

Results-Based Protection



NOVEMBER 2018 UPDATE

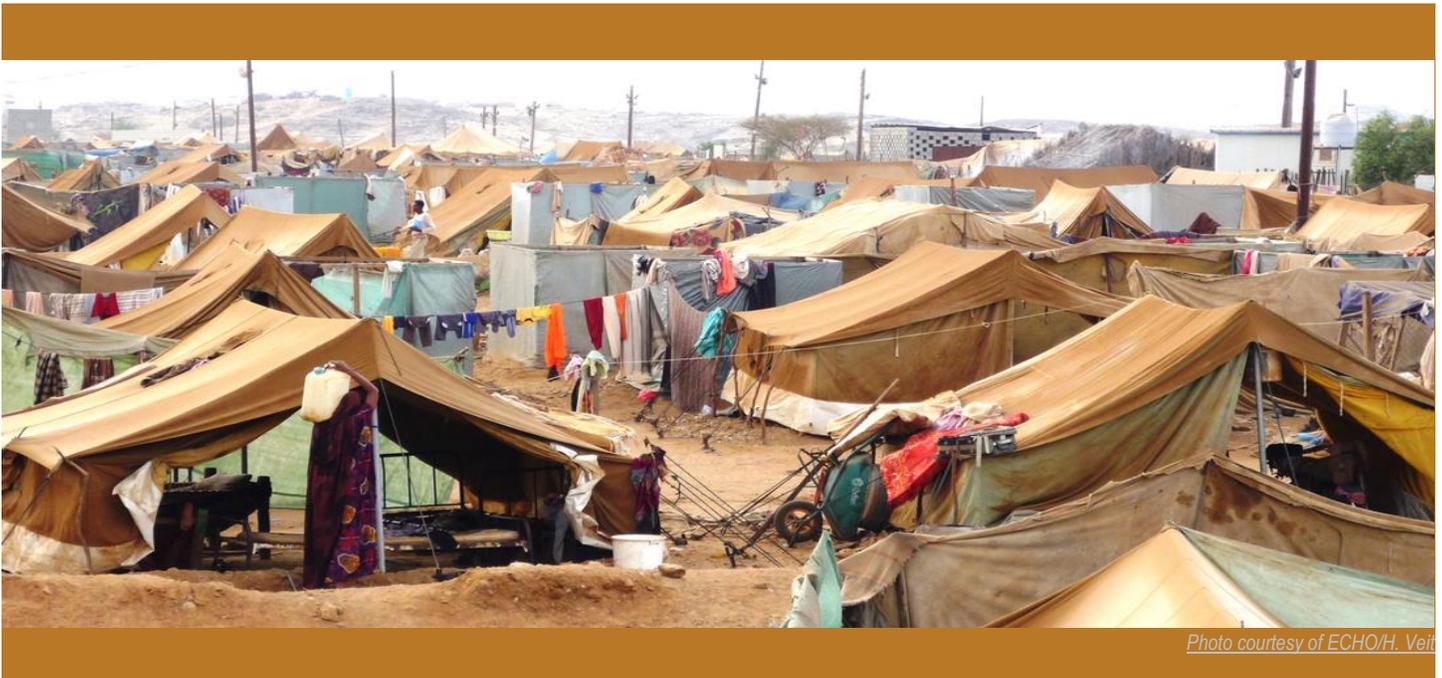


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Webinar

[Language in Protective Humanitarian Action: Practical lessons from Myanmar/Bangladesh and Northeast Nigeria](#) by InterAction and Translators without Borders

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UPCOMING EVENTS

4 December, 2018: Webinar organized by the Tamarack Institute: [Keys to Success in Resident-Led Community Change Approaches](#)

Date TBD: Webinar with ALNAP, hosted by InterAction, following publication of ALNAP's new guide [Evaluation of Protection in Humanitarian Action](#)

Photo courtesy of Paul Arps, 2013

Language in Protective Humanitarian Action: Practical lessons from Myanmar/Bangladesh and Northeast Nigeria

Click [here](#) to listen to the webinar.



Humanitarian actors are often engaged in responses in highly multi-lingual environments, yet translation and language knowledge is often overlooked. Principle 22 from the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* states: “Internally displaced persons, whether or not they are living in camps, shall not be discriminated against as a result of their displacement in the enjoyment of the following rights: including the right to communicate in a language they understand.”

The reality of multi-lingual environments is exemplified in the cases of the Rohingya in Bangladesh and the forced displacement situation in Northeast Nigeria. Compounded with low literacy rates, especially among women and other vulnerable populations, language barriers can, and often do, heighten protection risks. Consequences include skewed needs assessments, reduced access to services, and further strains existing tensions.

[Results-based approaches to protection](#) aim to put affected populations at the [center of analysis](#) and a fundamental piece to quality analysis is obtaining accurate data: being able to communicate effectively with affected individuals, in a language and format they can understand, is central to that process.

This webinar was hosted by InterAction on November 29th, 2018 and engaged Translators without Borders and several protection practitioners to discuss how the languages and formats of communication can impact affected populations. The expert speakers explored steps humanitarian actors can take to improve effective two-way communication on the risk environment, including:

- (1) How and what information organizations should collect on languages spoken and understood, communication preferences, and access to information
- (2) What types of indicators organizations should monitor throughout program implementation related to language and communication
- (3) The necessity of creating effective channels of communication based on language data, and having the flexibility to adapt programming based on new information and understanding of people’s experiences in humanitarian crises
- (4) Collectively building language support for interpretation, translation, terminology development

Presenter: Ellie Kemp, Head of Crisis Response at Translators without Borders

Expert speakers:

Mia Marzotto – Senior Advocacy Officer at Translators without Borders, currently based in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh

Tiffany Easthom – Executive Director at Nonviolent Peaceforce

Noreen Omondi - Protection Coordinator at IRC Nigeria, currently based in Maiduguri, Nigeria

Moderator: Jenny McAvoy, Director of Protection at InterAction

Research Evidence in the Humanitarian Sector: A practice guide

Click [here](#) to read the guide.



LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



Health in
Humanitarian
Crisis Centre



Alliance
for Useful
Evidence



In collaboration with the Health in Humanitarian Crisis Centre at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Nesta (Alliance for Useful Evidence), Evidence Aid published the *Research Evidence in the Humanitarian Sector: A practice guide* in October 2018 to assist humanitarians on how to make the best use of research evidence.

“Evidence challenges what we might think is common sense, perceived or received knowledge.” (pg.4)

The guide is divided into 4 sections: (A) What is evidence-informed decision making, and why focus on research?; (B) When can evidence help you?; (C) What evidence should you choose?; and (D) Where should you look for evidence?

The guide encourages the use of quality research and analysis versus relying solely on professional judgement, which is sometimes prone to *cognitive bias*, *confirmation bias*, *optimism bias*, and/or other biases all of which can distort program design and implementation. Drawing on existing research and analysis when planning a project can help ensure interventions are based on actual identified threats, vulnerabilities, and capacities, consistent with results-based approaches to protection, rather than pre-defined “most vulnerable” criteria, groups, or individuals.

“Even with the best intentions, professionals can get it wrong.” (pg.9)

The guide, among other things, outlines how research can help when humanitarians are adopting ideas from other regions or sectors to apply to their own. Understanding context-specific, local factors that may have contributed to a project’s success or failure can help humanitarians avoid repeating mistakes and guide actors towards more effective responses.

EVIDENCE CAN HELP YOU IN MANY WAYS, INCLUDING:

Starting doing something.

Stopping doing something.

Generating options or making the case.

Identifying priorities.

Assessing needs.

Aligning services with needs.

Designing and implementing more effective programmes.

Developing funding bids.

Creating effective advocacy campaigns.

Increasing accountability to stakeholders.

(pg.12)

Achieving Greater Impact by Starting with Learning: How grantmakers can enable learning relationships at the grant application stage

Click [here](#) to read the guide.

Taylor Newberry Consulting produced this guide on how to develop a strategy of learning and action based on evaluation. The guide is intended for donors, as well as high level staff of humanitarian organizations, and suggests ways to foster this type of organizational culture. This way of working requires organizations and donors alike to be flexible and encourage iteration throughout program design and implementation.

The guide first gives an overview of other recent publications on learning and acknowledges that there is no one definition of a “learning culture”. The recognized challenge is in the way project evaluations are discussed, planned, and acted upon.

“Evaluation can turn into a tool for accountability and risk management rather than a tool for learning” (pg.3)

One concept featured in the overview is on how organizations can break out of “single-loop learning”, meaning adjustments individual staff members are capable of making, to “double-loop learning”, defined as “higher-order learning capable of shifting more fundamental strategies by questioning old values, assumptions, and policies” (pg.8).

The guide then presents 6 principles that grantmakers (and grant recipients) can draw on to foster the development of a relationship and evaluation process that starts with learning rather than measurement (pg.15):

- (1) *Model a culture of learning*
- (2) *Learn in partnership*
- (3) *Understand an applicant’s approach to learning*
- (4) *Plan for learning*
- (5) *Reward learning*
- (6) *Balance flexibility and fairness*

These ways of working would improve humanitarian actor’s ability to respond in an effective and efficient way to identified needs while opening a more honest relationship between donors and implementing organizations from the beginning.

“Outcomes-based planning and measurement work is much more likely to lead to action if it is undertaken by an organization that prioritizes learning” (pg.26)

The Humanitarian Encyclopedia

Click [here](#) for more information.



How do you speak humanitarian?

The Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action (CERAH, Geneva) launched the *Humanitarian Encyclopedia* project which will “collectively interrogate how humanitarian concepts are used across time, geographical contexts, organizational cultures, disciplinary backgrounds and professions”.

The project is meant to address the challenges of defining key humanitarian terms, including “protection”, “resilience”, and “humanity” among many others.

After an intensive preparatory phase, the project was rolled out from mid-2017 and is expected to finish in mid-2022. Results will be publicly available.

Results-Based Protection updates are produced regularly to share materials and events related to RBP with InterAction's members and partners. To sign-up to receive future updates, click [here](#) and submit your name and e-mail.



Previous updates are available on the [Resources section](#) of the RBP website.



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