

**ALNAP ANNUAL MEETING ADDIS ABABA,  
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**LESSONS LEARNED FROM ENGAGING  
COMMUNITIES IN ASSESSMENTS- DADAAB  
REFUGEE CAMP**

**Joint Assessments in Dadaab**

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# Background

- Established in 1991, Dadaab refugee camp is located in North Eastern Kenya, close to the Kenya-Somalia border
- Consists of 5 camps of Dagahaley, Ifo, Ifo 2, Hagadera and Kambioos
- Camp population stands at 369,294 as at 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014
- 97.3% of refugees are of Somali origin and 2.7% from Ethiopia



# Background

- CARE International started operations in Dadaab refugee camps in 1991.
- Currently CI operates in three camps of Dagahaley, Ifo and Ifo 2.
- CARE 's areas of focus include:
  - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
  - Gender and Community Development
  - Education
  - Food Distribution and Logistics
- To identify the most appropriate interventions for refugees CARE carries out needs assessments.



# Assessment

- Systematic collection, review and use of information aimed at assessing interventions and making recommendations to address identified gaps, continuously improving impact of projects and creating sustainability.
- On-going process aimed at understanding and improving humanitarian response



- Conducts both independent and joint assessments
- CARE carries out continuous assessments in Dadaab. - internal & external surveys and FGDs and in-depth interviews
- Also takes part in coordinated/Joint assessments such as:
  - UNHCR participatory assessments
  - WFP/UNHCR joint assessments missions
  - Inter-agency assessments (working groups)
- In line with CARE's Emergency Preparedness Plan, rapid onset assessments are also conducted during emergencies



# Quality and accountability in assessments

- CARE ensures the following in assessments (CARE Humanitarian Accountability Framework):
  - Data disaggregation by age and sex
  - Considers local capacities and institutions
  - Participation of refugees in assessments
  - Sharing of findings with stakeholders
  - EPP guides our response during emergencies eg. 2011 influx in Dadaab



# How we engage communities

- Sharing information on the assessment plan and objectives
- Gathering information on beneficiaries' needs through surveys, FGDs, Interviews and feedback mechanisms, community meetings and observation.
- Engage refugees in carrying out census eg. Latrine census/assessment
- Providing feedback on assessment results to community representatives



# Why CARE engages communities in assessments?

- Promotes accountability
- Enables CARE identify the most appropriate interventions
- Builds trust, reducing anxiety concerning our work
- Creates ownership; enhances support for our work
- Influences the quality of information collected
- It reinforces local capacities for self-help by communities
- Promotes collaboration-creates a rapport between CARE and the beneficiaries
- Improve understanding of the dynamics of co-existence of the refugee communities





# Stakeholders' views on Joint assessments

- A forum for peer review and fact finding
- Periodic- cannot be ignored
- A chance for involving community- field visit
- Issues are viewed in different perspectives- mandates
- Gate keepers-same persons consulted all the time -leadership
- Tick the box



# Challenges encountered

- Resource constraints hindering implementation of recommendations
- Insecurity in Dadaab hinders movement and time spent engaging beneficiaries within the camp
- Gate keepers/same people consulted- tells what they think you want to hear

# Lessons learned

- Sharing assessment results with communities and not only leaders is key
- Involvement of communities throughout the assessment process is necessary to increase understanding and ownership
- CRMs and feedback mechanisms are effective tools of conducting continuous assessments
- Assessments must be linked to decision making and project change



**THANK YOU!!**



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