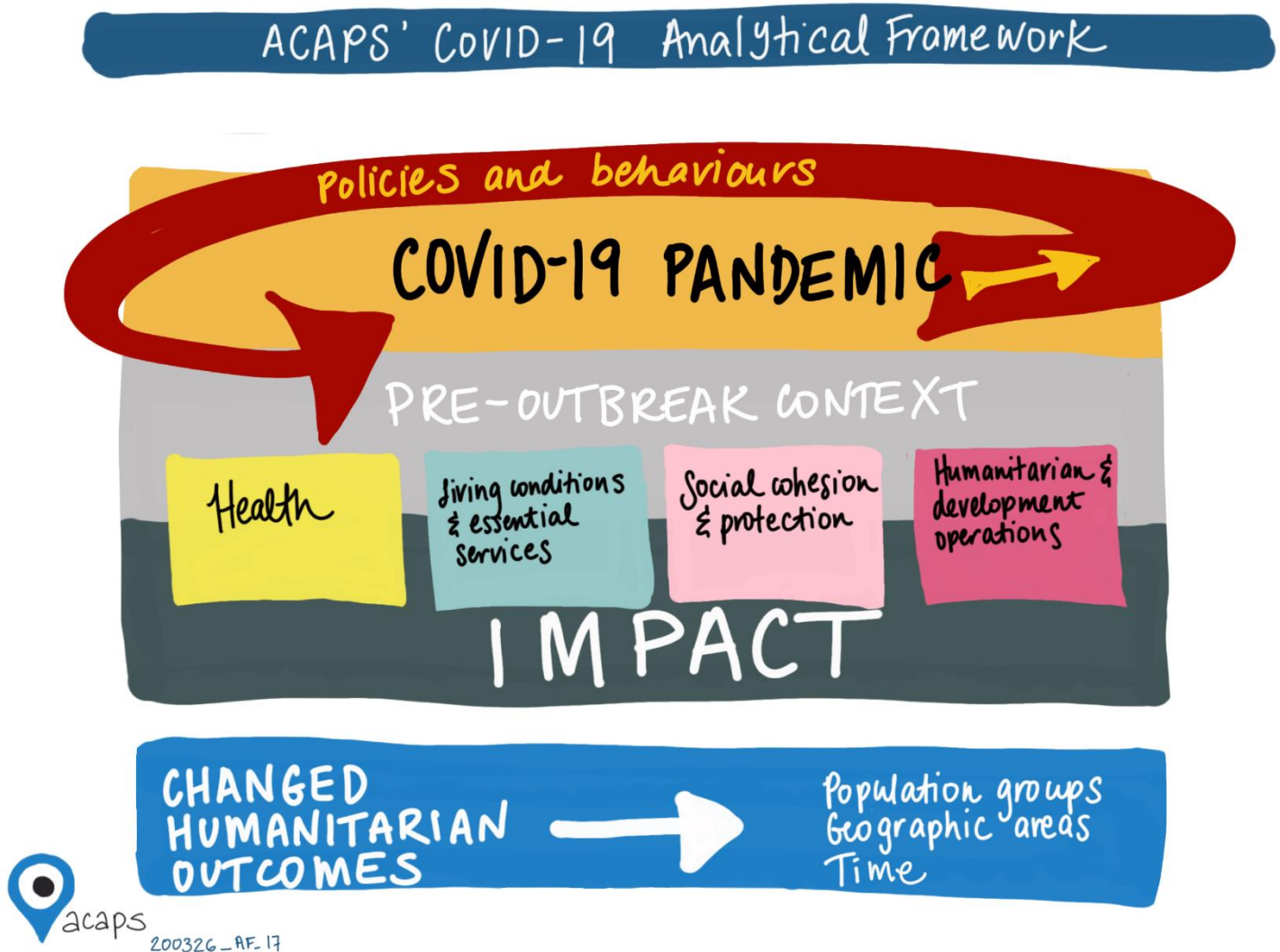


ACAPS' COVID-19 ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

ACAPS' approach to analysis of the unfolding COVID-19 crisis is presented visually in the following analytical framework.



In the rapidly evolving global context, this framework encompasses what ACAPS and its partners view as key to understanding the way the pandemic will impact overall humanitarian needs beyond the direct health impacts of the virus.

It has been designed to be applicable at the global, regional, country or crisis level. As such it will ensure a level of coherence to the COVID-19 analysis by ACAPS' Global COVID-19 Task Force, as well as its Analysis Hubs around the world.

The heart of ACAPS' analysis is the COVID-19 pandemic and its interplay with:

- policies and interventions put in place as a reaction to the pandemic
- behaviours and actions that are adopted as a result of the pandemic
- behaviours and actions that are prompted by the policies.

This interplay between the pandemic and policies and behaviours does not occur in a vacuum; it filters through and imposes itself upon all spheres of human life (in humanitarian and development terms the sectors). These have been grouped into four pillars – health, living conditions and essential services, social cohesion and protection, and humanitarian and development operations (discussed below). The changes in the conditions, availability, access and quality of the various elements of these pillars are how changes to overall humanitarian outcomes will be understood. Our interest is in understanding this for different groups of people, in different geographical areas, and across time.

Components of the framework

The Crisis

The crisis is considered to be the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the policy and behavioural reaction to it. **The 'COVID-19 Pandemic' box** covers key information about the current situation in relation to the direct impact of the disease, including, but not limited to, its direct impacts, to date, on health, health facilities and transmission rates.

The secondary impacts of the pandemic change rapidly, independently and in reaction to a range of interventions and policies (e.g. travel bans, public health interventions and lockdowns), as well as behaviours on the part of individuals and communities (such as observing social distancing, preventive hygiene practices and panic buying). This interplay is depicted through **the arrow representing policy and behavioural responses to the pandemic**, which grows out of the pandemic, and also feeds back into it while being filtered through the pre-outbreak conditions of the context being analysed.

Pre-outbreak context

The pre-outbreak context covers all relevant information about the context (crisis, country or region) of analysis. It is the filter through which the direct, or primary, impacts of COVID-19 and the policy and behavioural response to it, will play out in any given context. It should include the pre-outbreak status of all factors highlighted in the four pillars in order to provide analysis of how these key factors have changed as a result of the crisis. The pre-outbreak context also includes demographics, socio-cultural behaviours and governance, factors which will interact with the crisis in unique ways to produce impacts, as well as provide perspective to the scope and scale of the impact in the context being analysed.

Impact

The impacts section categorizes the most relevant humanitarian impacts of the crisis, into four key pillars.

Health

This pillar will cover the secondary impacts of the crisis on health; specifically, health of people and health care systems. While health would logically be one of the “sectors” considered a part of living conditions and essential services, given the nature of this crisis, the intense impacts on health and health care warrant a standalone pillar. The extra demand on services, together with the possibility of diminishing availability of health workers due to infections, may reduce access to other essential preventive, curative and emergency health services and supplies.

Living conditions and essential services

This pillar focuses on the access and availability of basic goods and essential services, as well as quality of those goods and services. Response to the COVID-19 epidemic is likely to affect availability and access of goods and services. Quarantines, social distancing, closing schools, universities, offices and border closures, changes in transport, stockpiling, market closures, among others will change people’s access to the commodities and services they usually use. It will also impact livelihoods and the availability of finances needed to maintain access to key goods and services. This pillar will include analysis of markets, economy and livelihoods, as well as housing hygiene, food, education, information, communication, transportation and the environment.

Social cohesion & protection

This pillar will cover impacts on how societies and communities are functioning, both within and among affected groups, and on protection related impacts. The changes initiated by the measures taken to address, mitigate and prepare for the pandemic may increase social tensions, foster blaming of disadvantaged groups, and exacerbate pre-existing protection concerns. These effects may start immediately and can deepen, grow and change over time. Analysis in this pillar will include, but not be limited to, impacts on gender dynamics and relations, marginalized groups, safety and security, social tensions as well as coping mechanisms, and human rights impacts.

Humanitarian & development operations

In contexts where there are existing humanitarian operations, or development programmes to alleviate poverty and support the Sustainable Development Goals, the impact of COVID-19 is likely to be significant because the population targeted by the response are already be living in conditions that make them vulnerable. Existing needs and concerns will be aggravated, and new ones are likely to result. This pillar will cover analysis of the impacts on these ongoing or pre-existing programmes. It will include impacts on humanitarian access, supply chains, funding, staffing and any measures organizations take in response to the crisis, including changes in focus areas, targeting, modalities or scaling of interventions.

Changed humanitarian outcomes

The end result of the analysis is to understand how the crisis has changed humanitarian outcomes; to understand how people’s overall living conditions, access to goods and services, well-being, and safety been impacted by the pandemic. This will be considered within and between different population groups, across different geographical areas and over time. The output of ACAPS’ analysis will be presented in different ways through a range of products.