



# What do we already know?

*Best practice for emergency seed system assessments & design*

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# Effective seed insecurity response

## Action learning questions

- How can we improve the impact of emergency seed interventions?
- How can emergency interventions help create more resilient and improved seed systems in the long-term?

## Aim

- To support humanitarian actors with clear guidance and principles on how to implement efficient and effective emergency seed responses.



## Seed Emergency Response Tool

# Seed Emergency Response Tool (SERT)

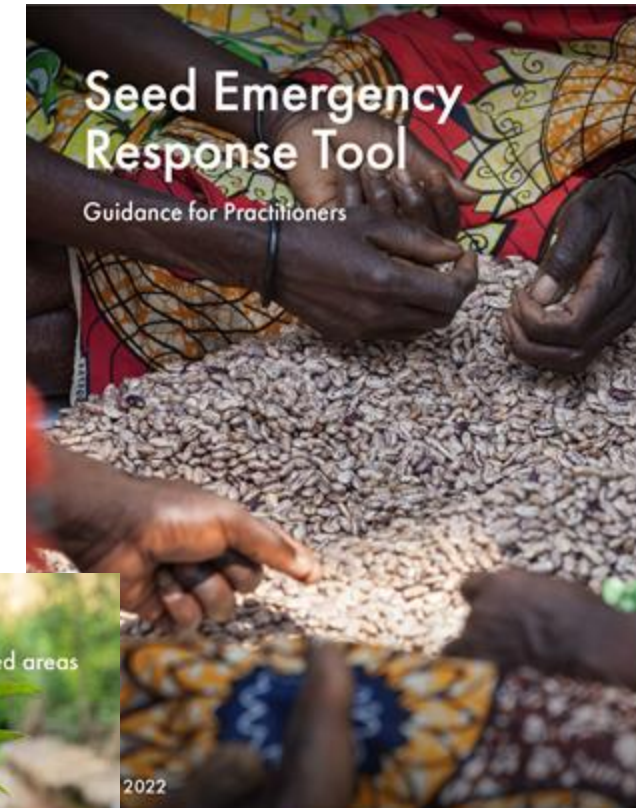
**Development:** Mercy Corps & ISSD Africa with SeedSystem, input from USAID and implementers. Builds on 30 years of lessons learned

**Audience:** policy makers, program managers and field staff engaged in emergency and early recovery agricultural response; **non-technical staff and experienced professionals**

**Aim:** provide guidance on seed security interventions: assessing possible need; setting goals; choosing among responses; designing specific field action; evaluating

**English and French**

Complimented by the **Context Analysis Tool (CAT)**



# SERT Central Features

1. Seed systems fundamentals
2. Charts on seed response types
3. Decision trees to select specific actions
4. 10 principles for good seed aid practice
5. Resources

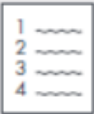
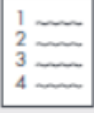
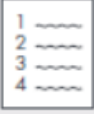
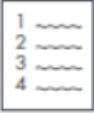


SERT Central Features

# Decision Trees

Table 7 Decision Trees

**A** Is a seed security-linked intervention feasible?

Key questions to shape the response	Evidence	If YES	If NO
<p><b>A1 Readiness</b></p> <p>Is the farming population ready to engage in agriculture?</p>		<p>Move to <b>A2</b></p> <p>▼</p>	<p>Are there other crucial non-agricultural aid options to support the population?</p>
<p><b>A2 Means</b></p> <p>Does the population have the means to engage in agriculture (e.g., land, labor, other inputs, credit)?</p>		<p>Move to <b>A3</b></p> <p>▼</p>	<p>Can supplementary aid help lessen non-seed constraints? If yes, what kind of supplementary aid? If no, should non-seed aid be given priority?</p>
<p><b>A3 Broad context</b></p> <p>Are the major context changes affecting agriculture during this stress period clearly understood?</p>		<p>Move to <b>A4</b></p> <p>▼</p>	<p>What additional information processes could be put in place to clarify the situation?</p>
<p><b>A4 Do-no-harm: general context</b></p> <p>Can a humanitarian response be implemented in the current scenario? Consider short- and long-term effects.</p>		<p>Move to <b>section B</b></p> <p>▼</p>	<p>Can harmful effects be alleviated with altered strategy? Analyze each item in terms of potential harm. If no, consider other non-seed aid.</p>

SERT Central Features

# Decision Trees

**C2** responses linked to Seed Access: key programming questions

For the constraint of **Seed Access**, there are several possible response options. It is up to the implementing organization to choose among response types.

Key questions	Evidence	Cash	Vouchers	SVF	DSD
<p><b>C2.1 Context</b></p> <p>Does the context allow for this type of intervention?</p>		<p>Are there sufficient market outlets supplying formal or informal seed?</p> <p>Are outlets within reasonable distance?</p> <p>Is it safe/feasible for recipients to travel?</p> <p>Do donors /gov'ts allow for this modality?</p>	<p>Are there sufficient market outlets supplying formal or informal seed?</p> <p>Are outlets within reasonable distance to recipients?</p> <p>Is it safe/feasible for recipients to travel?</p>	<p>Is it safe/feasible for recipients to congregate and travel?</p> <p>Are vendors willing to travel to fair venue?</p>	C.1 above
		<p><b>YES</b> ▼</p> <p>No Review possibility of other interventions that enable seed access and solve constraint(s)</p>	<p><b>YES</b> ▼</p> <p><b>NO</b> Review safer/more accessible response options (DSD?). Review whether DSD can offer</p>	<p><b>YES</b> ▼</p> <p><b>NO</b> Review safer /more accessible response options (DSD?). Review whether DSD can offer</p>	

SERT Central Features

# Guiding Principles

## Themes

1. Seed System Security Assessment (SSSA)
2. Response type
3. Goal of the intervention
4. Context
5. Timeliness
6. Market-based assistance
7. Crop and variety choice
8. Seed quality
9. Farmers' choice
10. Feedback at multiple key stages

Gender



SERT Central Features

# #7 Crop & Variety Choice

The crops and varieties selected for the intervention should suit the context and user needs

## Technical notes

- a) Seed and intervention goal
- b) Traditional versus modern varieties
- c) Varietal preferences, including those related to gender
- d) Crop preferences, including those related to gender
- e) Realistic management conditions
- f) Self- and open-pollinated varieties
- g) Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)
- h) No suitability, no intervention





SERT Central Features

# Guiding Principles

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Assessments

# SCALE Consultations on Seed Systems Assessments

March 2021

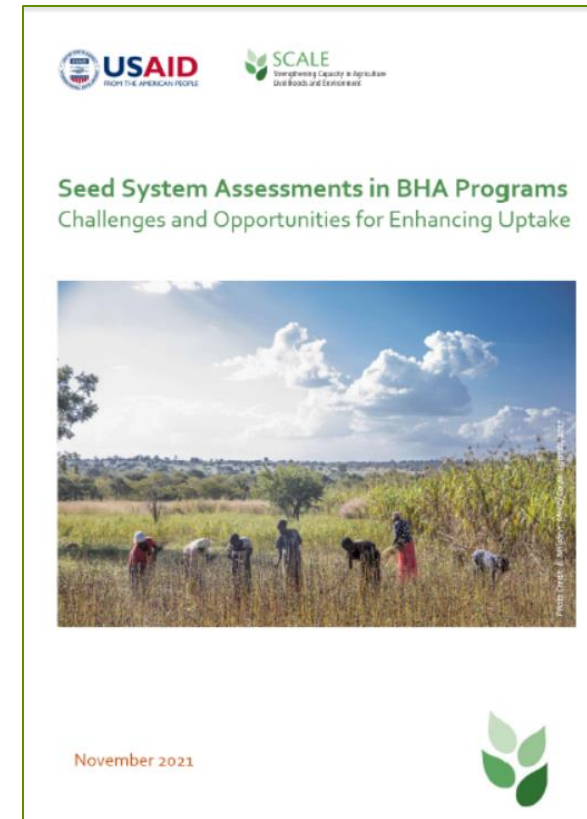
- **With whom:** HQ technical advisors & program implementers of BHA-funded programs
- **Aim:** better understand the variation in uptake and usage of Seed System Assessments in BHA-funded programming



## Seed System Security Assessments

# Key Challenges with SSSAs in Emergencies

- **Applications fail to include an SSSA** or equivalent seed assessment
- Applications **show an inaccurate understanding of SSSA purpose.**
- Central **repository of SSSAs not widely accessed** by implementers
- **Challenge with multi-agency coordination** for assessments.
- **Limited expertise/capacity of staff** in understanding the purpose of the tools/methods for an SSSA.
- Potential **strain on IP resources** to conduct SSSA
- **Difficulties assessing informal seed market** systems; program bias toward formal market activities.
- **Limited awareness and/or availability of data analysis tools,** resources, and research.



Seed System Security Assessments

# Work to fill these gaps

- SCALE Seeds Learning Group
- SERT & CAT tools
- ISSD Africa Phase 2 – humanitarian seed responses
- PRO-WASH & SCALE – seed focus
- Updated BHA emergency guidance
- ... and more!



# Conflict-affected areas

Seed Systems in Conflict-affected Areas

# Context Analysis Tool (CAT)

**Development:** Mercy Corps & SeedSystem, and input from USAID and implementers (12 reviewers from 9 organizations)

**Audience:** implementers working in conflict-affected areas of fragile states.

**Aim:** help actors quickly grasp the environment and circumstances in which seed systems function, and then to identify practical entry points for designing and implementing interventions to bolster such systems, making them more resilient.

**English and French**

Complimented by the **Seed Emergency Response Tool (SERT)**



*How could a RTB lens be overlaid on these principles, the SERT or the CAT?*



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