

What methods may be used in impact evaluations of humanitarian assistance?

Description

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Humanitarian crises are complex situations where the demand for aid has traditionally far exceeded its supply. The humanitarian assistance community has long asked for better evidence on how each dollar should be effectively spent. Impact evaluations of humanitarian assistance can help answer these questions and also respond to the increasing call to estimate the impact of humanitarian assistance and supplement the rich tradition for undertaking real-time and process evaluations in the sector. This working paper gives an overview of the methodological techniques that can be used to address some of the important questions in this area, while simultaneously considering the special circumstances and constraints associated with humanitarian assistance.

Executive summary

1. Introduction

2. Defining and categorising humanitarian emergencies and humanitarian action

3. Defining and discussing high-quality, theory-based impact evaluations

3.1 Various forms of evaluations

3.2 Impact evaluations in non-emergency settings

3.3 Impact evaluations in emergency settings

3.4 Objectives of impact evaluations

3.5 Methods for impact evaluations

4. A conceptual framework for using impact evaluations in humanitarian emergencies.

5. Impact evaluations of humanitarian assistance: a review of the literature .

5.1 Emergency relief

5.2 Recovery and resilience

5.3 General discussion on methods used by studies

6. Using appropriate methods to overcome ethical concerns

7. Case studies

Case study 1: Multiple interventions or a multi-agency intervention

Case study 2: Unanticipated emergencies

Case study 3: A complex emergency involving flooding and conflict

Case study 4: A protracted emergency – internally displaced peoples in DRC

Case study 5: Using impact evaluations to estimate the effect of assistance after typhoons in the Philippines

Case study 6: Using impact evaluations to estimate the effect of assistance in the recovery phase in the absence of ex ante planning

8. Conclusions

Appendix A : Table on impact evaluations of humanitarian relief

Category

1. Uncategorized

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