

Building accountability to affected populations into humanitarian evaluations

Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation

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United Nations Office
for the Coordination of
Humanitarian Affairs

Addressing AAP Issues in Joint Inter-agency Humanitarian Evaluations (IAHEs)

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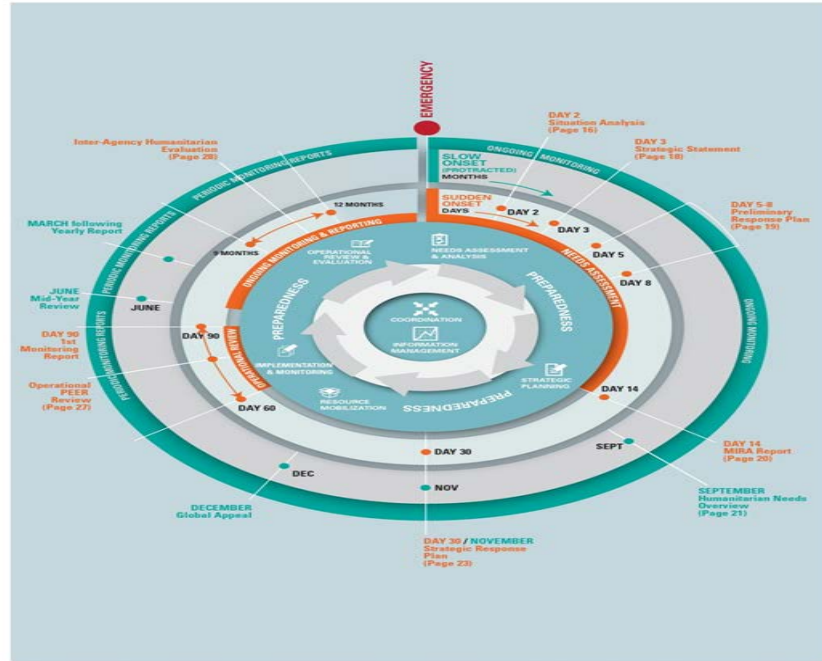
Overview

- Make people better aware of the changing role of the inter agency evaluation function under the IASC TA
- Help identify and prioritize key AAP issues to be evaluated
- Help to make sure that the way we conduct evaluations reflects the principles and spirit of AAP.
- Work In Progress – welcome your inputs

IASC Transformative Agenda

- In L3 situations the previous system of inter agency real-time evaluations has been replaced with two new processes:
 - Operational Peer Reviews (OPRs) (after 3 months focussing on course corrections, conducted by peers)
 - Inter Agency Humanitarian Evaluations (IAHE) (12 to 15 months focussing on results achieved in the context of the coordinated humanitarian programme cycle, conducted by independent consultants) A set of operational guidelines is being finalized for testing over the next year.

The New HPC



AAP in IAHE

- AAP issues need to be addressed at two levels:
 - What we evaluate: At the programme coordination level, defining a core set of issues with the IASC WG AAP, main focus on what is happening at the system level
 - How we evaluate: In the conduct of the evaluation itself, are we walking the talk? Often a key weakness in evaluation practice.

What We Evaluate

- IASC AAP working group has established some broad principles and a framework to help guide this work forward:
 - Transparency
 - Implementation of feedback mechanisms
 - Community participation in decision making
 - Impact on programme iteration

System Level

- Are there visible AAP-related activities embedded throughout the planning systems? How adequate are the coordination systems?
 - At the cluster and inter cluster level (protection cluster and prioritization process) How well embedded in the cluster work plans
 - How well do AAP advisors link back into the clusters where the response is rolled out? How is feedback coordinated to improve the work of the clusters?
 - Are viable mechanisms in place to bring community feedback back to the work of the clusters. Do AAP staff have access to clusters?
 - Are partnership strategies leveraging AAP issues?
 - Are AAP issues reflected in the M&E Plan for the SRP ?

Community Level

Effective communications within communities is key:

- Involvement in the needs assessment and planning process
- Are results of needs assessment and other analytical activities feeding back to communities and to local government
- Are local communities and women involved in development of aid selection criteria
- Is the gender marker system contributing to a more equitable response pattern overall
- Are complaints mechanisms in place and building on where possible on pre-existing structures
- Translation into local languages of entitlement information

How We Conduct Evaluations

Planning Phase

- How do we make evaluations less extractive and more participatory?
 - Key weakness is at the planning stage. We need to get better at **consulting with communities during the scoping and inception phase**. This has been absent in the past, but can bring benefits to the evaluation in terms of helping to focus the evaluation better. Use of national evaluators key.
- Implementation Phase
 - We need to be sure that during data collection phase teams spend a **substantial portion of their time** engaged with disaster-affected communities seeking out their views on the quality of the aid received and the transition to recovery. Do we need some benchmarks of quality?

How We Conduct Evaluations (cont.)

- Evaluation Validation Phase

- We need to explore means in the design to engage some community members in validating the results possibly by holding workshops with a select number of communities to review initial analytical results.

- Dissemination Phase

- In the past, we have never brought back evaluation results to communities directly, but there is a need to close the gap and to be sure that once the results are completed, affected communities also receive feedback. Local consultants can travel back to communities to present results and engage reactions.



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