



# Older Persons in Emergency Crises

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BENEFICIARIES IDENTIFICATION AND TARGETING CRITERIA WITH  
OLDER PERSONS

# Older Persons in Emergency Crises



# Gaps in identification of Beneficiaries



1. In Humanitarian crises, older persons are among the most vulnerable but their needs and contributions receive little recognition when compared with other categories.
2. Due to many needs and gaps during emergency crises, the identification of beneficiaries limits to certain categories of persons of concern;
3. Our research show that in South Sudan and other low income countries where the impact of the humanitarian crises is the greatest, older people are frequently excluded from programmes that would help them to sustain or recover their livelihoods, such as "cash for work", income-generation projects and micro-credit support. These schemes are generally targeted at younger adults and planned without considering older people's roles and capabilities.

# Gaps in identification of Beneficiaries.....



4. In cases where older people are primary carers, for example, when parents are absent due to many factors, this also impacts on the children and other dependants they care for.

5. In humanitarian crises, older people are vulnerable to poor nutrition. Markets or food distribution points can be difficult for them to reach and food aid packages do not cater for older people's particular nutritional requirements. However, the biggest challenge is that older men and women are rarely included in nutrition needs assessments and programmes.

6. Older people in humanitarian crises face particular threats to their safety, security and ability to survive. The big gap in providing humanitarian protection to older people is that only at risk older persons are considered and this represents a violation of the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity and impartiality where a big number of older persons is left behind.

# Targeting Criteria to identify Beneficiaries



It is difficult to target only older people on the context of an emergency. In our experience, wider approaches have to be taken, based on households or households with older people. Older people living alone are always a first priority.

These are the basic criteria:

- Household with 60-year old person or older. This could be flexible. In some countries people 55 years old are considered “old”.
- Household with difficulty in meeting their basic needs,
- Unable to work - Loss of employment of older persons or bread-winners in the family
- Limited or no access to food and water
- Unable to access healthcare or to purchase necessary medicines
- Damage or destruction of home or other assets
- Loss of livestock and productive assets
- Injury or death of primary wage earner

# Targeting Criteria to identify Beneficiaries...



UNHCR standardized guidance on Persons with Specific needs defines **an elderly at risk** as a Person of 60 years old or above, with specific need(s) in addition to his/her age. This includes single older persons and older couples. They may be the sole caregivers for others, suffer from health problems, have difficulty adjusting to their new environment, and/or otherwise lack psychological, physical, economic, social or other support from family members or others.

In the context of South Sudan, this definition has also been adopted by different clusters – FSL, SNFI, etc.. The difference in targeting criteria comes in when other organizations define their criteria and depending on the context and needs, older people become isolated.

# Targeting Criteria to identify Beneficiaries...

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# For Further Information

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