



DRC

Humanitarian

2013/14

Oxfam's humanitarian response in the Great Lakes region Democratic Republic of Congo

Already home to some 550,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) as a result of years of conflict and displacement, the provinces of North and South Kivu in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) fell victim to renewed conflict in early 2012, displacing yet more of their populations. Between January and April 2012 fighting between militia groups and the DRC Armed Forces (FARDC) displaced over 600,000 people: some 320,000 from North Kivu and 300,000 from South Kivu. The combined effects of conflict and displacement caused cholera outbreaks and food insecurity, inducing additional numbers of people to flee over borders into camps in Rwanda and Uganda. By October 2012 around 20,000 refugees had fled to Rwanda and 24,000 refugees to Uganda, bringing the total displaced (IDPs and refugees) to over 660,000.

In response to the emergency Oxfam intervened with WaSH, Emergency Food Security and Livelihoods, Protection and Community Services programmes to IDPs in DRC and refugees in Rwanda and Uganda at an approximate cost of US\$ 9.5m (some £5.76m) between July 2012 and June 2013, reaching approximately 310,000 people.

Evaluation Design

The programme was evaluated using the Humanitarian Indicator Tool (HIT), a methodology designed to estimate the degree to which the programme meets recognised quality standards. The tool has 13 quality standards each with defined benchmarks, which allow evaluators to assess and score whether the standard was 'met', 'almost met', 'partially met' or 'not met'. The score is weighted and scored with a rating out of 6 for the first three standards due to their relative importance. The other standards are given a rating out of 3. The HIT is carried out as a desk study by an external evaluator using documented evidence that then generates a score against each standard and a cumulative total.

For details on evaluation design, see the 'How are effectiveness reviews carried out?' document, and the full report for how these designs were tailored by individual reviews.

Response date: June 2012 - December 2013

Evaluation: January 2014

Publication: November 2014

Results

Quality standard evaluated	Level of achievement	Rating					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Timeliness: Rapid appraisal of facts within 24 hours, plans and scale-up or start-up commenced within three days	Almost met				4		
2. Coverage uses 10% of affected population as a planned figure	Met						6
3. Technical aspects of programme measured against Sphere standards	Partially met		2				
			1		2		3
4. MEAL strategy and plan in place and being implemented using appropriate indicators	Partially met		1				
5. Feedback/complaints system in place and functioning and documented evidence of consultation and participation leading to a programme relevant to context and needs	Almost met				2		
6. Partner relationships defined, capacity assessed and partners fully engaged in all stages of programme cycle	Not met	0					
7. Programme is considered a safe programme	Fully met						3
8. Programme (including advocacy) addresses gender equity and specific concerns and needs of women, girls, men and boys	Fully met						3
9. Programme (including advocacy) addresses specific concerns and needs of vulnerable groups	Fully met						3
10. Evidence that preparedness measures were in place and effectively actioned	Not met	0					
11. Programme has an advocacy/campaigns strategy based on evidence from the field	Fully met						3
12. Evidence of appropriate staff capacity to ensure quality programming	Partially met		1				
13. Programme has an integrated approach	Partially met		1				
Final Rating		29 / 48					
Percentage Equivalent		60%					

The first three standards are weighted and scored out of 6 due to their relative importance. The other standards are scored out of 3.

Going forward

Oxfam in DRC continues to have a fairly solid humanitarian capacity in place, given the context of protracted conflict and high likelihood of new episodes of violence and displacement. Since the assessment, improvements have been made to capacity in Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL), dedicated staff is in place for both development and humanitarian programmes. MEAL strategies and plans have been integrated into all programmes to improve capacity to measure technical aspects of the response against Sphere standards. Some areas of improvement urgently require attention. These include completing the contingency plan to address response preparedness, clarity on exit strategies from current interventions, and identifying scenarios to address capacity; establishing mechanisms to coordinate and share analysis and context information; and linking response, resilience and development by humanitarian and long term development teams jointly formulating a humanitarian strategy and operational framework for DRC. Oxfam GB has decided not to work with partners on rapid responses in DRC, but will work with partners in other humanitarian work linked to Emergency Food Security and Livelihoods (EFSL), protection and WASH in East Congo. The Key Countries Team in Oxford will be involved with and support the elaboration and development of the contingency plan and humanitarian strategy for the country.

Photo credit: Kate Holt/Oxfam