



Response to Vulnerability in Asylum



Cooperation
that
Counts

The **Asylum Seekers' Protection Indices (ASPIS)** form (adapted version)

Name of Applicant:		File No:				
Dates of Previous Assessment/s:		Level of Concern:				
Date:		No Concern	Low Concern	Medium	High Concern	Overall Assessment
1	External Circumstances					
	Physical safety					
	Financial Security					
	Accommodation Situation					
	Employment situation					
	Degree of discrimination (racial or other)					
2	Family Constellation					
	Age					
	Gender					
	Family Composition (e.g. divorced, no connection with family members, including extended family)					
	Family Role (e.g. single mothers, single head of household, unaccompanied child, isolated elder)					
3	Physical Health					
	Diagnosed physical health problem					
	Pregnancy					
4	Psychological health					
	Diagnosed mental health problem					
	Victim of torture/abuse, including sexual violence					
	Past history of suicide attempts/ suicidal ideation					
5	Community Connections					
	Level of engagement (Participation / Isolation)					
6	Wider Society Connections					
	Level of engagement (Participation / Isolation)					
7	Degree of Difference (Between home and receiving country)					
	Language literacy					
	Education					
	Cultural norms and practices					
	Urban/ rural living context					
	General lifestyle					
8	Type of journey					
	Long and difficult journey, including whether smuggled					
	Indicators of Trafficking					
9	Legal Position					
	Complicated asylum claim					
	Any other complex legal factors					
10.	Daily Routine					
	Engaging daily routine involving social or personal development activities					
Overall Assessment:						

Guidance Notes for Completing the (ASPIS) form

	Considerations	Action: <i>Note to NPOs: Below you should insert the standard action that should be taken at the national level which assessors can draw upon and note above.</i>
1. External Circumstances:		
Physical safety	Is the applicant experiencing or facing a threat of: - domestic abuse? - co-resident problems? - abuse from traffickers, etc.? - other?	
Financial Security	Is there financial security to enable, at the very least survival east, survival?	
Accommodation situation	- Is there accommodation available? - Is the accommodation unsafe or unsuitable for the applicant and any dependents? - If applicant is detained, note as high concern, and note any concerns relating to the detention.	
Employment situation	Note: This is usually not applicable to asylum seekers and the category may be omitted should this be the case in the national context. If employment is possible in the national context, is the applicant able to engage in active employment? Does he/she face any additional barriers due to their current situation? .	
Degree of discrimination	Is the applicant facing any form of discrimination based on, for example, - gender, racial, ethnic, religious or sexual orientation?	
2. Family Constellation:		
Age	Is the applicant under 18 years of age? Has the applicant a young adult? (18 – 24 years of age) Is the applicant over 65 years of age?	

Gender	Is the applicant at any risk or require assistance because of their gender or gender identity (transgender/ intersex)?	
Caring responsibilities	Does the applicant have young children, elderly and/or or ill relatives?	
3. Physical Health		
Physical Health	Does the applicant have any physical health needs? Are these needs currently been sufficiently met?	
Pregnancy	At what stage of the pregnancy is the applicant? Are there any complications associated with the pregnancy? Is the applicant receiving ante-natal care? <i>Note: An expectant mother may also have specific mental health care needs in cases of rape, death of the baby's father or exclusion by her family or community.</i>	
4. Psychological / Psychiatric State		
Diagnosed mental health problem	Does the applicant have any mental health care needs? Are these needs currently been sufficiently met?	
Victim of torture	Any disclosure or evidence of torture / abuse is likely to increase vulnerability level.	
5. Community Connections		
Level of engagement:	Participation and/or isolation in relation to their preferred community in connection with various categories: ethnic, racial, political, religious, ideological, cultural and regional (geographical). Isolation can be due to an actual absence of that particular community in the receiving country or due to their inability to access it for whatever reason	
6. Wider Society Connections		
Level of Engagement:	Participation and/or isolation in relation to the wider society	
7. Degree of Difference Between home and receiving country)		

This dimension addresses not only the actual degree of difference but also the way the asylum seeker is equipped to deal with these differences. Of particular relevance here is also the length of stay in the receiving country:		
Language	Can the person communicate in the local language?	
Education system	Can the person function in the current context? [Here you may also consider learning difficulties]	
Cultural norms and practices	Can the persons engage in cultural norms and practices?	
Urban/rural living context	Is the person familiar with the current living context (urban/rural)?	
General lifestyle	Are any concerns relating to the general lifestyle?	
8. Type of Journey		
Long and arduous journey	Was there any hardship endured in reaching the receiving country? For example, did the person have a long and arduous journey through many other countries? Was the applicant smuggled?	
Trafficking	Are there any indicators of trafficking?	
9. Legal Position		
	Is the legal case straight forward or is it complicated by specific factors?	
10. Daily Routine		
	Is the person able to engage in life and lead a fulfilling life with a daily routine that reflects active involvement, e.g. visiting friends, attending classes, engaged in sport activities, etc.	

Example Action Grid (for use following the completion of the assessment)

Name of applicant:	
File No:	Date:
Support Needs: <i>Refer to need to be addressed below: (e.g. referral for medical assessment/ psychological assessment, counselling, support service, referral to specialist NGO, etc.). Note that multiple support needs may be identified.</i>	Specific Action to be Taken:
Procedural: <i>Refer to procedural need to be addressed/ recommended (e.g. provision of guardian or other person to assist with procedure, suspension of procedure, gender-sensitive process, etc.) Note that multiple procedural needs may be identified.</i>	Specific Action to be Taken: