DARA
IMPACT MATTERS

26th ALNAP Meeting

ALNAP
Active Learning Network for
Accountability and Performance
in Humanitarian Action

Lessons from recent Inter Agency Real Time Evaluations (IA RTEs)

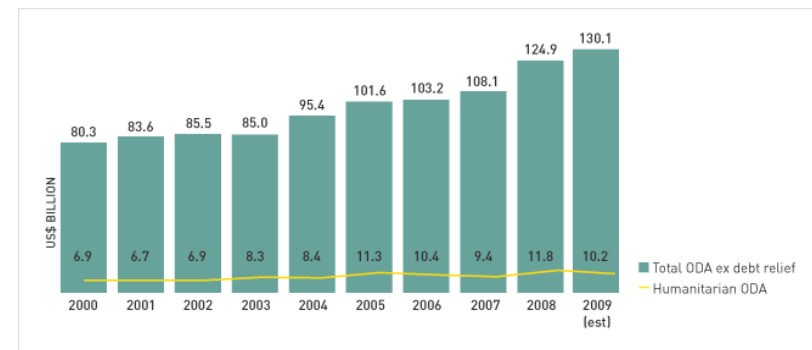**Riccardo Polastro**

Index

© Riccardo Polastro, IA RTEs
● Mozambique, Quelimane 09/1993 (current)
● Pakistan, Hangu 06/2010 (previous)

Contextualising RTEs

- IA RTE is a subset of Evaluation of Humanitarian (EAH) that is a subset of Evaluation of Development Aid (EDA).
- EHA vs. EDA
- Poor monitoring in Humanitarian Aid
- Humanitarian reform
- Evolving & dynamic area
- Pillar of the new EHA architecture

DARA

What is an RTE?

- An eval that provides *immediate* feedback in a *participatory* way to those executing and managing the response (ALNAP 2009 guide).
- Supportive measure to adjust planning & performance
- Intended for learning in action
- Unlock operational bottlenecks

© Riccardo Polastro, IA RTE Mozambique, First non
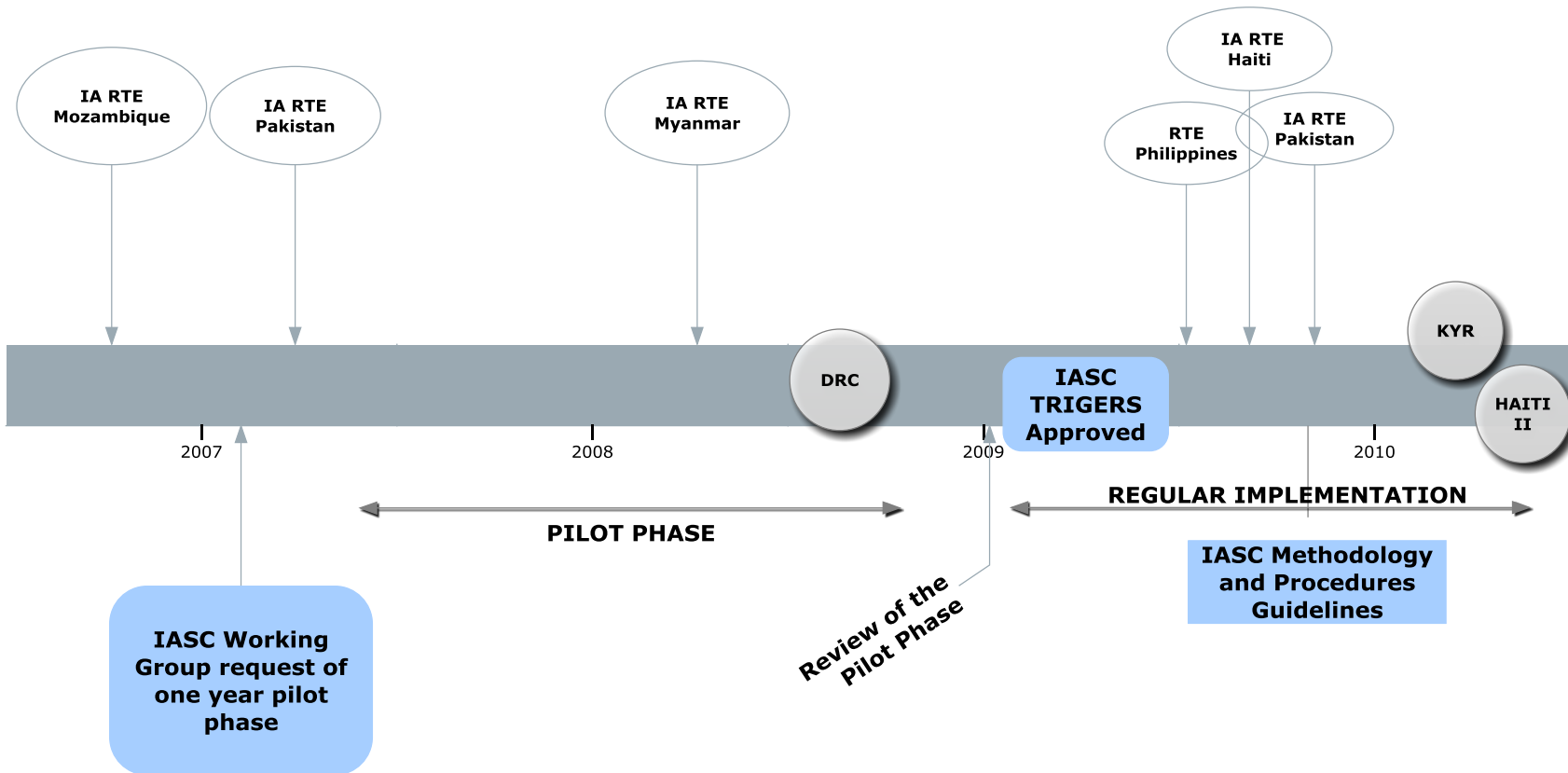
food item distribution 04/2007

DARA

Key characteristics

- Improvement-oriented during ops
- RTE / Mid-term / Ex-post
- Types (single versus joint)
- Demanding
- Agile & light footprint
- Involvement of stakeholders
- Growth (#, participants & scope)
- Triggering mechanisms in place

© Riccardo Polastro, IA RTE Mozambique, 04/2007,
Mother driking from a water point in an IDP camp

Milestones

- IA RTE Mozambique
- IA RTE Pakistan
- IA RTE Myanmar
- IA RTE Haiti
- RTE Philippines
- IA RTE Pakistan
- DRC
- KYR
- HAITI II
- IASC TRIGERS Approved

2007 — 2008 — 2009 — 2010

PILOT PHASE

REGULAR IMPLEMENTATION

IASC Working Group request of one year pilot phase

Review of the Pilot Phase

IASC Methodology and Procedures Guidelines

DARA

Added value

- Broader scope
- Timeliness
- Interactive
- Immediate feedback
- Management structures burden sharing
- Mutual capacity building & learning between partners
- Reducing the overall number of evaluations undertaken

© Riccardo Polastro, IA RTE Philippines, 02/2010
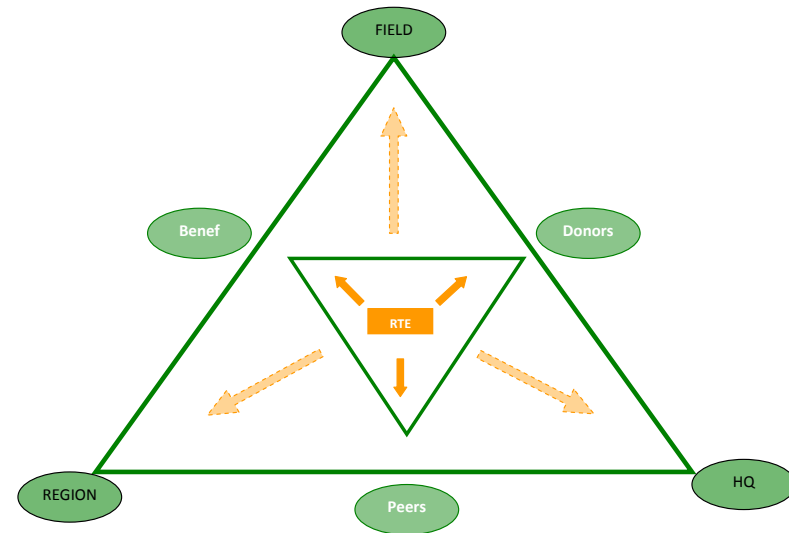
Group discussion with IDPs in Laguna region.

Challenges

- Growing focus on single agency RTEs (e.g. Haiti 10m /10 RTEs) / concept inflation / ritualistic
- Timeliness and timing (consultation/ when triggered)
- Ownership (doers, managers, receivers?)
  -Meet each partner's accountability and lessons learning needs
- What are the key questions?
- Utilisation: (process and products) weakness in the follow up on recommendations.
  Uses & users? Ability to feed into decision making?
- Capacity (HR/Funding predictability)
- Few RTEs in complex emergencies

Next steps

- Keep RTEs focused
- bridge between M&E
- Build participation & ownership
- Identify the clearly intended uses/users (opp. for joint RT learning)
- Outline the benefits of IA RTEs. Show their impact. Influencing in decision making?
- Mechanisms in place & secure resources

Lessons from recent IA RTEs

DARA

A dynamic tool feeding into decision-making

Drivers:

-Participation & Owned by field + support from HQ

-Core purpose: learning & guidance

- Rolled out systematically & triggers respected (includes funding secured)

- Deployed during on-going operations (timely)

- Based on strong evidence chain

- Findings & recommendations are applied

Momentary fashion

Drivers:

- Owned by HQ exclusively

- Core purpose: accountability

- Rolled out reactively & randomly (unpredictability of funds)

- Deployed after operations

- Thin evidence chain

- Recommendations are not properly used & implemented

rpolastro@daraint.org

www.daraint.org