No data is available on the languages people speak & understand

Language not factored into staff recruitment

Majority & official languages assumed sufficient

Language not factored into budgets & planning

National staff don't speak all languages of affected people

National staff translate without training & support

Poor data quality due to language barriers in data collection

Marginalized language speakers can't report abuse or gaps in aid

Affected people lack access to critical information

Programs not designed for marginalized language speakers

Programs don't reach vulnerable speakers of marginalized languages

Abuse and gaps in aid persist
To fill the gap in humanitarian data on language, add 4 simple questions to multisectoral needs assessments:

What is the main language you speak at home?

Which language do you prefer to receive written information in?

Which language do you prefer to receive verbal information in?

How do you prefer to receive information (in person, radio, TV, poster, leaflet, phone call, SMS, etc.)?

For more on the impact of a lack of language data on humanitarian action, visit translatorswithoutborders.org or contact info@translatorswithoutborders.org