



World Food Programme

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Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations Update

Afghanistan and Northern Ethiopia

May 2024

IAHE scope & process

Independent assessment of the collective humanitarian response by member organizations of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee

Northern Ethiopia IAHE

- Scope: Nov 2020 – April 2023; Tigray, Afar & Amhara
- Data collection May-Aug 2023

Afghanistan IAHE

- Scope: Aug 2021 – Jun 2023; whole country
- Data collection May-June 2023



Contextual factors

Northern Ethiopia

- Outbreak of armed conflict in November 2020
- Mass killings, serious human rights violations, violence against civilians, conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) → surging humanitarian needs with >5M people in need of food aid including 350k faced with catastrophic conditions (May 2021)
- Scale-up 25 Mar 2021 (WFP) & 28 Apr 2021 (IASC)
- Extreme access constraints amid high insecurity
- Government strongly involved in response with wide-spread diversion of assistance

Afghanistan

- Taliban take-over in August 2021
- Crisis was exacerbated by isolation and cut of development funding leading to collapse of the economy and public services → close to $\frac{3}{4}$ of population in need of humanitarian assistance
- Scale-up 11 Sep 2021 (IASC) & 30 Sep 2021 (WFP)
- Significant access impediments and restrictions
- Major human rights crisis for women and girls

What went well with the IASC response?

Humanitarian organizations stayed and delivered during armed conflict in Northern Ethiopia and after Taliban take-over in Afghanistan

Afghanistan:



- successful scale-up of food aid and agriculture support - Food and livelihoods assistance crucial in improving food security



- decentralized engagement with de facto authorities led to improved access and effectiveness

Northern Ethiopia:



- critical role of local NGOs
- strong area-based coordination



- strong global advocacy on critical issues such as sexual violence

What were the key challenges?



Highly variable preparedness and flexibility to shift and scale-up response



Divided humanitarian country teams over humanitarian principles and human rights



Lack of a coordinated access strategy



Weak protection response and insufficient accountability to affected populations



Shortcomings in collecting and processing humanitarian data

Recommendations relevant to WFP

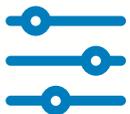


HCTs should develop a more predictable, coherent and common approach to operationalizing humanitarian principles and protection within politically sensitive and complex environments, including clear 'red lines' for a principled response

HCTs should develop collective mechanisms/measures to:



- monitor humanitarian aid diversion and reduce exposure to fiduciary risk
- monitor and review reported protection incidents
- Enhance duty of care for all staff



Enhance gathering, analysis and dissemination of independent, disaggregated humanitarian data



Expand cash in the food security response where appropriate