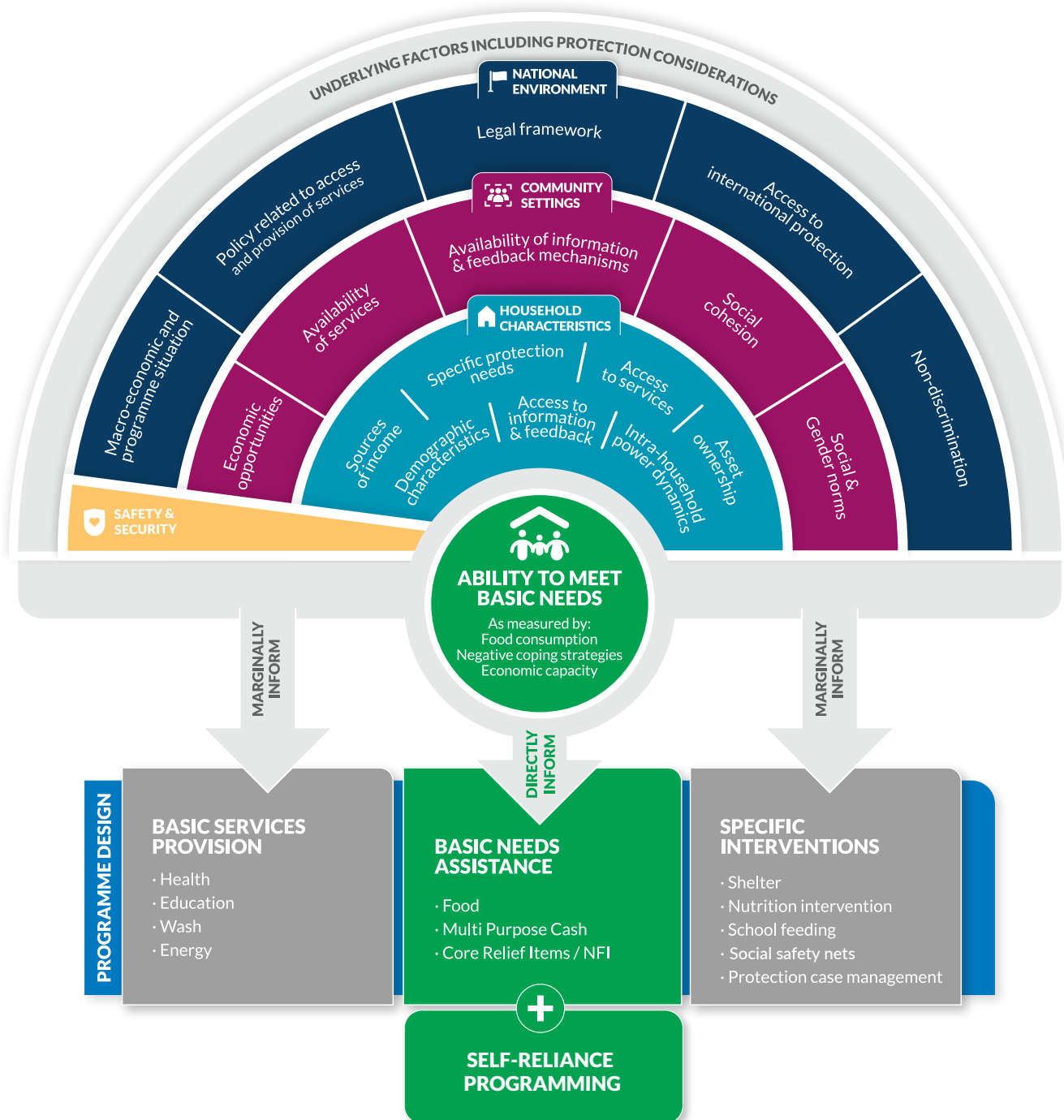


UNHCR-WFP Joint Analytical Framework (JAF)

To better understand the ability of refugees and other forcibly displaced people to meet their basic needs



What is the JAF?

The **Joint Analytical Framework (JAF)** is a set of tools¹ to guide UNHCR and WFP country operations to reach a **common understanding** of the ability of refugees, asylum seekers,² and other forcibly displaced people to **meet their basic needs**.

The core JAF basic needs module primarily guides joint assessments and analysis to inform programmatic interventions —such as food, non-food, and multi-purpose cash assistance—aimed at meeting the basic needs of affected populations.

Additionally, the JAF offers an optional **self-reliance module** that builds on the core basic needs module to capture additional insights that can inform programmatic activities designed to enhance the self-reliance and economic inclusion of forcibly displaced populations.

The JAF builds on existing UNHCR and WFP corporate methodologies³ (for example [WFP's Essential Needs Analysis and UNHCR's corporate indicators](#)) and experience to date with the aim of **complementing and operationalising** current joint guidance.⁴

Who is the JAF for?

The JAF should be used **collaboratively** by UNHCR and WFP in contexts where both agencies are jointly involved in providing basic needs assistance to refugees and other forcibly displaced people, or when UNHCR and WFP want to design joint interventions to support economic inclusion and need a common framework of indicators.

The JAF is designed to be used by joint UNHCR and WFP **multifunctional teams** with technical expertise on assessments, programme design (including cash-based), protection and accountability to affected people, in consultation with field teams.

Additionally, UNHCR and WFP may **independently** employ the JAF to facilitate analysis related to the ability of forcibly displaced people to meet their basic needs and to inform self-reliance programming, in contexts where only one of the agencies is operational. For example, as per the UNHCR programme manual, in contexts where WFP is not operationally present, UNHCR operations can use the JAF to inform their situational analysis and response planning.

The JAF may also be useful as an analytical tool for **partner** organizations supporting basic needs programming in situations of forced displacement.



When should the JAF be used?

The JAF can be used in the following contexts:



STRATEGIC PLANNING

When UNHCR and WFP are delivering basic assistance jointly, or when both agencies are planning programming to support livelihoods, the JAF can feed into the development of strategic plans (such as WFP Country Strategic Plans and UNHCR Multi-Year Strategic Plans), in alignment with wider planning processes such as Refugee Response Plans, and the UNSCDF.



PROGRAMMATIC CHANGES

For both agencies, the JAF can be used when assessments and analysis are conducted in response to significant changes in the context, which require a new response or considerable adjustments to existing programming.



JOINT ASSESSMENTS

The JAF is a framework for analysis that should be used in all joint assessments such as JAM (Joint Assessment Missions), FSNA (Food Security and Nutrition Assessment), JNA (Joint Needs Assessment), etc.



MONITORING

JAF can be used to inform the collection and analysis of joint monitoring data, such as (Joint) Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM).

What are the components of the framework?

The framework has been designed recognising that a household's ability to meet basic needs is influenced by factors across different levels. The framework considers **national, community and household characteristics** as **core determinants to meeting basic needs**.

The diagram below illustrates the relationship between different factors that affect the capacity of households to meet their basic needs. Some factors (e.g. safety and security) should be analysed at all levels; other factors however should be analysed specifically at national, community or household level, based on their expected impact on refugees' ability to meet their basic needs.

Each topic has a list of factors that can be informed by several variables to guide the analysis.¹ This list is comprehensive and should be customized to suit the operation based on data availability and analytical requirements, thereby allowing for the application of factors and their associated variables to be context specific.

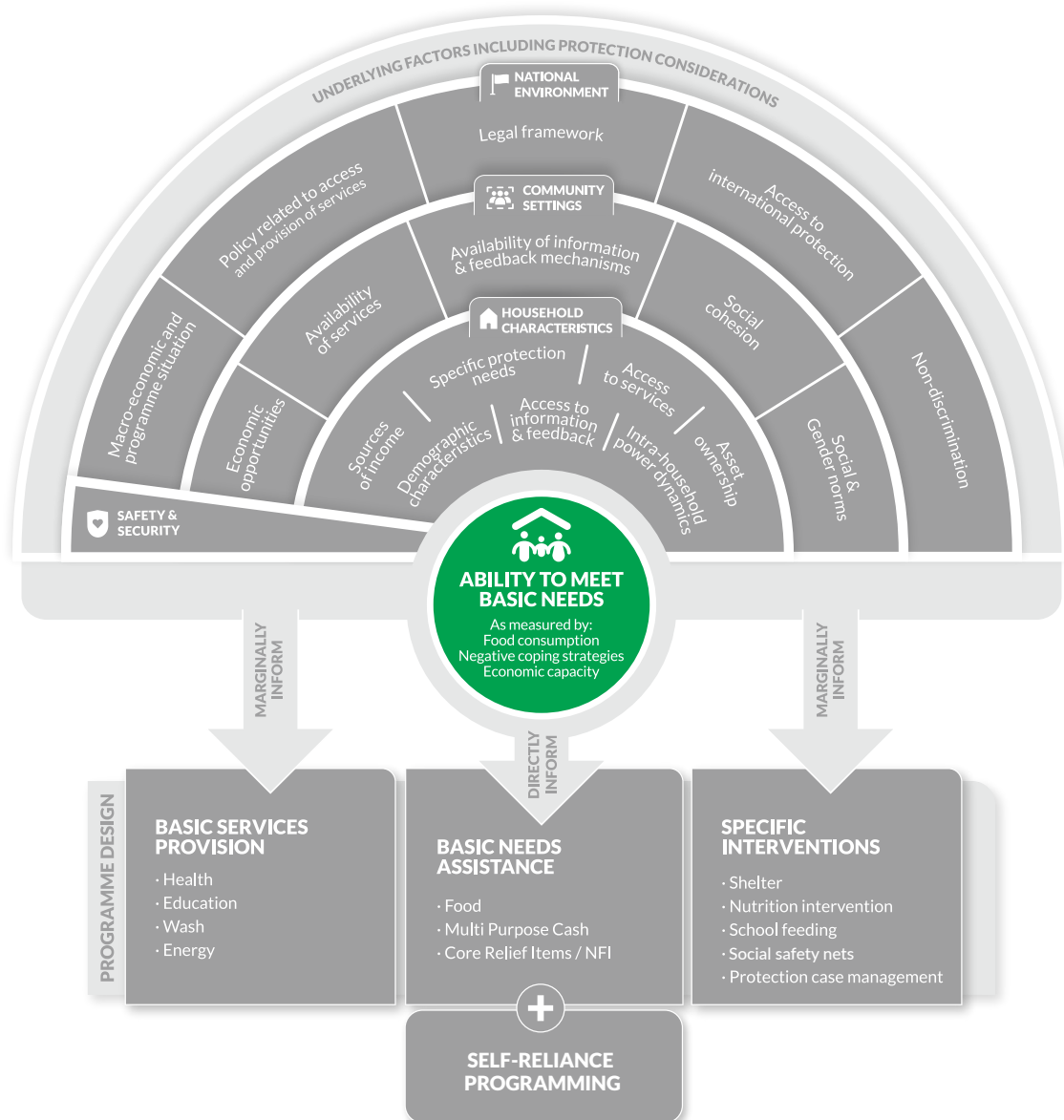
Measuring the ability to meet basic needs

By considering relevant factors that contribute to vulnerability to meet essential needs, aid providers can ensure that assistance is provided to those who are most in need and who may have difficulty fulfilling their basic needs without additional support.

A combined measurement of food consumption (Food Consumption Score - FCS), economic capacity (Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs - ECMEN), and negative coping strategies (Livelihood Coping Strategies Index for Essential Needs - LCS-EN) provides a comprehensive assessment of a household's ability to meet their basic needs.²

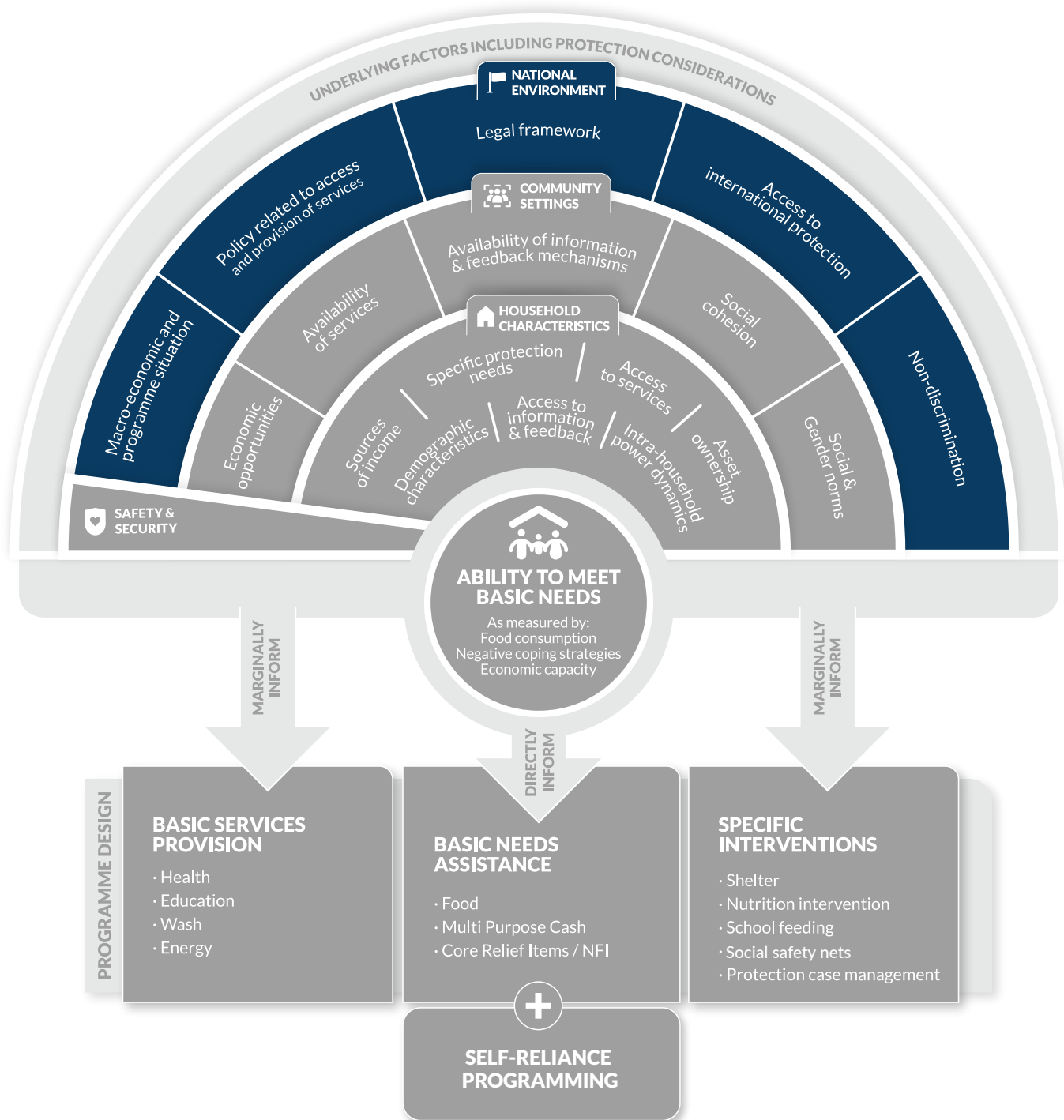
The FCS assesses the frequency and diversity of food consumed. ECMEN measures a person's ability to access essential goods and services, which includes not just food, but also housing, health care, water, sanitation and hygiene, and education, amongst others. The LCS assesses the degree to which a household has had to resort to negative coping strategies to meet their basic needs, such as withdrawing children from school, borrowing money, selling assets, or reducing expenses, etc.

By combining these three indicators (FCS, ECMEN, LCS-EN), a household's capacity to meet their basic needs can be estimated. This outcome measurement can then be correlated against other variables listed in the analytical framework to identify the main socio-demographic, protection and economic characteristics of vulnerable forcibly displaced households.



Analysing the national environment

National level analysis comprises the macro-economic situation of the refugee and other forcibly displaced people in hosting country, the legal framework and protection environment, as well as policies on access to services. This information can provide an understanding of the displacement context and the impact the national environment has on households' vulnerability and self-reliance.



**Macro-economic and programme situation**

What is the macro-economic situation in the country? Are there functioning markets for food and non-food items? Are prices stable or is there a context of high inflation?

What humanitarian and development programmes are currently implemented in the country? Which groups are targeted and in which regions?

- Food availability
- Market functionality
- Imports and exports
- Economic stability (including currency stability and exchange rates)

Policies related to access and provision of services

Does the national legal, policy and administrative framework allow for equal access to services for refugees? If so, to what extent?

Normative policy preventing equal access to public services for refugees (or specific profiles of refugees) can decrease their capacity to cover for their basic needs and increase household expenditure.

- Health
- Education
- Social protection
- Financial services
- Information technology

Legal framework

To what extent does the national legal framework promote and protect the rights of refugees and other forcibly displaced people to access land, employment, justice, and other basic rights?

Absence of an inclusive legal framework will decrease their opportunities to engage, for example, in formal employment.

- Right to housing, land and property
- Right to work (including digital work)
- Freedom of movement
- Right to association

Access to international protection

Do asylum-seekers have access to fair and efficient asylum procedures, including reception, registration, and documentation?

Reception, registration, documentation, and other procedures can enhance the rights of refugees and other forcibly displaced people to access basic services and provide valuable data to better understand vulnerabilities and identify profiles at risk.

- Registration
- Asylum procedures
- Documentation
- Legal stay

Non- discrimination

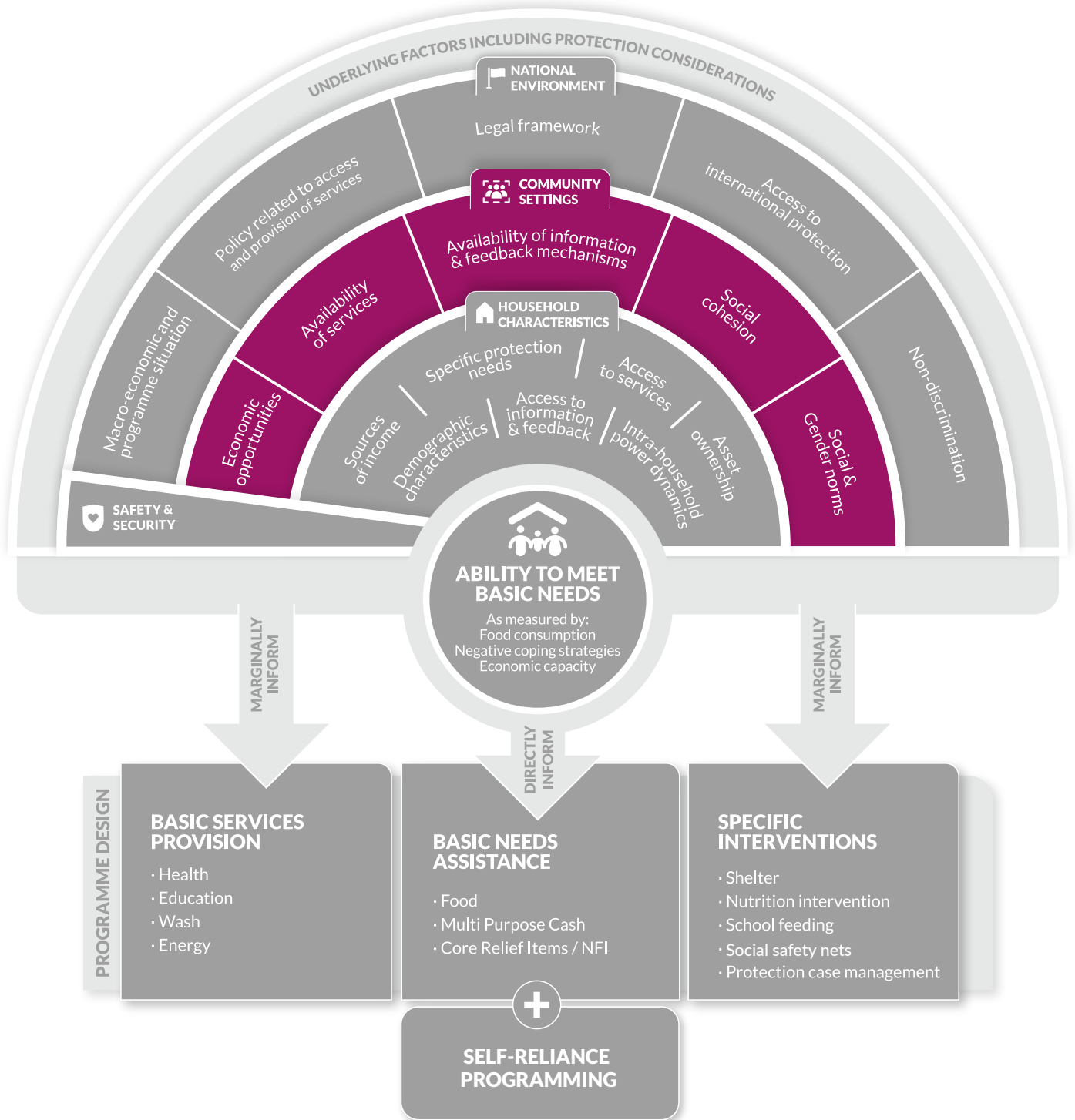
Are there specific groups or segments of the population at risk of marginalisation and exclusion?

Are there national social protection programs for groups at risk of discrimination, and / or for the prevention and response to violence based on protected grounds?²³ Do refugees and forcibly displaced people have equal access to these programs?

- Social protection programs and safety nets for protected groups
- Policies and programs protecting against violence against children, women, racial/ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, persons with diverse characteristics

The community setting

Community level analysis focuses on the geographic area where refugees and other forcibly displaced people are located. This includes economic opportunities, availability and acceptability of services, access to information and feedback and response mechanisms, social cohesion, and social and gender norms.





COMMUNITY SETTING: TOPICS

FACTORS

Economic opportunities

What challenges are there to achieving self-reliance?

What opportunities exist to access to work and livelihoods?

- Livelihood and employment opportunities

Availability of services

Are public services for basic needs available in areas hosting refugees and forcibly displaced people? Are public services respectful of the culture and diversity of forcibly displaced communities?

Lack of services for basic needs may generate further displacement and increase household expenditure.

- Wash
- Health (hospitals, clinics etc.)
- Education (primary, secondary, tertiary)
- Shelter
- Energy
- Financial services
- Legal services

Availability of information and feedback mechanisms

Is information on access to basic services available and accessible to all?

Is information provided in a manner that considers the preferences of the population?

Are there feedback and response mechanisms available and accessible for all refugees and other forcibly displaced people?

Lack of information can hamper access to basic needs assistance, and lack of feedback and response reduces its relevance, can lead to further exclusion, or generate disengagement and lack of trust by forcibly displaced people and communities in general.

- Information to and communication with communities
- Feedback and response mechanisms

Social cohesion

Are refugees and/or other forcibly displaced people integrated in the host community? Are there tensions among different populations? Which factors lead to tensions among the populations, if any?

Lack of social cohesion can generate segregation and marginalization, reduce opportunities for access to livelihood opportunities, income generation and access to basic services.

- Community-based dispute resolution mechanisms
- Existing tensions among different populations and their causes

Social and gender norms

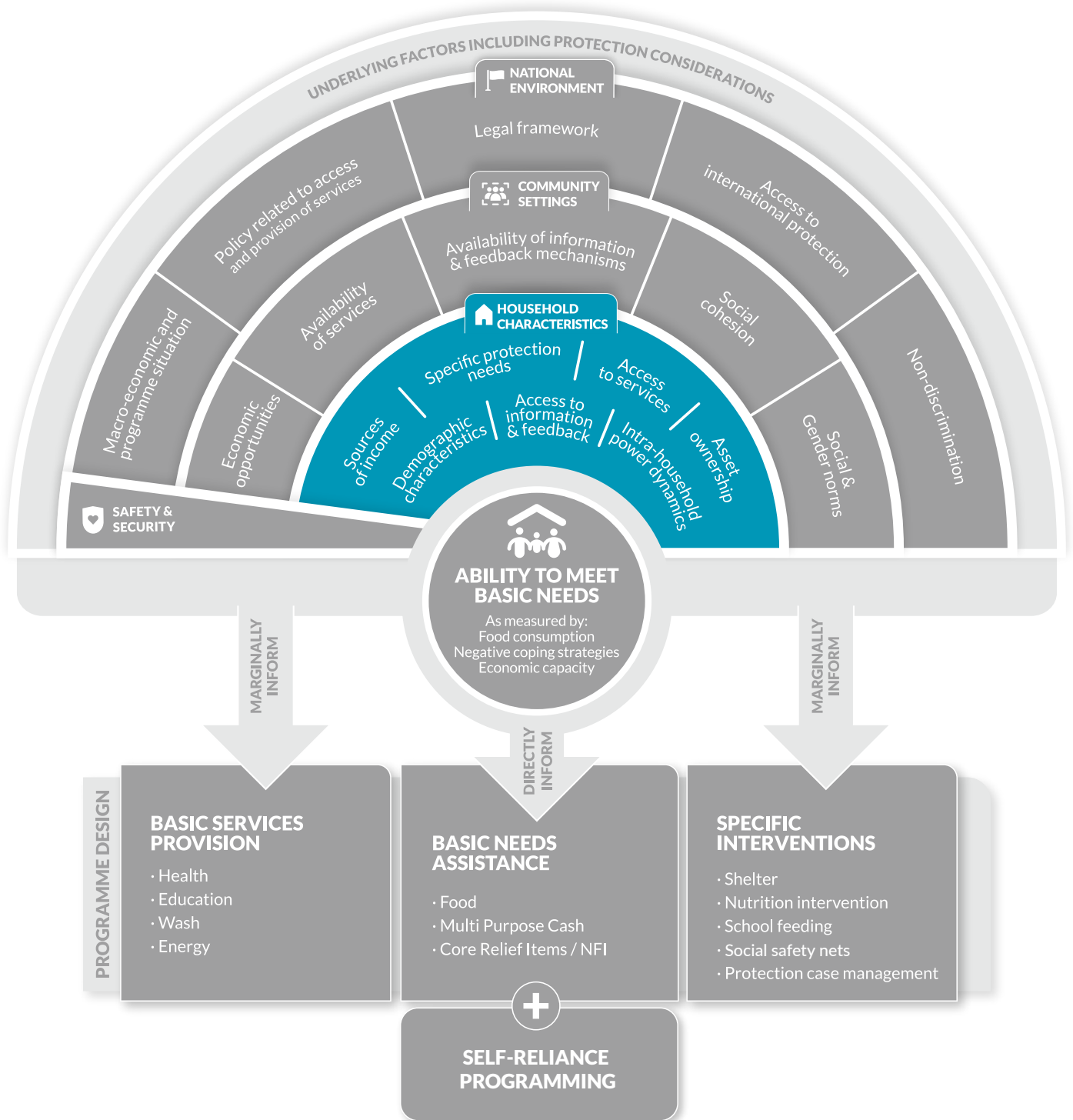
Are there harmful norms against certain groups such as women, older persons, persons with disabilities, or individuals belonging to other ethnic minorities or persons with other diversity characteristics?

Discriminatory social norms can prevent access to employment and other income generating activities, or even assistance, for certain groups.

- Norms and beliefs related to gender, age, disability and other diversity characteristics

Household characteristics

Household level analysis focuses on characteristics that enable or hinder the household's capacity to cover basic needs and become self-reliant. This includes demographic composition, source of income, asset ownership, specific protection needs,⁴ access to services and information and power dynamics within the household.





HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS: TOPICS

FACTORS

Demographic characteristics

What is the demographic composition of the household? What is the displacement status of household members?

Household composition can have an impact on the capacity to access assistance or generate income, including due to a high dependency ratio.

- Demographic composition of the household
- Displacement status

Specific protection needs

Are there individuals in the household that are potentially exposed to risks of violence, neglect, abuse, discrimination, or other protection issues? Are there profiles which require additional care?

The incidence of violence or other protection issues in the household can decrease the capacity of generating income and meeting basic needs. Members with increased health expenditures or care demands can also have an impact on the overall capacity of the household to cover basic needs.

- Risk factors related to ageing, child protection, gender (including GBV), disability, and other.

Source of Income

What are the household's main sources of income?

- Primary and secondary sources of income
- Modality, frequency and quantity (if in cash) of assistance received
- Work experience and skills
- Debt

Access to information & feedback mechanisms

In practice, does the household have access to information on basic needs assistance as well as feedback and response mechanisms?

- Household-level access to information, feedback and response mechanisms.

Access to services

In practice, does the household have access to public or humanitarian services open to refugees and other forcibly displaced people?

- Wash
- Health
- Education
- Shelter
- Energy
- Financial services

Assets ownership

Does the household own any productive or non-productive assets, and if so, how many?

- Ownership of productive assets
- Ownership of non-productive assets

Intra-household power dynamics

Do all members of the household have equal access to resources, and to decision-making processes?

Discrimination based on age, gender and other diverse characteristics can have a negative impact on benefitting from income generation opportunities and on equal access to assistance.

- Gender and age of decision makers within the household on the use of assistance and other resources

What resources are needed to use the JAF?

To implement the JAF, the following resources should be considered:

Financial

If additional primary data collection is required - that is not part of UNHCR and WFP's regular (or other planned) data collection exercises - this will have cost implications which need to be factored into the JAF planning process. Costs may include: enumerator fees, travel, procurement of data collection tools, training of enumerators and reporting.

Technical capacity

Technical expertise on analysis, programme design, Cash-based Transfers (CBT) / Cash-based Interventions (CBI) and protection is needed to conduct the JAF. Expertise should be drawn from WFP/UNHCR operations where available, using the comparative strengths of each organization (such as WFP's analytical expertise in research and assessments and UNHCR's technical expertise in protection). Complementary technical expertise may also be available through the WFP and UNHCR Regional Bureaus. The UNHCR-WFP Joint Programme Excellence and Targeting Hub can provide additional coordination and technical advisory support, together with COs and RBs.

Field capacity

Available operational capacity from UNHCR/WFP and their cooperating partners should be considered for complementary data collection exercises, consultation during the analysis phase, as well as for formulating recommendations and disseminating the JAF results.

REPOSITORY OF TOOLS AND GUIDANCE

The following UNHCR-WFP JAF tools may be used in conjunction with this document:

- **JAF Process Overview** – A list of key steps and decisions that need to be taken during the JAF process.
- **JAF Template Analysis Plan** – Enables country offices to undertake the analysis to inform programmatic activities.
- **JAF Variables List** – List of variables included in the JAF that can inform the analysis of needs.
- **JAF Quantitative Questionnaire Template and JAF Qualitative Questionnaire Template** – Set of questions linked to the JAF and JAF Analysis Plan that can be added to household and community surveys.
- **JAF Add-on Livelihoods Module** – Additional variables and questions that can be used for analysis to inform programmatic and policy decisions on livelihoods and self-reliance.

The following **UNHCR and WFP** guidance and tools may be used in to inform the use of the JAF:

[UNHCR-WFP Joint Guidance on Targeting of Assistance to Meet Basic Needs](#)

WFP

[Essential Needs Assessment Guidance Note](#)

[Minimum Expenditure Basket Guidance Note](#)

[Targeting and Prioritization Operational Guidance Note](#)

UNHCR

[Guidance on the use of Standardized Specific Needs Codes](#)

[Age, Gender and Diversity Policy and related tools](#)

[Accountability to Affected Population Operational Guidance Toolkit](#)

[UNHCR-WFP Joint Programme Excellence and Targeting Hub website](#) this includes additional resources such as lessons learnt documentation, joint assessments conducted and community consultation guidance.

Endnotes

- 1 E.g., The topic of “Specific Protection Needs” includes several factors such as Child Protection related risks, GBV related risk, Disability related needs, that can be collected using a number of variables, such as the Specific Needs Codes in UNHCR and other standardized tools.
- 2 The vulnerability classification method of the Essential Needs Analysis (ENA) approach combines these three indicators to categorize households as extremely, highly, moderately or not vulnerable.
- 3 ‘Protected grounds’ refer to grounds or groups protected by law. While laws should protect all people and groups against violence, there are additional laws which explicitly prohibit discrimination and violence on certain grounds, such as age, gender, disability, ethnicity and - in some countries - sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, sex characteristics (SOGIESC).
- 4 “The Specific Needs Codes provide a standardized and exhaustive list of an individual’s particular characteristics, background, or risks that may provoke protection exigencies. The SNCs are relevant to all types of UNHCR operations, whether related to asylum-seeker, refugee, IDP, stateless or returnee populations”. IOM/030-FOM/030/2009 - Guidance on the Use of Standardized Special Needs Codes (unhcr.org)
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To find additional information about the JAF, please refer to this [website](#).