

2024 Planning

Guidance Note #16

Prioritisation

Background

The 3RP is a country-led regionally coherent plan, comprised of five country chapters that present needs-based appeals, developed in consultation with the host governments and other key stakeholders. When planning, the 3RP takes into consideration additional variables such as the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) in terms of assumptions, risks, and scenarios. To ensure the credibility of the 3RP in a challenging funding landscape and complex protection environment, donor engagement and cross-sectoral prioritisation need to be incorporated in the planning process on top of needs assessments and multi-level targeting. It is important that the 3RP appeal in 2024 presents the most compelling priorities and expresses the interagency efforts made towards prioritisation. Given that the funding level of the 3RP has declined in absolute and percentage terms for several consecutive years, it would also be expected that the total financial requirements for 2024 decrease as well, even if the needs, as expressed for example in terms of Persons in Need, remain comprehensive.

Prioritisation principles:

The following guiding principles can serve as an instrument to effectively integrate prioritisation in the 3RP appeal moving forward, namely:

- (A) Commitment and accountability by the individual agencies**
- (B) Ownership and leadership of national/ local governments and localization efforts**
- (C) Engagement of donors**

Scope of the guidance note

The focus of this regional guidance note is to set guiding principles and key parameters on how prioritisation would be done in the 3RP across all levels. This guidance is for all partners that appeal through the 3RP and the Inter-Sectoral and Sectoral Coordinators. Furthermore, it outlines some expected roles for the regional partners. It is recommended to use this guidance note in conjunction with the Guidance Note #3 on Programming and Budget Planning.

Key parameters for the 3RP appealing partners

3RP Partners are responsible for carefully assessing their operational capacity across all levels in order to effectively address the needs of refugees and impacted host communities who are targeted in their respective programmes and interventions, and actively engage with other partners through the existing coordination mechanisms.

- 1. Capacity to mobilise resources to reach the targeted population:**
 - Is there a budget/resource plan that would enable continued funding to cover the population targeted in your programme?
 - Is there a capacity to proactively submit proposals to donors to ensure the needs of the targeted population are met?
- 2. Geographical coverage and operational presence:**
 - Is there sufficient presence of staff to carry out the interventions in the areas you intend to cover?
 - If there is no presence of staff, does your organization have physical access as well as permission by the (local/national) authorities to carry out the project in the geographical areas of your programme? If not given permission yet and currently in the process of requesting to the authorities, ensure the organization is registered with the concerned government and become operational within six months of the launched appeal.
 - Is there a local actor or other potential partners that could work together to effectively reach the targeted population and complement each other's capacities and interventions?
- 3. Technical capacity**
 - Is there sufficient staffing with an adequate technical expertise to implement, monitor, and report throughout the programme cycle?
 - Is your organization able to report regularly through the reporting mechanisms set up at national/sub-national level throughout the programme cycle?
 - Is your organization able to commit to sectoral and inter-sectoral working groups throughout the year and ensure coordination within and across sectors?

Key parameters for the Inter-Sectoral and Sectoral Coordinators

3RP Partners are responsible for carefully assessing their operational capacity across all levels in order to effectively address the needs of refugees and impacted host communities who are targeted in their respective programmes and interventions, and actively engage with other partners through the existing coordination mechanisms.

- 1. Capacity of public services and systems:**
 - Are the capacities of public services and systems regularly assessed at Sector or/and Inter-Sectoral Working Group levels?
 - Are activities and interventions at Sector level incorporating and addressing capacity gaps and priorities for local/ national systems and institutions?
- 2. Assessing impact of the cross-sectoral priorities:**
 - Are cross-sectoral priorities aligned with the local/national development plans?
 - Would the cross-sectoral priorities make a valuable contribution to the country level strategic objectives as well as to the regional strategic directions?
- 3. Identifying negative consequences if activities/ interventions are not supported:**
 - Are potential negative consequences of activities/ interventions if not being supported identified through Sectoral and Inter-Sectoral Working Groups on a periodic basis?¹
 - Are these used to inform advocacy messages to donors throughout the year?
- 4. Coordination in the geographical areas where multiple partners operate:**
 - Do the interventions by multiple partners operating in the same geographical area(s) overlap with each other?
 - Are the needs of targeted population being met in the most efficient and cost-effective way?
 - Is there an existing sub-national coordination platform that can be utilized for more effective coordination among partners on their activities and to share evidence?
- 5. Building on previous existing data, evidence, and good practices:**
 - Are the latest knowledge products and evidence effectively used by the partners to inform their responses at Sector and Inter-Sectoral levels?
 - Do Sector strategies and partners interventions build on the latest available datasets and evidence to inform sectoral and cross-sectoral priorities?
- 6. Criticality of activities:**
 - Are refugees and host community members being targeted based on identifying and selecting those most in need within a Sector? While all activities can arguably be important to achieve a holistic outcome, they are not all critical at the same level.
 - Are people in need meaningfully consulted and do they participate in prioritization of activities?
- 7. Historic trend: Target/PiN ratio:**
 - Has a sector been targeting a large proportion of its PiN? The sector would then be invited to justify how this is a realistic target, recalling that reducing the ratio is one of the most effective ways of prioritizing and reducing financial requirements.
- 8. Historic trend: Target/reach ratio:**
 - Has a sector been able to reach a majority of its set target? The sector will be invited to justify why it continues to target more people than it has been capable of reaching over the years.

¹ This is important in order to avoid any backlash especially in livelihood and social cohesion programmes and activities where refugees and host community members interact with each other.

Expected role of 3RP partners at regional level

- (A) Trend analysis:**
Analyse ratio between financial requirements and funding received for the 3RP in previous years.
- (B) Accountability check-in:**
Regularly check and report what progress has been made on the prioritisation efforts and ensure advocacy messages/consequences of underfunding are developed.
- (C) Donor engagement:**
Keep donors regularly abreast, explore new and maximise existing entry points (e.g., Brussels Conference) where the 3RP could disseminate key messages around prioritisation efforts and the compelling priorities of the plan.