

Inter-Agency Evaluation of the humanitarian response in northern Ethiopia | May 2024




Scope


- This is an independent, inter-agency evaluation of the collective humanitarian response in Northern Ethiopia.
- It covers the period between November 2020 —when armed conflict started—until May 2023.
- The evaluation offers feedback on how well the humanitarian response identified and addressed the needs of affected communities. It also examines how well organizations navigated the political and operational landscape of the response.

Methods


Utilization-focused evaluation with participatory, mixed-methods approach

 **186 Key informant interviews**

 **325 Participants** in community consultation

 **151 Respondents** in aid worker survey

 **Country visit**

 **Document review**

Key Findings



Despite flaws, the humanitarian response **delivered critical aid**, and affected communities reported it made a difference.



The response **failed** to meet many essential needs and was **not underpinned** by humanitarian principles.



Local NGOs played a **crucial role** in sustaining the flow of humanitarian aid.



The humanitarian leadership was ineffective, with a **disunited country team**.



Strong area-based coordination significantly enabled the humanitarian response.



The **lack of collective strategies** for advocacy and access undermined the coherence of the response.

Recommendations | Selected examples out of 8 recommendations

1. Develop a **coherent UN-systemwide country strategy** in situations of armed conflict by aligning existing UN-programs with core humanitarian and human rights standards.
2. Enhance preparedness and **implementation of a principled response**.
3. Identify and correct any emergent **leadership or coordination deficit** in a timely manner and improve the effectiveness of coordination structures.
4. Improve the **accuracy and relevance of humanitarian data** used in programme planning and monitoring.

Who we are

The **Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation Steering Group (IAHE SG)** conducts independent evaluations to promote system-wide learning and accountability in major crises.

As an independent body working closely with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), we support the leadership and senior management of humanitarian organizations with evidence-based lessons to improve collective humanitarian action.



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