

Rapid Needs Analysis (RNA) Training

Introduction to Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA)

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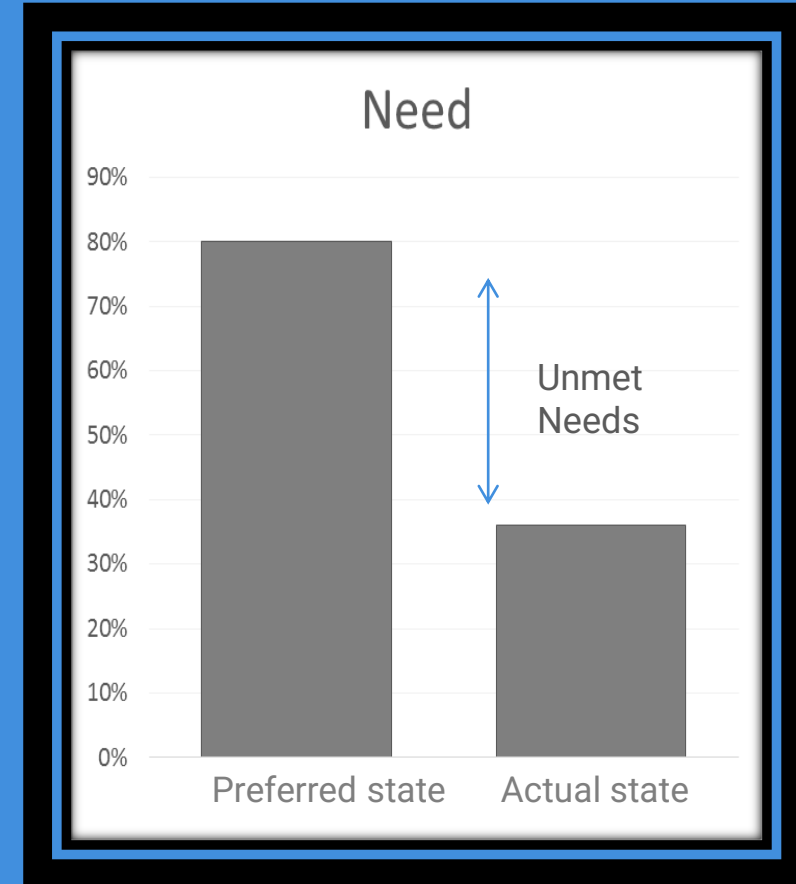
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How do we use the results of rapid assessments?

Basic Concepts & Terminology

What is a need?

- A shortage of or gap in the basic materials or services people require for survival.
- Many communities may have had needs before the disaster.
- For the purposes of an assessment, we need to distinguish between pre-existing and new needs wherever we can.



What is RNA?

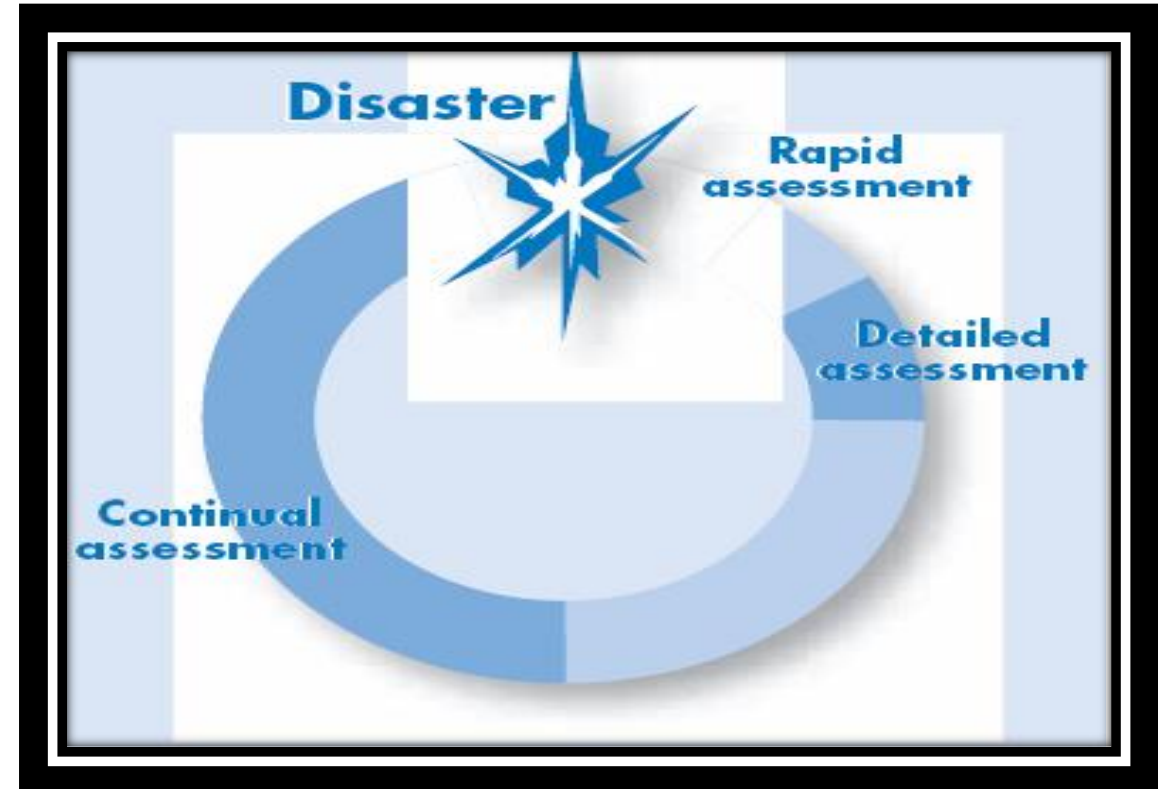
- RNA is a **single process** where various agencies, clusters/sectors and Government departments collect, process and analyse data to create a common understanding of needs.
- RNA is a multi-sector, multi-agency mechanism to provide a fast overview of a humanitarian situation, in order to:
 - Support evidence-based decision making in the early stages of a humanitarian response
 - To provide an understanding of how humanitarian needs vary across different affected groups
 - To identify where gaps may exist between needs and local/national capacity to respond
 - To identify further detailed information needs
- RNAs help Governments and the humanitarian community plan their response, **ensuring that gaps are covered and that no one is left behind.**
- In particular, they help us **identify vulnerable people and make sure their needs are being met.**

Assessments in emergency

- Emergency assistance is based on most immediate needs
- Assessments aid in identifying
 - What service are needed;
 - What are the priorities;
 - In what quantity
- Supporting the decision making
 - Of immediate and appropriate action
 - To start implementation quickly
 - To minimize loss of life, infrastructures and resources in emergency situations
 - In formulation more effective response by collecting quality information

Many different types of assessments

- ✓ **Damage and Loss Assessment (DALA) – DDM/CSO**
- ✓ **Rapid Damage and Need Assessment (RDNA) - MRCS**
- ✓ **Needs Assessment**
 - Rapid needs assessments
 - Sectoral In-depth Assessment
- ✓ **Sectoral-specific assessments**
 - Food Security
 - Shelter
 - Education



What is the scope of an assessment?

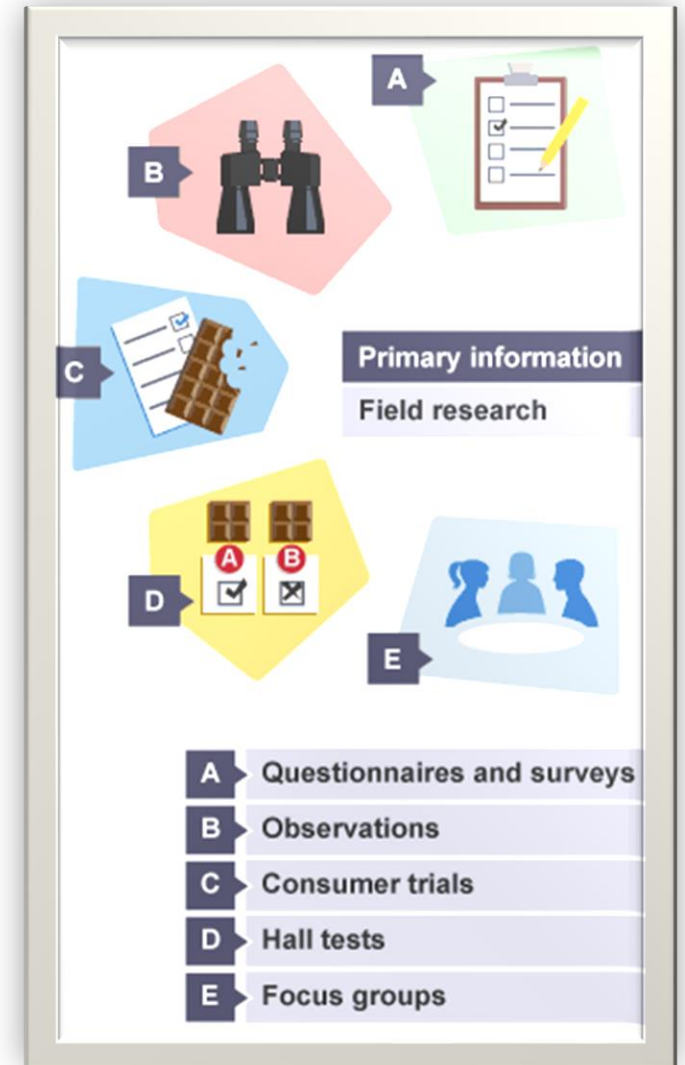
- Not all assessments are the same.
- They have different parameters such as timeframes, levels of detail, size of the area being assessed, a different range of participants.



Types of data which can inform an emergency response

Primary Data

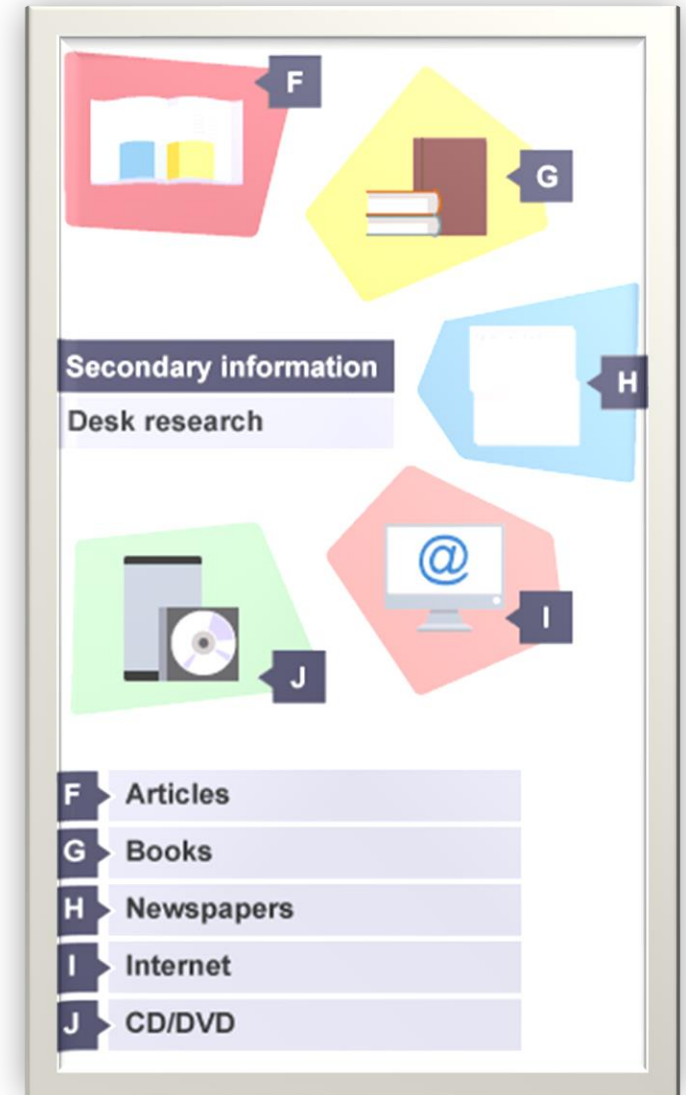
- Primary data is new information that is **collected from the field through an assessment**, using direct observation, key informant interviews, community group discussions and other tools.
- This is the best kind of data because it is specific to the situation and is most up to date.
- It is the most accurate data to use for decision-making.



Types of data which can inform an emergency response

Secondary Data

- Secondary data is **pre-existing information** that humanitarian organizations or the Government have already collected. This might include things like population data or information on pre-existing vulnerabilities.
- This data can be used to supplement our understanding of impact when primary data isn't available.
- The two types of information can be compared to include the scale of disaster impact.



Quantitative and Qualitative

Quantitative

- Measurable
- Numbers & Statistics
- Demographics
- Costs
- Weight
- Utility
- Quantity

How many and how much?

Quantitative: Tells us the magnitude and scale of a humanitarian crisis by painting a numeric picture of its impact on communities

Qualitative

- Observable but non-quantifiable
- Descriptions
- Behaviors
- Appearance
- Beauty
- Aesthetics
- Quality

How and why?

Qualitative data: Tells us the nature of the impact of a disaster on affected populations

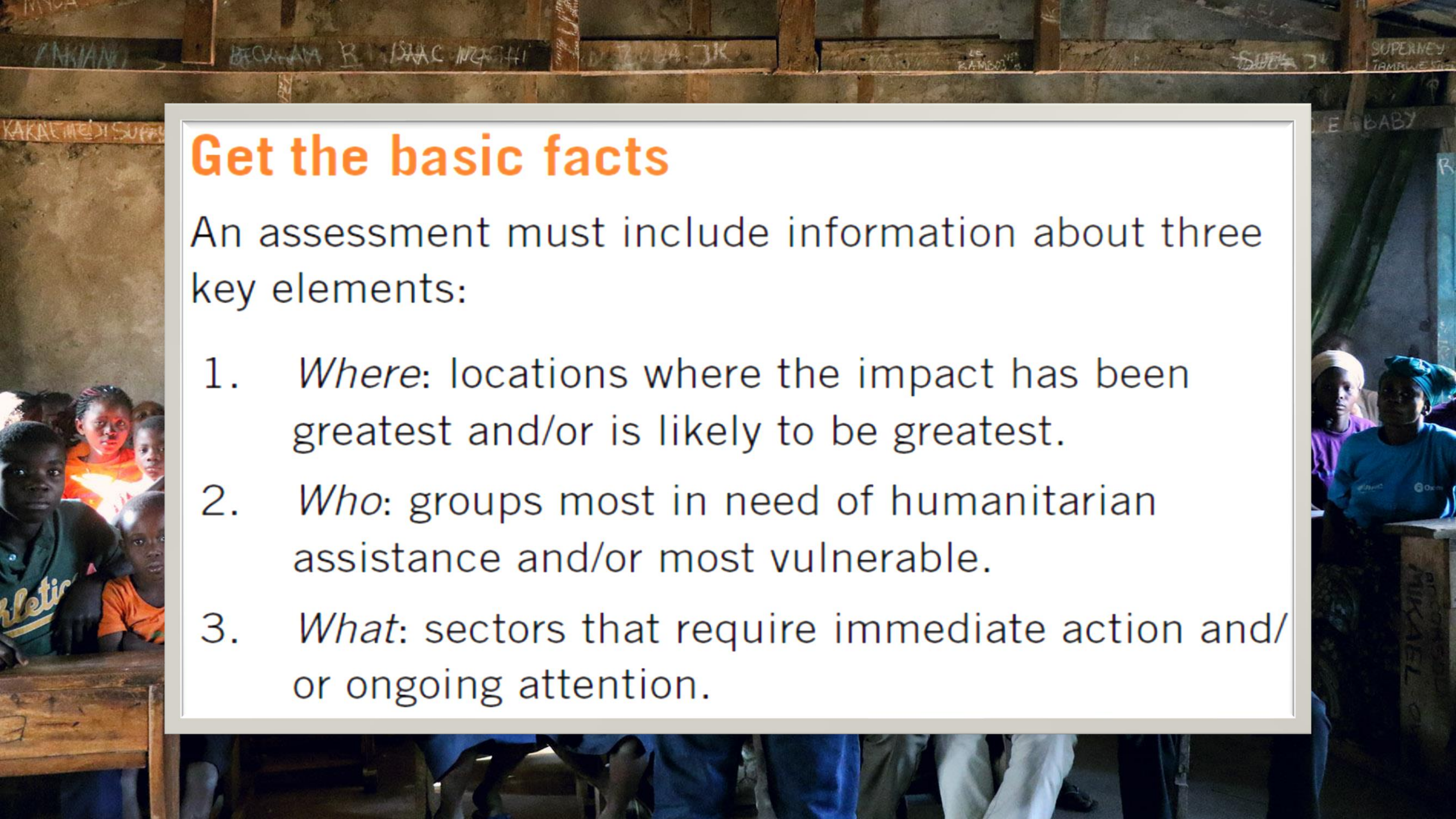
Why are rapid needs analysis conducted ?

They help us to identify:

- A quick snapshot of disaster impact
- Which areas have been hardest hit
- What services have been interrupted
- What infrastructure has been destroyed
- People's needs and priorities for assistance
- Risks faced by disaster affected people

Rapid needs analysis are not as detailed as proper sectoral assessments. These come later.



The background image shows a classroom setting. On the left, a group of young children are looking towards the camera. The wall behind them is made of wood and has many names written on it in various colors of paint. Some of the visible names include 'ANIANI', 'BECKHAM R', 'ISAAC NKECHI', 'DZUWA JK', 'KAKAFI MEDJISUPA', 'SUPERNEY TAMBUWE', 'E BABY', and 'MIKAEL'.

Get the basic facts

An assessment must include information about three key elements:

1. *Where*: locations where the impact has been greatest and/or is likely to be greatest.
2. *Who*: groups most in need of humanitarian assistance and/or most vulnerable.
3. *What*: sectors that require immediate action and/or ongoing attention.

Affected people

- An affected household or person is someone whose situation has changed as a result of an emergency.
- Affected people are those coping with the impacts of a disaster.
- People can be affected directly and indirectly.



Vulnerable people

- Assessments are particularly interested in identifying the needs of vulnerable people
- Vulnerable people are those who face different or more serious risks than other members of the community.
- They may have less capacity to cope with disaster impacts and meet their own needs.
- Vulnerability is the result of many factors e.g people may be vulnerable because of their gender, their social standing, the location in which they live, their ethnicity.
- They may be hard to identify in the community and hard to interview e.g they may live in hard to reach locations, they may be marginalized, they may not have full mobility.



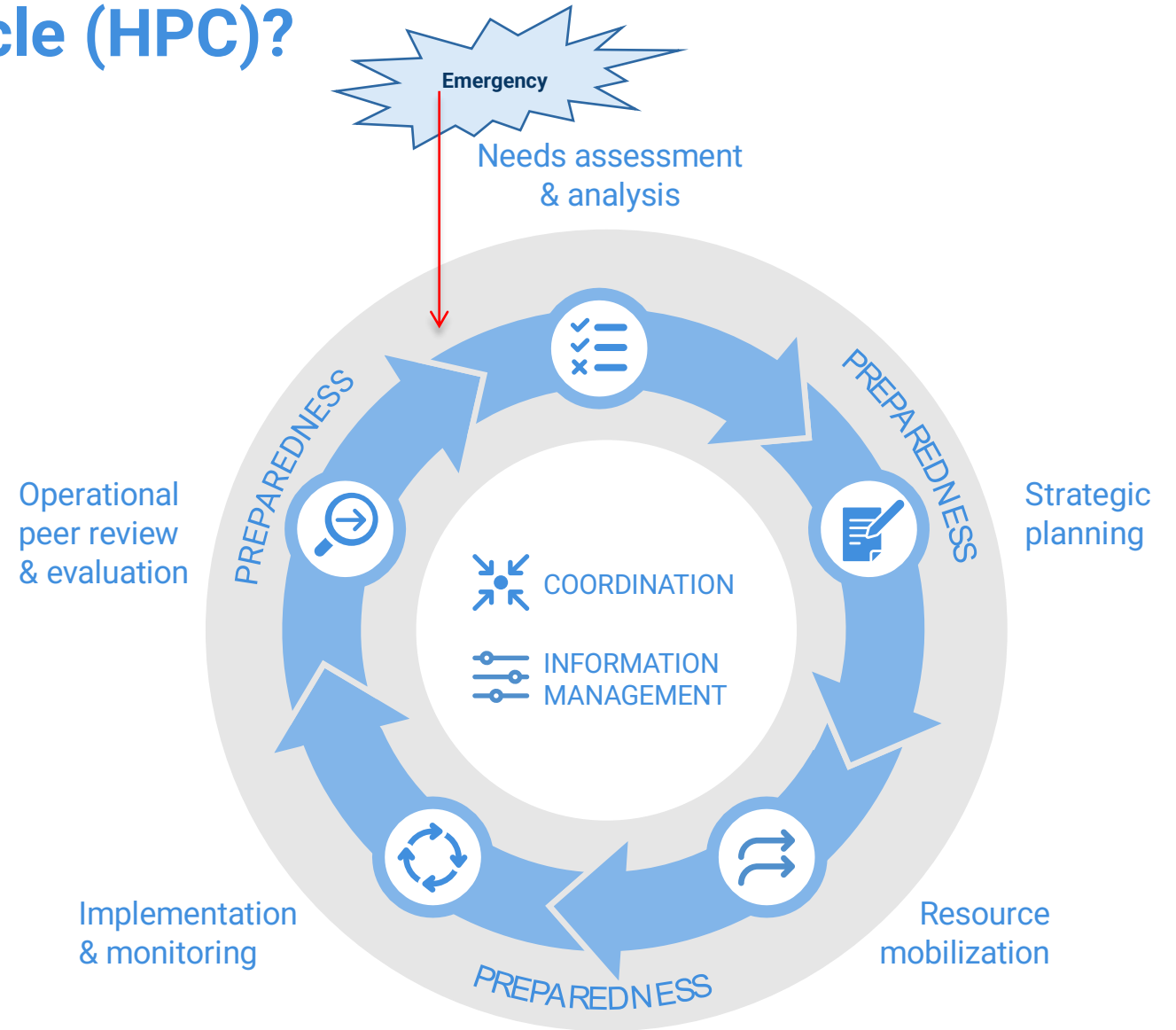
Examples of vulnerable groups

- **Persons with disabilities** – include people with physical and mental disabilities.
- **Pregnant and lactating women** – this is sensitive question as some women may not want their pregnancy known.
- **Separated children** – children who are separated from their normal parent or caregiver and are in the care of another adult.
- **Unaccompanied children** – children who are separated from their normal parent or caregiver and who are not cared for by another adult.
- **Female-headed households** – this may include women who are married but not supported by a husband. It may also include widows or divorced women.



Where do assessments fit in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC)?

OCHA coordinates efforts to plan humanitarian action, obtain funding and monitor progress in the aftermath of sudden disasters and during protracted crises.



How do we use the results of rapid assessments?



- ✓ They guide our decision making so that we can quickly mobilize effective help.



- ✓ They help ensure we deploy assistance more efficiently and effectively reducing human suffering.



- ✓ They help us plan assistance which is more responsive and people-centred, particularly with regard to vulnerable people.

How do we use the results of rapid assessments?



Advocacy and fundraising

- The results of rapid assessments also support advocacy by helping us tell the Government, humanitarian partners, the public and donors about the scale of the disaster.
- This helps us mobilize funds and organize our own human resources.



Further assessments

- Rapid assessments are a first step in the assessment process. They are usually the precursor to more in-depth sector-based assessments later in an emergency.

Assessments help us decide:



Should the Government or humanitarian community intervene, and what value will it add to the response?



How should organizations and the Government prioritize and allocate resources strategically?



What should the nature, scale and details of the intervention be?



What practical considerations should the response incorporate.

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Thank you

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