

# SCENARIO BUILDING

is the key in both designing robust interventions and informing timely contingency planning and preparedness measures.

## WHY SCENARIO BUILDING?

The humanitarian community often finds itself unprepared for unfolding humanitarian developments or sudden events. Recognising the importance for better preparedness, ACAPS has developed a methodology for developing plausible scenarios.

These scenarios help provide necessary analysis of how situations may evolve and identify the potential humanitarian impact. This in turn can inform more robust programming and timely contingency planning and preparedness measures.



There is an increasing demand for scenarios in the humanitarian system, but we don't have the right skill set to do it.

MEAL Officer, IFRC

Previous scenario building by ACAPS

- ✓ Impact of El Niño and La Niña in Indonesia
- ✓ Migrant/refugee crisis in Europe
- ✓ Northeast Nigeria
- ✓ Movement back to Syria

# WHAT DOES THE PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

The scenario building process takes approximately **four to six weeks**, including preparatory activities, deployment and report-writing, depending on the context.

## Workshops

At the heart of the process is **Scenario Building Workshops**, during which participants with expertise and knowledge on the complexity of the crisis are invited to participate in a **joint analysis session** for one or two days.

## Review

The next step is a review of the scenarios by individual consultations and stakeholders to **maximise expert contribution**.

## Output

As a result, a **report with a set of key scenarios** including an overview of events that could trigger the scenario, humanitarian consequences and impact, estimated caseload, operational constraints and recommended actions.

In line with ACAPS criteria for providing support, ACAPS would make the document available for **free use by the general public**.

## Which scenario building methodology does ACAPS use?

There are different approaches to examining possible futures. For most humanitarian settings, ACAPS recommends the **'chain of plausibility' approach**, which starts with identifying the variables that are likely drive change in the humanitarian situation.

For each scenario the likely trigger events and humanitarian impacts are then identified, as well as an estimation of the humanitarian caseload and likelihood of each scenario occurring.

## Interested in getting support?

For further information about the possibility of receiving ACAPS support with scenario-building, please contact us at [info@acaps.org](mailto:info@acaps.org)