Why we need to collect data on the languages of crisis-affected people

- 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
- Marginalized language speakers can’t report abuse or gaps in aid
- Affected people lack access to critical information
- Poor data quality due to language barriers in data collection
- Programs not designed for marginalized language speakers
- Programs don’t reach vulnerable speakers of marginalized languages
- Abuse and gaps in aid persist

National staff don’t speak all languages of affected people

Abuse and gaps in aid persist

Poor data quality due to language barriers in data collection

Poverty

Abuse and gaps in aid persist

Poor data quality due to language barriers in data collection

Abuse and gaps in aid persist

National staff don’t speak all languages of affected people

Majority & official languages assumed sufficient

Language not factored into staff recruitment

Language not factored into budgets & planning
To fill the gap in humanitarian data on language, add 4 simple questions to multisectoral needs assessments:

What is the main language you use at home?

Which language do you prefer to receive written information in?

Which language do you prefer to receive spoken or signed 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