How are IAHE results presented?

IAHE results are available to the public. Final evaluation reports will be published on ReliefWeb, ALNAP, OCHA's website and the IASC website, as well as other participating agencies' websites. Exceptions are only made for limited information that is deemed confidential due to political or other contexts. Presentations are made to a variety of stakeholders, including the HC/HCT, EDG, ERC and IASC Principals. Special emphasis is also placed on dissemination to affected communities.

How are IAHE recommendations followed up?

- Within 60 days of the issuance of the evaluation report, the HC, with the support of OCHA's Country Office and in consultation with the HCT and the in-country Advisory Group, will lead the development of a management response plan addressing in-country recommendations.
- This in-country management response plan is presented for final endorsement to the ERC.
- The HC will provide yearly updates to the ERC on the implementation of follow-up plans from the date of issuance of the management response, until all recommendations are implemented.
- Once the management response is produced, it is immediately part of the ERC's compact with the HC, and progress is evaluated along with the compact at the end of the year. The oversight would then become part of the normal accountability framework between the ERC and the HC.

How are affected communities involved?

IAHEs emphasize consultations with affected people, to ensure that their views on the response are adequately collected and reflected in the evaluation. Evaluation team field visits include visits to the affected areas, to meet with communities affected by the disaster. Once IAHE results are available, presentations specifically targeted to affected communities are conducted.

Who conducts IAHEs?

IAHEs are conducted by teams of independent evaluation experts. The gender balance of the teams and the participation of national evaluators will be ensured to the extent possible.

Who manages IAHEs?

The **Inter Agency Humanitarian Evaluation Steering Group (IAHE SG),** formed by evaluation function representatives of IASC members, provides overall strategic guidance for IAHEs, and approves the IAHE TOR, inception and final IAHE evaluation reports. It also plays an important role ensuring the dissemination of results.

Each specific IAHE is managed by an **IAHE Management Group (IAHE MG)**, chaired by OCHA. It is composed of 2 to 3 members selected by the Steering Group. The IAHE MG provides quality control and inputs throughout the entire evaluation and plays a key role in ensuring its independence and providing guidance to the evaluation team.

As **Evaluation Manager**, OCHA prepares and submits draft key documents to the IAHE MG and IAHE SG for approval, organizes the selection and contracting of the evaluation team in coordination with the IAHE MG, engages with the OCHA Country Office to coordinate the creation of the In-country Advisory Group, consolidates comments to reports and submits them for approval, and actively supports the dissemination of evaluation products.

The **In-country IAHE Advisory Group (IAHE AG)** represents country level stakeholders engaged in the emergency response. It plays a crucial role in advising the evaluation team and supporting the evaluation through all its stages. Members of the IAHE AG are appointed by the HC and represent key stakeholders of the humanitarian response, including UN agencies, international NGOs, local NGOs, key funders of the response, and the government.

Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations (IAHEs)

What is an Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation (IAHE)?

An IAHE is an independent assessment of results of the collective humanitarian response by Member Organizations of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to a specific crisis or theme. IAHEs evaluate the extent to which planned collective results have been achieved and how humanitarian reform efforts have contributed to that achievement. IAHEs follow agreed norms and standards for evaluations that emphasize the independence of the evaluation team, a certain process and methodology, and the usefulness and transparency of findings and recommendations.

What is the guiding vision of an IAHE?

- Provide HCs, HCTs, IASC Principals, the IASC Working Group (IASC WG), Emergency Directors Group and other stakeholders with independent and credible evidence of collective progress towards stated goals, objectives and results. IAHEs may help inform longer term recovery plans, and in the case of a sudden-onset disaster, support preparedness efforts for the next emergency.
- Provide national governments and disaster management institutions with evaluative evidence and analysis to inform their national policies and protocols for crises involving international agencies and other actors
- Provide information to affected people of the outcomes of the response.
- Provide Member States, donors, and learning and evaluation networks with evaluative evidence of collective response efforts for accountability and learning purposes.

When are Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations conducted?

Usually, IAHEs are initiated as per their inclusion in the IAHE Steering Group's Workplan and are formally launched by the Emergency Relief Coordinator. Using a systematic and defined set of selection and prioritization criteria, a list of priority countries for crisis-specific evaluations and priority themes for thematic evaluations are established on an annual basis.

IAHEs may also be triggered by an IASC Scale-Up Activation, a formal mechanism for the mobilization of system-wide capacities and resources beyond standard levels, which automatically requires the implementation of an IAHE.

What are the timing and phases of an IAHE?

IAHEs triggered by the IASC Scale-Up Activation need to be conducted within 9-12 months. For all other cases, there is no fixed time frame for when an IAHE should be conducted, as a particular emergency situation may require flexibility for an evaluation process. In case of thematic IAHEs, timing depends on the prioritization done by the Steering Group.

IAHE processes comprise five phases: 1) preparation, 2) inception, 3) evaluation field mission, 4) reporting and 5) dissemination. The duration of an IAHE is kept to between 10 to 14 months from the time of the approval of TORs. Crisis-specific evaluations are shorter than thematic evaluations. Timings are planned in consultation with stakeholders, including the HC and EDG.

What is the relationship between an IAHE and an Operational Peer Review (OPR)?

OPRs are an internal, inter-agency management tool which identifies areas for improvement no later than 5 months after a Scale-Up Activation. It is designed to be a light, brief and collaborative process, undertaken by senior UN agency and NGO representatives. Reports are internal to the humanitarian system. IAHEs take into consideration the findings of OPRs.

What informs the IAHE analysis?

For all: The Impact Pathway (see diagram on the next page) provides the point of reference for all IAHEs. Broadly based on the principles of effective coordination, leadership and accountability of the Transformative Agenda, and the long-term impacts and core responsibilities as defined in the Agenda for Humanity, it portrays crucial characteristics of an 'ideal humanitarian response,' identifying key components widely accepted to lead to the effective and coherent delivery of assistance.

For crisis-specific IAHEs: A crisis-specific IAHE will use the Humanitarian Response Plan (or similar plan) as the main reference to assess whether the stated objectives have been achieved.

What are the core questions of crisis-specific IAHEs?

Relevance To what extent have the objectives set out in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) or similar plan been based on identified needs of the most vulnerable groups affected by the crisis?

Effectiveness To what extent were the results (in terms of assistance delivery as articulated in the HRP) achieved and to what extent were they effective in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable?

Sustainability What were the positive and negative, intended and unintended effects of the IASC humanitarian system's assistance for people affected by the crisis?

Partnerships To what extent have adequate partnerships been established (with international, national and/or local stakeholders) to deliver assistance to affected people?

Localization Have national and local stakeholders been involved in the response design and have their capacities and systems to respond in the future been strengthened through the response?

Coordination Was the assistance well-coordinated, successful and, as much as possible, equitable, reaching all affected populations and avoiding duplication of assistance and gaps?

What are the core questions of thematic IAHEs?

The evaluation's analytical framework for thematic IAHEs are developed on a case-by-case basis according to the agreed theme, but are structured around:

- Relevance
- Effectiveness
- Assessment of the shifts in ways agencies are delivering for collective outcomes

Impact Pathway

Longer-term impact	Affected people live in enhanced safety and dignity with better prospects of thriving as agents of their own destinies
Core Responsibilities	Prevent and end conflicts
	Uphold norms and safeguard of humanity
	Leave no one behind
	Change people's lives: from delivering aid to ending needs
	Invest in humanity and in local leadership and ownership of the response
Outcomes	Humanitarian access secured for all
	Relevant response
	Connectedness and coordination between hum. stakeholders
	Good coverage
Outputs	Effective coordination mechanisms
	Adequate partnerships
	Common needs assessments and response plans
	Common services
	Concerted advocacy for adequate response capacity across sectors
	Accountability (incl. AAP) mechanisms
Inputs	Enhanced leadership
	Human resources, including surge capacity
	Pooled and agency funds
	Guidance and programming tools (HPC, MIRA, sphere standards, etc.)
	Sector/Cluster leads activation and common services provision