

The Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations (IAHE) Steering Group

The IAHE Steering Group is composed of the Heads of the evaluation function of Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) members, and is chaired by OCHA. The group provides leadership and strategic direction to inter-agency humanitarian evaluation activities, which are carried out under the auspices of the IASC.

As the only independent assessment of the extent to which collective results have been achieved in the response to an emergency, IAHEs are a key instrument for accountability and learning. They help the system to continue to learn about the ways in which the collective humanitarian response can be made more relevant and efficient, in order to better support the needs of affected people.

For more information on IAHEs and the work of the IAHE Steering Group, please visit:

<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/evaluations>

INTER-AGENCY HUMANITARIAN EVALUATIONS (IAHE) STEERING GROUP



Syria CALL

The Syria Accountability and Lessons Learning Initiative



www.syrialearning.com

What is the Syria CALL?

The **Syria Coordinated Accountability and Lessons Learning (CALL) Initiative** was launched in October 2013 by the inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations (IAHE) Steering Group as an inter-agency activity aimed at contributing to learning, knowledge sharing, evidence-based decision making and accountability on the humanitarian response to the Syria crisis.

To date, the Syria CALL constitutes a unique effort to present an overall picture of the evaluative work conducted by various humanitarian actors of the response to the Syria crisis.

Why the Syria CALL?

IAHEs were introduced by the Transformative Agenda to assess the extent to which the shared objectives of the Strategic Response Plan are met, as well as to contribute to learning from the collective response. IAHEs are mandatory for all system-wide Level-3 emergencies.

When, on 15 January 2013, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) activated a system-wide Level 3 response to the Syria crisis, the

activation triggered a number of activities, including the mandatory conduct of an IAHE within 15 months of the L-3 declaration.

Given the regional dimension of the Syria crisis and its complex political nature, the IAHE Steering Group decided to initiate a joint evaluative effort *in lieu* of an IAHE. To this end, the Syria CALL Initiative was launched.

What are the main activities of the Syria CALL?

The following activities have been conducted under the Syria CALL initiative to date:

-The **Syria Learning Portal**, hosted by ALNAP, is a central repository of documents on the Syria crisis response, including monitoring reports, reviews, evaluations and other type of studies. Documents are accessible from the Portal for anyone interested. With over 300 documents collected, the Portal has proved an effective tool to facilitate access to a large number of documents on the Syria crisis from a single entry point, and to support other activities under the Syria CALL.

-The Syria CALL **Common Context Analysis (CCA) 2014** presents an analysis of the most significant political and humanitarian events that have recently taken place in

Syria and the region. Given the fast pace of the Syria crisis, a second report, providing an update of the **Common Context Analysis** was prepared in **2015** to provide an account of the humanitarian and political events taking place between June 2014 and August 2015. The two CCA reports have been widely cited in other research and studies on the Syria crisis.

- Using the documents collected in the Portal, a **mapping exercise** identified evaluative materials and offered an overview of evaluation activity on the Syria crisis. These evaluation materials have been used to prepare the **Syria CALL Evaluation Synthesis and Gap Analysis (2016)**. The synthesis report provides an analysis of recurrent themes, common findings and gaps from 24 publically available evaluative exercises from a wide-range of humanitarian organizations, which, taken together, account for the majority of the total humanitarian expenditure to date.

Who manages the Syria CALL?

Day-to-day management to the Syria CALL initiative is provided by a Management Group composed by OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR and ALNAP. Overall leadership and strategic direction is provided by the IAHE Steering Group.