

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION AND WAYS TO COLLECT IT

Data required	Example questions	Possible collection methods
Size of population and level of emergency	Size and density of population affected and over what area? What is the crude death rate in the population (per ten thousand per day)? What are the main causes of disease and death in the community? Are certain groups of people suffering more from these illnesses?	Discussion with government and NGO workers; clinic records; discussions with refugee leaders, community health workers, and traditional healers; counting and mapping funerals and burials
Priority needs and vulnerable groups	What are the priority problems according to the refugees? Do people have adequate shelter, fuel, food, security? Does this vary with age, gender or social group?	Mapping, discussion groups, matrix ranking, pocket chart, three-pile sorting
Social structures and communication channels	How is the settlement organized? What structures and groups exist for communicating with refugees? What outreach workers exist in the community? How do people get their information? Which communication channels are thought to be most effective?	Mapping, key informant interviews and focus group discussions with refugees, government workers and other organizations, Venn diagrams, stakeholder analysis
Handwashing practices	Is handwashing at key times the usual practice and what do people use for hand washing? Do men, women, boys and girls wash hands after defecation, after cleaning a child's bottom? What is used for handwashing? If people use soap or ash for handwashing, what advantages do they associate with this practice?	Key informant interviews and focus group discussions with adults and children, exploratory walks, mapping, observation, three-pile sorting
Defecation practices	Where do people defecate? Has the current situation forced people to change their defecation practices? Is there evidence of faeces near to dwellings? If people use latrines, what advantages do they associate with those latrines? Do children use the latrines? Is infants' excreta disposed of in latrines?	Key informant interviews and focus group discussions with adults and children, mapping, three-pile sorting, time-line, exploratory walks, observation
Water sources	Which water sources do people use and what do they use this water for? Is the drinking water source likely to be contaminated? Do people distinguish between water used for drinking and water for other uses?	Key informant interviews and focus group discussions with users at water sources and near dwellings, exploratory walks, observation, pocket chart, three-pile sorting
Water collection and storage practices	Which household members collect drinking water? Are drinking water containers clean and sufficient in number? Do they use balancers? If yes, are these balancers washed before use? What do people use to store drinking water in?	Focus group discussion, home visits, exploratory walks, observation, three-pile sorting, gender roles
Special needs for women	Are there special problems for women? What do women use to protect themselves during menstruation? Have breast-feeding practices been altered? Are women able to carry out their domestic tasks without fear of attack?	Key informant interviews and focus group discussions, observation, gender roles, key informant interviews
Beliefs about cause of disease	What is the understanding of the relationship between water, sanitation and disease? Is it the same for all groups? What do people think causes diarrhoea?	Key informant interviews, focus group discussion, story-with-a-gap, three-pile sorting
Vector control	Is there a problem with rats, mosquitoes, lice? Are there any other problems associated with vector control? Is solid waste or waste water near to dwellings?	Clinic records, focus group discussions, three-pile sorting, observation