

JIAF

# Technical Briefing Note

V3 – May 2021



This briefing note provides an overview of the three core components comprising the Joint Inter-Sectoral Analysis framework (JIAF) approach:

1. **the conceptual framework;**
2. **the analytical methodology; and**
3. **the implementation process.**

The intended audience for this note includes information management focal points and other technical actors who will participate in applying the JIAF to joint analysis processes. Its primary purpose is to highlight and clarify key aspects regarding JIAF implementation at field level; for more detailed guidance on the JIAF concept, process, or methodology, please visit the [JIAF website](#).

## Conceptual Framework

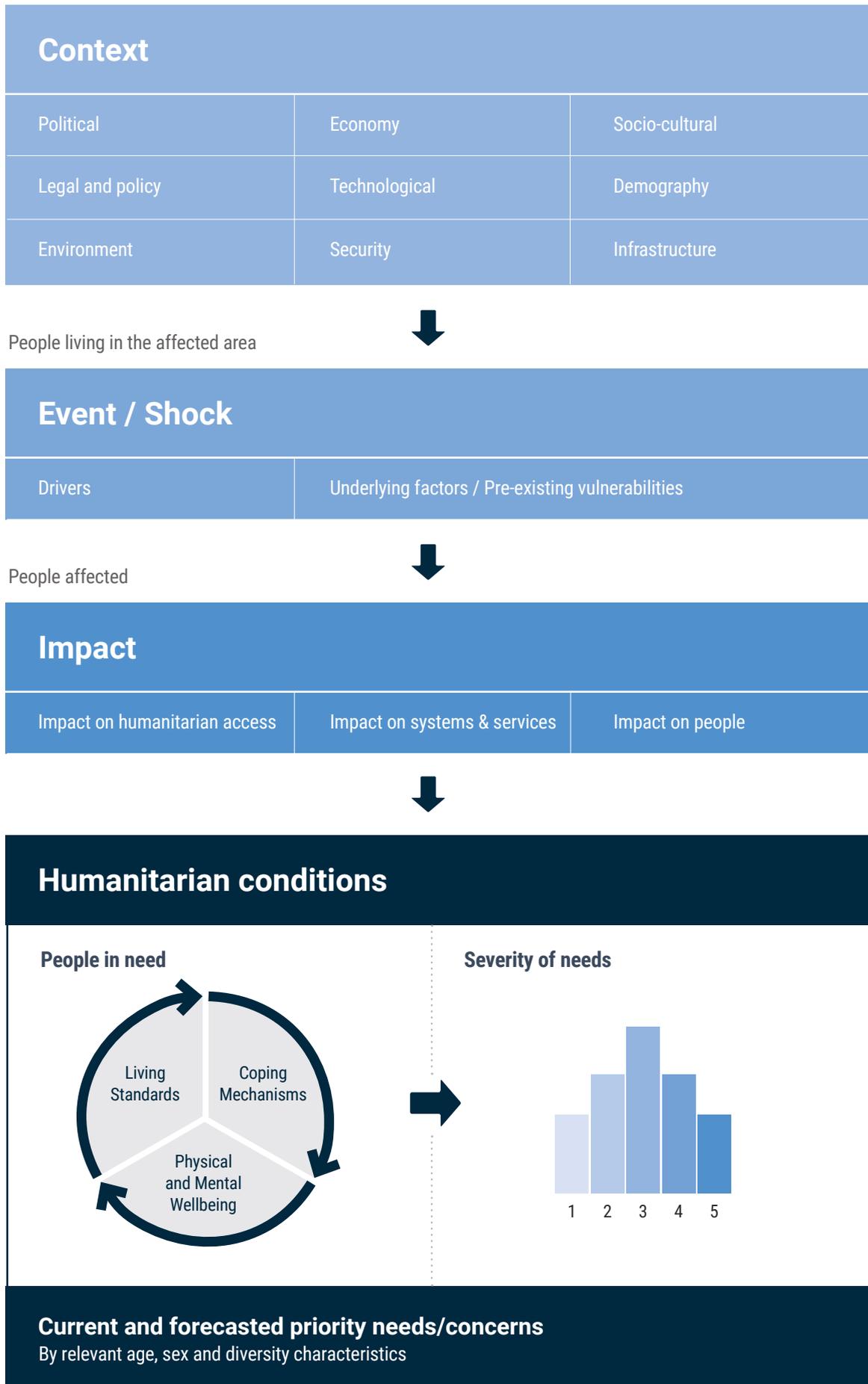
The primary objective of the JIAF approach is to inform strategic decision-making, response analysis, and response planning through a holistic, people-centred, and inclusive joint intersectoral analysis system that is comprehensive and methodologically rigorous.

The JIAF provides humanitarian actors with a common analytical framework and system to gather, structure, and synthesize information **regarding the intersectoral needs of populations in crisis**. Through applying the JIAF, actors can estimate the magnitude and severity of humanitarian needs as well as develop a common narrative around the context, shocks, and drivers of the crisis. This analysis can support forecasting of how the severity and magnitude of needs may evolve within the planning cycle.

The JIAF Framework is built around **five main pillars**, each of which contains different sub-pillars to help organise information, visualize relationships, and bring a consistent structure to the analysis (see Figure 1).



Figure 1. Visual representation of the JIAF conceptual framework.



The first three pillars – context, event/shock, and impact – allow response actors to **define the scope of the crisis**, i.e., to identify all affected geographic areas and estimate the total number of people who have been affected by it, disaggregated by key demographic characteristics.

The fourth pillar regarding Humanitarian Conditions allows response actors to then classify the severity of humanitarian needs within the affected areas and populations and estimate the number of people in need within each severity level. To define the scope and estimate severity of needs, pillar three type of humanitarian consequences pillar is considered: **living standards, coping mechanisms, and physical and mental wellbeing**. The outputs from the Humanitarian Conditions pillar are a critical part of the analysis process, as they can support **needs-based response planning, prioritization and resource allocation decisions**.

The fifth pillar applies a forward-looking lens, to **project needs based on the most likely evolution of the crisis** during the planning period. This forecasting will also include projecting how needs may change in the absence of assistance that is currently being provided. Further technical guidance will be developed to support JIAF users with operationalizing the forecasting component of the framework for the next HPC cycle.

## Methodology

The JIAF analysis informs a number of key outputs.

The qualitative output is the detailed narrative unpacking the inter-relation of the three humanitarian consequences, the underlying characteristics, coping mechanisms, and other contextual and crisis factors associated with needs, vulnerabilities and capacities for different subsets of the population. It reveals how these factors may exacerbate the needs and vulnerabilities of certain subsets of the population.

The core quantitative intersectoral outputs from the JIAF analysis are:

1. the severity of needs, determined through a 1-5 severity scale (Figure 2); and

2. the overall magnitude of needs, represented by the People in Need (PiN) figure.

PiN and severity figures can be produced at crisis/country level, to reflect an overall estimation among the entire affected population and can also be produced at disaggregated geographic or population group levels – for example, for the population of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) specifically and/or for each Admin 2 geographic area.

These quantitative pillars are further explained below.

### Severity of Needs

The severity level classification is conducted using the data collected and analysed from the JIAF Humanitarian Conditions pillar.

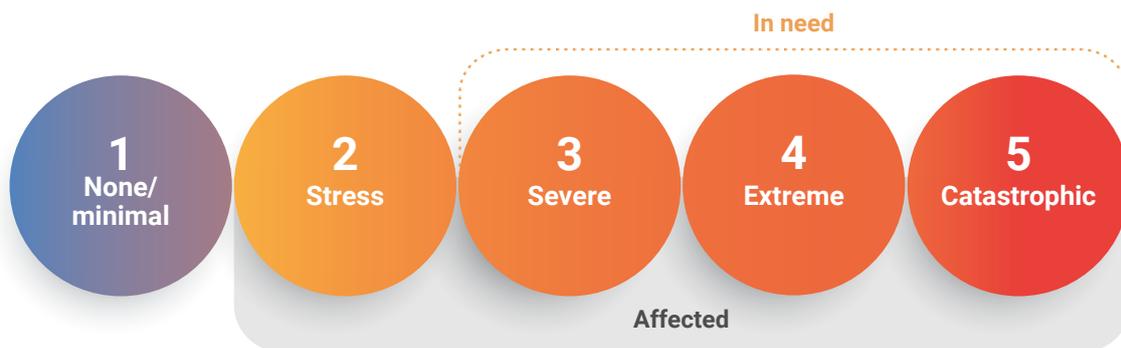
At country level, the Analysis Team selects sectoral and cross-sectoral indicators for inclusion in the JIAF severity model to gather evidence of Humanitarian Conditions.

The [JIAF indicator reference table](#) compiles a key set of indicators put forward by each Global Cluster/Area of Responsibility (AoR). In Step 1.5, the Analysis Team reviews these indicators and defines sources for each Humanitarian Conditions pillars, to adapt the context as needed, using the severity scale definitions provided. The data to measure these indicators can be collected through a range of sources, including multi-sector needs assessments, sector-specific or thematic surveys, cluster information management systems, government statistics agencies, among others. The Independent Review will examine the [JIAF indicator reference table](#) to ensure greater relevance and adaptability at field level.

In particular, the selection of critical indicators (see details in Step 2.1.6, and the template to document the selection<sup>1</sup>) is an important step in developing a JIAF severity model that can appropriately capture and classify high severity levels. Critical indicators correspond most directly to time-critical, life-threatening consequences, and as such, the JIAF Analysis Team must ensure that these indicators at the highest severity levels (e.g., severity 5) equate to

1 Template to document the selection of indicators in [Word](#) and [Excel](#)

Figure 2. JIAF Severity Scale



‘imminent death’. Indicators from well-established analysis methodologies whose severity indices relate to ‘imminent death’ in the highest categories should therefore be given precedence in the selection of critical indicators. The chief example of this is the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) for Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) or Acute Malnutrition (AMN) and Cadre Harmonise (CH) whose severity classifications should be treated as critical indicators.

### Magnitude of Needs

The aggregation method used to produce the severity analysis and subsequently the PiN will depend on the indicators to be analysed for the JIAF, and the type of data sources where those indicators are available. In 2020, two aggregation methods were developed to support the application of the JIAF to 2021 HPC joint analysis, based on two types of data availability scenarios:

- **Data Scenario A:** Household level indicators are available, and they are all contained in a single household level indicator dataset. Household indicators are therefore “**linked**.”
- **Data Scenario B:** Household level indicators or area-level indicators are available, but only through multiple household or area-level indicator datasets; or alternatively, only area-level datasets are available. Household indicators are therefore “**unlinked**.”

Moreover, in either scenario, the household level data can and should be complemented by any number of relevant area-level datasets, as long as the geographical location of households and the area

indicator can be matched. However, for scenario A, the process of linking area-level information to the household dataset requires further consideration and review, to ensure area-level classifications do not inadvertently result in an over- or under-estimating of needs.<sup>2</sup>

In order to implement the **Data Scenario A** aggregation method, the available household level data will likely be collected using either:

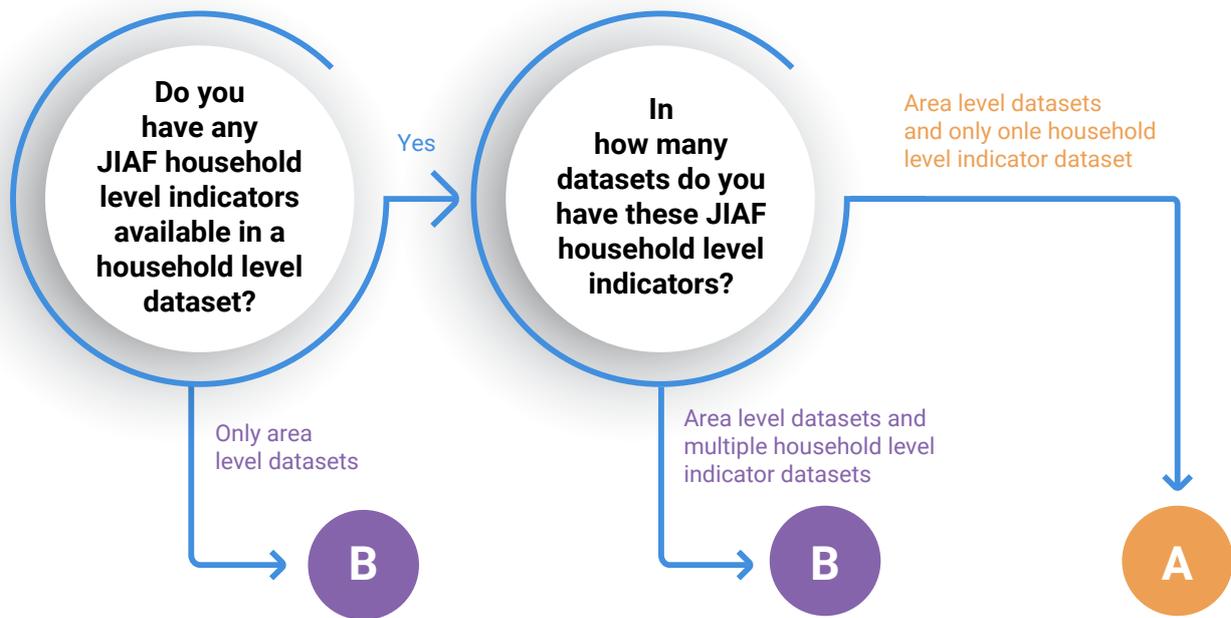
- a single household level assessment covering all geographical areas (e.g., multi sector coordinated assessments); or
- multiple household level assessments covering different geographical areas but using the same questions (i.e., harmonized household level assessments). Through this scenario, it is possible to identify households facing more than one sectoral need simultaneously, and to unpack the analysis further to understand which sectors may be driving overall humanitarian needs within a crisis. Perhaps most critically, aggregation through Data Scenario A ensures that households are not counted multiple times in the calculation of the overall PiN figure for the crisis.

Alternatively, in **Data Scenario B**, either household level information is not available for all selected indicators (only area-level information), or different households have been interviewed across different assessments, and it would be impossible to discern if the same households were included in multiple assessments – this would be the case, for example, if the JIAF analysis team was consolidating household data from a Knowledge Attitude and

<sup>2</sup> More details on the pros and cons of both scenarios are available on page 5

Figure 3. Data scenario decision tree

Follow the decision tree to identify the data scenario for each geographical area / affected group.



NB: Household data must not be discarded to facilitate use of data scenario A. If different JIAF households level indicators for the same area / group are spread across multiple datasets (e.g. MSNA + WASH HH assessment) the data scenario B must be used.

Practices (KAP) survey conducted by WaSH actors, an education assessment by education actors, a shelter damage assessment by shelter actors, etc. In this scenario, it is challenging to distinguish if the same people are facing issues in the three sectors or if they are simply different people with different issues. The household level indicators are thus “unlinked” and the percentage of the population in the data that have co-occurring needs is unknown. To address this shortcoming, an aggregation method was identified for Data Scenario B.

The objective of the JIAF is to arrive at an overall estimate of the intersectoral severity of needs and the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance. Single, or sector-based PiN estimates are secondary in the JIAF by design. But in planning processes such as the Humanitarian Programme Cycle, both are required and important, and the relationship between them must be clear. In this context, a sector’s PiN and severity figures should always be estimated as per the sector’s validated / preferred methods; though the JIAF approach to analysis of context, shocks and impact can serve as a common logical reference.

### Methodology limitations

As development of the JIAF is ongoing and the approach is implemented in the field, the final structure, concepts, methods, and tools are likely to evolve and be refined further.

### Process

While the JIAF is a data-driven process, it still requires coordinated, multi-stakeholder collaboration to collect, interpret the data and reach a technical consensus on the final analytical outputs. There are five key steps in implementing the recommended joint analysis process, as outlined in Figure 3. Within each of these five key steps, the process can be further broken down into additional activities.

Figure 4. Steps of the JIAF process

**STEP** Plan and design a joint intersectoral analysis process

**1** > *Reviewed Analysis Framework + JIAF workplan*

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- 1.1 Form the Analysis team
- 1.2 Set and agree on timeframe, roles, and responsibilities
- 1.3 Review guidance and templates
- 1.4 Set the scope of JIAF analysis : first dive into the first 3 pillars (Context, Risk, Impact)
- 1.5 Review indicators and define sources for Humanitarian Conditions pillar
- 1.6 Identify 'critical' indicators Humanitarian Conditions pillar
- 1.7 Present for endorsement to the HCT/ICCG<sup>3</sup> as the scope of the HNO

**STEP** Collate and collect data

**2** > *Initial intersectoral analysis narrative*

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- 2.1 Secondary data review
- 2.2 Primary data collection
- 2.3 Starting to tell the intersectoral story
- 2.4 Identify data scenario for the Humanitarian Conditions aggregation

**STEP** Consolidate JIAF data

**3** > *"Preliminary PiN" based on quantitative data aggregation*

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- 3.1 Consolidating JIAF data
- 3.2 Initial estimates of the total number of people falling under each severity phase: the "Preliminary PiN"
  - Produce Preliminary PiN based on data aggregation scenario A (Annex 1)
  - Produce Preliminary PiN based on data aggregation scenario B (Annex 2)

**STEP** Conduct JIAF analysis

**4** > *Refined Joint Intersectoral analysis, Reviewed Intersectoral PiN, projections*

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- 4.1 Review the narrative developed in exploring the linkages between the pillars, the description of people's Humanitarian Conditions and factors associated (Step 2.2.3) and estimated, initial calculations of people in need ("Preliminary PiN") and severity phase estimation (Step 2.3.2)
  - Joint Analysis starting from Scenario A (including final intersectoral PiN calculation)
  - Joint Analysis starting from Scenario B (including final intersectoral PiN calculation)
- 4.2 Describe key issues, characteristics, and contributing factors of people in need, by severity phase
- 4.3 Review existing risk analysis and anticipate future conditions

**STEP** Validate analysis

**5** > *JIAF ready to be transformed into HNO*

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- 5.1 JIAF team aggregates all analysis results
- 5.2 Final validation workshop to validate main conclusions
- 5.3 Submit final outputs to ICCG/HCT for final validation and endorsement

3 Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG)