

Targeting and distribution of relief

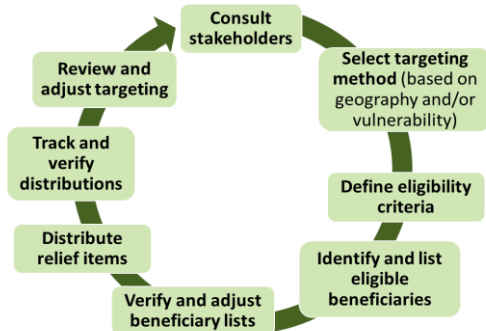
An impartial, non-discriminatory, and transparent mechanism should be used to target and distribute relief items, including cash to those who are at most risk and in greatest need.

In urban environments, effective targeting, selection and prioritisation of relief is critical due to the overwhelming numbers of people in need, the challenges in identifying and verifying beneficiaries and the limited availability of resources.



Photo credit: Distribution of relief goods in Balangkayan Town, Eastern Samar, led by Mission TABANG, Mariners System 2013

Process for targeting and distributing relief items



Based on the [Operational Guidance and Toolkit for Multipurpose Cash Grants](#)

Targeting – identifying who should receive assistance based on certain criteria

Verification – basis of checking whether those selected met the criteria

Identifying, verifying and tracking beneficiaries

- Analyse vulnerability as part of selection
- Maintain regular communication with local authorities, other agencies, all affected groups and the host population
- Consider security, dignity and the risks of exploitation, abuse or malpractice in designing targeting and assessment methods
- Ensure the most vulnerable can access distributions
- Conduct spot checks to reduce inclusion and exclusion errors
- Provide clear information and a mechanism for feedback and complaints mechanism – including for those with disability
- Review targeting and distribution in line with changing needs

Methods for identifying eligible beneficiaries

Administrative	Beneficiaries are selected by outsiders using predefined criteria
Geographic	Beneficiaries are identified based on geographic areas with high levels of poverty and/or vulnerability
Self	Beneficiaries choose whether, or not to participate, depending on costs and benefits
Community based	The community and/or its leaders identify the most vulnerable; (self-targeting), details are then verified by the agency
Market based	Eligibility is based on the ability to supply goods in exchange for food, to increase supplies and/or stabilize prices for others

Planning and monitoring distributions

- Involve affected groups, local authorities and other agencies in coordinating distributions. In conflict situations this may include parties to the conflict.
- Inform all those affected, including the host population of distribution arrangements including any assessment and registration processes.
- Identify suitable locations to facilitate safe access and return of recipients.
- Consider constraints such as distance, terrain and the practicalities and cost of transporting larger items such as shelter kits or materials.
- Verify beneficiary identities and the correct distribution of relief items to minimise inclusion errors (where non-targeted persons are included) and exclusion errors (where the most vulnerable are excluded).
- Enable community feedback and complaints e.g. through complaints boxes, phone helplines, WhatsApp or Facebook platforms.
- Monitor the satisfaction, quality and use of relief items to verify suitability.

Additional resources on All In Diary website

Food Security & Vulnerability Assessment © WFP, 2009
Targeting Food aid in Emergencies, © ENN, 2004
PDM Guidelines, © UNHCR Somalia, 2011

Web links for further information

Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Tool: <http://vam.wfp.org/>
PDM: <https://www.sheltercluster.org/standardized-tools/library/post-distribution-monitoring-tool/>