,000 Syrians were resettled between 2014–2023, moving to various countries in Europe, Canada, and elsewhere. The exact number of other Syrians in Europe is unknown, however, and the resettlement figure may not be accurate. • There are about 1.2 million unregistered Syrians in Lebanon and Jordan. • There were about 391,000 self-organised refugee returnees to Syria from 2016–2023. • Until April 2023, there were about 1.2 million IDPs and 155,000 returnees in Syria, mainly in Aleppo, Damascus, Idlib, and rural Damascus. Up-to-date numbers are not available. <p>Example: Bulgaria – Russia–Ukraine war-related displacement to Bulgaria: 54,407 (OCHA 03/01/2024; UNHCR accessed 19/02/2024 b)</p> <p>After almost two years of the Russia–Ukraine war, there were about 53,000 Ukrainians displaced into in Bulgaria by 31 March 2024.</p>

INDICATOR	INJURIES REPORTED
Description	This indicator deals with the total number of crisis-related injuries within the last six months. The injuries should be relevant to the crisis. Injury pertains to physical harm or damage to the body by an external force.
Tips and justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This indicator might be challenging to find for many of the crises, unless there is an organisation that tracks it. When information is lacking, we either record it as 0 (in case of a non-conflict-related crisis which we know has not caused injuries) or log it as InfoGap (if there is a possibility of injuries but precise figures are unavailable, especially in cases of civilian injuries without accessible sources). For natural-hazard-related crises, we normally find figures of people with injuries from the event's impacts (flooding, earthquakes, etc.). <p>Example: Ukraine – Russia–Ukraine conflict: 2,858 (OHCHR 06/02/2023)</p> <p>This is the total number of civilians injured in Ukraine from August 2023 to January 2024, according to OHCHR. This number might be an underestimate, as some reports are still pending verification and confirmation by the OHCHR team.</p> <p>Example: Türkiye – earthquake in Türkiye/Syria: 107,204 (STL 06/04/2023)</p> <p>This is the number of people injured between March–August 2023 as a result of a magnitude-7.8 earthquake, which hit southern Türkiye on 6 February 2023.</p> <p><i>“Six months after the onset of a crisis resulting from a natural hazard, the number of injured people should be logged as 0, based on the assumption that most injuries from the natural hazard would have subsided.”</i></p>

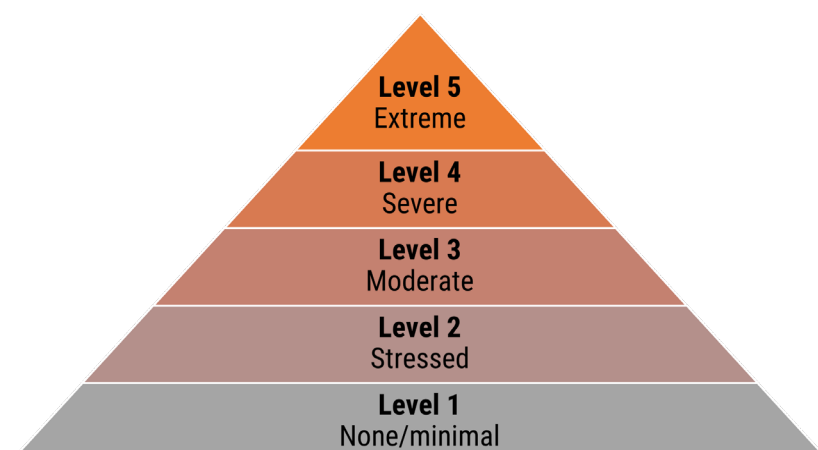
INDICATOR	FATALITIES REPORTED
Description	This indicator tallies the total number of crisis-related fatalities within the last six months. The fatalities should be relevant to the crisis.
Tips and justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For conflict-related crises, the best sources are the ones that specifically track civilian casualties and not military losses. The Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) can be a go-to source in the absence of other more appropriate sources. For crises not related to violence, conflict, or war, we look for the fatalities resulting from the crisis itself. For example, with food insecurity or drought, we look for deaths related to hunger or malnutrition. For a refugee crisis, we look for the number of people who died because of their displacement status. In case there is an information gap, it should be logged as 0 (where we know the crisis has not caused fatalities) or InfoGap (if there is a possibility of fatalities but precise figures are unavailable, especially in case of civilian fatalities without accessible sources). <p>Example: Ukraine – Russia–Ukraine war: 23,797 (ACLED accessed 19/02/2024)</p> <p>The figure includes the total number of fatalities in the whole of Ukraine according to the ACLED August 202 to January 2024 dataset from all types of events (such as battles, violence against civilians, explosions or remote violence, riots, protests, and strategic developments) and by all perpetrators (state or non-state). The fatalities in the ACLED dataset relate exclusively to violent incidents. In cases where the dataset does not capture the deaths not directly related to the violent incidents that ACLED tracks but that may be relevant to the crisis, it is important to note that the reported number might underestimate the actual impact.</p> <p>Example: Palestine – conflict: 173 (OCHA accessed 19/02/2024)</p> <p>Note: This is an old example to show the use of sources other than ACLED.</p> <p>This is the total number of fatalities in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and Gaza from January–June 2023. Only civilian deaths and occupation- and conflict-related fatalities were considered. People killed or injured in conflict-related incidents in Israel that did not involve residents of Palestine were excluded.</p> <p>Example: Spain – mixed migration flows: 208 (IOM accessed 19/02/2024)</p> <p>This number counts the migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers who died or went missing in the process of travelling to Spain through the Western Mediterranean route between August 2023 and January 2024.</p> <p>Example: Türkiye – earthquake in Türkiye/Syria: 50,399 (STL 06/04/2023)</p> <p>This is the number of people who died between March–August 2023 from the impact of the magnitude-7.8 earthquake that hit southern Türkiye on 6 February 2023.</p> <p><i>“After six months, the fatalities caused by an earthquake should be 0, unless new bodies are found under the rubble.”</i></p>

INDICATOR	FATALITIES IN ALL CRISES
Description	<p>This indicator deals with the total cumulative number of crises-related fatalities within the last six months in case there are multiple crises in the country. It can be the same figure as the fatalities reported indicator if there is a single crisis in the country.</p>
Tips and Justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there is only one crisis in the country, then: <i>Fatalities in all crises = Fatalities reported</i> If there are n crises within the same country, then: <i>Fatalities in all crises = Fatalities reported for crisis X1, country X + Fatalities reported for crisis X2, country X ++ Fatalities reported for crisis Xn, country X</i> In a regional crisis with more than one crisis in each country, then: <i>Fatalities in all crises = Fatalities reported for crisis X1, country X + Fatalities reported for crisis Y1, country Y +.....+ Fatalities reported for crisis Z1, country Z</i> <p>Example: Spain – mixed migration flows: 208 (IOM accessed 19/02/2024) This number includes the migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers who died or went missing in the process of travelling to Spain through the Western Mediterranean route between August 2023 and January 2024.</p> <p>Example: Myanmar – multiple crises: 8,371 (ACLED accessed 19/02/2024) This number is the total number of fatalities in Myanmar. It adds up all fatalities from different crises, based on the ACLED dataset, from August 2023 to January 2024 (crisis 1 = 6,793; crisis 2 = 1,341; crisis 3 = 237), involving all types of events (such as battles, violence against civilians, explosions or remote violence, riots, protests, and strategic developments) and all different perpetrators (state or non-state). The fatalities in the ACLED dataset relate exclusively to violent incidents. In cases where the dataset fails to capture the deaths not directly related to the violent incidents that ACLED tracks but that may be relevant to the crisis, it is important to note that the reported number might underestimate the actual impact.</p> <p>Example: Türkiye – earthquake in Türkiye/Syria: 29 (ACLED accessed 31/03/2024; IOM accessed 31/03/2024) This number is an aggregate of all crises in the country: Syrian refugee crisis (no fatalities = 0) + mixed migration crisis (the number of fatalities and missing people among migrants in Türkiye within the past six months, according to the IOM Missing Migrants database) + Kurdish conflict crisis (the number of people killed within the last six months, according to the ACLED database) + earthquake crisis (since the event exceeds six months, this is considered 0) The true number of fatalities may be higher because of unreported incidents and cases of missing people not yet considered dead.</p>

Conditions of people affected

The 'conditions of people affected' dimension in the INFORM Severity Index aims to translate information about people in a crisis-affected area into a severity score. We do this by mapping different severity categorisations on a common five-level scale (Figure 4) representing the People in Need (PIN) number and the physical, social, mental, and economic effects of the crisis or humanitarian outcomes (Figure 5).

Figure 4: Levels of conditions of affected people used in the INFORM Severity Index



- The crisis-affected area is defined in the data-entry procedure as the most detailed administrative level affected by the crisis.
- All people living in the crisis-affected area are the people exposed and are equal to the number of all people in Levels 1–5.
- All affected people are equal to people in Levels 2–5.
- People with identified humanitarian needs are distributed from Levels 3–5, depending on the severity of their needs.

The 'conditions of people affected' dimension comprises two categories – PIN and the concentration of conditions – aggregated with the geometric average.

Figure 5. Description of humanitarian conditions by level

1	None/minimal humanitarian conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People are facing no or minor shortages or/and accessibility problems regarding basic services. People are able to meet food and other basic needs without having to apply irreversible coping strategies. There may be some non-life-threatening needs. 	
2	Stressed humanitarian conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People are facing some shortages or/and some availability and accessibility problems with regard to basic services. People have some food gaps, and food consumption is reduced but adequate. People are able to meet minimum food needs by applying coping strategies. There are strains on livelihoods. Needs are more increased but are not life-threatening. There may exist localised/targeted incidents of violence and/or human rights violations. 	
3	Moderate humanitarian conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People are facing shortages and/or availability and accessibility problems with regard to basic services, but they are not life-threatening. Significant food consumption gaps are visible, or people are marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with irreversible coping strategies. As a result of shortages and the disruption of services, people may face potentially life-threatening consequences if they do not receive assistance. People may also face malnutrition. There may be physical and mental harm among populations, resulting in a loss of dignity. 	
4	Severe humanitarian conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People are facing significant shortages and/or significant availability and accessibility problems with regard to basic services. People face severe food consumption gaps and have started to deplete their assets or already face an extreme loss of assets. This may result in very high levels of acute malnutrition and excess mortality. Irreversible harm and heightened mortality as well as widespread grave violations of human rights may be present. 	
5	Extreme humanitarian conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People are facing extreme shortages or availability and accessibility problems with regard to basic services. It is a widely accepted fact that the humanitarian situation has led to deaths and widespread mortality. People face a complete lack of food and/or other basic needs, and starvation, death, and destitution are evident; acute malnutrition is widely reported. People may face grave human rights violations. 	

How to calculate the humanitarian conditions by levels

The sum of all levels (1–5) should equal the total exposed population (or population living in the affected area). The sum of the population in Levels 2–5 equals the total affected population. The sum of the people in Levels 3–5 equals the PIN figure. When inputting the data in the spreadsheet, analysts should always make sure that the numbers add up.

Depending on the type and quality of the available data, there are several sources to estimate or use for the PIN distribution:

- The Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), or Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP)
- Multi sectoral needs assessments (MSNAs) and reports
- The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)
- displacement data (particularly from IOM/UNHCR)
- other qualitative/quantitative reports (from UN agencies such as WFP, UNHCR, and UNICEF; INGOs such as iMMAP and REACH; or local NGOs based on the assigned country)
- a combination of the different sources mentioned above
- nonhumanitarian sources in case of a lack of reliable and up-to-date humanitarian sources (rare occurrence).

Rationale for source selection

- **Authority and reliability:** each source should be recognised internationally or locally for its expertise and reliability in its respective field, ensuring its credibility.
- **Timeliness:** organisations should provide up-to-date information, which is crucial for assessing current humanitarian conditions and needs.

Comprehensiveness: sources should offer detailed and comprehensive reports covering various aspects of crises, including the number of people affected and the severity of their needs.

Accessibility: data and reports from these sources should typically be accessible and available online, facilitating efficient information-gathering.

Table 1. General categorisation of the different types of crisis drivers along with recommended sources for finding information on PIN and the severity of their needs

CRISIS DRIVER	RECOMMENDED SOURCES	RATIONALE
Natural hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCHA • IFRC • National meteorological and hydrological services 	These organisations provide timely reports, situation updates, and response plans.
Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCHA • REACH • UNHCR • ICRC • IFRC • ACLED 	These sources offer detailed information on displaced populations, conflict zones, and humanitarian needs assessments.
Economic crises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Bank • IMF • FAO 	These institutions provide economic analyses, food security assessments, and poverty reports, which are crucial for understanding the economic impact on populations.
Epidemics/pandemics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO • National centers for disease control and prevention 	These health organisations track disease outbreaks, provide health impact assessments, and offer data on healthcare needs and interventions.
Displacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre • IOM • UNHCR • UNRWA 	These organisations provide comprehensive data on displaced populations, migration patterns, and the humanitarian needs of displaced people.
Food insecurity and drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - WFP • - IPC • - FEWS NET 	These sources offer food security assessments, early warning reports, and data on nutritional needs and food crises.

Note: while the table above provides recommended sources for collecting data on various crisis drivers, consider alternative sources if they provide more relevant or accurate information.

Option 1: The Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), or Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP)

The severity assessments are based on a set of indicators discussed and ranked at the intersectoral coordination level. These documents (HNO, HNRP, and HRP) and their accompanied datasets are published annually.

Examples: 2024 Myanmar HNRP, 2024 DRC HRP, 2023 Colombia HNO

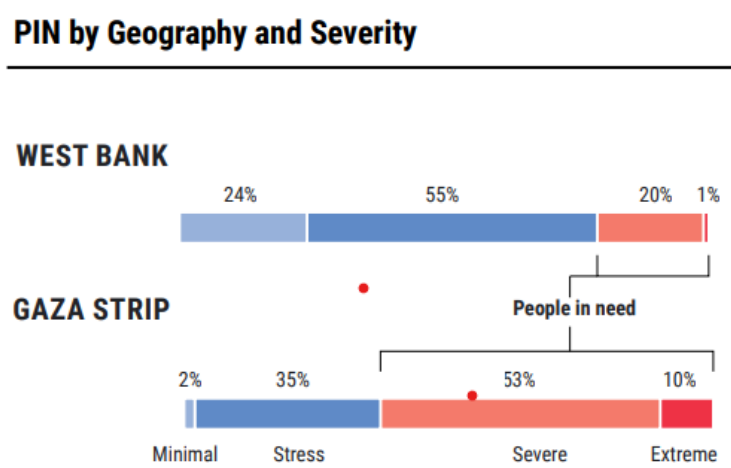
In case one of these documents is available for the assigned country and provides the PIN figure, and the severity assessment data is also available, there are usually two scenarios for the distribution of PIN and the severity of their needs.

- 1. The PIN are distributed into three severity levels along with the severity of humanitarian conditions for the whole population (making it five levels in total for the whole population).

HNO/HNRP/HRP	Indicators of the 'conditions of people affected' dimension in the INFORM Severity Index			
Level 1 (Minimal)	Minimal humanitarian conditions – Level 1			People exposed
Level 2 (Stressed)	Stressed humanitarian conditions – Level 2		People affected	
Level 3 (Severe)	Moderate humanitarian conditions – Level 3	PIN		
Level 4 (Extreme)	Severe humanitarian conditions – Level 4			
Level 5 (Catastrophic)	Extreme humanitarian conditions – Level 5			

Example: 2022 Palestine HNO

Figure 6. People in need by geography and severity in Palestine



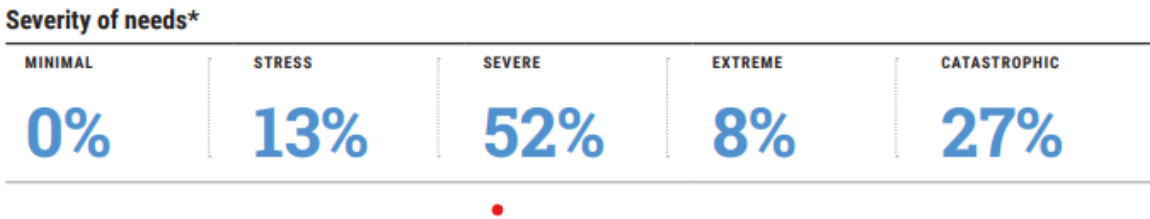
Source: OCHA (16/12/2021)

2. The PIN are distributed into five levels of severity. Additional information about affected and exposed people is only sometimes provided.

HNO/HNRP/HRP	Indicators of conditions of people affected dimension in INFORM Severity Index	
Level 1 (Minimal) + Level 2 (Stressed) + Level 3 (Severe)	Minimal humanitarian conditions – Level 1 + Stressed humanitarian conditions – Level 2 + Moderate humanitarian conditions – Level 3	PIN
Level 4 (Extreme)	Severe humanitarian conditions – Level 4	
Level 5 (Catastrophic)	Extreme humanitarian conditions – Level 5	

Example: 2023 Ukraine HNO

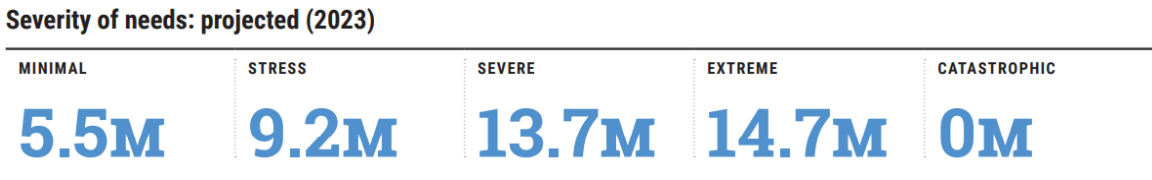
Figure 7. Severity of needs in Ukraine



Source: OCHA (28/12/2022)

Example: 2023 Afghanistan HNO

Figure 8. Severity of needs in Afghanistan



Source: OCHA (23/01/2023)

For countries with new HNO/HNRP/HRP data (with or without severity aggregation), the ACAPS analytical team checks the documents carefully. We check the reliability of the data provided for the country; the information based on the context, a comparison of PIN figures, and the change in severity between 2023–2024. We then decide whether to take the 2024 HNO/HNRP/HRP or to look for another source based on the type of crisis and its main drivers. Based on that, we look for an alternative source of data and attempt to estimate the PIN and severity levels. The alternative source could be MSNA data, IPC data, displacement data, or a sectoral analysis. We base the choice on the main crisis driver, refer to other ACAPS guidelines relevant to the INFORM Severity Index for further direction, and consult supervisors for more specific instructions.

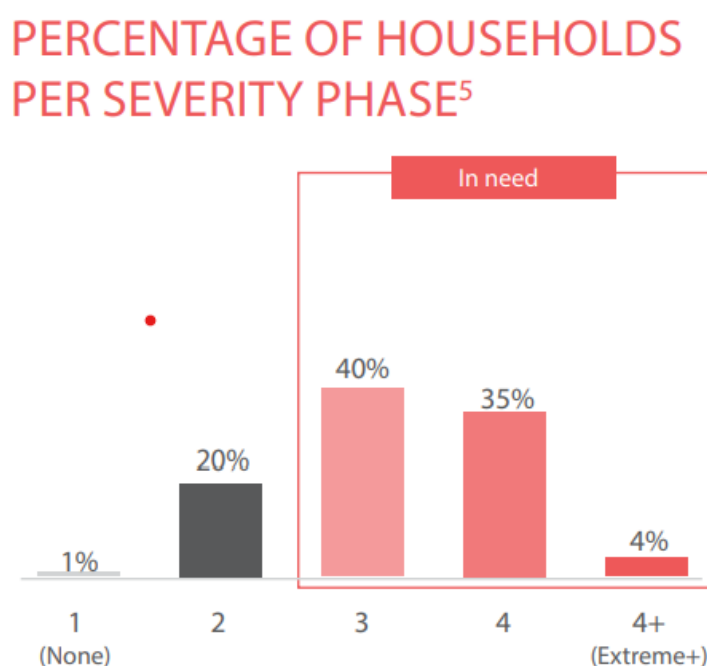
Option 2: Multi sectoral needs assessments (MSNAs) and reports

The MSNA is a needs assessment that employs a mixed-method approach, integrating both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. It aims to identify and prioritise the diverse needs of affected people across multiple sectors, such as food security, shelter, water, sanitation, health, education, and protection. The findings of the MSNA are then compiled by severity phase, which could be used to estimate the PIN and their distribution across the five levels of humanitarian conditions.

MSNA	Indicators of the ‘conditions of people affected’ dimension in the INFORM Severity Index			
1 (None/Minimal)	Minimal humanitarian conditions – Level 1			People exposed
2 (Stressed)	Stressed humanitarian conditions – Level 2		People affected	
3 (Severe)	Moderate humanitarian conditions – Level 3	PIN		
4 (Extreme; sometimes called Critical)	Severe humanitarian conditions – Level 4			
4+ (Extreme+; sometimes called Catastrophic)	Extreme humanitarian conditions – Level 5			

Example: Ukraine MSNA 2023

Figure 9. Percentage of households per severity phase in Ukraine



Source: REACH (13/12/2023)

Some MSNA reports or analyses do not provide the overall aggregation of needs. Each sector has its own main findings and analysis. In such situations, we make an analytical decision about which sector to prioritise and use to estimate humanitarian conditions based on the crisis type and the main drivers of needs. We ask, 'What is the highest-priority need identified by or for the affected population?' before making the decision.

Option 3: The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

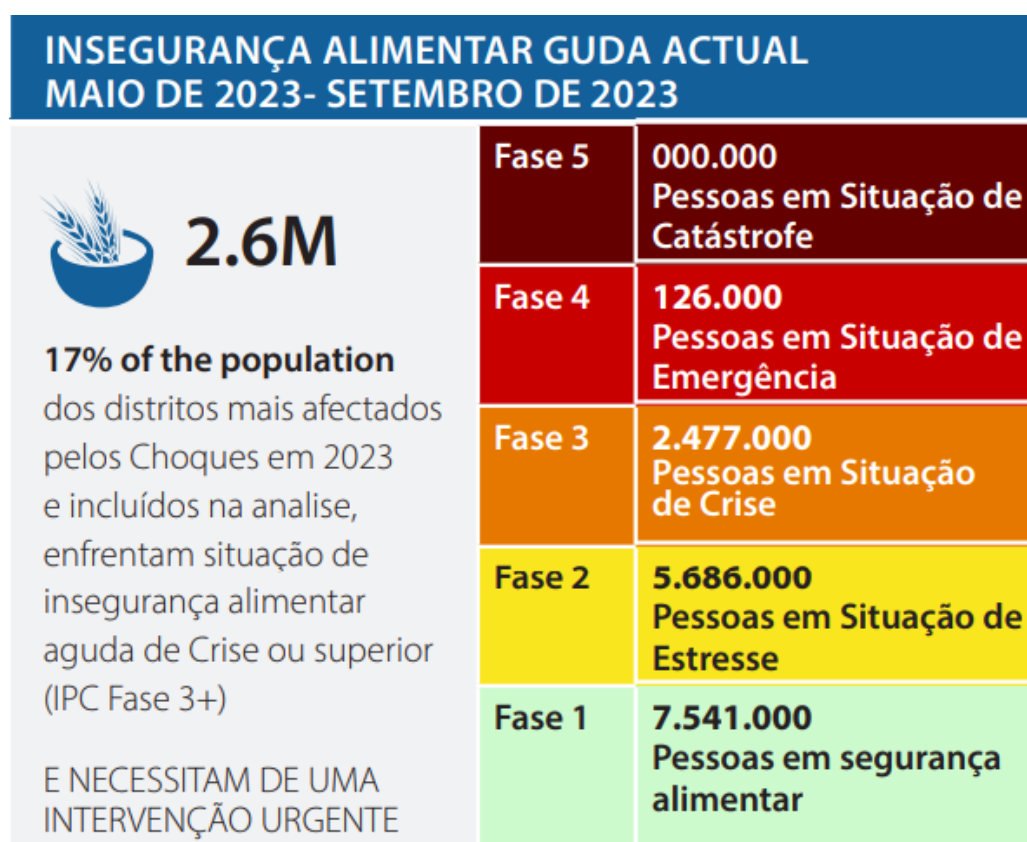
When the main crisis driver is acute food insecurity or drought, or in case of a crisis in which natural and human-made factors interact and overlap while also exhibiting high food insecurity levels, we use IPC figures to log the different severity levels. The IPC methodology is compatible with the INFORM Severity Index methodology, making it possible, in theory, to use the same distribution in the severity levels. Even in this case, we evaluate all available data to determine the best dataset to use.

The opposite situation could happen as well. For example, consider a food security crisis in Country X where there is no recent food security assessment but where HNO data is available. Then, we would use HNO data instead of IPC figures, as the latter could be older and outdated. Usually, each IPC release includes two periods: current and projected. We choose whether to use current or projected figures based on which of the two covers the month of interest for the release of the INFORM Severity Index.

IPC	Indicators of the ‘conditions of people affected’ dimension in the INFORM Severity Index			
Phase 1 (Minimal Food Security)	Minimal humanitarian conditions – Level 1			People exposed
Phase 2 (Stressed)	Stressed humanitarian conditions – Level 2		People affected	
Phase 3 (Crisis)	Moderate humanitarian conditions – Level 3	PIN		
Phase 4 (Emergency)	Severe humanitarian conditions – Level 4			
Phase 5 (Catastrophe)	Extreme humanitarian conditions – Level 5			

Example: Mozambique

Figure 10. Acute food insecurity situation for May–September 2023



Source: IPC (28/11/2023)

Option 4: displacement

This usually applies to displacement-related crises when there is no HNO or other severity assessment available. The data sources are usually UNHCR and IOM. Check the following displacement categories existing in the country:

- IDPs
- returnees
- refugees
- asylum seekers
- migrants in an irregular status.

Check for sectoral or multisectoral assessments and analyses that have been conducted to assess the needs of the displaced population, including the following:

- food security reports
- protection analysis reports
- shelter and WASH analyses
- health and nutrition reports.

Check whether the documents provide information or data on the following:

- the number of refugees, asylum seekers, and/or migrants with irregular status in the country and how many need assistance
- the number of people from host communities facing the impacts of displacement and how many need assistance.

The above information may be available in many different reports. We can complete the severity distribution by assigning different displacement categories (IDPs, returnees, etc.) into different levels of humanitarian condition indicators based on the information provided that explains their needs and the severity. For example, if a source says that migrants in an irregular situation are facing severe limitations in accessing assistance and are exposed to grave violations and protection needs, we could assign the total number of these people to a higher severity level (Level 4 or 5).

- In case there is no available information about the severity of needs for each displacement category (IDPs, returnees, etc.), we make an estimation based on expert knowledge.
 - » If there are no indications that some people could be facing Level 4 or 5 humanitarian conditions, then we log the total PIN number under Level 3 conditions and log zero for the last two severity levels (4 and 5).
- If we can assume from our sources that some people could be facing Level 4 or 5 conditions but lack sources to estimate the number, then we log the total PIN number under Level 3 conditions and assign InfoGap to the other two severity levels (4 and 5).

In each scenario, we write clearly to explain the choice and situation of each displacement category available in the country.

Option 5: other qualitative and quantitative reports

This usually applies to crises when no displacement, IPC, HNO, or HRP assessment is available. Examples:

WFP Mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping survey

"In September 2023, food consumption of the majority of Fijians remained stable, with 87% of households having acceptable food intake. Eleven percent of interviewed households across Fiji had borderline and 2% had poor frequency and diversity of the main food groups, based on a past 7-day recall." (WFP 20/02/2024)

We can use this to estimate the severity, with:

- 11% of the population assigned in Level 3 conditions (the source defines food intake as 'borderline')
- 2% of the population assigned in Level 4 conditions (the source mentions the "poor frequency and diversity of the main food groups").
- IFRC Emergency Appeals and Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System alerts in the case of a natural hazard-related crisis, during the first stage of the occurrence of the event, and in case in-depth humanitarian assessments are lacking

Approximately 595,000 people are estimated to be directly at risk, 150,000 of whom are expected to be displaced (IFRC 04/02/2022). The exposed population is 2.9 million in Category 1 or higher on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale (GDACS accessed 01/03/2023).

We can use this data to estimate the severity, with:

- 2.9 million people exposed and people affected
- 595,000 PIN
- 445,000 (595,000–150,000) people considered Level 3
- 150,000 people considered Level 4.

Option 6: others (limited occurrence)

Certain crises (limited occurrence) can be characterised by complex and challenging conditions, such as when humanitarian organisations face operational restrictions in a country. In such contexts, the limited occurrence of crises alongside restricted access compels us to use what sources are available, even if they are outdated or nonhumanitarian, to capture the severity and nuances of the situation to the best extent possible. This approach ensures a more inclusive representation of the crisis within the INFORM Severity Index despite the inherent challenges in accessing up-to-date and reliable information.

Examples:

Nicaragua socioeconomic crisis

In the context of a crisis in which natural and human-made factors interact and overlap – for example, the socioeconomic crisis in Nicaragua – and where multiple dimensions of poverty may be evident, it is crucial to determine the most appropriate poverty measure to accurately reflect the humanitarian situation. While national poverty estimates offer a broad perspective on the economic conditions within a country, multidimensional poverty indices (if available) provide a more comprehensive understanding, as they consider various factors beyond income alone, such as education, health, and living standards. In case both types of sources are lacking, then international poverty levels can provide valuable context. When inputting data into the INFORM Severity Index, the choice between national poverty, multidimensional poverty, and international poverty levels depends on the availability of the information and its timeliness.

The humanitarian situation in Nicaragua is severe from a social, political, economic, and public health point of view. From a political and human rights perspective, the situation in the country has only worsened since the April 2018 crisis. In 2023, 12.5% of people in Nicaragua were living below the poverty line, measured at USD 3.65 per capita per day. This moderate decline is largely a result of a sustained growth in remittances coupled with lower inflation and modest but positive growth in employment, which reached 64.8% during the first half of 2023 (BTI 23/02/2024; WB accessed 20/02/2024).

We can use this data to estimate the severity, with:

- the whole population of Nicaragua considered as exposed
- 12.5% of the population considered as both affected and in need, and all of them assigned Level 3. Given the lack of detailed information about the severity of needs or specific poverty types, it is reasonable to assign all 12.5% of the affected population to Level 3. We make this decision based on the principle of caution in situations where data on humanitarian situations is limited.
- InfoGap used for Levels 4 and 5. Because of the complexity and severity of such situations, precise data on the extent of needs and vulnerabilities may be limited or unavailable. Assigning an InfoGap designation to these levels acknowledges the uncertainty and highlights the need for further assessment.

Pakistan – Jammu and Kashmir crisis

While newer data would be preferable, the lack of recent updates underscores the challenges in accessing up-to-date information in conflict-affected regions such as Kashmir. The inclusion of this older data serves to highlight the situation.

People's protracted exposure to violence has resulted in high mental health needs. In a 2016 Médecins Sans Frontières survey in Jammu and Kashmir, 41% of people exhibited symptoms of probable depression, 26% showed symptoms of probable anxiety, and 19% showed symptoms of probable post-traumatic stress disorder (The Lancet 17/08/2019; TNH 11/06/2019; MSF 25/05/2016; APDP/JKCCS 02/2019).

We can use this data to estimate the severity, with:

- the whole population of admin1 of Jammu and Kashmir considered exposed and affected
- 19% of the population considered in need and all assigned Level 3
- Levels 4 and 5 considered InfoGap because of the lack of information.

INDICATOR	PEOPLE EXPOSED
Description	<p>This indicator calculates the number of people at risk of being directly or indirectly affected by the crisis, including those classified as people affected and in need (in other indicators).</p> <p>People exposed = Level 1 + Level 2 + Level 3 + Level 4 + Level 5</p> <p>People exposed to the crisis but not affected and/or not in need of humanitarian assistance + People affected by the crisis but not in need of humanitarian assistance + People who need humanitarian assistance</p> <p>Based on the 'landmass affected' indicator and whether the crisis is national or subnational, we can identify how many people live in the area and are exposed to the crisis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis with multiple drivers and conflict-related crisis at the national level: the whole population • Displacement crisis: admin1 population with the highest incoming migrant concentration, only incoming migrants, or incoming migrants plus the affected host community • Natural hazard-related crisis: admin1 or admin2 population living in the area hit by an earthquake, flood, etc. <p>As explained above, one of the documents may directly provide this information; alternatively, we may estimate it based on the available sources.</p>
Tips and justification	<p>Example: Myanmar – post-coup conflict in Myanmar: 56,600,000 (OCHA 18/12/2023)</p> <p>The political turmoil and violence resulting from the coup have affected the entire country, hitting all regions and communities in varying degrees. It is reasonable to conclude that the entire population of Myanmar is exposed to the crisis, with varying severity levels depending on people's proximity to conflict-affected areas.</p> <p>Example: Morocco – al-Haouz earthquake: 6,600,000 (IBC 27/11/2023)</p> <p>On 8 September 2023, a magnitude-6.8 earthquake struck Morocco at a depth of 18.5km. The worst-hit provinces were al-Haouz, Azilal, Chichaoua, Marrakesh, Ouarzazate, and Taroudant. The sum of the populations living in those areas is considered affected and amounts to 6.6 million.</p> <p>Example: Ecuador – Venezuela displacement: 573,300 (R4V 02/12/2023 and 30/01/2024)</p> <p>Ecuador hosts nearly half a million refugees and migrants from Venezuela. There are about 416,000 Venezuelans residing in different locations across Ecuador. About 156,000 people from the host community face limited resources, services, and infrastructure, which the migrants who are also in need of assistance share. The figure represents the total number of Venezuelan migrants and affected host community members considered exposed to the crisis.</p>

INDICATOR	PEOPLE AFFECTED
Description	<p>This indicator corresponds to the number of people whom the crisis directly affects. This figure includes and, in some cases, can be equal to the PIN number. In other cases, the number of people affected is the same as the number of people exposed. We make this decision in consultation with the supervisor, who will provide further instructions to assess the crisis and its nature.</p> <p>People affected = Level 2 + Level 3 + Level 4 + Level 5</p> <p>If sources do not provide a figure for the number of people affected, we estimate this number based on other indicators. For example, we consider the 'landmass affected' indicator, whether the crisis is national or subnational, and how many people live in the area and are affected by the crisis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A crisis in which natural and human-made factors interact and overlap and a conflict-related crisis at the national level: depending on the crisis, could be the whole population of the country • Displacement crisis: admin1 population that has the highest migrant concentration, only incoming migrants, or migrants plus the affected host community • Natural hazard-related crisis: admin1 population living in the area hit by an earthquake, flood, etc.

INDICATOR	PEOPLE AFFECTED
Tips and justification	<p>Example: Myanmar – post-coup conflict in Myanmar: 18,615,000 (OCHA 18/12/2023)</p> <p>There is a lack of information about the number of people affected but not in need of humanitarian assistance in relation to the post-coup conflict crisis in Myanmar. In this case, we only know that the PIN figure is also affected by the crisis, so we use the same figure. This number could be an underestimation.</p> <p>Example: Morocco – al-Haouz earthquake: 3,947,911 (HCP accessed 20/02/2024; IBC 27/11/2023)</p> <p>On 8 September 2023, a magnitude-6.8 earthquake struck Morocco. The worst-hit provinces were al-Haouz, Azilal, Chichaoua, Marrakesh, Ouarzazate, and Taroudant. The whole population living in these provinces (the sum of the provincial populations listed below) is considered affected by the crisis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • al-Haouz: 571,999 • Azilal: 552,884 • Chichaoua: 369,494 • Marrakesh: 1,323,005 • Ouarzazate: 295,622 • Taroudant: 834,907. <p>Example: Ecuador – Venezuela displacement: 573,300 (R4V 02/12/2023 and 30/01/2024)</p> <p>There are about 416,000 Venezuelans residing in different locations across Ecuador. There are about 156,000 people from the host community who are affected by limited services and assistance and are in need of humanitarian assistance. The figure represents the total number of Venezuelan migrants and host communities considered affected by the crisis. Information about the number of people exposed and people affected by the displacement situation is lacking, so the people exposed are assumed to also be the people affected.</p>

INDICATOR	PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)
Description	<p>This indicator is the number of people who require immediate assistance to meet their basic needs and, in some instances, even to survive. It is explicitly given by some humanitarian analyses and reports, while in some situations, we attempt to estimate it by adding the number of people who need food, water, shelter, healthcare, and protection services (based on the crisis type).</p> <p>PIN = Level 3 + Level 4 + Level 5</p>
Tips and justification	<p>Example: Myanmar – post-coup conflict in Myanmar: 18,615,000 (OCHA 18/12/2023)</p> <p>This figure represents the PIN number in Myanmar in 2024 according to the latest humanitarian needs and response plan (HNRP). The PIN number is intersectoral, meaning that it includes PIN across sectors. Widespread and systematic human rights violations, a continuously deteriorating security environment, grave protection threats, unmet humanitarian and development needs, and stressed coping capacities drive humanitarian needs in Myanmar.</p> <p>Example: Morocco – al-Haouz earthquake: 500,000 (IBC 27/11/2023; IFRC 01/02/2024)</p> <p>On 8 September 2023, a magnitude-6.8 earthquake struck Morocco. Damage to homes and critical infrastructure was extensive in all affected areas, highlighting the urgent need for emergency shelter support for those affected. The earthquake damaged or destroyed nearly 59,700 houses, and many families do not have suitable living arrangements and are staying in temporary settlements. The earthquake and aftershocks displaced more than 500,000 people, who need shelter, food, and WASH assistance (among other needs). The estimated number of people whom the earthquake has displaced is considered the PIN number.</p> <p>Example: Ecuador – Venezuela displacement: 401,100 (R4V 02/12/2023 and 30/01/2024)</p> <p>324,000 of the 416,000 Venezuelan people in Ecuador, residing in different locations across the country, need humanitarian assistance. About half of the 156,000 people belonging to the host community also need humanitarian assistance.</p> <p>324,000 Venezuelans in need + (156,000 ÷ 2) PIN from the host community = 401,100 total PIN for Ecuador</p>

INDICATOR	NONE/MINIMAL HUMANITARIAN CONDITIONS - LEVEL 1
Description	<p>This indicator corresponds to the people facing minor or no shortages or accessibility problems regarding basic services. People can meet food and other basic needs without having to apply potentially irreversible coping strategies. There may be some needs, but these are not life-threatening.</p> <p>In the Severity Index, Level 1 is the same as the number of people exposed minus the number of people affected and in need. If the number of people exposed is the same as the number of people affected, then the figure in Level 1 will be zero.</p> <p>Level 1 = People exposed – Level 2 – Level 3 – Level 4 – Level 5</p>
Tips and Justification	<p>Example: Myanmar – post-coup conflict in Myanmar: 37,985,000 people (OCHA 18/12/2023)</p> <p>This figure represents the number of people exposed to the crisis but not affected or in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. There may be some needs, but they are minimal and not life-threatening.</p> <p>The population exposed by the crisis but not in immediate need of humanitarian assistance comprises individuals facing minimal needs, which do not pose an immediate threat to their lives.</p> <p>Example: Morocco – al-Haouz earthquake: 2,652,089 (IBC 27/11/2023; IFRC 01/02/2024)</p> <p>This corresponds to the number of people exposed to the impact of the earthquake (the whole population living in the areas hit) minus those considered directly affected and in need of assistance (who are placed in the other levels of humanitarian conditions).</p> <p>Example: Ecuador – Venezuela displacement: 0 (R4V 02/12/2023 and 30/01/2024)</p> <p>Since the total number of people exposed is the same as the number of people affected, nobody is placed in Level 1.</p>

INDICATOR	STRESSED HUMANITARIAN CONDITIONS – LEVEL 2
Description	<p>This indicator counts people facing some shortages or some availability and accessibility problems with regard to basic services. People have some food gaps, and food consumption is reduced but adequate through coping strategies. There are strains on livelihoods. Needs are higher but still not life-threatening. There may exist localised and/or targeted incidents of violence and human rights violations.</p> <p>In the Severity Index, Level 2 is the same as the number of people affected minus in need. If the number of people affected is the same as the number of PIN, then the figure in Level 2 will be zero.</p> <p>Level 2 = People affected – Level 3 – Level 4 – Level 5</p>
Tips and Justification	<p>Example: Myanmar – post-coup conflict in Myanmar: 0 (OCHA 18/12/2023)</p> <p>Because of a lack of information about the number of people affected by the crisis but not in need, we have used the total number of people who need assistance as the number affected as well. As Level 2 corresponds to the total number of people affected, and these people are also in need (i.e. placed in Level 3 or above), we log a 0 for this indicator.</p> <p>Example: Morocco – al-Haouz Earthquake: 3,447,911 (IBC 27/11/2023; IFRC 01/02/2024)</p> <p>This is the number of people affected by the earthquake but not in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. There may be some needs, but they are not life-threatening and can be met by applying coping strategies.</p> <p>Example: Ecuador – Venezuela displacement: 172,200 (R4V 02/12/2023 and 30/01/2024)</p> <p>This is the number of Venezuelans across different parts of Ecuador and members of the host community who are considered affected but not in need of humanitarian assistance.</p>

INDICATOR	MODERATE HUMANITARIAN CONDITIONS - LEVEL 3
Description	<p>This indicator tallies the people facing shortages and availability and accessibility problems with regard to basic services, creating discomfort or a high level of suffering, which can result in irreversible but not life-threatening health damage. Significant gaps are visible, or people are marginally able to meet minimum needs but only with potentially irreversible coping strategies. As a result of shortages and the disruption of services, they may face life-threatening consequences without aid or assistance. People may also face malnutrition and experience physical and mental harm that results in a loss of dignity.</p> <p>People identified as in need must be recorded in Level 3 or above.</p>

INDICATOR	MODERATE HUMANITARIAN CONDITIONS - LEVEL 3
	<p>Example: Myanmar – post-coup conflict in Myanmar: 15,992,000 (OCHA 18/12/2023)</p> <p>There are four population groups needing humanitarian assistance because of the impact of the political turmoil and violence from the coup in Myanmar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDPs • returnees, resettled, and locally integrated IDPs • non-displaced stateless people (i.e. the Rohingya) • other crisis-affected people with humanitarian needs. <p>The needs of each group are classified into five severity levels: Minimal, Stressed, Severe, Extreme, and Catastrophic based on 2024 HNRP data. The PIN under Minimal, Stressed, and Severe levels in the HNRP are matched with Level 3 of the INFORM Severity Index. They are considered part of PIN, and humanitarian assistance from various sectors is required.</p>
Tips and justification	<p>Example: Morocco – al-Haouz earthquake: 500,000 (IBC 27/11/2023; IFRC 01/02/2024)</p> <p>There is limited information about the needs from the 8 September 2023 magnitude-6.8 earthquake that struck Morocco. Information on the severity of needs is also lacking, so all the PIN are placed in Level 3 until further information is available.</p> <p>Example: Ecuador – Venezuela displacement: 401,100 (R4V 02/12/2023 and 30/01/2024)</p> <p>324,000 of the 416,000 Venezuelans residing in different locations across Ecuador need humanitarian assistance. About half of the 156,000 people belonging to the host community also need humanitarian assistance.</p> <p>324,000 Venezuelans in need + (156,000 ÷ 2) PIN from the host community = 401,100 total PIN for Ecuador</p> <p>All PIN in Ecuador are considered in moderate humanitarian need. This figure includes Venezuelans in Ecuador and the host community with reported needs. All have been placed in Level 3, as there is no information suggesting that the PIN, neither migrants nor host communities, are in a Severe or Catastrophic situation, nor is information about the exact type of needs available.</p>

INDICATOR	SEVERE HUMANITARIAN CONDITIONS - LEVEL 4
Description	<p>This indicator involves people facing life-threatening conditions and significant shortages or availability and accessibility problems with regard to basic services, resulting in high levels of suffering. People may face severe food consumption gaps and have started to deplete their assets or already face an extreme loss of assets. This may result in very high levels of acute malnutrition, risks of diseases or health issues, and excess mortality. Irreversible harm and heightened mortality as well as widespread, grave violations of human rights are present.</p>
Tips and justification	<p>Example: Myanmar – post-coup conflict in Myanmar: 700,000 (OCHA 18/12/2023)</p> <p>There are four population groups needing humanitarian assistance because of the impact of the political turmoil and violence from the coup in Myanmar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDPs • returnees, resettled, and locally integrated IDPs • non-displaced stateless people (i.e. the Rohingya) • other crisis-affected people with humanitarian needs. • The needs of each group are classified into five severity levels: Minimal, Stressed, Severe, Extreme, and Catastrophic based on 2024 HNRP data. PIN under HNRP Level 4 (Extreme) are matched with Level 4 of the INFORM Severity Index. <p>Example: Morocco – al-Haouz Earthquake: InfoGap (IBC 27/11/2023; IFRC 01/02/2024)</p> <p>There is limited information about the needs generated from the 8 September 2023 earthquake, and a breakdown of the PIN number per severity level lacks any secondary source. In the case of Morocco, we made an informed decision to assign the total number of the PIN to Level 3, considering the specific context and crisis dynamics. In the INFORM Severity Index, Level 4 is logged as InfoGap until further information is available.</p> <p>Example: Ecuador – Venezuela displacement: 0 (R4V 02/12/2023 and 30/01/2024)</p> <p>Ecuador hosts nearly half a million refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants in an irregular situation from Venezuela. None of them, however, nor any PIN from host communities, have been placed in Level 4 of the INFORM Severity Index. No information suggests that the PIN (both displaced people and host communities) face life-threatening conditions or significant shortages or availability and accessibility problems with regard to basic humanitarian services.</p>

INDICATOR	EXTREME HUMANITARIAN CONDITIONS – LEVEL 5
Description	<p>This indicator involves people facing extreme shortages or availability and accessibility problems with regard to basic services. Current conditions are directly causing deaths, and there is widespread mortality. People lack food and other basic goods; starvation, destitution, and high mortality and morbidity rates are evident. Acute malnutrition may be widely reported, and people may face grave human rights violations.</p>
Tips and justification	<p>Example: Myanmar – post-coup conflict in Myanmar: 1,923,000 (OCHA 18/12/2023)</p> <p>There are four population groups needing humanitarian assistance because of the impact of the political turmoil and violence from the coup in Myanmar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDPs • returnees, resettled, and locally integrated IDPs • non-displaced stateless people (i.e. the Rohingya) • other crisis-affected people with humanitarian needs. <p>The needs of each group are classified into five severity levels: Minimal, Stressed, Severe, Extreme, and Catastrophic based on 2024 HNRP data. The PIN under Catastrophic level in the HNRP are matched with Level 5 in the INFORM Severity Index.</p> <p>Example: Morocco – al-Haouz Earthquake: InfoGap (IBC 27/11/2023; IFRC 01/02/2024)</p> <p>There is limited information about the needs from the 8 September 2023 earthquake, and a breakdown of the PIN number per severity level lacks any secondary source. In the case of Morocco, we made an informed decision to assign the total number of PIN to Level 3, considering the specific context and crisis dynamics. In the INFORM Severity Index, Level 5 is logged as InfoGap until further information is available.</p> <p>Example: Ecuador – Venezuela displacement: 0 (R4V 02/12/2023 and 30/01/2024)</p> <p>Ecuador hosts nearly half a million refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants in an irregular situation from Venezuela. None of them, however, nor the PIN from host communities, have been placed in Level 5. No information suggests that the PIN (both displaced people and host communities) face extreme shortages or availability with regard to basic services nor widespread mortality.</p>

INDICATOR	CRISIS-AFFECTED GROUPS
Description	<p>This indicator deals with the number of different types of affected population groups, based on the categories in the 2012 Inter-Agency Standing Committee Humanitarian Profile Common Operational Dataset. The final value is the number of affected groups from the following list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDPs (people or groups of people forced or obliged to flee within the country, leaving their homes or places of habitual residence) • refugees, asylum seekers, and others of concern. A refugee is someone with a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership of a particular social group; outside their country of nationality; and unable – or owing to such fear, unwilling – to avail the protection of that country. An asylum seeker is someone who claims to be a refugee but whose claim has not yet been definitively evaluated. Others of concern are people displaced by an emergency who form part of the humanitarian caseload but do not fall into any of the above categories. • hosts (people who are part of a host community or family receiving affected people, normally IDPs, refugees, or asylum seekers) • non-hosts (people requiring immediate assistance during a period of emergency who have not moved from their homes or places of habitual residence) • returnees (refugees or IDPs who have returned to their country or area of origin to remain there permanently but who are not yet fully reintegrated into their community). A returnee loses their refugee status once they return. <p>This number should be between 1–5 depending on the number of groups the country registers or tracks.</p>
Tips and justification	<p>Example: Morocco – al-Haouz Earthquake: 2 (IBC 27/11/2023; UNHCR 30/09/2023)</p> <p>Different types of affected population groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. refugees, asylum seekers, and others of concern 2. hosts. <p>Example: Myanmar – post-coup conflict in Myanmar: 5 (OCHA 18/12/2023)</p> <p>Different types of affected population groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDPs • refugees, asylum seekers, and others of concern • hosts • non-hosts • returnees.

INDICATOR	PEOPLE FACING LIMITED ACCESS CONSTRAINTS
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This indicator is relevant to ACAPS' Humanitarian Access Index. ACAPS collects humanitarian access data twice a year, so the scores in the model are updated on a semi-annual basis. Access is currently collected at the crisis level. This means that the crisis scores are currently applied to the crisis level and feed into the INFORM Severity Index score. This indicator is not used directly in the INFORM Severity Index score computation. What is used is the humanitarian access score, computed from the data of the access log (data collected twice a year + new crises). This indicator provides the degree to which humanitarian aid can reach crisis-affected people. Access is challenging and limited, though it is still possible to deliver humanitarian assistance, and humanitarians are still able to operate. The conditions determining a legal basis for humanitarian access and the conditions of the operating environment are difficult but not completely restricted. This indicator is currently excluded from the calculations of the final score as there are significant information gaps. It should be logged as InfoGap, while ACAPS' Humanitarian Access Index, with its nine indicators, feeds into the final score.
Tips and justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We leave the figure's cell empty and, in the justification, we write a couple of sentences about the crisis and the lack of available sources to track the indicator. <p>Example: Considering the complexity of the situation in [insert name] and the lack of up-to-date reliable data from open sources, we cannot provide an accurate figure.</p>

INDICATOR	PEOPLE FACING RESTRICTED ACCESS CONSTRAINTS
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This indicator is relevant to ACAPS' Humanitarian Access Index. ACAPS collects humanitarian access data twice a year, so the scores in the model are updated on a semi-annual basis. Access is currently collected at the crisis level. This means that crisis scores are currently applied to the crisis level and feed into the INFORM Severity Index score. This indicator is not used directly in the INFORM Severity Index score computation. What is used is the humanitarian access score, computed from the data of the access log (data collected twice a year + new crises). This indicator provides the degree to which humanitarian aid can reach crisis-affected people. Access is challenging, limited, and restricted. It is not completely possible to deliver humanitarian assistance, and humanitarians are not able to freely operate. The conditions determining a legal basis for humanitarian access and the conditions of the operating environment are volatile and insecure, restricting access and making operations very difficult. This indicator is currently excluded from the calculations of the final score as there are significant information gaps. It should be logged as InfoGap, while ACAPS' Humanitarian Access Index, with its nine indicators, feeds into the final score.
Tips and justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We leave the figure's cell empty and, in the justification, we write a couple of sentences about the crisis and the lack of available sources to track the indicator. <p>Example: Considering the complexity of the situation in XXX and the lack of up-to-date reliable data from open sources, we cannot provide an accurate figure.</p>

INDICATOR	ILLNESS CASES REPORTED
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This indicator tallies the total number of crisis-related illnesses within the last six months. Illness is defined as a disease or disorder that affects the body's normal functioning. This indicator is currently excluded from the calculations of the final score as there are significant information gaps for most crises in the INFORM Severity Index. We log it as InfoGap.
Tips and justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We leave the figure's cell empty and, in the justification, we write a couple of sentences about the crisis and the lack of available sources to track the indicator. <p>Example: Considering the complexity of the situation in country X and that up-to-date and reliable data from open sources is not available, we are not able to provide an accurate figure for this indicator.</p>

INDICATOR	BUILDINGS DAMAGED
Description	<p>This indicator counts the number of buildings damaged in a crisis.</p> <p>The difference between this and the succeeding indicator (i.e. damaged vs. destroyed) is that a damaged building has been harmed or impaired but can still be repaired, used, or used partially. A destroyed building has been so severely damaged that it can no longer be used and must be demolished or rebuilt.</p> <p>This indicator is currently excluded from the calculations of the final score as there are significant information gaps for most crises, though it should still be logged.</p>
Tips and justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In cases of natural hazards, these numbers are usually tracked and available and should be logged. • In many crises (such as conflicts), the number of buildings destroyed is not systematically tracked because of the nature of the crisis. In this case, we log it as InfoGap, we leave the figure's cell empty, and in the justification, we write a couple of sentences about the crisis and the lack of available sources to track the indicator. <p>Example: Türkiye – earthquake in Türkiye/Syria: 0 (USGS accessed 21/02/2024)</p> <p>The magnitude-7.8 earthquake that hit southern Türkiye on 6 February 2023 destroyed infrastructure, and aftershocks caused further destruction and damage to buildings. More than 325,500 buildings were severely damaged or destroyed, four million other buildings were damaged, and 150,000 commercial structures were moderately damaged in 16 provinces across southern Türkiye. Ground fissures formed on a highway near Antakya, and a large fire destroyed 3,600 containers of industrial oil at a port at Iskenderun. Liquefaction and land subsidence occurred in Golbasi and Hatay.</p>
Tips and justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Six months after the event or opening of a crisis related to a natural hazard such as an earthquake, the number should be 0. This is because a natural hazard that caused destruction, such as an earthquake or a landslide, is normally a punctual or short-term event, unless relevant incidents occur later and cause further damage. • If there is not enough information for this indicator, we leave the figure's cell empty and we explain in the justification. <p>Example:</p> <p>Given the difficult nature of the circumstances in country X/area and the absence of up-to-date and reliable data from open sources, it is difficult to accurately estimate figures for this indicator.</p>

INDICATOR	BUILDINGS DESTROYED
Description	<p>This indicator counts the number of buildings destroyed in a crisis.</p> <p>The difference between this and the previous indicator (i.e. damaged vs. destroyed) is that a damaged building has been harmed or impaired but can still be repaired, used, or used partially. A destroyed building has been so severely damaged that it can no longer be used and must be demolished or rebuilt.</p> <p>This indicator is currently excluded from the calculations of the final score as there are significant information gaps for most crises, though it should still be logged.</p>
Tips and justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In cases of natural hazards, these numbers are usually tracked and available and should be logged. • In many crises (such as conflicts), the number of buildings destroyed are not systematically tracked because of the nature of the crisis. In this case, we log it as InfoGap, we leave the figure's cell empty, and in the justification, we write a couple of sentences about the crisis and the lack of available sources to track the indicator. <p>Example: Türkiye – earthquake in Türkiye/Syria: 298,000 (OCHA 25/06/2023)</p> <p>The magnitude-7.8 earthquake that hit southern Türkiye on 6 February 2023 destroyed infrastructure, and aftershocks caused further destruction and damage to buildings. This number is considered to have low reliability as it does not include different types of buildings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Six months after the event or opening of a crisis related to a natural hazard such as an earthquake, the number should be 0. This is because a natural hazard that caused destruction, such as an earthquake or a landslide, is normally a punctual or short-term event, unless relevant incidents occur later and cause further destruction. • If there is not enough information for this indicator, we leave the figure's cell empty and we explain in the justification. <p>Example:</p> <p>Because of the complex situation in XXX and a lack of current reliable information from open sources, it is difficult to provide an accurate figure.</p>

INDICATOR	BUILDINGS IN AFFECTED AREAS
Description	<p>This indicator tallies the total number of buildings in the affected areas of a country/admin1 area. This number may be available through national census websites.</p> <p>This indicator is currently excluded from the calculations of the final score, as there are significant information gaps for most crises in the INFORM Severity Index, though it should still be logged.</p>
Tips and justification	<p>If there is not enough information for this indicator, we leave the figure's cell empty and, in the justification, we write a couple of sentences explaining the crisis and lack of available sources to track this indicator.</p> <p>Example:</p> <p>Given the complicated situation in country X/area and the fact that we don't have reliable, up-to-date data from open sources, it is difficult to provide an exact figure for this indicator.</p>

INDICATOR	ECONOMIC LOSSES
Description	<p>This indicator pertains to the number of losses in millions of US dollars as a result of the crisis.</p> <p>It is currently excluded from the calculations of the final score, as there are significant information gaps for most crises in the INFORM Severity Index. It should be logged as InfoGap.</p>
Tips and justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In case the information is available, provide the number or the context in the justification. <p>Example: Türkiye – earthquake in Türkiye/Syria: 100,000,000,000 (USGS accessed 21/02/2024)</p> <p>The magnitude-7.8 earthquake that hit southern Türkiye on 6 February 2023 destroyed basic civilian infrastructure. Aftershocks continued in the surrounding area, causing the further destruction of already damaged buildings. The earthquake killed nearly 50,400, injured 115,000, and left 1.5 million people homeless. More than 325,500 buildings were severely damaged or destroyed, four million others were damaged, and 150,000 commercial structures were moderately damaged in 16 provinces across southern Türkiye. Ground fissures formed on a highway near Antakya, and a large fire destroyed 3,600 containers of industrial oil at a port in Iskenderun. Liquefaction and land subsidence occurred in Golbasi and Hatay. Damage is estimated at USD 100 billion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there is not enough information for this indicator, we leave the figure's cell empty and, in the justification, we write a couple of sentences explaining the crisis and the lack of available sources to track the indicator. <p>Example:</p> <p>Considering the complexity of the situation in country X/area and that up-to-date, reliable data from open sources is not available, we cannot provide an accurate figure for this indicator.</p>

INFORM SEVERITY INDEX – SOURCES, LINKS, AND TYPES OF ENTRY

Each indicator is assigned by the type of entry as follows.

- We cite the name of the organisation and add the publication date as dd/mm/yyyy – e.g. OCHA 04/11/2022; ACLED accessed 04/11/2022.
- We do not use the title of the product, such as HNO, Flash Appeal, etc.
- The publication date should always be in dd/mm/yyyy format – e.g. do not use OCHA April or OCHA 2023.
- Whenever there is more than one source, we use a semicolon to separate the sources' names and links.

Each indicator is assigned by the type of entry either as a:

- **Humanitarian development:** when a crisis is activated or something happens within an already existing crisis, such as an escalation in conflict, an earthquake triggering further landslides or aftershocks, an epidemic, a flooding crisis, etc.
- **Change in data/methodology:** when an update is linked to a change in source, change in methodology of a source used, or regular figure update with new numbers.

INFORM SEVERITY INDEX – DATA RELIABILITY

We calculate the data reliability variable during the data collection phase by assigning a score on a three-point scale (low, medium, or high). This scoring process relies on expert judgement and incorporates the following critical elements.

- **Data collection methodology:** we assess the robustness and soundness of the data collection methodology, if known. This includes evaluating the design, implementation, and overall quality of the data collection process to determine its reliability and usability.
- **Sources/bias:** we examine the types of sources from which the data originates. This involves evaluating the credibility, impartiality, and potential biases of these sources to ensure that the data is trustworthy. Sources could include international organisations, local institutions, government departments, and other relevant entities.
- **Estimations:** we assess the confidence level in the estimations that inform the indicators in the model. This includes a thorough evaluation of the assumptions made during the estimation process and the original sources of data. We consider the accuracy and reliability of these estimations to determine the overall confidence in the data provided.

By systematically considering these elements, we assign a data reliability score that reflects the overall dependability and credibility of the collected data. This approach ensures that the final data used in the INFORM Severity Index is as accurate and reliable as possible.

INFORM SEVERITY INDEX – LIMITATIONS

We derive the information that feeds into the INFORM Severity Index from a range of credible, publicly available sources, such as reports from international and local humanitarian organisations, UN agencies, human rights organisations, think tanks, international and local media, social media platforms, and governments (official sites, embassies, etc.). We use expert judgement in deciding what data to include, considering the following limitations.

- **Crisis complexity:** it may be challenging to capture the full scope of crises that involve multiple interrelated factors, leading to incomplete or simplified data.
- **Reporting delays/avoidance:** delays in reporting or intentional withholding of information by sources may affect the timeliness of data collection.
- **Personal judgement:** subjective decisions on which data to prioritise or include can introduce bias and affect the indicators' reliability.
- **Politically driven reporting:** we must navigate information that may be influenced by political biases, which can distort the true nature of the crisis.
- **Information gaps:** incomplete data from sources can lead to significant gaps, preventing a comprehensive understanding of the crisis.
- **Analytical decisions:** while variations in information sources or changes in analytical methods over time may lead to inconsistencies in the collected data, we adhere to ACAPS guidelines relevant to the INFORM Severity Index and consult supervisors for additional direction when necessary to minimise these inconsistencies.

