

PROGRESS REPORT

April - October 2019

IASC-Associated Entity – Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation Steering Group (IAHE SG)

Chaired by Ms. Kelly David, Chief, Strategy, Planning,
Evaluation and Guidance Section, OCHA

2019 Priority Areas of Work

PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK	CONCRETE DELIVERABLES	STATUS	LEADS	COMPLEMENTARITY/ PARTNERSHIP
Crisis-specific evaluations 1. Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation of the drought response in Ethiopia (launched in December 2018)	1.1 Terms of References providing an overview of the requirements, scope and expectations of the evaluation	[COMPLETED] December 2018	Evaluation Management Group: OCHA, FAO, UNFPA	Additional tailored briefings have been offered to the EDG, OPAG, Result Groups 1, 2, 4 and 5 and the IASC Deputies Forum. The ERC will ultimately share the findings and recommendations to the Principals for their attention/action. Informal briefings to Member States, including donors, will take place in Jan/Feb 2020 in Geneva and in Rome. A side event on the findings is planned at ECOSOC in 2020.
	1.2 Inception Report presenting the proposed methodologies to address key evaluation questions, initial assessment of the results of the collective humanitarian response and a timeline for the evaluation	[COMPLETED] May 2019		
	1.3 Draft & Final Evaluation Reports presenting the evaluation's findings, conclusions and recommendations	[ONGOING] Due to be published in November 2019		
	1.4 Dissemination of findings and recommendations organizing workshops and presentations offering the key output of the evaluation to relevant stakeholders on the country and global levels	[ONGOING] The evaluation team of the IAHE SG organized five in-country (national and sub-national), as well as a global workshop in Geneva to discuss the draft findings and recommendations.		
2. Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation of the response to cyclones Idai in Mozambique (automatically triggered evaluation, launched in June 2019)	2.1 Terms of References providing an overview of the requirements, scope and expectations of the evaluation	[COMPLETED] Published in August 2019	Evaluation Management Group: OCHA, UNICEF, IOM, WFP, WHO	
	2.2 Inception Report presenting the proposed methodologies to address key evaluation questions, initial assessment of the results of the collective humanitarian response and a timeline for the evaluation	[COMPLETED] September 2019 (Report available on OCHA and IASC website)		
	2.3 Draft & Final Evaluation Reports presenting the evaluation's findings, conclusions and recommendations	[OUTSTANDING] The final report is due in January 2020.		

	2.4 Dissemination of findings and recommendations organizing workshops and presentations offering the key output of the evaluation to relevant stakeholders on the country and global levels	[OUTSTANDING] Planned for January-February 2020		Additional tailored briefings will be offered to the EDG, OPAG, relevant Result Groups. The ERC will ultimately share the findings and recommendations to the Principals for their attention/action. Informal briefings to Member States, including donors, will take place in Jan/Feb 2020 in Geneva and in Rome. A side event on the findings is planned at ECOSOC in 2020.
Thematic evaluations 3. Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (planned, tentative launch date – March 2020)	3.1 Terms of References providing an overview of the requirements, scope and expectations of the evaluation	[COMPLETED] Published in June 2019		
	3.2 Inception Report presenting the proposed methodologies to address key evaluation questions, initial assessment of the results of the collective humanitarian response and a timeline for the evaluation	[ONGOING] The report is due for December 2019 .	Evaluation Management Group: OCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, UNFPA, CARE	
	3.3 Draft & Final Evaluation Reports presenting the evaluation's findings, conclusions and recommendations	[OUTSTANDING] The final report is due in June 2020 .		
	3.4 Dissemination of findings and recommendations. Organizing workshops and presentations offering the key output of the evaluation to relevant stakeholders on the country and global levels	[OUTSTANDING] Planned for June 2020		Additional tailored briefings will be offered to the EDG, OPAG, relevant Results Groups and the IASC Deputies Forum. The ERC will ultimately share the findings and recommendations to the Principals for their attention/action.
4. Strengthening the role of the IAHEs	4.1 Develop stronger coordination protocol and common messages on the respective roles and complementarity of the IAHEs/OPR/P2P mechanisms	[OUTSTANDING] Planned in December 2019	OCHA/P2P	In partnership with P2P Team
	4.2 Donor Engagement Strategy (more systematic information exchange and support for IAHEs)	[OUTSTANDING] Planned in December 2019	OCHA, WFP, UNHCR	
	4.3 Develop a conceptual framework for thematic IAHEs that will enhance IAHE's linkages with the SDGs and Nexus agendas	[OUTSTANDING] Planned in March 2020	UNHCR, OCHA	
	4.4 Improved coordination and delineation amongst emerging system-wide evaluative efforts (i.e. coordinated audits, SG's inter-agency systemwide evaluation (ISWE) for development activities, donor-led systemwide evaluations, such as DFID Single Business Case).	[OUTSTANDING] Planned in Spring 2020	OCHA	In partnership with UNEG, OIOS and agency donor relations divisions.

Achievements

➤ Achievement 1: IAHE of the drought response in Ethiopia

- **Overview of achievement/ deliverable:** The evaluation of humanitarian response in Ethiopia is the first to assess the response to recurrent droughts, year on year. It is also the first IAHE to include a household survey designed to measure the impact of humanitarian action and more thoroughly register the perspectives of affected populations. It is also the first that sought such extensive stakeholder feedback on findings and recommendations -- at the national, sub-national and global levels.
- **Potential impact on the ground:** The IAHE captures lessons, best practices and provides a set of recommendations to the HC, HCT, IASC bodies and NGO community for improvements in areas of strategic, cluster and inter-cluster coordination, engagement with local stakeholders, preparedness and anticipatory action. At the country level, the Humanitarian Coordinator will lead the development of a formal management response plan, which will be monitored on an annual basis. At the global level, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Principals will be asked to ensure that global and systemic recommendations are addressed, and that follow-up is monitored.
- **Complementarity pursued with other IASC bodies:** Targeted briefings were offered to the EDG, OPAG, Result Groups 1, 2, 3 and 5, and the IASC Deputies Forum.
- **Engagement/partnerships pursued with non-IASC bodies/partners for the completion of this body of work:** During the evaluation mission, a team of external consultants conducted interviews and a survey of people affected by the droughts in Ethiopia. Further interviews were organized with key informants from UN agencies, international and local NGOs and civil society representatives, Red Cross/Red Crescent, government representatives, and donors at the global and country levels. Following the mission, the draft evaluation results and recommendations were first discussed with key stakeholders in the four regions visited (Afar, Oromia, Somali, Tigray) and in Addis Ababa. The objective of the workshops was to get additional feedback on and validate the draft findings and refine draft recommendations to ensure that they are actionable. The team also held a results workshop with global-level stakeholders in Geneva.
- **Follow-up plans:**
 - The evaluation report will be shared with all global, national and regional stakeholders interviewed and surveyed for the evaluation.
 - Evaluation results will be disseminated to drought-affected people surveyed for the evaluation in four regions. The team will use the method suggested by affected people themselves in the survey. This includes, for example, a poster displaying the evaluation results and recommendations, which officials can post on the administration's blackboard.
 - The evaluation results and recommendations will be presented to selected relevant fora including IASC bodies, donors, Member States, and other stakeholders.

➤ Achievement 2: IAHE of the response to cyclone Idai in Mozambique

- **Overview of achievement/ deliverable:** The response to cyclones Idai in Mozambique is the first IAHE under the scale-up activation mechanism and only the second IAHE to utilize a survey of affected populations designed to measure the impact of humanitarian action and capture experiences of affected populations. This IAHE also used an expedited process for its design and management, which aimed to reduce the burden on the humanitarian country team and other stakeholders, while preserving methodological rigor and quality of the process. This included having a remote inception and having all agencies except one (whose evaluation was already ongoing) forgo a specific agency evaluation in favour of an IAHE.
- **Potential impact on the ground:** The evaluation will provide HC, HCT, IASC bodies with an independent assessment of the extent to which planned collective objectives set out in the HRP have been met. It will also assess the extent to which the scale-up activation and Humanitarian Programme Cycle have supported the response. The IAHE will also provide a unique perspective on humanitarian response through the eyes of affected populations. The evaluation will identify lessons from the response and system-wide scale-up activation and will generate

recommendations for future response and preparedness. Given that it assesses the first inter-agency response involving a scale-up activation, it will thus provide valuable lessons for future. The evaluation will provide country-level as well as global and systemic recommendations. At the country level, the Humanitarian Coordinator will lead the development of a formal management response plan, which will be monitored on an annual basis. At the global level, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Principals will be asked to ensure that global and systemic recommendations are addressed, and that follow-up is monitored.

- **Complementarity pursued with other IASC bodies:** The IAHE was commissioned by the ERC. The IAHE is building on the findings of the OPR conducted by P2P project in May 2019. The ToR were developed in consultation with EDG and OPAG as well as the government of Mozambique. To increase the accuracy and buy-in for the findings and recommendations of the evaluation, the evaluation team and the IAHE SG will organize country, regional and global workshops to discuss the draft findings and recommendations of the evaluations. Additional briefings will be offered to the EDG, OPAG, relevant Result Groups, and the IASC Deputy Forum.
- **Engagement/partnerships pursued with non-IASC bodies/partners for the completion of this body of work:** Interviews with focus groups were conducted with the affected populations, UN agencies, international and local NGOs and civil society representatives, Red Cross/Red Crescent, Government representatives, at the country and global levels. Additionally, the evaluation team carried out a household survey at the end of October to further capture the perspective of the affected population. The IAHE SG will also organize briefing for donor community, Member States, and research and evaluation networks on the findings and recommendations of the evaluation.
- **Follow-up plans:**
 - The evaluation report will be shared with all global, national and regional stakeholders interviewed and surveyed for the evaluation.
 - Evaluation results will be disseminated to cyclone Idai-affected people surveyed for the evaluation. The team will use the method suggested by affected people themselves in the survey.
 - The evaluation team will visit the capital cities in each of the four districts affected by cyclone Idai to facilitate an interactive session with local government authorities and humanitarian agencies to share evaluation results and collect additional feedback.
 - The evaluation results and recommendations will be presented to selected relevant fora including IASC bodies, donors, Member States, and other stakeholders.

➤ **Achievement 3: IAHE on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls**

- **Overview of achievement/ deliverable:** This is the first-ever thematic IAHE. It will assess gender-responsive programming, capacity-building and the participation of women and girls in the design and delivery of humanitarian programs, as well as their adequate inclusion in accountability mechanisms. By adopting a case-study approach, the evaluation will provide an in-depth look at challenges associated with gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian action.
- **Potential impact on the ground:** This The main objective of the evaluation is to provide an independent assessment of collective performance in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls with a learning lens, focusing on the ability of the humanitarian community to implement the tools and frameworks that have been developed so far. A priority is given to the identification of best practices, enabling factors and tools that can be replicated by humanitarian actors at the policy and program level. The IAHE's findings and recommendations are expected to provide Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs) and Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) with independent and credible evidence of collective progress towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian responses. This may, where relevant, complement internal review exercises in providing an opportunity to learn from best practices and improve weaknesses in the country's humanitarian response. It will also provide other practitioners involved in designing and implementing humanitarian programs with evaluative evidence and practical advice to improve gender-responsive programming and strengthen efforts to empower women and girls.
- **Complementarity pursued with other IASC bodies:** The IAHE was commissioned by the ERC. The IASC Gender reference was consulted on the ToR and the design for this IAHE. To increase the accuracy and buy-in for the findings and recommendations of the evaluation, the evaluation team and the IAHE SG will organize country, regional and

global workshops to discuss the draft findings and recommendations of the evaluation. Additional briefings will be offered to the EDG, OPAG, relevant Result Groups, and the IASC Deputy Forum. Members of Results Group 2 on Accountability and Inclusion are engaging with the team as part of its inception phase; this close cooperation is expected to continue throughout the evaluations.

- **Engagement/partnerships pursued with non-IASC bodies/partners for the completion of this body of work:** Interviews will be conducted with key informants of UN agencies, international and local NGOs and civil society representatives i.e., GenCap Advisors, Senior gender Advisor and other people with an expertise on gender at the global and country levels. To capture the perspective of the affected populations, interviews will be carried out in four case countries.
- **Follow-up plans:** The evaluation will produce four country briefs of the case studies, besides the final evaluation report. The results of the evaluation will be disseminated to relevant stakeholders on the global and country levels. Attention will be given to the wide dissemination of best-practices, as well as the facilitation of trainings or workshops, which will enhance the learning component of the evaluation.

Forward-Looking Priority Areas of Work for 2020

The Group's evaluation priorities for 2020 are under discussion with Emergency Relief Coordinator. Where relevant, activities to be completed in 2020 are indicated in the above table of 2019 Priority Areas of Work.

Key Dates

- December 2019 Final report for IAHE for Ethiopia
- January 2020 Final Report for IAHE Mozambique
- June 2020 Final Report of IAHE on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls
