

Inter-Agency Evaluation of the humanitarian response in Afghanistan | April 2024



Scope

- This is an independent, inter-agency evaluation of the collective humanitarian response in Afghanistan.
- It covers the period between August 2021—when the Taliban took power—and mid-2023.
- The evaluation offers feedback on how well the humanitarian response identified and addressed the needs of affected communities. It also examines how well organizations navigated the political and operational landscape of the response.

Methods

Utilization-focused evaluation with participatory, mixed-methods approach

 **137 Key informant interviews**

 **87 Participants in roundtable discussions**

 **192 Participants in community consultation**

 **Country visit**

 **Document review**

Key Findings



An effective humanitarian response that provided critical support to millions of vulnerable Afghans, with strong **leadership** of humanitarians in-country.



Humanitarians successfully scaled-up their operational **capacity** despite formidable challenges.



The humanitarian system alone could not fill the **gaps** left by political and development actors.



The response demonstrated **adaptability** and **flexibility** across diverse operational contexts within Afghanistan.



There were **difficulties** balancing humanitarian and human rights priorities, revealing flaws of strategy and coordination.



The protection of civilians **lacked integration** across sectors and accountability to affected population was weak.



Readiness for predictable scenarios was **insufficient**.

Recommendations | Selected examples out of 6 recommendations

1. Create **readiness plans** for financing and implementing flexible humanitarian action, with support from IASC, donors and international financial institutions.

2. Advocate for **comprehensive funding** for essential services and to meet all needs of communities.

3. Agree on a more **predictable approach** to the operationalization of humanitarian principles and protection strategy.

Who we are

The **Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation Steering Group (IAHE SG)** conducts independent evaluations to promote system-wide learning and accountability in major crises.

As an independent body working closely with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), we support the leadership and senior management of humanitarian organizations with evidence-based lessons to improve collective humanitarian action.



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