



3 years into COVID-19, what have we learned?

New evaluation

INTER-AGENCY HUMANITARIAN EVALUATION of the COVID-19 Humanitarian Response



Key highlights

- **First-ever** and the **largest evaluation of humanitarian response to a pandemic**
- Contains **best practices and lessons** to step-up response to future global crises

- Includes **learning papers** on the Global Humanitarian Response Plan and the localisation of COVID-19 response; and **eight case studies** from Bangladesh, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Syria, and Türkiye

From the Director's desk

Marco Segone | Director, UNFPA Evaluation Office

We are pleased to share the [Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation \(IAHE\) of the COVID-19 Humanitarian Response](#) marking the release of the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan, launched on 23 March 2020.

Three years into COVID-19, the new IAHE has undertaken an independent assessment of the preparedness and response of Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) members to the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020-2022. It is the **first-ever evaluation** of the IASC's humanitarian response to infectious disease events. The evaluation provides feedback on the humanitarian system's response to COVID-19, **identifies best practices and lessons learned**, and **highlights strategic and policy challenges and opportunities** to improve responses to global crises in the future.

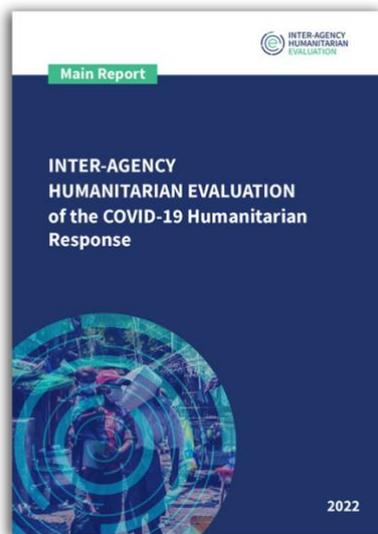
The evaluation was undertaken by the IASC-associated Inter-Agency Evaluation Humanitarian Steering Group, chaired by OCHA. UNFPA Evaluation Office was part of the management group, including ALNAP, DRC (on behalf of the ICVA), IOM, SCHR, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. The Global Evaluation Advisory Group included Action Aid, Asia Pacific Network of Refugees, AUB, FCDO, German Federal Foreign Office, Ground Truth Solutions, GMI, McGill University, UN, USAID, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Chad, and the World Bank.

The IAHE notes the humanitarian community's **strong response** in **expanding and adapting its programming** to meet the needs of a large affected population during the pandemic. However, the worldwide restrictions on international aid highlighted

the **need for long-awaited reforms in locally-led humanitarian action and accountability** to affected people. Progress in these areas could have improved the COVID-19 humanitarian response to vulnerable people; expanded delivery capacities; prevented the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse and built trust with affected communities. The main challenge to advancing these areas is a **lack of leadership, incentives, and commitments from major players** to change the current aid architecture.

The IAHE recommends the IASC **accelerate humanitarian reforms and improve pandemic preparedness**. The global humanitarian community should also **prioritize a people-centred, locally-led response** that places affected individuals at the forefront of response efforts.

The rich evidence and lessons from the IAHE are useful to UNFPA at all levels as it **strengthens adaptive programming and organizational resilience to better respond to future global crises** and deliver the UNFPA strategic plan 2022-2025.



Access the evaluation

[Evaluation report](#)

[Executive summary](#)

Additional documents

[Annexes](#)

[Learning paper on the Global](#)

[Humanitarian Response Plan](#)

[Learning paper on the localization of the](#)

[COVID-19 response](#)

CONNECT WITH UNFPA EVALUATION OFFICE

