

Applied Public Health Practice

Interactive activity

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Σχολή Θετικών Επιστημών

Activity's Learning Objectives

1. Identify an immediate health issue among a vulnerable population and recruit a proper (representative) sample
2. Apply a needs assessment for refugee emergencies (NARE)



Scenario (case-study)

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- You are a team of field epidemiologists and public health practitioners specializing at addressing the needs of vulnerable population groups
- Over the past 2 months, a very large number of refugees (over 1000) have entered the Republic of Cyprus and they are currently hosted at the main Refugee Camp in the island, which is largely overpopulated



Scenario (case-study)

- **Issue**: The coordinator of the refugee camp reported to local authorities that it is practically impossible to address the nutritional needs of all camp residents, raising the alarm for possible malnutrition
- **Task**: Your team is requested to conduct an immediate health needs assessment in the camp residents





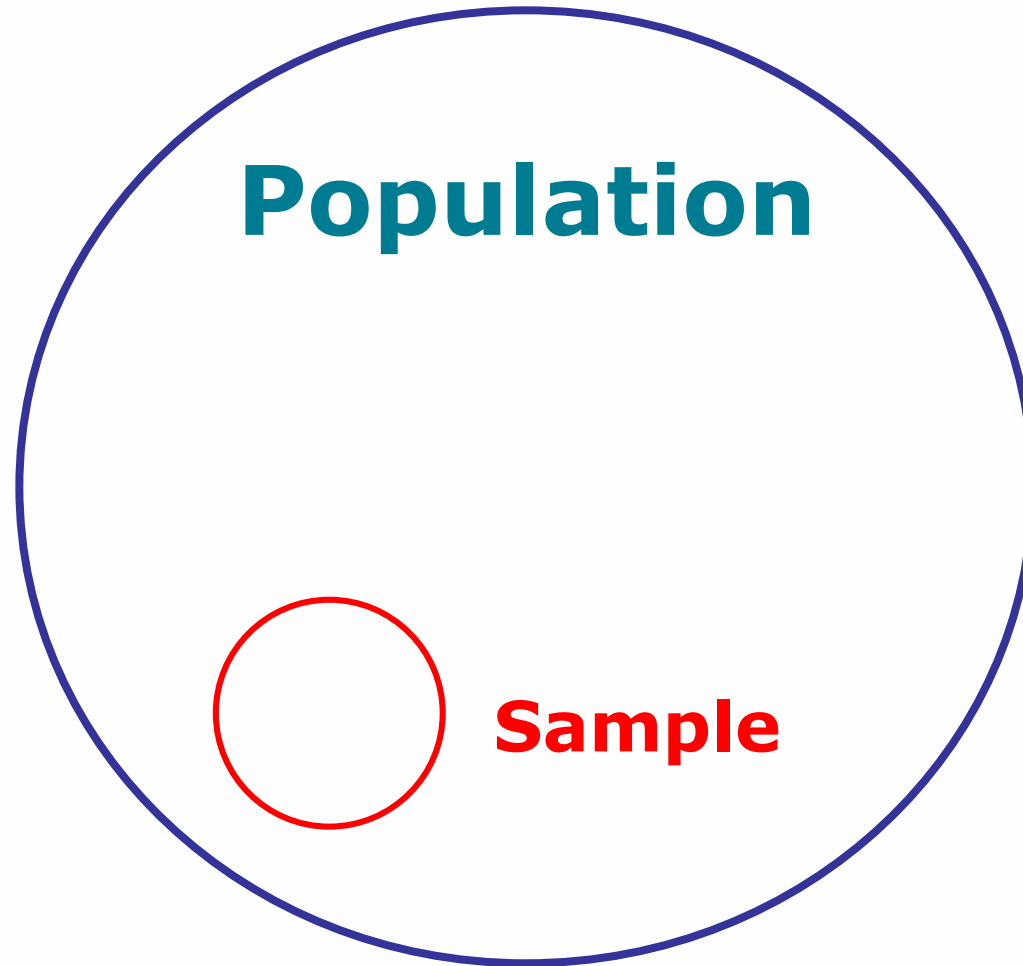
Learning Objective 1

Identify an immediate health issue among a vulnerable population and recruit a proper (representative) sample

Step 1: Sampling (practical tips) – *10 minutes*

- We want to determine the immediate health needs of a big group of individuals (i.e. our population of interest) in a very difficult setting (i.e. refugee camp)
- It would be practically impossible and very time-consuming to involve all individuals of this population in our investigation
- A more feasible and timely approach would be to take a sample from the source population and assess the health needs in this sample
- Any findings from any analysis conducted in a sample (rather than the whole source population) are called estimates
- It is extremely important that our estimates represent the actual parameters (i.e. the truth in the source population)

Representative sample from the source population



Parameter and estimate



sample

Mean value = 3.75



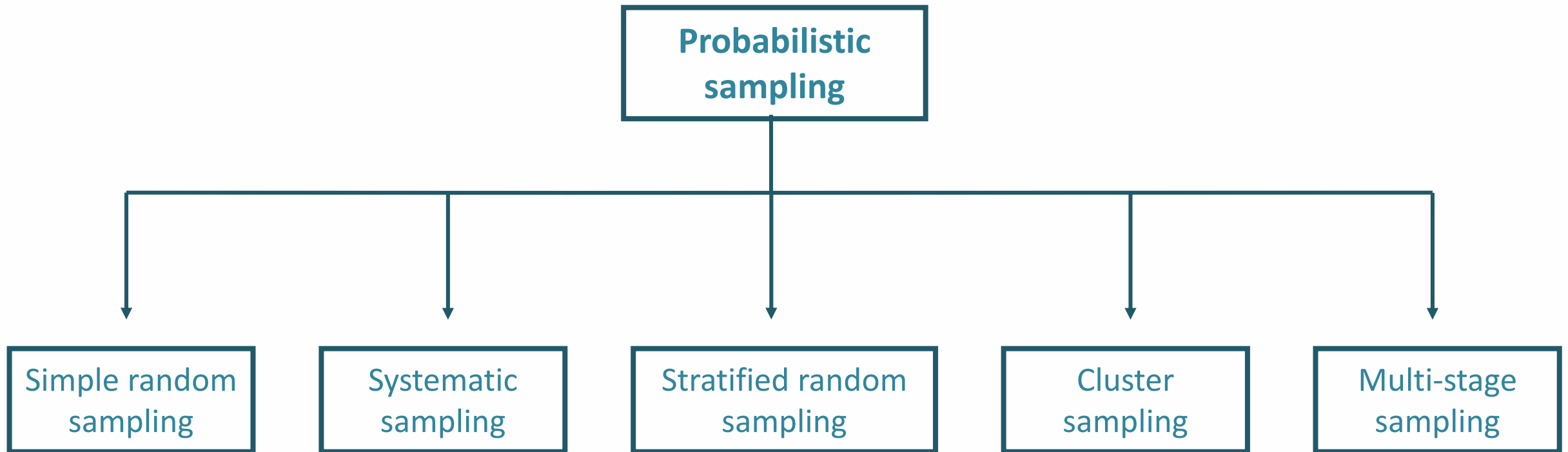
population

Mean value= 3.79

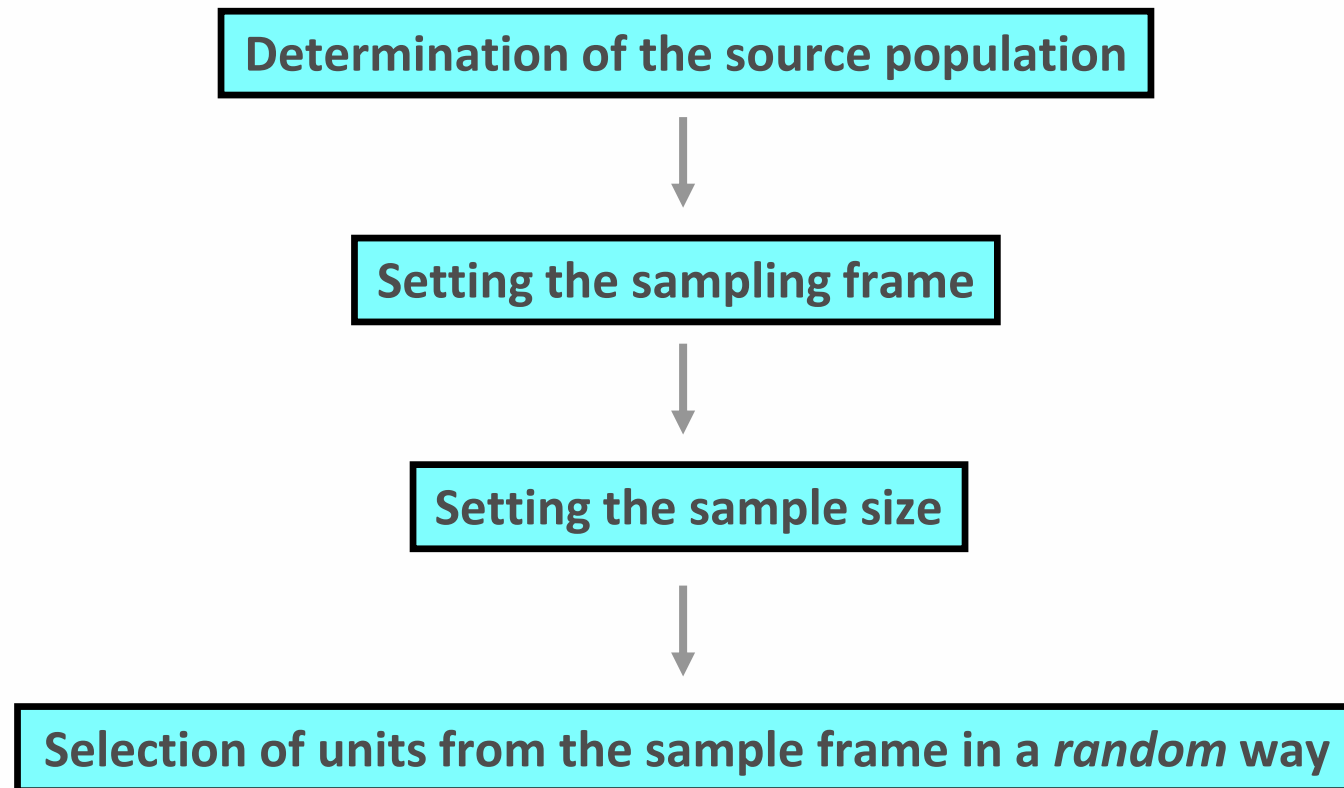
Measurement in the population? **Parameter**

Measurement in the sample? **Estimate**

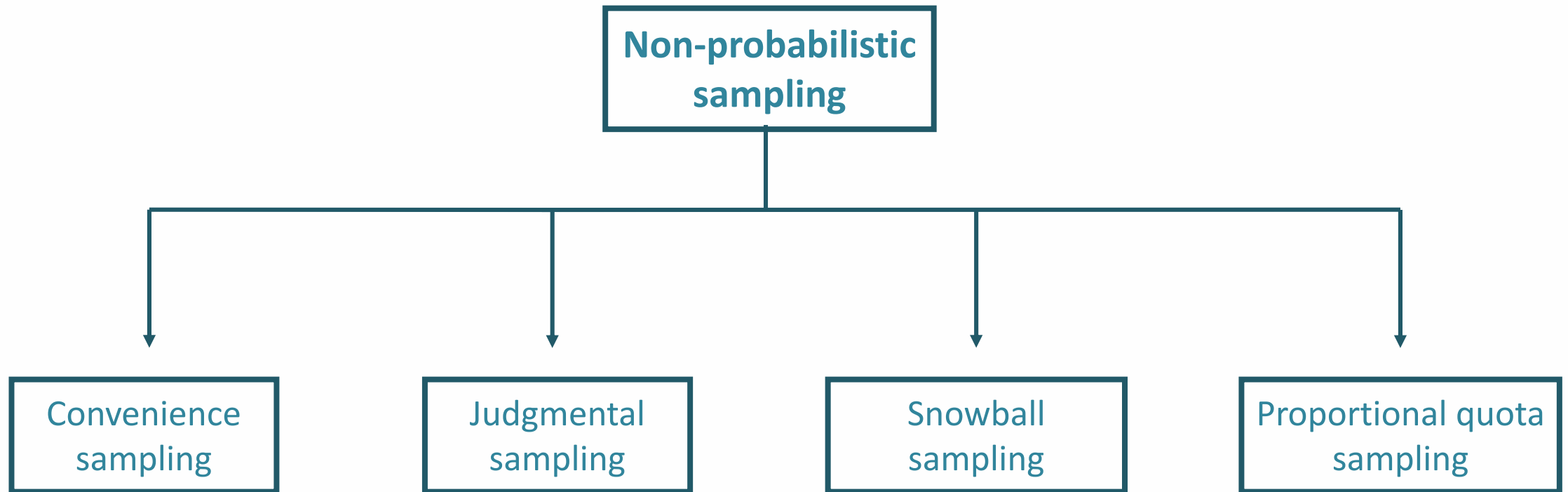
Basic categories of probabilistic sampling methods



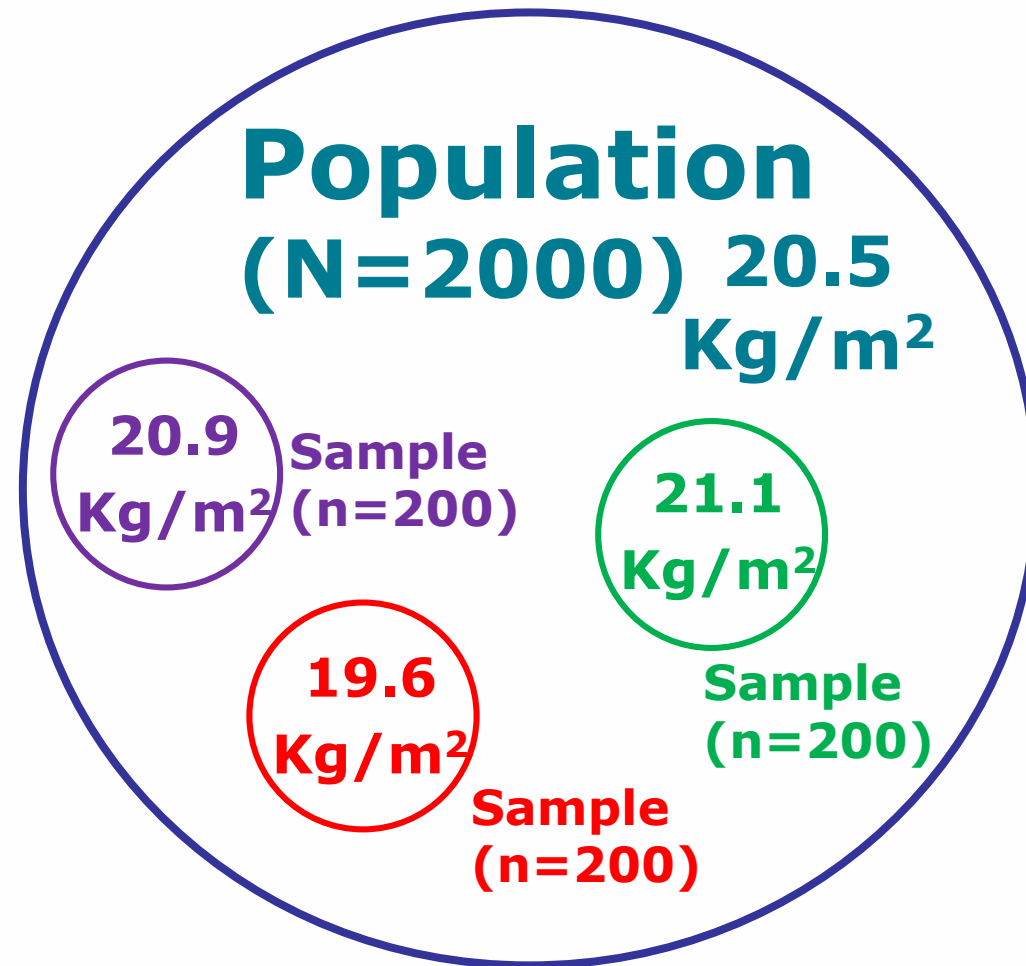
Probabilistic sampling:



Basic categories of non-probabilistic sampling

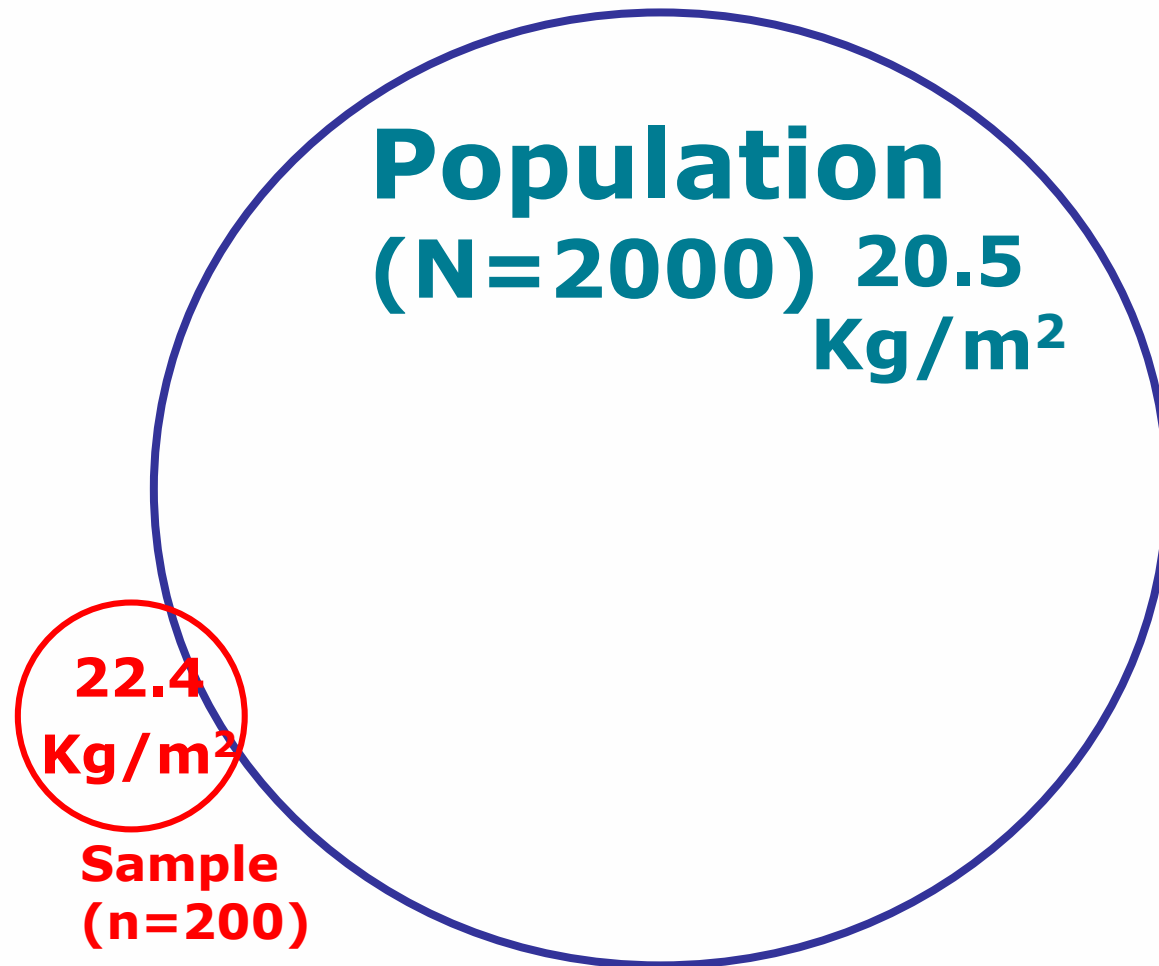


Random error: error resulting simply as a matter of chance – essentially, the inherent random deviation between sample estimate and population parameter



Mean BMI in a refugee
camp

Systematic error (selection bias): error resulting from researcher actions during sampling, as a result of a non-representative sample



Mean BMI in a refugee
camp

Step 1: Sampling (Interactive part – team work) – *25 minutes*

1. Describe the **sampling method** you will follow in order to recruit a representative sample from the camp
2. List the **strengths** and **limitations** of the sampling approach followed
3. Are you anticipating **selection bias** to influence the findings of your investigation?
4. If any bias is anticipated, describe how you would solve this issue or which resources you would need to do so





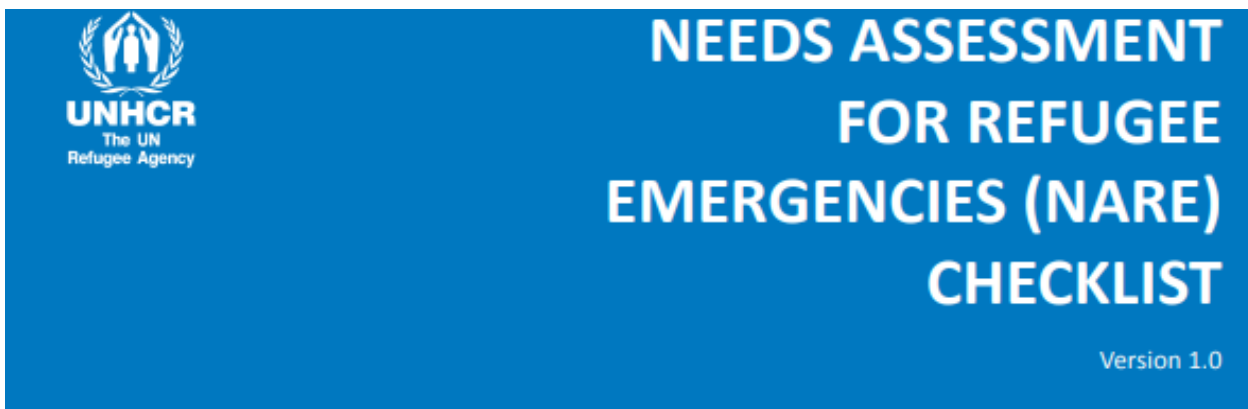
Learning Objective 2

Apply a needs assessment for refugee emergencies (NARE)

Step 2: NARE (practical tips) – *10 minutes*

- **Needs assessment for refugee emergencies (NARE)** was devised by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) with the aim of assisting public health practitioners, with applied tools for undertaking an immediate health needs assessment, in cases of a significant, sudden, forced displacement of populations across borders
- The key objectives of an emergency needs assessment are to:
 - Ensure that humanitarian aid is based on need
 - Ensure that humanitarian aid promotes and does not undermine safe local coping mechanisms
 - Identify and understand the unique and respective needs of different populations
 - Make sure that decisions on humanitarian aid are based on facts

The NARE checklist



What is the NARE Checklist?

As the lead coordinator in a refugee emergency, UNHCR has a responsibility to coordinate a multi-sectoral needs-based response. The NARE is principally designed to assist UNHCR operations with initial multi-sectoral needs assessments when there has been a significant sudden forced displacement of populations across borders. The NARE can also be used when there is a sudden influx of a population into an existing operational refugee environment or in a refugee operation where inadequate assessments have been conducted.

The NARE highlights information that is derived from pre-crisis and post-crisis secondary data analysis, before primary data collection begins. For primary data collection, the NARE suggests data elements that may be derived from facility visits, observations, key informants and focus group discussions. It promotes the cross-analysis of information derived from multiple methodologies across multiple sectors to ensure a rapid, relatively complete picture of needs in a refugee emergency.

The NARE assessment is intended to be a one-off activity and not an ongoing monitoring system.

How to Use the NARE Checklist

The NARE is a **highly customizable initial multi-sectoral needs assessment**. The Needs Assessment Team can decide which data collection methodologies should be used and which topics should be the focus. **This means that NARE users are not obligated to do the entire assessment specified here but can pick and choose from among the methods and themes depending on the time / resources available, the purpose of the assessment and the types of interventions that will be made.** Data collection questions in the columns/rows you have selected from the NARE may be further customized according to your local situation. You can change or omit the questions suggested, or you may wish to add new questions entirely. Please also consider the contents of the "All Sectors" column and the callouts on population data management, security and logistics.

The following principles of the NARE should be taken into account in all refugee emergency situations:

- The **NARE checklist** is a highly customizable tool for performing an initial multi-sectoral needs assessment
- NARE users are not obliged to complete the entire assessment set out in the NARE checklist; they can pick and choose methods and themes depending on their circumstances (resources available, time, the purpose of the assessment, the types of interventions that are planned)

Step 2: NARE (Interactive part – team work) – *25 minutes*

1. Given that the NARE checklist is customizable to take account of the local situation, you are requested to **modify the list accordingly** for the purposes of the situation you have been asked to deal with (*note: you can change or omit suggested questions, or add new questions*)
2. Describe clearly, in a **step-by-step** fashion, the **process** you will follow to apply the NARE
3. Identify and list all possible obstacles that you anticipate to face while applying NARE in the specific situation



Concluding discussion and reflection – *10 minutes*

- Was this applied interactive activity useful to you? Please justify.
- Which difficulties have you faced going through the activity?
- Do you feel confident enough to be a member of such a team and address this issue in real life? Please justify.
- Are you satisfied with the interactivity involved in the activity, both with the facilitators and your fellow students?

