# **Introduction**

Targeting and selection will relate to both the objectives of the programme and the exit strategy. For example, your targeting will be very different for a programme trying to support people in collective centres to have options to leave vs. supporting people on-the-move for a few weeks temporarily while they migrate to a new location.

Tools and Examples from the toolkit, that may be useful to assist here include:

* 2.1.4\_Example\_SelectionScorecard\_RentalAssistance.xlsx
* Excel worksheet showing scorecard used for selection of prospective tenants. Used in 2022-2023 Ukraine response in Slovakia.
* 2.1.4\_Example\_HostCommunity\_SelectionQuestionaire\_RentalAssistance.docx
* Questionnaire used in interviews with host community when trying to determine eligibility for rental assistance in 2022-2023 Ukraine response in Slovakia.
* 2.1.4\_Example\_Bahamas\_SelectionCriteria\_RentalAssistance.pdf
* Score card example from Bahamas 2019 response.
* 2.1.4\_Example\_Extension\_Criteria\_RentalAssistance.docx
* Example of extension criteria used in 2022-2023 Ukraine response in Slovakia.

# **Geographic Targeting**

The Red Cross Red Crescent (RC) will choose a geographic location (or locations) of intervention for rental assistance, and this may relate to:

* An area which has high numbers of displaced people or people living in inadequate shelter
* Sites (such as collective centres/camps) which are of significant protection risk or shelter conditions which are particularly poor
* Geographic areas with a high number of people with specific needs (that would benefit from rental assistance
* Areas which have an availability of rental accommodation
* National Society (NS) branch location and capacity
* Capacity of NS partners to support – i.e. partner presence who may be offering complementary social work services or livelihoods programming for example.
* Capacity of affected people to meet their needs in a particular location
* Existence of alternative accommodation options such as hosted arrangement options
* Plans of government and humanitarian actors to meet accommodation needs (i.e. gaps where it makes sense for the RC to assist)
* Acceptance of rental assistance by local government/host community

# **Household Level Targeting – Prospective Tenants**

Reflect on the objectives of the programme and the exit strategy. With rental assistance it may be appropriate to exclude those who are unlikely to have realistic exit strategies once the supported period ends. For example, this could include:

* Households who will not be able to develop their livelihoods adequately in the time frame of the rental programme to be able to continue to pay the rent when the programme ends.
* Households who will not have been able to partially rebuild their homes when the supported period ends.

This may mean that in some instances very vulnerable groups such as households composed of family members that will not be able to work (e.g. the elderly with chronic illness) may need to be excluded, if there are not viable alternative exit strategies for the household such as to return to their home prior to the displacement. However, do not exclude vulnerable groups if there may be reasonable exit strategies (e.g. an elderly couple who needs more time to organise their visa to join their adult child in Canada). In such cases, an interview to determine suitability for the programme may be required rather than just a questionnaire.

It is often easier to justify excluding the most vulnerable from rental assistance if there is a menu of alternative shelter assistance options being offered by the NS, humanitarian actors or government where the most vulnerable can otherwise be supported.

## **Developing targeting criteria**

Normally for rental assistance programming both vulnerability and capacity criteria are used. In addition to this, suitability or willingness criteria might be used, with for example, the household being part of a parallel livelihoods programme (which will support exit from the rental programme).

Note that sometimes, donors may suggest a preferred targeting criteria and it is important to ensure this aligns with our principled humanitarian approach.

It is recommended:

* You do not include too many self-reported criteria that can be hard to validate objectively.
* Adopt practical criteria that are not overly difficult for the household to report and for the RC to validate.
* Use community consulted/defined criteria where possible (engage with representatives of affected people to help you decide relevant criteria to focus your limited support), this helps to also get acceptance of the criteria by the target population. IFRC Community Engagement and Accountability Toolkit includes [Tool 18 – Participatory Approaches to Selection Criteria](https://communityengagementhub.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/12/Tool-18.-Participatory-approaches-to-selection-criteria.docx) which should be referred to.
* Criteria once defined should be advertised for transparency.
* Avoid discriminatory criteria or those that could lead to stigmatisation (unless the rental assistance can be delivered in a way that does not highlight that the household is being assisted under the programme e.g. all remote with payments to the tenant household).
* Be watchful of households adopting negative strategies in order to be eligible (e.g. giving up work to meet a no household income criteria for rental assistance).
* If there is the potential for social tension with the host community, and some members of the host community are of a similar vulnerability it may be possible to include a percentage (e.g. 10 to 15%) of host community vulnerable households for rental support. The objective of this rental support has to be specifically defined and the targeting criteria will be specific to this group.
* Be mindful of how you will ask questions (on an application form for example) to check eligibility. There will also need to be testing of any questions (sometimes piloting and adjustment) to check they are well understood and easy to relate to criteria.

## **Typical criteria**

Often a score card is developed to assist with prioritisation.

See 2.1.4\_Example\_SelectionScorecard\_RentalAssistance.xlsx or 2.1.4\_Example\_Bahamas\_SelectionCriteria\_RentalAssistance.pdf

Typical vulnerability criteria could include:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Potential Indicator** |
| Household composition | * Single headed households
* Elderly (60+)
* Persons with disabilities and/ or chronic health conditions
* Larger families
* Infants less than 1 year old, or children under 5 years
* Pregnant or lactating women
* Women who have travelled alone
 |
| Crisis impact | * Loss of household assets
* Housing damage
* Livelihoods destroyed
* Loss of labour opportunity due to injury
 |
| Poverty | * Live below the poverty line
* HH has no source of income
* HH dependent on daily labour
* HH has no formal education
 |
| Current accommodation | * Collective centre
* Rental accommodation
* Reporting no accommodation
* If renting is their pressure to leave your existing accommodation
 |
| Negative coping strategiesNote that you may choose not to advertise this criteria to avoid stigmatising recipients, you may also use these criteria when you are using a selection strategy in your programme that primarily relies on referrals from other ‘front line’ agencies such as local authority social services, CSOs working with survivors of domestic violence etc.  | * HH begging
* HH selling productive assets
* HH has taken on a loan (via. banking institution or from other source) in last 3 months to cover cost of living
* Child labour
* Child Marriage
* Reports of domestic violence
* Substance abuse
* Selling of Sex
 |
| Social Protection Systems | * No access to social safety net programmes
 |

Different criteria indicators will have different scores when used as part of a scorecard.

Typical capacity criteria:

* One member of the household currently works

This can be useful in protracted crisis, where it may not be possible to return or move-on by the end of the programme duration and those targeted need to have the potential to develop their livelihoods to be able to cover rent in future. However, do remember that there can be other exit strategies for households other than developing income to pay rent, and in these circumstances this criteria might not be appropriate.

Typical suitability criteria:

* Current income is verifiable (e.g. bank statements / contract of employment) and shown to be more than 50% of average rental cost but less than 100%. Recognising that even if someone earns enough to cover all of their rent, they still need money to meet other basic needs.
* Household’s home has suffered damage from the disaster and they need time to repair/rebuild (potentially only those with non-major damage may be targeted, if the aim is to support only those who can feasibly repair during the duration of the rental programme).
* Household is not eligible for NS assistance if they have already been supported for rental assistance under a rental programme of another agency.
* Household agrees that they will engage in NS offered programme related to language classes, and employability support.

## **Typical criteria for vulnerable host community**

Targeting criteria will be closely related to objectives. For example,

* If the objective of the programme for the host community is to provide some support to those who are at risk of eviction due to rent arrears (potentially due to a temporary loss of employment), then suitability criteria might include having received a demand for rent showing the rent arrears. Alternatively, suitability criteria might include proof of renting and of having recently lost employment, where there is no or limited social protection system for unemployment.
* If the objective of the programme is to support women who are living in a refuge for women fleeing domestic violence to become more self-reliant and move out of the refuge, the criteria might relate to time spent in a refuge. It should be noted that selecting specific sub-sets of vulnerable people for the programme should be undertaken in conjunction with social workers, since people may have multiple needs which cannot be met solely by rental assistance. E.g. rough-sleepers offered assistance to rent accommodation may have a range of substance dependency and mental health needs to be catered for.

Care must be taken to not duplicate the support that should be provided by the social protection system or local authority hardship funds etc. or where other humanitarian agencies are better able to support in a more holistic way.

See 2.1.4\_Example\_HostCommunity\_SelectionQuestionaire\_RentalAssistance.docx

# **Identification Process & Application of Criteria**

In addition to setting the targeting and selection criteria, there is a need to design your selection process. This could include:

* Self-registration using on-line forms. Note that although the majority of people my register online care must be taken to avoid digital exclusion of people who have difficultly using the online system, this could relate to age or disability, lack of connectivity or lack of devices. There should always be some level of face-to-face or phone assistance available to support registration.
* Registration at NS branches or at desks established at the local authorities
* Referrals from collective centres (through engagement with collective centre management)
* Referrals from ‘front line’ agencies such as local authority social workers, CSOs etc.
* Working with community leaders/elders to determine lists for further validation and cross-checking that marginalised groups/households have not been excluded.
* Forming a selection committee with representative households from the affected community. This may also include establishing an appeals process.
* Selecting households if they meet minimum criteria
* Using government lists (with a validation process)
* Scoring those who have registered using the defined criteria in a defined time period and selecting most vulnerable using those scores. Sometimes this is undertaken in batches.

# **Selection of Property Owners**

As explained in [IFRC (2020) Step-by-step guide for rental assistance to people affected by crisis](https://cash-hub.org/resource/step-by-step-guide-for-rental-assistance-to-people-affected-by-crisis/) , step 2, sub-step 1.4, sometimes it may be useful to also select property owners. This may occur when:

* The programme is short-term and those to be assisted may stay for only a few days or few weeks, and it can be better for the NS to form relationships with property owners known to be supporting of the affected target population (prospective tenants), and who are flexible enough to support the workings of the NS rental programme which may be for short-lets (outside of the longer-term rental market). A transparent eligibility criteria should be developed for this which could include suitability to engage with the NS programme.
* Property owners may also be vulnerable, and the programme can maximise benefits for both owners and tenant groups. For example, a Caribbean island that has suffered a hurricane which has temporarily suppressed visits from tourists that consumed rental accommodation, and where many property owners relied on the rent as their main source of income. Here it might be possible to have selection criteria for both property owners and prospective tenants (who have had to find alternative accommodation due to their homes being damaged by the hurricane) to maximise the benefits of the programme.

Note that this does not relate to a procurement process where specification/requirements should be developed related to accommodation and it is normally not possible to include any requirements related to property owner vulnerability.

## **Criteria for property owners**

Typical criteria can include:

* Property owners owning only 1 rental home (i.e. not supporting major property businesses)
* Property owners who have suffered livelihood loss due to the crisis
* Property owners who agree to rent for the duration required by the programme / short-lets
* Property owners who are resident in the damaged region (i.e. so that funds are flowing into the local economy).
* Property owners who show willingness to rent to the target group and respect Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) due diligence processes undertaken by the National Society.

# **Selection for Extensions**

Frequently rental programmes are extended, perhaps because of:

* the programme design included from the outset for a percentage of supported households to be unable to exit the programme and maintain their accommodation conditions.
* more funding becomes available
* the context changes (and more funding becomes available)

It is recommended that households be selected where the extension would make a difference to the situation of the household at the end of the extended supported period. For example, this could include criteria such as:

* HH is with a lactating or pregnant woman
* HH is with a woman who has given birth within the last 3 months
* The HH is from a conflict affected region where there is a potential for hostilities to cease in the next 3 months
* HH were the household has been developing the livelihood to be able to afford the rent, but the household would benefit from a further 3 months of support to be able to maximise this potential.
* HH applying for a visa to a 3rd country which requires more time for processing.

Ideally social/case workers who have been involved in monitoring and following up with the household during the initial supported rental period should be involved in the selection process to make recommendations on which families should be eligible.

See 2.1.4\_Example\_Extension\_Criteria\_RentalAssistance.docx