

Overview

- **Independent assessment** of the collective humanitarian response of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee member organizations. It does not evaluate the Government's response.
- Evaluation of the response to a slow-onset, recurrent natural disaster.
- Main purpose: **accountability and learning**
- Identified **lessons and good practices** to improve preparedness and future responses to droughts in Ethiopia, as well as to similar crises elsewhere.
- Conducted by the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi) between December 2018 and October 2019 on behalf of the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation Steering Group.

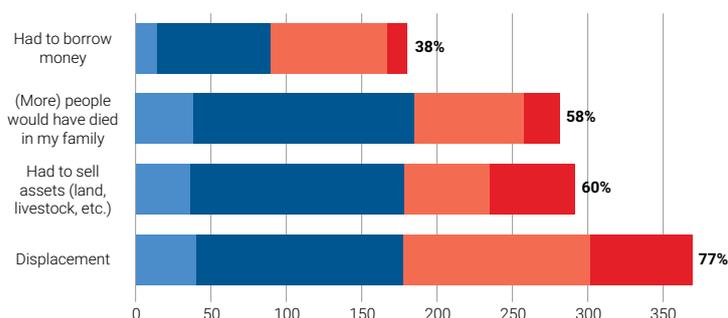
Mixed qualitative and quantitative research methods, including:

 Document and quantitative analysis of primary & secondary data

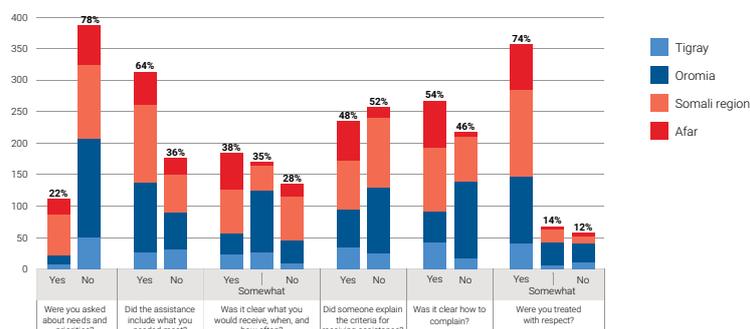
 **189** key informant interviews

 **528** affected people participating in a survey in four regions

The response helped communities fend off some of the worst effects of the droughts. ("Without assistance, my family would have...")



People were little consulted, but assistance was relevant and people felt treated with respect.



Key findings



The drought response was successful in many respects; **Lives were saved** and a majority of people got what they needed most.



A strong, **collective resource mobilization** effort for the El Niño drought in 2015 resulted in funding arriving late but at a high level in 2016; the resource mobilization in 2017-2018 was less successful.



The **cluster system** introduced in 2015 and investments in a greater number of dedicated **cluster coordinators** and information management capacities strengthened the coordination of the international response.



Since 2015, the **close integration** of the international humanitarian and government response was seen as key to the successes of the response.

Opportunities for Improvement



The response was less successful in **restoring livelihoods** and did not increase **resilience**. Early warning did not sufficiently trigger **early action** and the drought response came too late.



Gaps in **Needs Assessment, Planning, and Targeting**. **Cross-cutting issues** such as gender, disabilities and protection received very little consideration in the response.



Accountability to affected people was weak. The humanitarian community remains unable to track the **collective effectiveness** of its drought responses.



The response was successful in many respects, but the humanitarian system in Ethiopia failed to **learn some critical lessons from the past**.

Recommendations



Ensure lessons are learned and reforms implemented

→ Dedicate attention to understanding and addressing reasons why past reform efforts have failed.



Make the response more accountable

→ Strengthen accountability to affected people and response monitoring.



Strengthen early action

→ Shift to anticipatory, unearmarked, multi-year funding for drought responses and ensure flexibility is passed on to implementing partners.



Prioritize Resilience and support alternative livelihoods

→ Develop joint humanitarian and development programs focused on reducing drought risks as well as alternative livelihoods for pastoralists.



Further enhance coordination and the Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund

→ Conduct regular analysis of collective response gaps and increase funding to multisector projects and NGOs.