The Task Force for Population Movement, a technical working group of the Protection Cluster, aims to harmonize displacement tracking assessment tools and methodology for tracking population movement in Yemen.

The main modality of tracking population movement is called the **Area Assessment**.

The primary purpose of the Area Assessment is to track and monitor population movements in Yemen to collate, analyze and share comprehensive baseline information on Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and Returnee populations; including numbers, locations, demographics, locations of origin, time of displacement, shelter types accommodated per location, sex and age disaggregated data, and movement patterns.

The Area Assessment is a standardized tool to verify and regularly update the baseline information in 1 month cycles (Rounds). The tool captures coordinates while matching the identified locations to the OCHA Common Operational Dataset (P-codes).

The **Area Assessment** collects data through an extensive Key Informant network and aims to capture IDP populations to the lowest geographical area as operationally possible; *District, Location, Site*.

The Area Assessment is **not** a household registration exercise, protection monitoring, infrastructure/service assessment or a multi-needs assessment although it strives to provide baselines to support these further methods of assessment.

A **Key Informant** (KI) is an individual from across the social spectrum that is considered a trustworthy source of information and a point of contact at the community level. Enumerators are trained to adhere to the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and operational independence when working with KIs to ensure a broad representation of affected communities. A KI could be: tribal sheikh, mosque’s imam, local official, community leader, government officer, social worker, NGO member, school teacher or manager, health officer, security officer, etc.

### Selecting Key Informants

*Using a standardised and structured approach to the selection of key informants is a key step to ensuring that data collected is comprehensive and comparable across the different teams. In the Yemen context the suggested practice for field teams and implementing partners is to select key informant representatives of both the host and IDPs communities while adhering to the humanitarian principles as outlined below. Ensuring that the selected Key Informants are the most relevant and appropriate individuals to the successful implementation of the exercise. As such the selection is divided into three steps as indicated in the chart.*

**Humanity.** Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found, with particular attention to the most vulnerable in the population, such as children, women and the elderly. The dignity and rights of all victims must be respected and protected.

**Neutrality.** The collection of information must be carried out without engaging in hostilities or taking sides in controversies of a political, religious or ideological nature.

**Impartiality.** The collection of information must be carried out without discriminating as to ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political opinions, race or religion. Relief of the suffering must be guided solely by needs and priority must be given to the most urgent cases of distress.

**Operational Independence.** Humanitarian action must be autonomous from the political, economic, military or other objectives that any actor may hold with regard to areas where humanitarian action is being implemented.
A location is a populated place to the smallest geographical division; urban area, a neighborhood and rural, a village.

A Site is a refinement and additional detail to a location, usually a structure or building. These can include, but are not limited to, schools, other public buildings, private property (farms, flats, houses), or unfinished buildings and may accommodate several households.

The Area Assessment is conducted in cyclical Rounds. The duration of one Round is a month, starting on the 1st of each month. The TFPM aims to release updates (endorsed by the HCT) every mid-month. This allows time for data management, analysis and reporting.

The TFPM aims to continually enhance its methodology of data collection to ensure full country coverage, and keep regular updates on IDP and returnee populations with the completion of each round of assessment. The methodology of the Area Assessment provides self-validation through each update and strengthens the accuracy of the data through each round of assessment in addition to the continual triangulation of other sourced data. In addition, the TFPM focuses on identifying priority needs of IDPs and returnees and governorate profiles using the Key Informant network. This information provides a baseline for further detailed assessment and follow-up by relevant clusters.

Multiple methods of data collection, data management, analysis and reporting can be deployed to facilitate the Area Assessment; e-forms and tablets may be used in lieu of hard copy assessments to expedite data entry and bolster quality control, while online databases linked to interactive dashboards or visual displays could enhance data analysis. Further in-depth assessments that profile the demographic and needs of the IDP population can be implemented by the humanitarian community based on samples of the baselines captured by the Area Assessment.

Comprehensive information on internal displacement and return movements in Yemen is hard to obtain and the TFPM must regularly address several challenges that may hinder smooth data collection in some areas. These challenges include, but are not limited to, access to areas and information as a result to a deterioration in the security situation, disrupted communication with key informants or partners, limited transportation as result of high fuel prices and changes in the involvement of key informants due to insecurity.
Area Assessment Status Guidelines

The area assessment captures baseline information on IDP and Returnee populations. The following details how commonly used definitions of an IDP or a Returnee are reflected and captured within the tool, based on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

Internally Displaced Person (IDP):

*Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.*

- Area Assessments track IDPs by the count of the displaced population in a given LOCATION (i.e. where they fled to)

- Area Assessments **do not** track IDPs by the count of how many were displaced from a location.

E.g. There are 10 IDPs in location x. NOT, there were 10 IDPs that left location x.

IDP Returnee:

*IDP return broadly covers the movement and return process of an IDP (voluntarily, in safety and with dignity) to their homes or places of habitual residence, or to resettle voluntarily in another part of the country.*

- Area Assessments track return by the count of the returnee population in a given LOCATION

- Area Assessments **do not** track return by the count of IDPs who have left a location to reportedly return to their place of origin.

- Area Assessments track returnees when:
  - the return movement is within an IDP’s district of displacement;
  - the returnee has returned to their home or place of habitual residence in cases where their homes or communities are damaged or destroyed);
  - if return has been to the their place of habitual residence then the following conditions should be met for it to be considered a return movement (if **not** then they are still considered to be an IDP).

  - the returnee is not considering any further movement;
  - the returnee perceives themselves to have returned;

---

1 Definition from Introduction, Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.
2 Definition from Principle 28, Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.