

INTER-AGENCY HUMANITARIAN EVALUATION (IAHE) OF THE YEMEN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



July 2022

OVERVIEW

SCOPE

- This IAHE covered one of the largest and most significant humanitarian responses by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) system.
- It assessed the implementation of successive Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) to the crisis in Yemen by IASC organizations, since the declaration of the Level 3 response in 2015 until June 2021.
- The IAHE covered all geographic areas of Yemen (12 governorates) affected by humanitarian crises in both Ansar Allah and government-controlled areas.

METHODS

- The evaluation used a mix of qualitative and quantitative research methods, including extensive field data collection and a population survey.
- It was theory-based and utilization-focused, with recommendations deriving from a co-creation workshop with the Humanitarian Country Team in Yemen.

144 Key Informant Interviews

64 Focus Group Discussions
241 women / 305 men

40 Project Visits

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❖ Despite multiple political, bureaucratic and geographical challenges, the humanitarian response in Yemen scaled up impressively.
- ❖ Lives have been saved and suffering prevented. In particular, cholera was contained, the food security situation slightly improved and levels of acute malnutrition declined.
- ❖ Further, humanitarian interventions have slowed the collapse of basic services, including health, education, water and sanitation.

GAPS

- ❖ Too much is being asked of the humanitarian system. The uncertain nature of funding makes planning impossible and service delivery capricious. A more fit-for-purpose response model and longer-term solutions are needed.
- ❖ This includes the need for a transition strategy to prevent dire consequences from any reduction in or withdrawal of aid.
- ❖ Questionable results figures and assessment data that is not cross compatible are a serious impediment to the effectiveness and efficiency not only of the response in Yemen, but elsewhere.
- ❖ Need does not consistently drive the response at an appropriate scale and pace. As a result, the most vulnerable are not always being reached.
- ❖ The quality of the aid being provided is low, and can be attributed to weak oversight, a lack of sustained access and bureaucratic impediments, and to an extent funding constraints in some sectors.
- ❖ Excessive measures to ensure the security of UN staff have contributed to the above, while also eroding trust, contributing to the lack of a sufficient understanding by international aid workers of the needs of the Yemeni people.

KEY FINDINGS

ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE IASC HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Selected examples out of 12 recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS

Consider a separate protracted crisis appeal system.

- The ERC and IASC Principals should advocate for a General Assembly resolution akin to 46/182 that enables longer time frames for financing, new planning instruments, and a new coordination architecture that includes development partners.

Preserve food security and basic services while pivoting to structural solutions, where feasible.

- The HC and HCT should:
 - Maintain or enhance humanitarian capabilities for the medium-term, while developing a transition strategy.
 - Explore options for finance and policy measures to support food security and basic services delivery, and
 - Develop a localization strategy.

Improve the quality and oversight of the aid operation while better targeting the most vulnerable.

- The HC and HCT should:
 - Increase staff presence,
 - Reinforce minimum standards, and
 - Improve targeting strategies by conducting more nuanced and systematic vulnerability analyses.

Improve collective working and address the bureaucratic barriers to delivery of aid.

- The HC and HCT should:
 - Streamline the cluster coordination system,
 - Ensure collective solidarity on the principled delivery of aid, and
 - Advocate for the reduction of import restrictions and for public sector strengthening.

CONTACT

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Full report: <https://www.unocha.org/themes/evaluations-and-reviews/reports> |

<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/inter-agency-humanitarian-evaluations> | reliefweb.int

THE INTER-AGENCY HUMANITARIAN EVALUATION STEERING GROUP IS AN IASC ASSOCIATED BODY