

# METHODOLOGY NOTE

## COUNTRY SELECTION

Throughout the year, analysts at ACAPS conduct daily monitoring and independent analysis of 150 countries to produce a weekly Global Emergency Overview (GEO) of humanitarian crises in order to support evidence-based decision making in the humanitarian sector. The in-depth knowledge acquired in this process, backed by the application of a rigorous methodology, enabled the production of this report, which highlights the anticipated developments and priority sectoral needs in 18 countries in 2018.

The selection of countries for this report is based primarily on the internal ACAPS prioritisation methodology. Countries were considered for inclusion if they fell within one of the following three categories: an elevation in their GEO classification in 2017 due to a change in the level of need, such as Ethiopia; the occurrence of events or trends in the past months that indicate a likely deterioration leading to a future spike in needs, such as Venezuela; or consistent Severe Humanitarian Crisis status classification within the GEO over the past 12 weeks, such as Syria.

## METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this report is to anticipate the likely developments and resulting priority sectoral needs for each of the selected countries in 2018 based on existing trends. It does not attempt to predict sudden onset disasters, nor does it include risks. For the countries included, ACAPS has examined the factors driving the evolution of humanitarian crises in 2017 and analysed how those drivers are likely to shape the situation going forward. A driving factor directly influences or leads to changes in a crisis situation. The focus for this product was on drivers that had a negative impact in 2017 and which were likely, based on the existing trend, to continue to have an impact in 2018.

Throughout the year, analysts have monitored trends and developments in over 150 countries. Countries were selected for inclusion in this report after an initial rapid analysis of context and trends. Analysts then identified the key drivers that contrib-

uted to developments in the crisis in 2017, and were able to make links between these drivers and the progression of events that occurred leading to humanitarian needs in 2017. Extrapolation of the driver trends into the 2018 context led to the development of informed assumptions about the likely future situation for 2018 and the likely humanitarian consequences of this projected outlook. When considering the future sectoral priorities, consideration was given to the previous needs in 2017, the likely impact of the identified drivers on these sectors in 2018, the possible impact on other sectors and where possible, the geographical areas likely to be affected. Based on this analysis, the countries included in this report were categorised as deteriorating or ongoing crises.

## LIMITATIONS

This report has the advantages of breadth and timeliness, but it also has limitations. Considering the diversity and complexity of the crises, combined with the number included, it has not been possible to cover each country in detail. Instead, we have explored the broad evolution of the crises to inform operational, strategic, and policy decision-makers.

Time and size constraints have also narrowed our focus. We have concentrated on an analysis of trends indicating likely deterioration, which means that we have not focused on the multiple possible scenarios thrown up by considering neutral and positive factors. Equally, unforeseen circumstances may change the course of events, but have not received our attention in this report.

Information gaps have also had an impact. Additionally, while every effort was made to ensure that all information was up to date at the time of publishing, the fluidity of the situations in some countries means that significant changes are often observed from one month to another.

While these are common challenges faced by analysts in the humanitarian sector, we are confident that undertaking this analysis contributes to better humanitarian planning as a result of improved awareness of priority needs in the countries covered in this report.