Coordinated Assessments

Principles of Assessment

Nic Parham
Project Lead, SNAP
**Principle 1: Purpose changes**

What do you need to know now?

- **Phase 0**: Preparedness
- **Phase I**: Saving and sustaining lives
- **Phase II**: Re-establishing essential services
- **Phase III**: Restoring livelihoods
- **Phase IV**: Time
Principle 2: Inform decision making

Phase I: Initial Flash Appeal
- PSD#1

Phase II: MIRA

Phases III & IV: Revised Appeal Response Planning
- Sector / cluster reports
Principle 3: Flexibility [this is theory…]

- Not all disasters are the same
- Type of Assessment depends on nature and scale of disaster

=> No one single answer  **Flexibility is key!**

- large-scale disaster (Haiti / Pakistan):
  - Phase 1 ➔ Phase II ➔ Continuing Phase III

- small scale disaster (Ghana & Benin floods):
  - Phase 1 ➔ Continuing Phase II, forgotten or back to normality

- Protracted emergency (Syria conflict)
Principle 4: Be prepared

Lots of information already exists: know what you know!

Primary data

Secondary data post disaster

Secondary data pre disaster

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III

Time

Type of data available

100%
Principle 5: Assessment is a process!

What are the key stages in an assessment?
Principle 5: Assessment is a process!
Principle 6a: Increasing focus over time

but monitoring key indicators

- **Community level**
- **Household level**
- **Individual level**

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III & IV

Time and Cost
Principle 6b: Changing methodology

- "expert judgment"
- Monitoring key indicators
- The affected population

Phase I: Participatory focused tools
- Informant interviews
- Direct observations
- Secondary data review

Phase II

Phase III & IV

Time and Cost

Syria Needs Analysis Project
SNAP
Principle 7: Coordinate!

Uncoordinated
★ Multiple assessments
★ Multiple methodology – datasets not ‘interoperable’
★ Multiple reports

Harmonised
★ Multiple assessments + common key indicators
★ Single methodology – data comparable
★ Single or multiple reports from joint/shared analysis

Joint (common)
★ Single assessment form / data collection process
★ Single methodology and analysis process
★ Single report
If you remember nothing else...

Assessment is a **process** that starts with **preparedness**

**Secondary data** exists and is useful!

Assessments should:

- inform **decision making**, 
- be **coordinated**, 
- involve **joint analysis**, and 
- contribute to a **shared situational awareness**
Assessments are often tugs of war:

No! Wait! We need more information...

Hurry up! We need to produce a report...

...and finally
Coordinated Assessments

Comments or Questions?