

Module 2: Baseline Assessment
SESSION 19: NON-FOOD NEEDS BASELINE INFORMATION

FACILITATOR NOTES

Presentation	<i>Non-food Needs Baseline Information.ppt</i>
Handouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>H2.19 Handout 1 - Non-food Needs Form (Long)</i> • <i>H2.19 Handout 2 - Non-food Needs Form (Short)</i>
Practitioners' Guide Reference	None
Session time	1 hour and 10 minutes

Purpose and content

- To describe what we mean by a 'non-food needs assessment' and when it might be necessary
- To review and customise the form for collecting information on baseline non-food service and provision.

Objectives

By the end of this session, participants should be able to:

- State in what circumstances a non-food needs assessment may need to be carried out in conjunction with an HEA assessment
- Describe the kinds of data that can be collected in a non-food needs assessment and broadly how that data can be used
- Gather information on non-food needs and services in the local area using one of the checklists provided

Key learning points

- This is an assessment of baseline non-food service and provision availability, not a needs assessment per se; it provides the reference point for judging what has changed if a shock does occur.
- A non-food needs assessment typically involves gathering information on **livestock** diseases and veterinary services, **crop** diseases and extension services, availability of **water** and **sanitation** facilities, causes of **malnutrition**, **human diseases** and health services, and the number of **schools** and number of children in school.
- A non-food needs assessment can add a substantial amount of time to your assessment.
- It is important to gain consensus among non-food sector agencies before undertaking a non-food needs assessment, because the information will not be used otherwise.

When to run this session

This is Session 19 in the Baseline Assessment Training Module. As the non-food needs baseline information form is not inextricably linked to the topics in the other sessions, it is best introduced towards the end of the training.

What handouts do you need?

- *H2.19 Handout 1 - Non-food Needs Form (Long)*
This is an example of a form used to obtain quite detailed baseline information on non-food needs. It is 20 pages long.
- *H2.19 Handout 2 - Non-Food Needs Form (Short)*
This is an example of a less detailed 'checklist' that can be used for obtaining baseline information on non-food needs. It is eight pages long.

Although these forms differ in length, the topics they cover (in greater or less detail) are similar. They include sections on:

- **Livestock:** livestock diseases and vaccinations, veterinary services, sources of animal feed;
- **Crops:** crops inputs, crop diseases and pests, and agricultural extension services;
- **Water:** availability of water, sources of water for livestock and humans;
- **Nutrition:** causes of malnutrition, child care practices;
- **Health:** main human diseases, vaccinations and health services;
- **Education:** school enrolment, school dropout rates and number of schools.

Session plan

Session plan summary		
Activity	Methodology	Timing
1. Introduction to non-food needs assessment	Facilitator	10 minutes
2. Review of non-food needs assessment checklist	Group exercise	30 minutes
	Plenary discussion	30 minutes
	Total	1 hour 10 minutes

ACTIVITY 1: INTRODUCTION TO NON-FOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENTS (10 MINUTES)

You might want to include the following points in this short introduction:

- Explain the circumstances in which a non-food needs assessment may be required. Typically, this will be as part of an emergency assessment, for which information on (for example) livestock disease, human health, nutritional status or water availability may be needed.
- In such circumstances, a non-food needs assessment can usefully provide comparative information on the current and 'normal' situation, for example in terms of human or livestock disease, water availability and sanitation.

- Explain that the process of non-food needs assessment and the ways in which it can be integrated into an HEA assessment is constantly evolving.
- Stress that any forms that participants use should be adapted to local circumstances and according to the time and resources available for the assessment.

ACTIVITY 2: REVIEW OF NON-FOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

(1 HOUR)

Split participants into groups and make sure each group has a copy of the short non-food needs assessment form *H2.19 Handout 2 - Example of Non-Food Needs Assessment Form (Short)*. Each group can then discuss exactly what information needs to come out of each section.

Go through the form in plenary. Taking a section at a time, ask one of the groups to go through their ideas, with other groups filling in or offering alternative viewpoints.