

## **Self-Reliance Index Guidance Note on Sampling**

The Self-Reliance Index (SRI) is a scored survey tool for measuring the progress of refugee households toward self-reliance. It is primarily intended to support practitioners in tracking refugee clients' self-reliance over time and designing and providing effective refugee services in countries of first asylum. It may also assist in targeting populations for assistance, highlighting service gaps, and informing funding priorities.

Organizations that are using the SRI to track clients do not need to consider a sampling approach; these organizations can simply administer the SRI to their clients over various intervals of time. However, organizations interested in using the SRI to evaluate a program or capture a representative estimate of self-reliance among a given population may need to consider collecting data from a *sample* of their population of interest.

### **Program Monitoring or Tracking**

As noted above, use of the SRI as a tool to track clients or monitor programs or projects does not require a specific 'sampling' procedure. The SRI was designed to assist those implementing projects to be able to best target and engage clients. Therefore, practitioners should implement the SRI with *all* clients who are part of a designated program to gain BOTH a holistic view of their situation and to chart change over time.

### **Evaluations**

Some organizations may wish to use the SRI as part of an evaluation of a program. The sampling approach selected will depend largely on the type of evaluation and its objectives.

Before deciding on the sample size and sampling methods, the relevant stakeholders should ask themselves the following?

- What type of evaluation is being conducted (e.g. pre-post test, comparison group, randomized controlled trial, cluster randomized controlled trial)
- What is the estimated level of self-reliance in the population before the start of the intervention?
- How much is the intervention *expected* to change participants' self-reliance?
- What level of precision is desired?
- How many evaluation participants can the budget support?

Resource to consider which sampling method to use -

<https://www.measureevaluation.org/resources/publications/ms-16-112>

Once an organization has answered these questions, the RSRI Academic Advisors will be available to advise further. Alternatively, it is recommended that the interested organization work with a statistician or someone with sufficient statistical expertise to calculate the appropriate sample size.

## **A National Picture of Self-Reliance**

Various organizations have expressed interest in gaining a national picture of self-reliance. Capturing such a snapshot, or multiple snapshots over time, could provide a holistic sense of refugees' self-reliance, country statistics for advocacy purposes, and a starting point for tracking national changes over time.

It is important to note that obtaining a *representative* sample of refugees at the national level is likely unfeasible; doing so would require a comprehensive list of all refugees in a given country, including those in camp and non-camp settings. Given the challenges around maintaining a unified, up-to-date and complete list of refugees, most countries are unlikely to have the necessary sampling frame from which to randomly select a nationally representative sample.

Nonetheless, there are still steps that interested organizations and governments can take to provide a broader picture of refugee self-reliance at the national level. By creating an inter-agency partnership with in-country organizations and/or the government, organizations can work together to collect, collate and share SRI data from diverse service providers and multiple swaths of refugee populations. Similar to the Gender Based Violence Information Management System<sup>1</sup> and other humanitarian sub-cluster information systems, an inter-agency partnership could prioritize collaboration and involve relevant UN bodies (such as UNHCR, UNFPA, etc.) on the ground. Members of the partnership might agree to collect SRI data from their clients at the same time, and again after designated periods of time, in order to look at trends in self-reliance over time. Alternately, a single entity with sufficient reach could consider employing the SRI on a broader scale and in multiple regions to create a national snapshot of refugee self-reliance. In this case, it would be important to ensure adequate referral pathways and services are in place to follow-up as needed.

The RSRI Academic Advisors are available to further advise in the event that a national picture of self-reliance is of interest. Please contact us at [BetterLivesNow@refugepoint.org](mailto:BetterLivesNow@refugepoint.org) if you would like to discuss your questions on sampling or to be connected to the RSRI Academic Advisors.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://gbvims.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/GBVAOR-GBVIMSFactSheet1.pdf>