Lessons from recent Inter Agency Real Time Evaluations (IA RTEs)

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Lessons from recent IA RTEs

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• Mozambique, Quelimane 09/1993 (current)
• Pakistan, Hangu 06/2010 (previous)
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Contextualising RTEs

- IA RTE is a subset of Evaluation of Humanitarian (EAH) that is a subset of Evaluation of Development Aid (EDA).
- EHA vs. EDA
- Poor monitoring in Humanitarian Aid
- Humanitarian reform
- Evolving & dynamic area
- Pillar of the new EHA architecture
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What is an RTE?

• An eval that provides immediate feedback in a participatory way to those executing and managing the response (ALNAP 2009 guide).
• Supportive measure to adjust planning & performance
• Intended for learning in action
• Unlock operational bottlenecks

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Key characteristics

- Improvement-oriented during ops
- RTE / Mid-term / Ex-post
- Types (single versus joint)
- Demanding
- Agile & light footprint
- Involvement of stakeholders
- Growth (#, participants & scope)
- Triggering mechanisms in place
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**Added value**

- Broader scope
- Timeliness
- Interactive
- Immediate feedback
- Management structures burden sharing
- Mutual capacity building & learning between partners
- Reducing the overall number of evaluations undertaken

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Group discussion with IDPs in Laguna region.
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Challenges

• Growing focus on single agency RTEs (e.g. Haiti 10m /10 RTEs) / concept inflation / ritualistic
• Timeliness and timing (consultation/ when triggered)
• Ownership (doers, managers, receivers?)
  - Meet each partner’s accountability and lessons learning needs
• What are the key questions?
• Utilisation: (process and products) weakness in the follow up on recommendations.
  Uses & users? Ability to feed into decision making?
• Capacity (HR/Funding predictability)
• Few RTEs in complex emergencies
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**Next steps**

- Keep RTEs focused
- Bridge between M&E
- Build participation & ownership
- Identify the clearly intended uses/users (opp. for joint RT learning)
- Outline the benefits of IA RTEs. Show their impact. Influencing in decision making?
- Mechanisms in place & secure resources
### A dynamic tool feeding into decision-making

**Drivers:**
- Participation & Owned by field + support from HQ
- Core purpose: learning & guidance
- Rolled out systematically & triggers respected (includes funding secured)
- Deployed during on-going operations (timely)
- Based on strong evidence chain
- Findings & recommendations are applied

### Momentary fashion

**Drivers:**
- Owned by HQ exclusively
- Core purpose: accountability
- Rolled out reactively & randomly (unpredictability of funds)
- Deployed after operations
- Thin evidence chain
- Recommendations are not properly used & implemented
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