

Data-collection techniques and appropriate use for each technique

(UNHCR Needs Assessment Handbook Page 81:

<https://emergency.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/UNHCR%20Needs%20Assessment%20Handbook.pdf>)

Type	Means of collection	Respondent group	Purpose	Initial	Rapid	In-depth	Monitoring
Key informant interviews	Structured or semi-structured questionnaire adapted to respondent's expected knowledge	Individuals with prior and specific knowledge on an issue, situation, group, or location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather information about the impact of the crisis among different population groups, protection risks, challenges, opportunities, and resilience 	X	X	X	X
Direct observation	Structured (looking for) and unstructured (looking at) observation (sounds, smells, visual impressions, for instance the presence and absence of things and people, taste, touch)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discover conditions and specific features of an affected site or a population Discover what is or is not there, or what is/feels abnormal Triangulate data obtained through other techniques 	X	X	X	X
Focus group discussions ¹²	Semi-structured interview with a group of individuals to gain information on conditions, situations, experience, expectations, or perceptions through group interaction	Small population groups sharing certain characteristics (e.g. age, sex, diversity factors, economic status)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to affected population Record priorities, needs, capacities, and protection risks identified by specific groups Understand underlying factors, risks, threats, and causes Deepen knowledge gained from other techniques 			X	X
Community group discussions	Discussion with a diverse group of individuals from a specific community	Diverse groups of individuals from the selected community representing different groups, household situations, and characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain information on conditions, experience, expectations, or perceptions to ensure different points of view Record priorities, needs, and protection risks identified by the community Deepen knowledge gained from other techniques 		X		X
Household visits	Structured interviews with members of households to gain information on conditions, situations, experience, expectations, or perceptions. Teams observe the living conditions of these households	Female and male heads of household (or other representatives of the households, e.g. caregivers, including where these are single women or children)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the condition and situation based on pre-defined indicators Record priorities, needs, and protection risks identified by household representatives 			X	X