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Nutrition and food security data in complex operating environments

Thematic evaluation – humanitarian data collection and analysis

Final Part 2/3 Report

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Acronyms

ACF	Action Against Hunger/Action Contre la Faim
AMN	Acute malnutrition scale
CH	Cadre Harmonisé
CMAM	Community management of acute malnutrition
CSO	Civil society organisation
DI	Development Initiatives
eDIAL	Enhancing Digital and Innovations for Agri-food Systems and Livelihoods
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UK)
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
FSNAU	Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (Somalia)
GIS	Geographic information system
HARISS	Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience in South Sudan
HDX	Humanitarian Data Exchange
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
KII	Key informant interview
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MERIAM	Modelling Early Risk indicators to Anticipate Malnutrition

MESH II Health	Monitoring and Evaluation for the Somalia Humanitarian, and Resilience Programmes
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
RDC	Remote data collection
SCORE	Strategic Research and Evidence Support to Country Office and Regional Research
SFD	Social Fund for Development
SMART	Standardised Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
ToC	Theory of change
TOR	Terms of Reference
TPM	Third Party Monitoring
UN	United Nations
UNCCS	UN Common Cash Statement
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Programme
UNITAR	UN Institute for Training and Research
UNOSAT	UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme
VA	Verbal autopsy
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
XCEPT	Cross-Border Conflict: Evidence, Policy and Trends
YeSP	Yemen Social Protection Programme

Executive summary

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) invests in data-related efforts to support humanitarian responses. It has commissioned a thematic evaluation to synthesise evidence and learning on best practice and innovative data methods developed and applied to the food security and nutrition sectors in complex operating environments. Development Initiatives (DI) and PATH conducted the evaluation in three parts: 1) evidence synthesis, 2) performance evaluation of selected FCDO-supported programmes and 3) recommendation setting. This report is an output of the performance evaluation and recommendation setting, with a primary intended audience of FCDO's Evaluation Unit and the Humanitarian and Protracted Crisis Policy Group. Secondary audiences include FCDO country office personnel, government counterparts involved in humanitarian responses, other donors (current and potential), and the broader humanitarian and development communities.

Focus

The performance evaluation focused on 15 FCDO-supported programmes that support data and data innovations spanning six countries (Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen). For each of the programmes, performance was assessed against evaluation domains and mapped against the crosscutting data related gaps and challenges identified in part 1. The evaluation did not assess whether or not individual programmes achieved their specific programmatic aims or objectives. Instead, the evaluation assessed whether the programmes addressed the priority challenges and gaps identified in Part 1. Evidence was weak regarding the programmatic outcomes, therefore where feasible it was supplemented with information from key informant interviews.

Of the programmes evaluated, five programmes aimed to address mitigation of the politicisation of data; seven aimed to respond to mitigating challenges related to inter-agency mistrust, territoriality and suboptimal coordination and six aimed to mitigate challenges related to in-country capacity. A further six programmes aimed to reduce the time taken to collect data and share the results and therefore had the potential to expedite decisions. However, in each of these cases the degree to which the programmes were successful in sustaining these aims often unclear due to the limitations of the evidence available.

The programmes examined by the evaluation team encompassed the following solutions:

- Three technological solutions for data collection
 - Mobile phone remote data collection (RDC)
 - Low-tech remote sensing (e.g., Area of Origin methodology)
 - High-tech remote sensing (e.g., with geospatial tools)
- One process solution for data collection
 - Third Party Monitoring (TPM)
- Two process solutions for data analysis
 - Statistical modelling
 - Enhanced contextual analysis
- One technological solution for data use
 - Dashboards using scalable software solutions
- One process solution for data use
 - Partnership-based collaboratives for multi-agency, multi-sectoral assessment of humanitarian needs.

Approach

There were six evaluation domains of interest: relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and scalability/replicability. The performance evaluation methodology entailed a desk review and key informant interviews. For the desk review, the evaluation team reviewed a variety of grey literature; 10 documents were produced by FCDO, 13 were produced by programme implementers, 3 were independent reviews or evaluations and 8 addressed a specific data solution but were not limited to a specific FCDO programme. To achieve a wide range of perspectives the team directly engaged with non-FCDO stakeholders such as programme implementers and non-FCDO global and country-specific thematic experts. Documentation obtained from implementer websites and peer-reviewed literature were also reviewed.

For the performance evaluation analysis, the evaluation team conducted interviews with a total of 20 individuals. All interviews were concluded by 27 June 2022. There were challenges with stakeholder availability due to factors including competing demands in the focus countries and the prioritisation of responses to the crisis in Ukraine. There was also limited access to evidence, outside of the FCDO programmes themselves. This hindered the ET's ability to assess their performance. **Evidence gaps were particularly evident in the evaluation domains of efficiency, sustainability, and scalability/replicability of the assessed data solutions.**

Synthesis of evaluation findings and insights

Data collection: Technological solutions

Mobile phone RDC and remote sensing (both low- and high-tech) are viable and likely cost-efficient options to collect data when physical access barriers prevent localised data gathering, particularly in conflict settings. The added value of the two remote sensing options is their potential to produce new evidence (e.g., geospatial data on events that can spur food insecurity and/or acute malnutrition; qualitative data on affected populations in inaccessible areas) to enhance early warning systems and real-time monitoring. However, questions remain unanswered around the quality of evidence these solutions generate and use of their data by humanitarian actors.

Data collection: Process solutions

TPMs tend to have limited knowledge about food security and nutrition, therefore, limiting their performances when they work in these sectors, despite their expertise in gathering operational monitoring information. A potential solution for this problem could be to vet providers in advance to ensure they have the required food security and nutrition technical capacities.

Data analysis: Process solutions

Data solutions involving statistical modelling can complement existing systems (e.g., surveillance and early warning systems) to support forecasting and the prediction of crises and their drivers. However, evidence available to the evaluation team did not indicate how specific modelling results are being interpreted and incorporated into decision-making for enhanced humanitarian action. Additionally, a major limitation is the reliance on previously collected data that might be insufficient in terms of timeliness, completeness, and overall quality. This is a particular concern in relation to groups experiencing marginalisation and the ability to accurately disaggregate data on hard-to-reach groups.

In contrast, solutions involving enhanced contextual analysis (which provides analysis of the environment in which a programme is operating) appear sensitive to the situation of affected populations. In addition to this, solutions that involve enhanced contextual analysis also have the potential to help to lay the groundwork for systems' future interoperability. This is

because contextualisation is a cornerstone of interoperable systems, as it allows users to utilise more data from more sources at the same time. Enhanced contextual analysis is therefore highly relevant despite evidence on its effectiveness being limited.

Data use: Technological solutions

Dashboards require a behavioural shift on the part of different agencies to share and use data. As such, they are not a “quick fix”, and important factor to success is alignment with a harmonised analytical framework that supports interoperability by taking data from different sources into account. In addition, success of the solution depends on commitment on the part of local and international stakeholders to operationalise that framework, facilitate ongoing refinement of the dashboard and support systematic capacity-building of local institutions to house and manage the dashboard.

The Food and Nutrition Analysis Unit’s (Somalia) Dashboard has managed to achieve many of these objectives. Not least, stakeholders’ behaviour regarding data sharing has changed with both local and international stakeholders having buy-into the project. The product is continually updated (e.g., with increasingly granular geographic disaggregation), Somali technical staff are used, and their skills strengthened.

Data use: Process solutions

Partnership-based, collaborative approaches that feed into defined data use and decision-making processes show the most promise in terms of relevance and effectiveness in strengthening multiple elements of the data value chain for greater coherence in humanitarian responses. Solutions that show promise require creative work across sectors. The intersectoral nature of these approaches is conducive to more inclusive processes, interoperability, data sharing and harmonised data analysis, interpretation, and use. In complex operating environments, effective advocacy and engagement of decision-makers are critical success factors. Clear leadership and ownership of those approaches by national stakeholders – not global experts – is a key success factor for sustainability.

Recommendations to FCDO

Recommendation 1: Ensure that partnerships have suitable governance and steering committees by:

- Ensuring committees are representative of different stakeholders (with divergent political interests).
- Ensuring that committees work to avoid duplication of data and to ensure harmonisation with other data collection and analysis activities by:
 - Conducting a comprehensive review of data collection and analysis already being conducted by other organisations before commencing activities.
 - If a programme of data collection or analysis is already being conducted by other organisations, explore opportunities to collaborate and pool resources with said organisations.
 - Similarly, if an FCDO programme is already conducting a similar data collection or analysis activity, recommending and facilitating collaboration between FCDO and other organisations.
 - This review and collaboration activity could be supported by a suite of tools such as sharable data dictionaries which would support harmonisation of key definitions and interoperability between sources as well as establishing standard practices for data sharing.
- Working to mitigate the politicisation of data and having oversight of whole data lifecycles (i.e., transparent preparation, collection, storage, analysis, publication, and retention/destruction) with the authority needed to keep actors accountable by:
 - Where possible, engaging directly with national authorities from the outset to promote and agree key principles of best practice (such as impartiality, independence and objectivity).
 - Agreeing and implementing standard data sharing practices between all actors (partners, authorities, donors and importantly crisis-affected populations).
 - Where applicable, protecting operation actors from potential harm by establishing secondary data reviews to allow for publication of analysis.

Recommendation 2: Ensure that the team delivering the data components of programmes includes staff with thematic and technical skills by:

- Ensuring teams consist of a mixture of thematic and technical experts – for example, nutrition specialists, information system specialists and software engineers – from the start. This would mean shortfalls such as those in TPM caused by a lack of thematic

knowledge can be avoided, and successful practices as seen in programmes like FSNAU in Somalia can be replicated.

- Preferably the thematic and technical specialists in programme teams that are working on data solutions should be local (i.e., nationals of a particular country), as is the case with FSNAU in Somalia. If the required skill levels cannot be found, the second best option would be to embed FCDO experts (in-house or consultants) in the programme to work alongside local specialists, until they have developed the capacity to autonomously manage and deliver the programme.

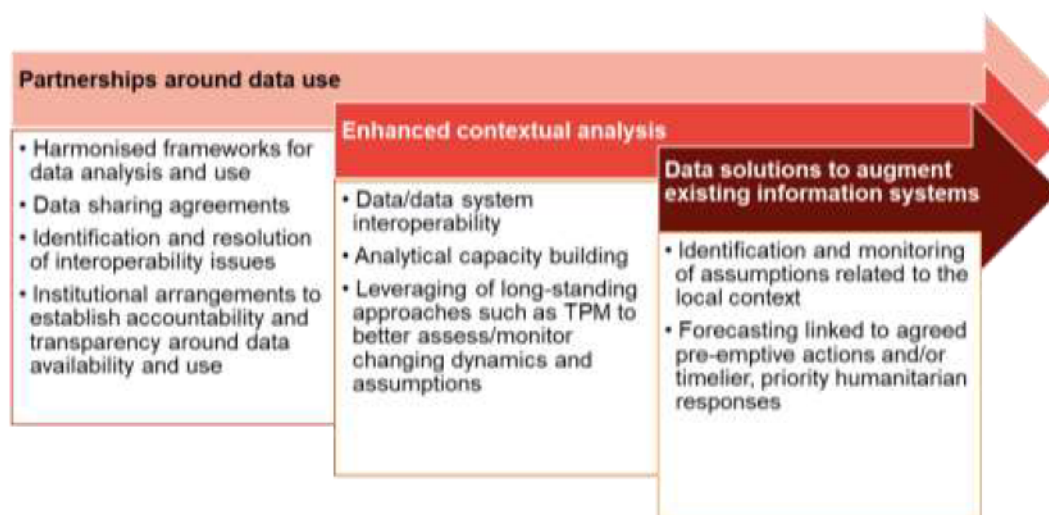
Guidance on best practice identified throughout the evaluation

1: Strengthening humanitarian data via three priority workstreams

The evaluation team recommends three key streams of work to strengthen humanitarian data.

Partnerships and collaboratives around data use serve as the foundational element ([Figure 1](#)). FCDO would **collaborate with other donors and international partners** on those streams of work (e.g., using food security and nutrition clusters, intersectoral working groups and existing FCDO-supported programmes as entry points).

Figure 1: Priority streams of work to address humanitarian data challenges



As shown in the figure, **partnerships around data use** address critical elements such as:

- Harmonised frameworks for data analysis and use
- Data sharing agreements
- Identification and resolution of interoperability issues
- Institutional arrangements to establish accountability and transparency around data availability and use.

This foundation facilitates **enhanced contextual analysis**, which encourage:

- Data system interoperability
- Analytical capacity building
- Improvements to long-standing approaches such as TPM and to better assess changing dynamics and assumptions.

Coupled with enhanced contextual analysis, the deployment of **data solutions** to augment existing information systems in complex operating environments should support:

- Identification and monitoring of assumptions related to the local context
- Forecasting linked to agreed pre-emptive actions and/or timelier humanitarian responses.

This report also includes checklists of operational considerations and corresponding actions for FCDO to consider when working in partnerships and collaboratives, that guide what should be pursued by FCDO and/or other actors (e.g., government counterparts, other donors, implementing partners), organised around five themes (pages 73-78):

- Aligning data with decision-making
- Vetting and selecting data solutions
- Adopting data solutions
- Financing data solutions
- Implementing data solutions.

2: Sharing lessons and best practice is required to scale up effective solutions.

At an organisation level FCDO is not sharing the evidence of what works consistently. Investment into data solutions and innovations could be more co-ordinated, this would enable more effective scaling-up of best practice and innovation. The ET recommend capitalising on two approaches to improve information sharing:

- **Internal pathways** within FCDO to communicate evidence and share learning on innovations and best practices across FCDO-supported geographies and streams of work (e.g., economic stabilisation, nutrition, conflict) using guidance and other internal tools.
- **External pathways**, leveraging FCDO's standing within existing multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral forums at global, regional and national levels, such as humanitarian clusters (global and country-level) and Scaling Up Nutrition platforms (global and country-level).

3: Optimising sustainability to ensure value for money.

Sustainability is a vital factor in ensuring value for money. This can be done by building capacity which is conducive to national stakeholders' technical and managerial leadership. This is both as a key factor in sustainability and an underlying assumption in our theory of change.

Other factors that improve sustainability include addressing politicisation of data, which is a major disruptor of the theory of change. There needs to be political buy-in that will lead to sustainable financing by national governments and other in-country stakeholders. Often this is not the case as evidence from the six sample countries reveals continued dependence on international partner funding and technical support.

Introduction

Humanitarian actors need to collect, analyse and use a range of data, all while balancing the demands and dynamics of insecure, ever-changing conditions and emerging crisis. The Covid-19 pandemic has increased the level of difficulty in responding to food security and nutrition data needs in complex operating environments.

The FCDO invests in data-related efforts to support humanitarian responses, and it commissioned a thematic evaluation ([Annex 1](#)) to synthesise evidence and learning best practice and innovative data methods developed and applied to the food security and nutrition sectors in complex operating environments.

Development Initiatives (DI) and PATH have worked in partnership to conduct a three-part evaluation, the overall purpose of which was “to provide a strong evidence base on how humanitarian actors are responding and could respond to the scale, nature and impact of the difficult data problem” (see [Annex 1](#)). As outlined in the TOR, key objectives entailed documenting examples of best practice available and innovative methods being developed and providing clear recommendations to FCDO. The [evaluation team](#) has executed the evaluation in three stages:

- Evidence synthesis on key data-related challenges, barriers and solutions
- Performance evaluation of different approaches and data collecting/analysis methodologies used in FCDO programmes.
- Recommendation setting to advise FCDO on scenarios when innovative approaches to data collection, analysis and use are likely to be more effective and provide better value for money than other options in humanitarian settings.

Covid-19 was a global threat when this evaluation was conducted, and the evaluation aimed to provide insight on alternative data approaches and tools that have come to the fore as a result of operational challenges caused by the pandemic. These include periods of restricted physical movement, social distancing and other mitigation measures to reduce community spread of the virus.

This report presents findings and conclusions from the performance evaluation and recommendation setting stages. There are four main

sections of this report. The next section provides an overview of the evaluation methodology, followed by sections on key findings and recommendations to FCDO.

The primary audience for this report is the FCDO Evaluation Unit and the Humanitarian and Protracted Crisis Policy Group. Secondary audiences include FCDO country office personnel, government counterparts involved in humanitarian responses, other donors (current and potential), and the broader humanitarian and development communities.

Because the performance evaluation focuses on FCDO-supported programmes, the content of this report is grounded in the experiences and evidence of FCDO data initiatives, while also considering the multiple roles that FCDO plays as an information user, information funder and information thought leader and advocate.

It is expected that the practical recommendations presented in this report will inform future decision-making to enhance FCDO's portfolio and policy delivery and improve food and nutrition outcomes in complex operating environments.

Evaluation methods

Theory of change and evaluation framework

The evaluation is informed by a theory of change (ToC), developed by the evaluation team, in close consultation with FCDO during the inception phase. The ToC ([Box 1](#)) reflects an intervention logic in which data-related inputs by FCDO and partners (e.g., advocacy and engagement, funding, technical assistance) translate into key outcomes related to data availability and use, and ultimately enhanced humanitarian responses.

There are four critical processes, or milestones, for translating information system outputs into outcomes:

- a. Alignment of data solutions with users' decisions and actions (which should be informed by data)
- b. Managing and packaging collected data for timely and relevant analysis and effective dissemination to promote data use in policy and programme processes
- c. Interoperability of the data solutions with other data systems within the local context
- d. Enhanced capacities to collect, analyse, communicate and use data.

The following key assumptions underpin the ToC:

- In emergency scenarios, there is local buy-in and political will for international cooperation and multi-stakeholder coordination on food security and nutrition
- FCDO partners and other stakeholders adhere to the principles of the [Inclusive Data Charter \(IDC\)](#)
- Adequate resourcing (e.g. financial, human, technological) exists to implement solutions as intended at scale
- Erosion of capacities to implement innovations and 'good practice' solutions can be minimised.

In the inception phase, the evaluation team finalised a framework based on key questions that appeared in the original terms of reference (TOR) for Part 1 (evidence synthesis) of the evaluation ([Annex 1](#)). The framework consists of six domains of interest: relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and scalability/replicability. [Annex 2](#) presents a matrix with evaluation questions organised according to each of those

domains. The key findings presented later in the report are also organised according to these six domains.

Box 1: Theory of change

Inputs

- As an information funder and user, FCDO supports partners to:
 - Identify data/data use needs and challenges (including necessary data disaggregation to identify disparities [e.g., gender, geographical, poverty-related], inform targeting and ensure equitable programming)
 - Enable deployment of solutions to identified challenges in humanitarian settings.
- As an information advocate and thought leader, FCDO encourages good governance, data sharing and responsible use of humanitarian data and analysis.

Outputs

- Partners deploy data solutions that are relevant, coherent and efficient
 - Alignment of data solutions with users' decisions and actions (informed by data)
 - Interoperability with other data/data systems in the local context
 - Enhanced capacities to collect, analyse and use data.

Outcomes

- Sustainable data solutions enable more transparent humanitarian responses that are efficient, effective and accountable to affected people
- FCDO and partners use available solutions for a) advocacy/influence, b) needs assessment, c) enhanced targeting of interventions and d) measuring effectiveness in humanitarian settings
- Through effective solutions, timely, accurate and comprehensive food security and nutrition data is available in humanitarian settings.

Impacts

- Data strengthens FCDO's portfolio and policy delivery, contributing to improved humanitarian outcomes.
-

Data solutions covered in the performance evaluation

20 data solutions and innovations were identified in Part 1 (evidence synthesis). On review of findings, FCDO prioritised the list of solutions. The set of solutions covered in the performance evaluation was contingent on the FCDO-supported programmes related to the six focus countries (Table 1). As shown in the table, out of the 20 data solutions identified in evidence review, FCDO recommended seven solutions as the focus of the performance evaluation.

Table 1: FCDO prioritised list of solutions

Innovation/solution from Part 1 (evidence synthesis)	Prioritisation by FCDO	Examined in Part 2 (performance evaluation)?
1. Mobile phone remote data collection (RDC)	High	Yes
2. Other forms of RDC	High	No
3. Low-tech remote sensing (e.g. Area of Knowledge)	High	Yes
4. Higher-tech remote sensing	High	Yes
5. Laser technology to measure height	Medium	No
6. Family MUAC	Medium	No
7. SMART survey methodology adaptations	Medium	No
8. “Nowcasting”	Medium	No
9. Verbal autopsy	Low	No
10. SMART’s new MUAC Data Collection Tool	Medium	No
11. Use of sentinel sites	High	No
12. Third Party Monitoring (TPM)	Medium	Yes
13. Link Nutrition Causal Analysis (NCA)	Low	No

Innovation/solution from Part 1 (evidence synthesis)	Prioritisation by FCDO	Examined in Part 2 (performance evaluation)?
14. Verbal autopsy (VA) analytical package	Low	No
15. Statistical modelling, e.g. MERIAM approach	Low	Yes
16. Dashboards/software solutions such as Power BI	Low	Yes
17. Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX) web platform	Medium	No
18. UN Common Cash Statement	Medium	No
19. WFP Conditional On-Demand Assistance (CODA)	Low	No
20. Partnerships/collaboratives for multi-sectoral needs assessment	High	Yes

Evaluation methodology

The performance evaluation was based primarily on a literature review, supplemented by a key informant interview (KIIs).

On completion of Part 1 (evidence synthesis), there was mutual agreement between the evaluation team and FCDO that the provisional shortlist of six countries identified during the inception phase were the appropriate focus geographies for the performance evaluation. These were Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

Before further evaluating a defined set of FCDO-supported programmes, the evaluation team conducted a desk review on a much larger set of programmes ([Annex 3](#)) using information on DevTracker and, to a lesser extent, other grey literature resources.

Profile of sampled programmes

In identifying FCDO-supported programmes to be examined in the performance evaluation ([Table 2](#)), the evaluation team considered

programmes that implement data-related activities; they did not necessarily have to be solely data-focused in technical scope or mandate.

A total of 15 programmes were examined, with the following breakdown:

- Centrally managed (n=4)
- Ethiopia-specific (n=2)
- Nigeria-specific (n=2)
- Somalia-specific (n=2)
- South Sudan-specific (n=1)
- Syria-specific (n=1)
- Yemen-specific (n=3)

As shown in [Table 2](#), 9 programmes are solely data initiatives and 6 are broader programmes with data-related components and activities. Of the 15 programmes, 7 had an explicit focus on food security, 12 had an explicit focus on nutrition and 14 focused on other issues (e.g., health, WASH, economic issues). Budget information was unavailable for 5 programmes. Among programmes with available budget information, the range is GBP 2.75 million (MERIAM, a centrally managed programme) to GBP 786.2 million (HARISS, in South Sudan).

For the desk review, the evaluation team reviewed 34 documents, of which 10 were produced by FCDO, 13 were produced by programme implementers, 3 were independent reviews or evaluations and 8 addressed a specific data solution but were not limited to a specific FCDO programme. Further details appear in [Annex 5](#).

The evaluation team included key documentation (e.g., business cases and summaries, annual reviews, methodology notes, project completion reviews, user guides and terms of references) that was generated about each sampled programme since its inception and yielded evidence related to any of the evaluation questions in the performance evaluation desk review.

To facilitate consistency in terms of data extraction, evaluation team members involved in the performance evaluation used a standard template to map evidence from different sources, according to six evaluation domains. To support the triangulation of data, the evaluation team likewise used a standard template to record and analyse information.

Table 2: Final sample of countries and programmes included in the Part 2 (performance evaluation) analysis

Programmes denoted by an asterisk () are mentioned in the country case studies that appear in Annexes 6-11. They yield relevant insights and learning that can be considered by FCDO in charting a way forward, even though they do not implement the data solutions assessed in the Key Findings section of this report.

Country	Programmes	Data initiative or broader programme with data component(s)?	Explicit focus on food security ? (Y/N)	Explicit focus on nutrition ? (Y/N)	Focus on other issues ? (Y/N)	Implementation dates (as noted on DevTracker)	Budget (as noted on DevTracker)
Centrally managed	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)	Data initiative	Y	Y	Y	Not available	Not available
Centrally managed	<u>Modelling Early Risk indicators to Anticipate Malnutrition (MERIAM)</u>	Data initiative	N	Y	Y	01 Feb 2017–31 Mar 2021	GBP 2.75m
Centrally managed	REACH Initiative	Data initiative	Y	Y	Y	Not available	Not available
Centrally managed	<u>The Evidence Fund*</u> (successor to the internal SCORE mechanism within FCDO but with an expanded geographical scope)	Data initiative	N	Y	Y	30 July 2020–31 March 2026 (SCORE (the predecessor): 07 July 2014–31 March 2021)	GBP 58m (SCORE: GBP 11,478,174)

Country	Programmes	Data initiative or broader programme with data component(s)?	Explicit focus on food security ? (Y/N)	Explicit focus on nutrition ? (Y/N)	Focus on other issues ? (Y/N)	Implementation dates (as noted on DevTracker)	Budget (as noted on DevTracker)
Ethiopia	<u>XCEPT Component 1: X-Border Local Research Network</u>	Data initiative	N	N	Y	01 Mar 2018–28 Feb 2023	US\$10m (Budget cited in US Dollars on DevTracker)
Nigeria	<u>LAFIYA – UK Support for Health in Nigeria</u>	Broader programme	N	Y	Y	26 Oct 2018–30 May 2026	GBP 235 m
Nigeria	<u>Northeast Nigeria Transition to Development Programme</u>	Broader programme	Y	Y	Y	27 Apr 2017–30 Apr 2022	GBP 426,700,357
Somalia	Monitoring and Evaluation for the Somalia Humanitarian, Health and Resilience Programmes, MESH II	MESH is a data initiative that supports SHARP (described below)	Y	Y	Y	Not available	Not available
Somalia	Support to <u>Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit</u> (FSNAU)	Data initiative	Y	Y	N	Not available	Not available

Country	Programmes	Data initiative or broader programme with data component(s)?	Explicit focus on food security ? (Y/N)	Explicit focus on nutrition ? (Y/N)	Focus on other issues ? (Y/N)	Implementation dates (as noted on DevTracker)	Budget (as noted on DevTracker)
Somalia	<u>Somalia Humanitarian and Resilience Programme (SHARP)*</u>	Broader programme	Y	Y	Y	18 Aug 2017–30 Sep 2022	GBP 323,999,988
South Sudan	<u>Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience in South Sudan (HARISS)</u>	Broader programme	Y	Y	Y	04 Sep 15–30 Sep 2023	GBP 786,199,978
Syria	Support to the United Nations Children's Fund in Syria	Broader programme	N	Y	Y	Nov 2017–Dec 2020	GBP 56m
Yemen	<u>Yemen Independent Monitoring, Evaluation and Data Analysis (IMEDA)</u>	Data initiative	N	N	Y	20 Jul 2018–31 Mar 2023	GBP 9,899,993
Yemen	<u>Yemen Economic Tracking Initiative (YETI)*</u>	Data initiative	N	N	Y	Not available	Not available

Country	Programmes	Data initiative or broader programme with data component(s)?	Explicit focus on food security ? (Y/N)	Explicit focus on nutrition ? (Y/N)	Focus on other issues ? (Y/N)	Implementation dates (as noted on DevTracker)	Budget (as noted on DevTracker)
Yemen	<u>Yemen Social Protection Programme (YeSP)</u> , including the subcomponent 'Social Fund for Development, Covid-19 Cash for Nutrition Response'*	Broader programme	N	Y	Y	26 Sep 2018–31 Mar 2022	GBP 115,500,000

Some programmes identified as candidates were excluded:

- Enhancing Digital and Innovations for Agri-food Systems and Livelihoods (eDIAL) Programme was excluded because there was insufficient focus on food security data initiatives
- SCORE was excluded as an internal mechanism for a subset of country offices
- Working to Improve Nutrition in Northern Nigeria (WINNN) was excluded because other FCDO-supported initiatives yield more salient insights regarding the evaluation framework and speak to current realities and dynamics.

On consultation with available key informants, the following programmes were not originally identified for inclusion in the performance evaluation. They do however provide findings relevant to optimising data collection, analysis and use in selected complex operating environments:

- XCEPT (in Ethiopia): centrally managed programme but relevant insights in Ethiopia regarding predictive/early warning data
- YETI (in Yemen): much-needed analysis on drivers of food insecurity and analysis, with clear linkages to policy processes and decision-making
- The Evidence Fund (multi-national data initiative), an internal support mechanism
- As reflected in the Nigeria case study ([Annex 7](#)), Cadre Harmonisé (an alternative to IPC) and associated data approaches in inaccessible areas.

Additionally, during the process FCDO notified the evaluation team of the following FCDO evaluations that are currently being conducted independently of this thematic evaluation:

- A Diagnostic of Humanitarian Diagnostics (under the auspices of the FCDO Help Desk, led by experts from University of Texas and Tufts University)
- Final evaluation of the IPC Global Strategic Programme (2019–2022).

In May and June 2022, the evaluation team lead held calls with the team members from each of two evaluations teams above as part of the performance evaluation evidence synthesis.

Sampling strategy and ethical approach for KIIs

During the evidence synthesis, the evaluation team conducted interviews with 27 stakeholders representing different constituencies: donors; UN agencies; academia; research institutes and civil society organisations (CSOs) including international non-governmental organisations (INGOs).

During the performance evaluation, engagement was much more limited and focused on the countries and FCDO programmes sampled. The evaluation team conducted interviews with a total of 20 individuals which were completed by 27 June 2022. [Table 3](#) provides a profile of the interviews. The evaluation team collected relevant information from six Part 1 (evidence synthesis) interviews and conducted 11 additional interviews during Part 2 (performance evaluation). Some interviews were conducted with multiple people at once.

Interviews covered a range of stakeholders:

- Three academic stakeholders (1 from the Centre for Humanitarian Change and 2 from Tufts University)
- Four FCDO advisors
- Four UNICEF experts
- Two FAO experts
- Four implementations (2 from IPC and 2 from the REACH Initiative)
- Two global thematic experts from the IPC evaluation team
- One country thematic expert from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Nigeria.

As agreed with FCDO, the evaluation team has provided a profile of Part 2 respondents rather than specific names or personal identifiers. [Annex 4](#) contains the interview guide. The tool was not pre-tested prior to conducting Part 2 interviews and consultations. However, interactions with targeted stakeholders were tailored to the areas of experience, expertise and availability of each stakeholder according to best practice.

One interview was recorded and then transcribed into notes, all other interviews were recorded via notes taken during the process. The recording and all notes will be deleted on project completion. All research findings and products will be made available to participants on project completion.

Table 3: Key informant profiles for interviews that informed the Part 2 analysis

Organisation	Stakeholder category	Type of respondent	Geographical purview	Area(s) of expertise	Part/stage of evaluation when consulted
Centre for Humanitarian Change	Academia	Thematic expert	Global	Humanitarian Nutrition	1
Tufts University	Academia	Thematic expert	Global	Food security	1
Tufts University	Academia	Thematic expert	Yemen, Somalia	Nutrition	2
FCDO	Donor	Advisor	Global	Research	2
FCDO	Donor	Advisor	Syria	Health; Syria portfolio	2
FCDO	Donor	Advisor	Yemen	Nutrition	2
FCDO	Donor	Advisor	Yemen	Food security	2
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Government	Country thematic expert	Nigeria	Food security	2
REACH Initiative (2 respondents)	Research organisation	Implementer	Global	Humanitarian Intersectoral	1

Organisation	Stakeholder category	Type of respondent	Geographical purview	Area(s) of expertise	Part/stage of evaluation when consulted
IPC (2 respondents)	UN agency	Implementer	Global	Food security	1
IPC evaluation team (2 respondents)	UN agency	Global thematic expert	Global	Food security; mixed methods approaches	2
FAO	UN agency	Country thematic expert	Nigeria	Food security	2
FAO	UN agency	Country thematic expert & implementer	Somalia	Data Nutrition Food security	2
UNICEF	UN agency	Thematic expert & implementer	Ethiopia	Data	1
UNICEF	UN agency	Thematic expert	Global	Nutrition M&E	1
UNICEF	UN agency	Country thematic expert & implementer	Nigeria, South Sudan	Nutrition	2
UNICEF	UN agency	Country thematic expert & implementer	Syria	Nutrition	2

Totals from Table 3 – Organisations

Organisation	Number of people interviewed
Centre for Humanitarian Change	1
Tufts University	2
FCDO	4
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Nigeria)	1
REACH Initiative	2
IPC	2
IPC Evaluation Team	2
FAO	2
UNICEF	4
Total	20

Totals from Table 3 – Types of respondents

Types of respondents	Number of people interviewed
Thematic expert	4
Advisor	4
Country thematic expert	2
Implementer	4
Global thematic expert	2
Country thematic expert and implementer	3
Thematic expert and implementer	1
Total	20

Evidence assessment

For Part 2 (performance evaluation), the evaluation team retained the same rubric used in Part 1 (evidence synthesis) for summarising strength of evidence score. The scores range from 1 to 3, with values denoting the following:

- 1 = anecdotal or descriptive evidence (e.g., from KIIs) only
- 2 = implementation or learning evidence available but solution has not been independently reviewed or evaluated
- 3 = validation or evaluation evidence available on the solution.

The ET did not find any evaluations on the effectiveness of programs. Available programme documentation tends to focus on programme outputs (e.g., number of studies or assessments conducted; number of research dissemination products developed) rather than on direct contributions to improved timeliness, quality and reliability of information. The evidence on programme effectiveness in relation to data use is particularly weak, as is detailed information and evidence on value for money. Some programme reviews have made references to value for money (e.g., cost efficiency; equity). However, the statements are not supported by evidence.

It is also important to note that a significant proportion of documentation on the sampled programmes was produced by FCDO and therefore not independent (e.g., in the form of Programme Completion Reviews and Annual Reviews uploaded to DevTracker and/or shared by FCDO Senior Responsible Officers consulted during the Part 2 process). The evaluation team sought to achieve alternative perspectives by directly engaging non-FCDO stakeholders such as programme implementers and non-FCDO global and country-specific thematic experts. The evaluation team also consulted other documentation obtained from implementer websites and peer-reviewed literature.

Annex 5 includes tables that further describe the evidence base for each programme sampled for the performance evaluation.

Limitations

The following are the main limitations of the performance evaluation process and mitigation measures adopted by the evaluation team.

Stakeholder availability and profile

Stakeholder availability was a constraint. Competing in-country demands, coupled with the diverted focus on the 2022 Ukraine crisis, limited the availability of some stakeholders. Additionally, several targeted key informants were on leave during the designated interview period, and some had changed organisational affiliation. To mitigate this the evaluation team leveraged Part 1 (evidence synthesis) interviews where appropriate and also engaged non-FCDO thematic experts and implementers in Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia and Syria.

Predominance of ‘internal’ sources of evidence

Although this thematic evaluation was conducted by an independent team of experts, a significant proportion of the documentation on the sampled programmes was produced by FCDO. The evaluation team attempted to balance this internal perspective through successful engagement of external voices and perspectives such as programme implementers and non-FCDO global and country-specific thematic experts and stakeholders.

Completeness and relevance of project documentation to examine evaluation questions

In querying the DevTracker database, the evaluation team discovered that project-related documents were sometimes not in the public domain or were not up to date. Additionally, the information did not provide substantial evidence on disaggregation, therefore restricting analysis on the relevance and impact for groups experiencing marginalisation. The evaluation team made every effort to acquire additional documentation and information from key informants. On request, targeted FCDO key informants shared project-related documentation. The evaluation team also acquired additional documentation from grey literature sources such as project and organisation websites of implementers, as well as from peer-reviewed journal publications produced or referenced by implementers.

Perspective of affected populations

There was no direct access to affected populations, but it should be noted that direct engagement of beneficiaries was never part of the evaluation design. The evaluation team did, however, engage actors who represent different vantage points within the humanitarian landscape. The team honoured confidentiality of all stakeholders consulted.

Key findings

A first step in the performance evaluation analysis was examination of whether the performance of the sampled programmes addressed priority cross-cutting data challenges identified in Part 1 (evidence synthesis) of the evaluation. The evaluation did not assess whether or not individual programmes achieved their specific programmatic aims or objectives. Instead, the evaluation assessed whether the programmes addressed the priority challenges and gaps identified in Part 1. Evidence was weak regarding the programmatic outcomes therefore where feasible, it was supplemented with information from key informant interviews.

As summarised in [Table A5.2](#), available evidence suggests that of the programmes evaluated, five programmes aimed to address mitigation of the politicisation of data; seven aimed to respond to mitigating challenges related to inter-agency mistrust, territoriality and suboptimal coordination and six aimed to mitigate challenges related to in-country capacity. A further six programmes aimed to reduce the time taken to collect data and share the results and therefore had the potential to expedite decision-making.

In each of these cases the degree to which the programmes were successful in sustaining these aims often unclear due to the limitations of the evidence available. Tables A5.1 and A5.2 provide an assessment score of the overall strength of evidence:

1= Anecdotal/descriptive evidence (e.g., KIIs)

2= Implementation/learning evidence (e.g., Annual Reviews, dissemination products)

3= Validation/evaluation evidence.

Of the five programmes that aimed to address mitigation of the politicisation of data only one provided strong evaluation evidence. Two of the seven programmes that aimed to respond to mitigating challenges related to inter-agency mistrust, territoriality and suboptimal coordination had evaluation level evidence. Finally, two out of each of the six aimed at mitigating challenges related to in-country capacity and reducing the time to collect data had evaluation level evidence.

Evaluation questions

For each solution, the evaluation team has presented evidence on questions grouped according to the six evaluation domains.

Key evaluation questions on domain 1: relevance

- 1.1. Are data collection and analysis approaches clearly linked to information needs?
- 1.2. Are the data collection and analysis approaches and methodologies sensitive to the situation of affected populations?
- 1.3. Do they take into account social inequalities relating to gender, age, disability and other relevant identities? Are they inclusive of marginalised groups?
- 1.4. Are they appropriate to the situation and data needs? Are trade-offs being made in the types of information being gathered; are some types of data prioritised over others?
- 1.5. Are methodologies for data collection and analysis clearly stated and comprehensive?
- 1.6. Do no harm – Are the new approaches and modalities conflict sensitive and do they ensure mitigation for risks to the safety, security and dignity of the affected population?

Key evaluation questions on domain 2: coherence

- 2.1. How well do these data solutions across the data value chain (e.g. collection, analysis, dissemination, use) relate to and coordinate with other data-related interventions in the country/across the sector?
- 2.2. How are inter-sectoral humanitarian data and development data being used by food security and nutrition actors in humanitarian settings?
- 2.3. Are they isolated examples of good practice or being used at scale?

Key evaluation questions on domain 3: effectiveness

- 3.1. Are these data collection and analysis solutions able to provide timely, quality and reliable information used by end users?

3.2. Where are the gaps, what is not being covered?

3.3. Early warning and real-time monitoring – have the new data collection/analysis approaches been sufficiently able to predict potential issues of concern? If not, what are the reasons for this? Is it due to problems with data, its analysis or other factors?

Key evaluation questions on domain 4: efficiency

4.1. Do the data collection/analysis solutions represent good value for money, especially in comparison to previous or other available modalities?

4.2. Under what conditions are they able to provide better, similar or almost as good quality of evidence as existing/conventional tools and methods?

4.3. What are the trade-offs or gains being made in terms of evidence quality and coverage when these new tools and methods are used?

Key evaluation questions on domain 5: sustainability

5.1. Are the data collection/analysis solutions able to be resourced and maintained over the medium term during the Covid-19 pandemic, and for other humanitarian crises simultaneously or in the future?

5.2. For completed programmes (see Stage 2), have the approaches/interventions continued? Why or why not?

Key evaluation questions on domain 6: scalability/replicability

6.1. How feasible is it to replicate the innovation a) within the same context and b) in similar contexts?

6.2. What are the operational requirements to implement the solution as intended at the required scale?

6.3 How do the programmes adhere to IDC principles?

Annexes 6–11 present findings in a different manner, with short country case studies providing a country-specific examination of some of the evaluation domains for selected FCDO-supported programmes implementing data solutions. Use the following links to read the case studies:

[Annex 6: Ethiopia case study](#)

[Annex 7: Nigeria case study](#)

[Annex 8: Somalia case study](#)

[Annex 9: South Sudan case study](#)

[Annex 10: Syria case study](#)

[Annex 11: Yemen case study](#)

Data collection: technological solutions

Key conclusions

Based on the evidence reviewed, the assessed set of technological innovations are viable and likely cost-efficient options to collect data when physical access barriers prevent localised data gathering, particularly in conflict settings (see 'efficiency' section under Mobile phone RDC below for more information).

Given the specific scenarios in which those solutions are deployed, implementing at scale is not always a relevant objective. There is however evidence of replicability into other scenarios and contexts.

The added value of the two remote sensing options is their potential to produce novel evidence (e.g., geospatial data on events that can spur food insecurity and/or acute malnutrition; qualitative data on affected populations in inaccessible areas) to enhance early warning systems and real-time monitoring.

However, questions remain unanswered around the quality of evidence generated by the above solutions especially when consider specific quality domains such as the ability to disaggregate. In addition, evidence from interviews suggested that a significant proportion of data is underused.

Mobile phone RDC

Relevance

Mobile phone RDC is a widespread practice. Three key informants from Nigeria, South Sudan and Syria mentioned the heightened use of mobile RDC during the Covid-19 pandemic, suggesting it does meet some user needs when access is restricted. At the same time, key informants based in Nigeria reported that post-pandemic, programmes have reverted to face-to-face data collection due to concerns about quality. This indicates that there can be trust issues with mobile phone RDC.

The evaluation team could not access evidence on the alignment of the solution with wider priority needs and was also unable to acquire evidence on whether or how mobile RDC performs with respect to doing no harm to affected populations.

Coherence

The use of mobile RDC is part of a harmonised approach to inaccessible area monitoring in northeast Nigeria (1 KII with a non-FCDO food security thematic expert). This approach includes WFP using mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) data to track a small number of food consumption indicators on a monthly basis, along with intersectoral data from local organisations and partners in inaccessible areas in humanitarian-affected states.

Effectiveness

The evaluation team did not have access to evidence to assess the questions in this domain. However, as with the sustainability domain, stakeholder perceptions of effectiveness (or the lack thereof) have limited the sustained uptake of mobile RDC.

Efficiency

The evaluation team did not have access to evidence to assess the questions in this domain. However, the 2021 Annual Review of the NENTAD programme in Nigeria alluded to possible cost-efficiencies associated with mobile RDC. More specifically, reported data from Third Party Monitors indicated “a decrease in the ratio between programme costs and research cycle activities at £12,888 as compared to £20,231 at the end of last year [2020].”¹ This achievement was attributed to the adoption of RDC rather than face-to-face approaches, as well as efficiencies around research design, data collection, analysis and dissemination.

Sustainability

Due to low stakeholder confidence in the quality of data being collected, the use of mobile phone RDC has not had staying power when movement

¹ FCDO, 2021. North East Nigeria Transition to Development (NENTAD) Programme-Annual Review June 2021. Available at: https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/61955839.odt

restrictions or other physical access limitations are reduced. Stakeholders are inclined to revert to face-to-face data collection.

In Nigeria, RDC using mobile technology was employed during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic due to physical movement restrictions. According to one non-FCDO nutrition key informant and one non-FCDO food security key informant in Nigeria, mobile phone RDC was used widely by stakeholders during that period because there were no other viable alternatives. However, persistent concerns about the quality of data being gathered via mobile phones has promoted food security stakeholders to revert to face-to-face data collection since movement restrictions were relaxed (3 KIIs). A similar experience was reported in Syria (1 KII with a high-level, non-FCDO nutrition key informant), where mobile RDC is not a preferred long-term option.

Scalability/replicability

The evaluation team did not have access to evidence to assess this domain. However, feasibility is contingent on mobile phone coverage.

High-tech remote sensing

Relevance

In the first three months of the Tigray crisis in northern Ethiopia, satellite data from research organisation Vigil Monitor (under the auspices of XCEPT) indicated that there was systematic door-to-door burning of homes and other structures. This signalled changing local dynamics associated with the conflict.

XCEPT's analysis of satellite imagery data in Ethiopia did not involve data disaggregation or more nuanced evidence on affected populations, only locations of escalating threats.

High-tech remote sensing has also been used in Somalia. For example, a collaboration between the REACH Initiative and UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT) generated geospatial mapping data that enabled the monitoring of seasonal changes in internally displaced person settlements in Baidoa, Somalia.²

² REACH, 2019. 2018 Activity Report. Available at: <https://www.reach-initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/REACH - AR - 2018 ->

Coherence

High-tech remote sensing data is used by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) in Somalia. The FSNAU Dashboard brings high-tech remote sensing data together with other types of data from other sources (e.g., World Food Programme, UNICEF and Ministry of Health – previously World Health Organisation) into single outputs (e.g., maps) on various themes (e.g., agriculture, markets, and nutrition). This is to support decision-making and early warning by simplifying complex information in digestible formats. A mixture of skill sets is required for this level of coherence to be achieved, information system specialists, nutrition specialists, software engineers, and others, have all worked on the dashboard.

In addition to this, XCEPT's work in Ethiopia also serves as a good practice example of the "story" that can be told via satellite imagery and as noted in the case study, remote sensing data was triangulated with data from other sources and modalities to describe changing dynamics in northern Ethiopia during the initial months of the Tigray crisis.

Effectiveness

The effectiveness of high-tech remote sensing under the auspices of FCDO-supported programmes has not been formally evaluated. However, as highlighted in the Ethiopia case study, the XCEPT programme demonstrated proof of concept of how high-tech remote sensing can be used in an early warning system for future crises (1 KII with a global data expert).³

One resource examined for this evaluation also highlighted that the satellite data analysis did not spur an immediate humanitarian response in

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REACH, 2021. Somalia: Assessment of Hard-to-Reach Areas (May 2021) - Somalia. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-assessment-hard-reach-areas-may-2021> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

³ Bastholm Jensen, Mette, 2022. How Can Researchers Better Navigate the Profits and Perils of Satellite and Open-Source Investigations? Available at: <https://xcept-research.org/how-can-researchers-better-navigate-the-profits-and-perils-of-satellite-and-open-source-investigations-2/> (Accessed 28/07/2022).

northern Ethiopia.⁴ The reasons for this delayed response were not documented and the evaluation team was unable to engage Ethiopia-specific key informants who could elaborate on the reasons behind the delayed response to the data. The question of how that data informed the humanitarian response in northern Ethiopia remains unanswered.

Efficiency

No efficiency evidence is available on the XCEPT programme. However, high-tech remote sensing is a viable option when on-the-ground accessibility is not feasible or advisable, particularly in conflict settings.⁵

This is proof of concept that high-tech remote sensing can support monitoring of changing local dynamics to theoretically activate early crisis responses. The evaluation team found no evidence from Ethiopia on the specific uses of the data by humanitarian actors.

In Yemen, IMEDA employed high-tech remote sensing (satellite imagery) through a satellite service provider (Catapult) to enhance FCDO's understanding of humanitarian access, population movement and infrastructure damage in the country. The total value of the satellite imagery component is GBP 1.8 million.⁶ However, the evaluation team did not access necessary evidence to determine if that data solution offered good value for money. In light of FCDO's lack of an operational presence in Yemen, the data solution was one of many solutions employed to monitor and understand on-the-ground realities.

⁴ Jerving, Sara, 2021. 'In Brief: Satellite Imagery Shows Refugee Camps in Tigray Looted and Burned.' DevEx. Available at: <https://www.devex.com/news/in-brief-satellite-imagery-shows-refugee-camps-in-tigray-looted-and-burned-99109> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

⁵ Jerving, Sara, 2021. 'In Brief: Satellite Imagery Shows Refugee Camps in Tigray Looted and Burned.' DevEx. Available at: <https://www.devex.com/news/in-brief-satellite-imagery-shows-refugee-camps-in-tigray-looted-and-burned-99109> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

Kelly, Luke, 2019. Uses of Digital Technologies in Managing and Preventing Conflict. Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d0cecb640f0b62006e1f4ef/600 ICTs in conflict.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d0cecb640f0b62006e1f4ef/600%20ICTs%20in%20conflict.pdf)

⁶ FCDO, 2019. Independent Monitoring, Evaluation and Data Analysis (IMEDA) Annual Review July 2019. Available at: https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/49706194.odt

The 2020 Annual Review of IMEDA did note that quality satellite images supported humanitarian analysis of hard-to-reach areas, which relates to the equity component of value for money. High-tech remote sensing will not, however, address needs for disaggregated data.

Sustainability

No evaluation evidence was reviewed on sustainability.

Scalability/replicability

The evaluation team did not have access to evidence in this domain. The use of high-tech remote sensing and open-source data might have promise in terms of replicability and scalability, particularly when passive remote sensing (e.g., data from existing satellites) is already available.⁷

Low-tech remote sensing

Relevance

REACH “Area of Knowledge” (AOK) (which was identified in Part 1 – evidence synthesis) methodology systematically fills information gaps on, and monitors changes in, service access and needs in hard-to-reach areas. Primary data is collected on a monthly basis, via multi-sector standardised interviews with key informants in static internally displaced persons sites, who have recently come from/visited a remote settlement, or via phone calls to participants in remote settlements.

The Nigeria and Syria case studies (Annexes 7 and 10) provide details on how more nuanced information is being gathered on affected populations in those settings. Low-tech remote sensing is not the sole solution being implemented; as mentioned in three KIs with non-FCDO key informants, the approach is used to gather information from displaced populations that recently departed inaccessible humanitarian-affected locations.

The evaluation team did not have access to evaluation evidence on the performance of this solution from the perspective of doing no harm to affected populations.

⁷ Jerving, Sara, 2021. ‘In Brief: Satellite Imagery Shows Refugee Camps in Tigray Looted and Burned.’ DevEx. Available at: <https://www.devex.com/news/in-brief-satellite-imagery-shows-refugee-camps-in-tigray-looted-and-burned-99109> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

Coherence

None of the focus countries for Part 2 (performance evaluation) are implementing this solution at scale. However, as is the case in Nigeria, low-tech remote sensing is part of a combination of tools and approaches (e.g., mobile phone RDC and high-tech remote sensing) that support inaccessible area monitoring, as confirmed in three KIIIs with non-FCDO key informants.

In Nigeria the AOK approach is now a central approach for the country's Cadre Harmonisé (CH) Task Force on Inaccessible Areas (4 KIIIs).⁸ In addition to this, in South Sudan REACH expanded its AOK bases to 12 field sites in 2017. Following this AOK data has played an increasingly critical role feeding evidence into national-level planning and prioritization of the humanitarian response. The data is used by both operational and strategic actors, including the Inter Cluster Working Group, the Needs Analysis Working Group and IPC Analysis workshops to identify priority communities and inform priorities in the Humanitarian Needs Overview.

Effectiveness

Available evidence shows that low-tech remote sensing is effective in collecting reliable information on populations and locations that are otherwise inaccessible, as demonstrated in Nigeria (based on 2 KIIIs with non-FCDO food security experts). The approach centres on interactions with populations on the move (e.g., internally displaced persons who departed an inaccessible area).

One non-FCDO food security expert in Nigeria noted that the Area of Origin approach relies on qualitative assessments and interviews conducted by local civil society partners to gather evidence on affected populations. The data solution is regarded as an enhancement of early warning and real-time monitoring efforts in northeast Nigeria.

⁸ Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development/Government of Nigeria, 2022. Humanitarian Situation Update-April, 2022 Bulletin. Available at: https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/hsm_bulletin_april_2022.pdf

Efficiency

As described for mobile phone RDC, there are cost efficiencies in remote data collection compared to face-to-face data collection.

Sustainability

See analysis of sustainability of mobile phone RDC which are relevant and applicable to low tech remote sensing.

While low tech remote sensing was used during the Covid-19 pandemic when social distancing and physical restrictions were in place, the limited breadth and depth of information prompted local stakeholders to revert to face-to-face data collection when the Covid-19 threat decreased.

Scalability/replicability

In Nigeria, the Area of Origin/Area of Knowledge approach is now a central approach for the country's Cadre Harmonisé Task Force on Inaccessible Areas (4 KIIs).⁹ FCDO has supported this Inaccessible Area Monitoring via the NENTAD programme. This effort originated within the food security arena but has since expanded to include nutrition and nutrition-sensitive sectors such as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) (2 KIIs).

Data collection: process solutions

Key conclusions

TPM is already deployed in many complex settings where implementers cannot maintain an operational presence and provides a means of accessing affected populations and inaccessible areas.

However, given the limited food security and nutrition technical capacity of TPM providers, it appears to be an inferior option to gather evidence beyond operational monitoring information.

⁹ Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development/Government of Nigeria, 2022. Humanitarian Situation Update-April, 2022 Bulletin. Available at: https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/hsm_bulletin_april_2022.pdf

TPM

Relevance

TPM (which entails project/programme monitoring by parties that are external to a project's management structure or direct beneficiary chain) is widely used in complex settings. Its data relevance is not well documented. However, isolated examples such as IMEDA in Yemen, which independently verifies whether other FCDO-supported programmes are delivering expected benefits and provides several forms of support to implementers, relies on TPM.

The evaluation team did not have access to evaluation evidence on the performance of this solution from the perspective of doing no harm to affected populations.

Coherence

The Evaluation and Learning Facility in South Sudan for Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience in South Sudan (HARISS) is another example of TPM being used in a complex humanitarian setting. A multi-stakeholder steering committee was originally planned as a part of the facility. Its objective was to ensure relevance and coordination with other donor supported research. This would have created oversight and contributed towards the harmonisation of the research produced by the facility with other projects, and the minimisation of duplications. However, the ET was unable to ascertain if these plans were ever fulfilled.¹⁰

The scope of the facility could not be extended to support external actors' use of the data it produced. This limited the linkages it had with external stakeholders and increased the risk of the data system operating in a silo.¹¹

¹⁰ iMC Worldwide, ND. Evidence and Learning Facility South Sudan: An Overview. Available at: <https://aidstream.org/files/documents/ELFSS---An-Overview-20190702100744.pdf>

¹¹ iMC Worldwide, ND. Evidence and Learning Facility South Sudan: An Overview. Available at: <https://aidstream.org/files/documents/ELFSS---An-Overview-20190702100744.pdf>

Effectiveness

One non-FCDO programme implementer in South Sudan noted that TPM is an efficient and effective option to provide operational support in otherwise inaccessible areas. However, from a nutrition perspective, the stakeholder cited that there are trade-offs in terms of the types of data that can be collected by TPM, as well as expectations on how data is interpreted at the local implementation level, since the monitors are not nutrition experts.

In Yemen, IMEDA encountered challenges in producing timely evaluation evidence. For example, a planned formal evaluation of Yemen's Social Fund for Development by IMEDA (using Tahseen as the TPM) was delayed by six months due to delayed government approvals for data collection in the northern part of the country. Compromises were also made to the types of data collected, which limited the ability to conduct a more robust evaluation.¹²

Efficiency

According to three KIIs from different focus countries, reliance on TPM is a prudent approach from an operational perspective when circumstances such as physical accessibility by international partners is constrained. Constraints due to insecurity in various parts of South Sudan mean that programmes such as HARISS rely heavily on TPM.

As mentioned, the expertise of the monitors is also a factor impeding efficiency.

Sustainability

The evaluation team did not have access to evidence in this domain. There is general evidence and learning on TPM as an approach but not through data.

Scalability/replicability

The evaluation team did not have access to evidence to answer the evaluation questions in this domain.

¹² FCDO, 2022. Yemen Social Protection Programme (YeSP) Programme Completion Review March 2022. Available at: https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/D0000804.odt

Data analysis: process solutions

Key conclusions

Data solutions involving statistical modelling can augment existing systems such as surveillance and early warning systems to support forecasting and prediction of crises and their drivers and determinants. However, three major factors prevent a full endorsement of this approach being possible at this point in time.

- It relies on previously collected data and, in the majority of crisis contexts, presently quality nutrition data is not collected frequently enough for useful modelling to be completed.
- There is not enough evidence on how modelling results are being interpreted and incorporated into decision-making for enhanced humanitarian action.
- Methods are complicated and often require expert knowledge to understand them – they therefore require more trust in their validity – and therefore can undermine trust and national ownership as well as prevent sustainability.

Evidence on the effectiveness of enhanced contextual analysis approaches (which provides analysis of the environment in which a programme is operating) is limited, however solutions involving enhanced contextual analysis appear to be sensitive to the situation of affected populations and conducive to a harmonised intersectoral humanitarian response with refined targeting and programme design.

Statistical modelling (e.g., as conducted by the MERIAM programme)

Relevance

Approaches and initiatives predicated on statistical modelling (e.g., MERIAM) are constrained by input data. Key informants and source documents indicate that information is needed on risk factors, determinants and drivers (1 KII with a global humanitarian nutrition expert) and whether we are asking the ‘right’ questions to inform the modelling, e.g., seasonality of diarrhoeal disease, seasonality of acute malnutrition (1 KII with an IPC key informant).¹³

¹³ Brown, Molly E., Kathryn Grace, Trey Billing, and David Backer, 2021. ‘Considering Climate and Conflict Conditions Together to Improve Interventions That Prevent Child Acute Malnutrition.’ The Lancet Planetary

In countries such as Nigeria and Somalia, MERIAM supported econometric modelling. For example, MERIAM developed a Nigeria-specific econometric model for use in multilevel analysis on acute malnutrition risk in children, accounting for household characteristics, local/contextual factors and macro-level factors.¹⁴ However, the evaluation team was not able to obtain evidence on how that modelling is aligned with local decision-making needs.

The evaluation team did not have access to evaluation evidence on the performance of this solution from the perspective of doing no harm to affected populations. The solution relies on existing data collected for other purposes (e.g., a household survey, geospatial analysis) and likely poses no additional threats/risks to affected populations.

Coherence

As a centrally managed programme, MERIAM has conducted a large number of analyses and produced several dissemination products (e.g., peer-reviewed journal articles). Despite this the evaluation team found a lack of evidence on MERIAM's placement within the data landscape in specific complex settings.

Effectiveness

Through MERIAM, FCDO has supported the development, testing and scale-up of models to improve the prediction and monitoring of undernutrition in countries that experience frequent climate- and conflict-related shocks. The effectiveness of econometric and computational modelling conducted by the FCDO-supported MERIAM programme has not been formally assessed in terms of its use within the broader humanitarian response in countries. MERIAM reports that use of econometric modelling can extend the time horizon for an early warning

Health 5 (9): e654–58. Available at: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196\(21\)00197-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(21)00197-2) (Accessed 28/07/2022).

¹⁴ Action Against Hunger, Graduate Institute Geneva, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, University of Maryland, and University of Minnesota, 2021. Modelling Early Risk Indicators to Anticipate Malnutrition (MERIAM). Global Nutrition Cluster Predictive Analytics Workshop.

<https://www.nutritioncluster.net/sites/nutritioncluster.com/files/2021-02/Session%205%29%20MERIAM%20GNC%20Workshop.pdf>

forecasting from 1 month up to 6-8 months (Action Against Hunger et al. 2021).

One analysis used data from Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda to examine the relationship between armed conflict and acute malnutrition in children and found that this relationship is inconsistent across countries and time.¹⁵ The timing of exposure to hazards and threats shapes the relationship between exposure and outcomes. Some research has suggested that there may be variation in child health and food security outcomes given the timing of events; the results here suggest that there is not a consistent temporal linkage between events and those outcomes.

MERIAM employed modelling approaches that examine historical, spatial and household-level data to forecast acute malnutrition outcomes directly. As such, MERIAM can dynamically forecast changes in acute malnutrition, particularly in conflict- and climate-affected settings. However, the modelling appears to be less effective in predicting more extreme acute malnutrition outcomes and scenarios, while performing well in IPC class 3 settings.¹⁶

There is a lack of evidence on how and to what extent the modelling outputs are used to enhance humanitarian responses. The solution addresses the “what” (e.g., specific locations at risk of food insecurity), rather than the “how” or “why”.¹⁷ It does not eliminate the need for ongoing

¹⁵ Grace, Kathryn, Andrew Verdin, Molly Brown, Maryia Bakhtsiyarava, David Backer, and Trey Billing, 2022. ‘Conflict and Climate Factors and the Risk of Child Acute Malnutrition Among Children Aged 24–59 Months: A Comparative Analysis of Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda.’ Spatial Demography. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1007/S40980-021-00102-W> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

¹⁶ Action Against Hunger, Graduate Institute Geneva, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, University of Maryland, and University of Minnesota, 2021. Modelling Early Risk Indicators to Anticipate Malnutrition (MERIAM). Global Nutrition Cluster Predictive Analytics Workshop. <https://www.nutritioncluster.net/sites/nutritioncluster.com/files/2021-02/Session%20%29%20MERIAM%20GNC%20Workshop.pdf>

¹⁷ Brown, Molly E., Kathryn Grace, Trey Billing, and David Backer, 2021. ‘Considering Climate and Conflict Conditions Together to Improve Interventions That Prevent Child Acute Malnutrition.’ The Lancet Planetary

monitoring and surveillance, particularly at a subnational level, to assess local factors and dynamics that need to be considered to enhance humanitarian responses.¹⁸

In Somalia, MESH used an adaptative statistical modeling approach to annual programme evaluation within FCDO's Somalia portfolio (BRCiS [Building Resilience Communities in Somalia]; SHARP [Somalia Humanitarian, Health and Resilience Programmes]). This effort involved triangulation of quantitative and qualitative evidence.¹⁹ However, the evaluation team could not access further evidence on MESH's use of statistical modelling.

Efficiency

No data was available to the evaluation team to support nuanced examination of value for money. Statistical modelling solutions use data that has already been collected for other purposes and it is therefore linked to other systems.²⁰ The primary purpose of the method is to make

Health 5 (9): e654–58. Available at: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196\(21\)00197-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(21)00197-2) (Accessed 28/07/2022).

¹⁸ Grace, Kathryn, Andrew Verdin, Molly Brown, Maryia Bakhtsiyarava, David Backer, and Trey Billing, 2022. 'Conflict and Climate Factors and the Risk of Child Acute Malnutrition Among Children Aged 24–59 Months: A Comparative Analysis of Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda.' Spatial Demography. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1007/S40980-021-00102-W> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

¹⁹ MESH, 2020. MESH SHARP Programme Evaluation, Methodology Note. Available at: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d0dee49c9ddd900015bd2e7/t/5f80896f5786e6c32f125/1602259312492/FCDO--SHARP+Programme+Evaluation+Overview.pdf>

²⁰ Action Against Hunger, Graduate Institute Geneva, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, University of Maryland, and University of Minnesota, 2021. Modelling Early Risk Indicators to Anticipate Malnutrition (MERIAM). Global Nutrition Cluster Predictive Analytics Workshop. <https://www.nutritioncluster.net/sites/nutritioncluster.com/files/2021-02/Session%205%29%20MERIAM%20GNC%20Workshop.pdf>
MESH, 2020. MESH SHARP Programme Evaluation, Methodology Note. Available at:

source data as useful as it can be, in spite of shortcomings. However, the quality of analysis is then contingent on the quality of source data. In Somalia, MESH's use of statistical modelling in its analyses introduced cost efficiencies in filling information needs and the modelling did not eliminate known deficiencies associated with the quality of source (input) data for that modelling.²¹

Sustainability

The Somalia Nutrition Cluster validated the Action Against Hunger (lead implementer of MERIAM) protocol on modelling early risk indicators to anticipate malnutrition.²² This can be regarded as a milestone in localising the statistical modelling approach. However, no additional evidence is available on its sustainability prospects. Although the centrally managed MERIAM programme produced several guidance documents and user manuals that are available in the public domain, the evaluation team did not find data or information on institutionalising advanced statistical modelling capacities in humanitarian settings.

Scalability/replicability

User manuals and guidance documents exist to support replication. MERIAM developed a graphical user interface known as the Simulating Acute Malnutrition Toolkit to facilitate access to the programme's methodology and outputs for a wider range of end users.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d0dee49c9ddd900015bd2e7/t/5f80896fadf5786e6c32f125/1602259312492/FCDO--SHARP+Programme+Evaluation+Overview.pdf>

²¹ MESH, 2020. MESH SHARP Programme Evaluation, Methodology Note. Available at:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d0dee49c9ddd900015bd2e7/t/5f80896fadf5786e6c32f125/1602259312492/FCDO--SHARP+Programme+Evaluation+Overview.pdf>

²² Somalia Nutrition Cluster, 2020. Information Management Presentation. Available at:

https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/sep-2020_som_nutrition_cluster_im_presentation-final.pdf

At this time, statistical modelling is pursued primarily under projects such as MERIAM and MESH. Without embedding or institutionalising the solution in humanitarian settings, resourcing will be donor-dependent.²³

The above work has evolved into a more nuanced identification and analysis of affected populations. A community-based surveillance approach that was introduced in northwest Syria has enabled Nutrition Cluster partners to gather data on children and women with disabilities, survivors of gender-based violence, and girls subjected to child marriage – all of whom have been associated with elevated malnutrition rates in Syria.

Enhanced contextual analysis

Relevance

Theoretically, enhanced contextual analysis solutions can also address other aspects of the data value chain (e.g., data collection, data use). However, the performance of contextual analysis solutions is being examined through the lens of analysis because it addresses critical challenges identified in Part 1 (evidence synthesis) related to limited analytical capacities.

The performance of this approach from the perspective of ‘do no harm’ has not been assessed. However, in Syria enhanced contextual analysis has found correlation between gender-based violence, child marriage and other highly sensitive issues and elevated rates of acute malnutrition in the local context.

The Project Completion Review of the FCDO-supported UNICEF programme in Syria also highlighted equity-related issues. It stated that monitoring data was often disaggregated by age, sex, geography and disability but that there were missed opportunities for narrative reporting of

²³ Action Against Hunger, Graduate Institute Geneva, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, University of Maryland, and University of Minnesota, 2021. Modelling Early Risk Indicators to Anticipate Malnutrition (MERIAM). Global Nutrition Cluster Predictive Analytics Workshop.

<https://www.nutritioncluster.net/sites/nutritioncluster.com/files/2021-02/Session%205%29%20MERIAM%20GNC%20Workshop.pdf>

evidence to highlight gender and other equity issues, and their implications in terms of programme and policy action.²⁴

Coherence

The evaluation team has evidence reported on coherence by selected stakeholders in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Syria. Improved coherence was attributed to stakeholder buy-in and adoption of a harmonised framework for collecting, sharing, triangulating and analysing different types of evidence.

Effectiveness

In most cases, evidence was not available to the evaluation team on the effectiveness of data initiatives' influence on policy decision-making. However, in Yemen, FCDO implementers have experience with economic data via the Yemen Economic Tracking Initiative (YETI), implemented by ACAPS. The ability to impact policy is not clear, but there is a dedicated team of analysts in Amman ready to provide support in secondary data analysis, needs assessment, scenario-building, risk, and analysis capacity-building.

According to one programme implementer in Syria, there has been a paradigm shift from focusing primarily on anthropometric measures such as stunting and wasting to better understanding drivers and determinants of malnutrition. There is now a multi-stakeholder commitment to collect, analyse and use intersectoral data to inform nutrition programming in the country.

There have been missed opportunities for initiatives to fill data gaps and/or strengthen analyses that, in turn, would foster greater confidence in decision-making. For example, data gaps that impact the quality of IPC acute food security classification include limited data from inaccessible/hard-to-reach areas, as well as data on mortality, nutrition and displacement.²⁵ One key informant with extensive knowledge of the REACH Initiative mentioned systematic inclusion of mortality indicators

²⁴ FCDO, 2021. Support to the United Nations Children's Fund in Syria Programme Completion Review September 2020. Not in public domain.

²⁵ FAO, 2019. Final Evaluation of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Global Strategic Programme (GSP) 2014-2018. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/ca4203en/ca4203en.pdf>

within humanitarian situation monitoring to get a sense of the changing death rate.

Efficiency

The evaluation team did not have access to evidence on efficiency. However, as mentioned earlier when examining relevance, the Project Completion Review of the FCDO-supported UNICEF programme in Syria highlighted equity-related issues. Consultation with a Syria key informant highlighted that the added value of an enhanced contextual analysis approach (which in Syria is aligned with an intersectoral community-based surveillance model), are insights gained on most-affected population groups in terms of acute malnutrition. At present, there are no alternative methods to identify or analyse disparities and elevated vulnerabilities.

Sustainability

In Syria, one non-FCDO key informant who is a programme implementer noted that there are critical success factors, namely 1) the existence of on-the-ground operational capacity, 2) access to target populations and 3) functional multi-stakeholder coordination within northwest Syria that made it conducive to introduce and sustain promising practices and innovations. There are concerns about sustainability on this coordinated multi-stakeholder approach in government-controlled areas (GCAs).

Scalability/replicability

Two Syria case study key informants (one FCDO expert and one programme implementer in Syria) noted that FCDO's UNICEF support ended prematurely due to reduced funding. Both expressed concerns about the implications this will have on scaling and sustaining innovations. Additionally, the red-line policy adopted by the UK government – that prohibits engagement of government actors – limits geographical coverage due to limited presence of humanitarian partners in GCAs.

In Yemen, a Joint Monitoring Framework will be piloted. However, working with different government departments is a highly ambitious endeavour, particularly in a country that has been characterised by fractured governance for over the past decade (1 KII with an FCDO key informant).

Data use: technological solutions

Key conclusions

Although they are a technological solution, dashboards require a behavioural shift on the part of different agencies to share and use data. As such, dashboards are not a “quick fix”; they must be aligned with a harmonised analytical framework that takes data from different sources into account. In addition, commitment on the part of local and international stakeholders to operationalise that framework, facilitate ongoing refinement of the dashboard (in light of changing dynamics and data needs) and support systematic capacity building of a local institutions to house and manage the dashboard are all critical success factors.

Data dashboards using Power BI or other software solutions

Relevance

In Somalia, a dashboard managed by the country’s Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) was born out of the need to demystify technical analyses on the food security situation, particularly for donors and decision-makers involved in IPC classification and create a standalone repository for evidence rather than have it embedded within various dissemination products (1 KII with a non-FCDO expert focused on Somalia and providing direct support to FSNAU). The rationale for the dashboard is therefore grounded in optimising data use.

The dashboard, which currently consists of approximately 20 indicators, supports monthly monitoring of the food security and nutrition situations at a district level (1 KII). However, as mentioned by a non-FCDO expert directly involved in the provision of technical support to FSNAU, the dashboard has not eliminated the need for assessments to monitor the situations and status of specific affected populations in Somalia. In essence, the dashboard supports an early warning system that prompts a series of actions (e.g., further assessment in specific geographies or for specific groups).

Coherence

In Somalia, FCDO is a co-funder of the FSNAU. The unit produced an analytical framework that supports contextual nutrition analysis, in addition

to focusing on prevalence estimates and thresholds for conventional anthropometric indicators such as wasting and stunting.²⁶

Experiences with the FSNAU dashboard in Somalia highlighted the need for a longer time period for an innovation to gain traction. This must be underpinned by alignment with decision-making needs, as well as open-mindedness, continuous refinement and diplomacy among stakeholders, as mentioned by one Somalia thematic expert involved in supporting FSNAU.

Effectiveness

The FSNAU dashboard now serves as primary tool to inform the humanitarian response in Somalia. However, a non-FCDO key informant noted that, like all data initiatives, decisions are not just predicated on information; other factors such as resource availability and competing priorities also guide decision-making.

Efficiency

According to one key informant on the FSNAU dashboard, the solution represents good value for money. There are substantial upfront costs to develop such a tool, but operational costs are relatively low. In addition, because the dashboard fully exploits secondary data sources it is an efficient means of synthesising evidence for Somalia's early warning system.

As mentioned under Relevance, the solution is a supplement to other tools and methods, not a replacement.

Sustainability

As noted in the Somalia case study, the two critical success factors in terms of sustainability are:

- Adequate and sustained compensation of FSNAU technical staff who are not currently on the government civil service payroll
- Improved analytical capacity, as at present there are many enumerators but far fewer persons with data analysis skills (1 KII).

FCDO and international partners provide financial and technical support to FSNAU, including during the Covid-19 pandemic.

²⁶ Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit, 2022. Somalia. Available at: <https://www.fsnau.org> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

Scalability/replicability

The evaluation team did not have access to evidence on the feasibility of replicating the FSNAU dashboard. However, one key informant mentioned that the dashboard might be regarded as cost-prohibitive in other contexts due to the upfront costs associated with designing the dashboard. Nonetheless, the key informant notes that some food security stakeholders outside of Somalia (e.g., Nigeria cluster participants) have expressed interest in replicating the dashboard solution.

Data use: process solutions

Key conclusions

Partnership-based, collaborative approaches that feed into defined data use and decision-making processes show the greatest promise of all the solutions considered in the evaluation for relevance and effectiveness in strengthening multiple elements of the data value chain for greater coherence in humanitarian responses.

The intersectoral nature of these approaches is conducive to data sharing and harmonised data analysis, interpretation and use. Clear leadership and ownership of those approaches by government entities or national actors – rather than global experts – appears to be a critical success factor, in particular when considering the longer-term sustainability of solutions. However these arrangements can be complicated, especially in crisis contexts, where national authorities may exacerbate the risk of politicisation and independence whilst also increase the risk of harm to populations experiencing marginalisation. In such cases, and, where the risks to operation and reputation are deemed small enough, rigorous monitoring of nationally-owned data by independent actors, with government consent, would be ideal. In some cases, partnership-based solutions are impossible to scale due to tensions between national actors and international agencies, for example when access to certain areas or regions is restricted.

Partnerships and collaboratives for multi-sectoral assessment

Relevance

The protracted conflict in Yemen resulted in grossly outdated household-level data. The centrally managed REACH Initiative, which promotes a collaborative approach and supports established inter-agency coordination

mechanisms at global and country levels, supported humanitarian partners to design and implement household-level data collection exercises in the country, starting in 2018.²⁷

In South Sudan, process ‘innovations’ related to the country’s IPC process began in 2020. The innovations focused on the need to rebuild trust and functioning working relationships and included clearly defining and distinguishing roles and responsibilities in the IPC analysis process, at national and global levels and elevating the governance of the IPC at national level to a higher level of seniority. The contentious experiences with the IPC famine classification (particularly in six counties of the country) in 2020 illustrate the challenge of data politicisation highlighted in Part 1 (evidence synthesis) of the evaluation, as well as design flaws in the approach within conflict-affected and fragile contexts.²⁸

As highlighted in the Nigeria case study, the FCDO-supported NENTAD programme, which uses a partnership approach, has contributed to improvements in data disaggregation and data available on affected populations. For example, in addition to gender disaggregated data, data for persons with disabilities was being consistently reported on a quarterly basis.²⁹

In Syria, a community-based surveillance approach that was introduced in the northwest areas of the country has enabled Nutrition Cluster partners to gather data on children and women with disabilities, survivors of gender-based violence, and girls subjected to child marriage – all of which have been associated with elevated malnutrition rates in Syria.

²⁷ REACH, 2019. 2018 Activity Report. Available at: <https://www.reach-initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/REACH - AR - 2018 - FINAL - V1.pdf>

²⁸ Buchanan-Smith, Margie, Jane Cocking, and Sam Sharp, 2021. Independent Review of the IPC South Sudan. Available at: www.odi.org/en/publications/independent-review-of- (Accessed 28/07/2022).

The World Bank, 2021. Classification of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations. Available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/harmonized-list-of-fragile-situations> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

²⁹ FCDO, 2021. North East Nigeria Transition to Development (NENTAD) Programme-Annual Review June 2021. Available at: https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/61955839.odt

Coherence

The REACH Initiative provides one of the best examples of coherence within national landscapes, whereby intersectoral data and analyses produced by REACH inform annual Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs) and Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) in several countries.

Additionally, the Nigeria and Syria case studies provide examples of coherence through harmonised, multi-stakeholder processes.

As described in the South Sudan case study, IPC is a global standard process to consolidate and analyse country evidence and classify food insecurity severity and risk. However, building consensus around IPC classification was particularly challenging in that context.³⁰ IPC challenges in contexts such as South Sudan highlight difficulties with coherence and consensus.³¹ The innovation introduced in South Sudan to circumvent challenges with achieving in-country consensus of food security classification reduces coherence at the country level.

Effectiveness

The multi-sector needs assessments conducted by the REACH Initiative has supported sectoral prioritisation of humanitarian assistance in areas such as WASH, health and protection (1 KII). Syria was the pioneer country for REACH's Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (introduced in March 2014) to monitor the prices of essential goods across a crisis-affected area on a monthly basis.³² That data has, in turn, been used to inform cash transfer programmes that are responsive to local markets.

The REACH initiative multi-sector needs assessments has also served as baseline data on needs in inaccessible areas, with subsequent data

³⁰ FAO, 2019. Final Evaluation of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Global Strategic Programme (GSP) 2014-2018. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/ca4203en/ca4203en.pdf>

³¹ Buchanan-Smith, Margie, Jane Cocking, and Sam Sharp, 2021. Independent Review of the IPC South Sudan. Available at: www.odi.org/en/publications/independent-review-of- (Accessed 28/07/2022).

³² REACH, 2019. 2018 Activity Report. Available at: [https://www.reach-initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/REACH - AR - 2018 - FINAL - V1.pdf](https://www.reach-initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/REACH_-_AR_-_2018_-_FINAL_-_V1.pdf)

collection to monitor needs in hard-to-reach areas in northeast Nigeria.³³ REACH data and analyses have also informed Humanitarian Needs Overviews and Humanitarian Response Plans in Nigeria.³⁴

Yemen is another positive illustration of elevating analyses to include the identification of context-specific risk factors and early warning factors, not just a focus on food security outcomes (2 KIIs). Similar efforts are being pursued in Syria via a harmonised community-based surveillance system.

As stated by one high-level non-FCDO key informant in Nigeria, government engagement has been a critical success factor to date. In inaccessible areas, there has been a tremendous amount of both formal and informal advocacy to establish an enabling environment for monitoring work, allaying concerns about spying, interference by external parties and other concerns that often arise when focusing on inaccessible, marginalised and conflict-affected settings.

There have been reported improvements in the timeliness of information to end users, which has been attributed largely to improved analytical capacity among local stakeholders to identify and examine emergency needs. Monitoring in inaccessible areas has also strengthen CH processes (3 KIIs).

In South Sudan, the politicisation of data, time pressures to gather evidence and act, and the ‘good’ versus ‘good enough’ quandary related to data quality were uncovered. As highlighted in an independent review of IPC in South Sudan in 2020, issues with the source data, in particular timeliness (time lags between data collection and analysis, the late availability of nutrition data) and reliability (how the data should take planned humanitarian assistance into account, and whether ground-truthing was desirable or even possible) contributed to challenges in building consensus.³⁵

Available evidence indicates greater effectiveness in using food security data for programme, rather than policy, decision-making (1 KII with a

³³ Ibid

³⁴ Ibid

³⁵ Buchanan-Smith, Margie, Jane Cocking, and Sam Sharp, 2021. Independent Review of the IPC South Sudan. Available at: www.odi.org/en/publications/independent-review-of- (Accessed 28/07/2022).

national stakeholder from one of the six focus countries).³⁶ The 2014–18 IPC evaluation found the IPC to be largely donor-driven and -oriented, with the IPC Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) scale regarded as the ‘global standard’ source of information on food security.³⁷ At a global level, it remains a go-to source for humanitarian resource mobilisation, and at the national level, it informs geographical targeting of humanitarian resources.

In Ethiopia non-humanitarian programme, The Strategic Research Fund (although not food security or nutrition focused) did support some food security-related research projects through a collaboration between the International Food Policy Institute (IFPRI) and the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI). The programme generated several research papers, briefings and policy papers that informed the development of multiple FCDO business cases.³⁸

Efficiency

Although an ‘innovation’ emerged to circumvent in-country challenges in reaching consensus on IPC classification, the events in South Sudan highlight global–national tensions related to which entity is responsible for facilitating the process, providing quality control and technical support; as well as ensuring trust and coherence of inputs from multiple stakeholders. This resulted in a trade-off where the preservation of the IPC as a global ‘gold standard’, in order to maintain the independence of the process, was prioritised over embedding the process within government institutions, which would have encouraged national collective ownership.³⁹ One non-FCDO key informant consulted for this case study highlighted that these concerns still exist in the present day.

³⁶ FAO, 2019. Final Evaluation of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Global Strategic Programme (GSP) 2014-2018. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/ca4203en/ca4203en.pdf>

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ FCDO, 2021. East Africa Research Hub – Strategic Research and Evidence Support to Country Office and Regional Research (SCORE) Programme Completion Review June 2021. Available at: https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/90000410.odt

³⁹ Buchanan-Smith, Margie, Jane Cocking, and Sam Sharp, 2021. Independent Review of the IPC South Sudan. Available at: www.odi.org/en/publications/independent-review-of- (Accessed 28/07/2022).

A 2022 Famine Review Process of IPC Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) and Acute Malnutrition (AMN) Analyses in Yemen found issues with the plausibility of the famine classifications and referred five districts to the Famine Review Committee. The Review Committee advised the Yemen interagency IPC Technical Working Group to “reassess the presence and size of populations residing in these districts along with their food security, nutrition, and health conditions however it is not clear that this process was completed.”⁴⁰

Sustainability

The partnership and collaboration-based approaches identified in this thematic evaluation are largely donor-supported and/or international partner-driven (e.g., REACH Initiative, evolution of CH and Inaccessible Areas Monitoring in Nigeria), rather than being inclusive and providing space for leadership from national actors.

In Nigeria, where the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and State Government focal points provide leadership for the Humanitarian Situation Monitoring and CH, there remains a reliance on international partner investments (2 KIIs with non-FCDO key informants). Government buy-in is slowly improving, with one key informant noting that some venues and halls are now being provided by State Governments free of charge to host CH training. However, there is still a need for effective advocacy on resourcing CH and Humanitarian Situation Monitoring.

Scalability/replicability

Nigeria serves as a compelling example of how monitoring in inaccessible areas, which started as a Famine Monitoring System, has expanded in scope to integrate nutrition and nutrition-sensitive sectors such as WASH (3 KIIs).

For example, the REACH Initiative’s data collection and analyses have informed global and national HNOs and HRP in countries such as

⁴⁰ IPC, 2022. Somalia Faces Increased Risk of Famine as Acute Food Insecurity, Malnutrition and Mortality Worsen – Somalia. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-faces-increased-risk-famine-acute-food-insecurity-malnutrition-and-mortality-worsen> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen.⁴¹ As highlighted in case studies on those countries (Annexes 6–11), REACH data and analyses have also addressed information gaps related to affected populations and inaccessible or hard-to-reach areas.

In Syria, the Whole of Syria Nutrition Cluster model has facilitated adoption of a harmonised intersectoral triangulation, analysis and interpretation of intersectoral evidence. However, the limited presence of international agencies in government-controlled areas is a major impediment to scale (1 KII with a high-level, non-FCDO key informant). The above work has since evolved into a more nuanced identification and analysis of affected populations.

Cross cutting approaches – The Evidence Fund

The Evidence Fund evaluation findings do not lend themselves to be categorised by specific a specific solution across the data value chain. However, the programme does provide evidence of how a wider approach to information sharing that would have the potential to improve approaches across the areas consider in the evaluation. Therefore, the findings against the evaluation domains have been summarised separately here.

Relevance and coherence

The Evidence Fund, which is an internal support mechanism for FCDO country offices, centres on context-specific research to answer priority questions not covered by the global research evidence base. As noted by one key informant, the demand-driven nature of that programme is conducive to ensuring that the analyses conducted by the programme are strategically relevant to the country, not just of high quality. This is an approach that could support the relevance and coherence across other solutions.

Effectiveness and efficiency

At the height of global Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, SCORE (the precursor to The Evidence Fund) was able to hold virtual events that broadened internal and external stakeholder engagement without the cost

⁴¹ REACH, 2019. 2018 Activity Report. Available at: [https://www.reach-initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/REACH - AR - 2018 - FINAL - V1.pdf](https://www.reach-initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/REACH_-_AR_-_2018_-_FINAL_-_V1.pdf)

implications or logistical arrangements associated with in-person engagement. The Evidence Fund has generated evidence on effectiveness related to evidence uptake. According to the 2021 annual review, there are early indications that the programme is presenting good value for money in terms of both efficiency and effectiveness; there is a volume of diverse research being funded at pace, with relatively low overall investment.

Sustainability and scalability/replicability

Ensuring alignment between centrally managed programmes and the requirements of national stakeholders is an essential component of sustainability. The 2021 Annual Review of The Evidence Fund underscored “the importance of consulting and engaging country teams in designing and implementing centrally managed programmes, ensuring that programme activities are aligned with FCDO country priorities. As a model this could be replicated to deliver greater buy-in of national stakeholders.

General conclusions

In addition to the specific conclusions presented on different types of solutions, the following are general conclusions:

- For both technological and process categories, **the solutions that show promise require creative work across sectors**. This includes use of different types of data and collecting, triangulating, analysing and interpreting evidence for a more nuanced understanding of the dynamics and drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition, and how they need to be addressed through humanitarian responses.
- Supporting creative ways of working will require **greater attention on data system interoperability** (including on the basic principles of interoperability such as creating and instituting standardised classifications), an issue that was not highlighted in the available evidence on the solutions that were assessed in Part 2. This is perhaps an area needing more attention to ensure effectiveness, coherence, and sustainability.
- In complex operating environments, **effective advocacy and engagement of decision-makers are critical success factors** in the performance of data solutions. Approaches categorised as enhancing data use have often included meaningful in-country stakeholder participation, and the development of country stakeholders' capacities to use data throughout a programme's lifecycle (from conceptualisation, through to implementation, interpretation and use).
- With some exceptions, **leadership and effective implementation of data solutions seem to be driven by donors and international partners**. There appears to be a need to make space for leadership by country actors. In complex operating environments, the operational requirements to deploy data solutions are not addressed in a sustainable way. Questions remain on how the assessed solutions can truly augment existing systems (early warning, surveillance and monitoring).
- There is a focus on the mechanics of overcoming a particular barrier or challenge and **insufficient attention on grounding that effort in core analytical competencies** and a framework that guides stakeholders to interrogate, quality assure and interpret evidence.
- All solutions should concentrate on the effective use of data and analysis as a priority, specifically **to ensure that evidence can be appropriately applied to specific decision-making processes**.
- With few exceptions, the assessed solutions are not particularly sensitive to the situation of affected populations (in that the data produced by the reviewed innovations has not generally been

disaggregated by key variables, such as gender), and there is a need to **mainstream principles of the Inclusive Data Charter**. More specifically, there must be redoubled focus on understanding disparities and heightened vulnerabilities and their drivers. This includes but is not limited to data disaggregation according to variables that need to be addressed in humanitarian responses and assessing assumptions around changing events that should activate timely humanitarian and mitigation measures.

- Based on available evidence, the Covid-19 pandemic created an enabling environment for some data solutions, but in the majority of cases concerns about quality meant these were **not sustained once restrictions were lifted**.

Lessons related to the theory of change

The performance evaluation analysis provides lessons relating to the theory of change ([Box 1](#)), particularly its underlying assumptions. The variability across time and settings, even within the same country, requires routine monitoring of the assumptions described below.

National buy-in and political will

As identified in both Parts 1 and 2 of the evaluation, the politicisation of data is a major disruptor of the theory of change. There are promising exceptions such as the evolution of Cadre Harmonisé and inaccessible area monitoring in Nigeria, where there is government leadership and ownership (but not yet financing). Evolution of stakeholder buy-in and contributions (e.g., data sharing) to operationalising and refining the FSNAU dashboard in Somalia is another positive exception.

However, in many settings, tensions and lines of delineation between international partners and national governments impede use of data solutions that are implemented as intended, are sensitive to the situation of affected populations and are of appropriate scale to enhance humanitarian responses. For solutions to realise their full potential, there needs to be political will on the side of national governments to commit to them (including to the principles of transparency and objectivity), and, on the side of humanitarian partners, a political will to allow national governments to become meaningfully involved (in the absence of transferring full ownership). Put simply, national governments need to open themselves up to scrutiny and the potential consequences of this, and humanitarian partners need to trust that national governments will not excessively manipulate evidence to support a political agenda. It will take time for this scenario to be fully realised and will most likely depend on systematic changes on both sides. For example, achieving legislative autonomy of statistical/data entities in a country which is respected by the wider government.

Adequate resourcing

Resourcing in the immediate and short terms usually exists – but with a reliance on international donors. However, multi-year funding is not always available, which is a challenge given that the solutions examined in Part 2

need time to gain traction among stakeholders. In addition to potential clearing houses matching domestic and international funding, national funding and national support also need to be developed for these solutions where it is possible.

Adherence to principles of the Inclusive Data Charter

There is a need for greater focus on operationalising all principles of the Inclusive Data Charter – but in particular principles 2 and 5 on data disaggregation and capacity building – to address critical issues such as inclusion of all populations, adequate disaggregation, triangulation, accountability, transparency and capacity.

Erosion of capacities

For most of the data solutions assessed in Part 1 (evidence synthesis), there is limited evidence of adequate investment in local capacity building, particularly for local analytical and data use capacity. If basic capacity is never established, then capacity erosion is irrelevant.

The data–action link

Even when data is available and analysed, there are impediments to timely and effective humanitarian action. This was observed in northern Ethiopia, where high-tech remote sensing signalled changing dynamics that were early manifestations of a crisis, but there were lags in galvanising a humanitarian response in that part of the country.

Recommendations

The evaluation team has formulated recommendations, guidance, and criteria for FCDO based on the analyses from Parts 1 and 2. This section presents the following:

- Recommendations for FCDO
- Guidance on best practice identified throughout the evaluation
- Guidance on how FCDO can address challenges identified in Part 1 (evidence synthesis) of the evaluation in a way that ensures value for money and best use of available resources in a cost-constrained context
- Criteria for determining alternative versus conventional options

Recommendations to FCDO

Recommendation 1: Ensure that partnerships have suitable governance and steering committees by:

- Ensuring committees are representative of different stakeholders (with divergent political interests).
- Ensuring that committees work to avoid duplication of data and ensure harmonisation with other data collection and analysis activities by:
 - Conducting a comprehensive review of data collection and analysis already being conducted by other organisations before commencing activities.
 - If a programme of data collection or analysis is already being conducted by other organisations, explore opportunities to collaborate and pool resources with said organisations.
 - Similarly, if an FCDO programme is already conducting a similar data collection or analysis activity, recommending and facilitating collaboration between FCDO and other organisations.
 - This review and collaboration activity could be supported by a suite of tools such as sharable data dictionaries which would support harmonisation of key definitions and interoperability between sources as well as establishing standard practices for data sharing.
- Working to mitigate the politicisation of data and having oversight of whole data lifecycles (i.e., transparent preparation, collection, storage, analysis, publication, and retention/destruction) with the authority needed to keep actors accountable by:
 - Where possible, engaging directly with national authorities from the outset to promote and agree key principles of best practice (such as impartiality, independence and objectivity).

- Agreeing and putting in place standard data sharing practices between all actors (partners, authorities, donors and importantly crisis-affected populations).
- Where applicable, protecting operation actors from potential harm by establishing secondary data reviews to allow for publication of analysis.

Recommendation 2: Ensure that the team delivering the data components of programs includes staff with thematic and technical skills by:

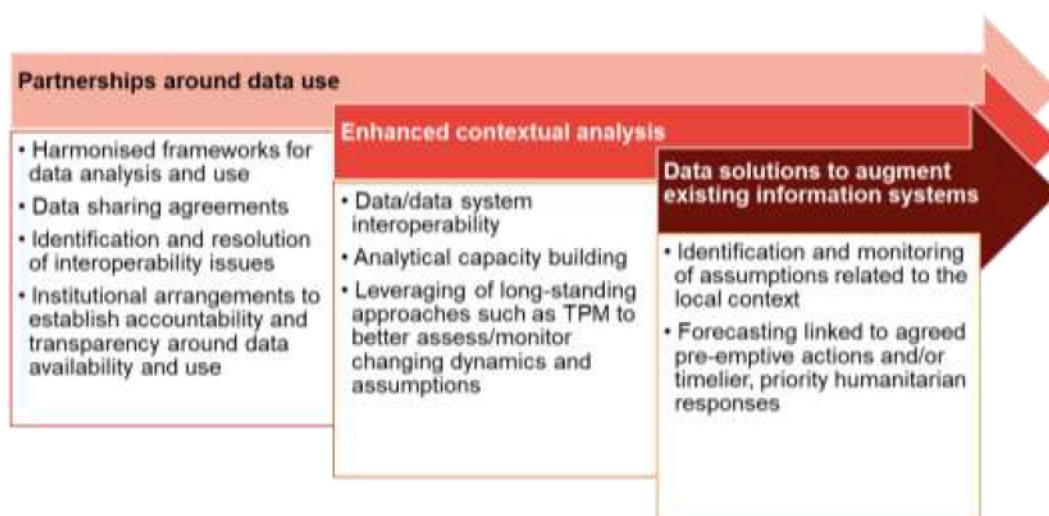
- Ensuring teams consist of a mixture of thematic and technical experts – for example, nutrition specialists, information system specialists and software engineers – from the start. This would mean shortfalls such as those in TPM caused by a lack of thematic knowledge can be avoided, and successful practices as seen in programmes like FSNAU in Somalia can be replicated.
- Preferably the thematic and technical specialists in programme teams that are working on data solutions should be local (i.e., nationals of a particular country). As is the case with FSNAU in Somalia. If the required skill levels cannot be found, the second-best option would be to embed FCDO experts (in-house or consultants) in the programme to work alongside local specialists, until they have developed the capacity to autonomously manage and deliver the program.

Guidance on best practice identified throughout the evaluation

1. Strengthening humanitarian data via three priority workstreams

The evaluation team recommends three key streams of work to strengthen humanitarian data, with partnerships and collaboratives around data use serving as the foundational element for the way forward ([Figure 1](#)). FCDO would work in tandem with other donors and international partners on those streams of work (e.g., using food security and nutrition clusters, intersectoral working groups and existing FCDO-supported programmes as entry points). Additional detail on how to leverage FCDO's role within critical partnerships is explored by FCDO's roles as an information user, funder and thought leader in the section below on [guidance addressing the challenges identified in Part 1](#).

Figure 1: Priority streams of work to address humanitarian data challenges



Partnerships around data use address critical elements such as:

- Harmonised frameworks for data analysis and use
- Data sharing agreements
- Identification and resolution of interoperability issues
- Institutional arrangements to establish accountability and transparency around data availability and use.

This foundation facilitates **enhanced contextual analysis**, which encourages:

- Data system interoperability
- Analytical capacity building
- Improvements to long-standing approaches such as TPM and to better assess changing dynamics and assumptions.

Coupled with enhanced contextual analysis, **data solutions** would augment existing information systems in complex operating environments, which should entail the following:

- Identification and monitoring of assumptions related to the local context
- Forecasting linked to agreed pre-emptive actions and/or timelier humanitarian responses.

2. Sharing lessons and best practice is required to scale up effective solutions.

At an organisational level FCDO is not sharing the evidence of what works consistently. Investment into data solutions and innovations could be more co-ordinated, this would enable more effective scaling-up of best practice and innovation. The ET recommend capitalising on two approaches to improve information sharing:

- **Internal pathways** within FCDO to communicate evidence and share learning on innovations and best practices across FCDO-supported geographies and streams of work (e.g., economic stabilisation, nutrition, conflict) using guidance and other internal tools.
- **External pathways**, leveraging FCDO's standing within existing multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral forums at global, regional and national levels, such as humanitarian clusters (global and country-level) and Scaling Up Nutrition platforms (global and country-level).

3. Optimising sustainability to ensure value for money.

Sustainability is a vital factor that will produce value for money in the long run. This can be done by building capacity which is conducive to national stakeholders' technical and managerial leadership:

- Build nutrition analytical capacity within nutrition information teams/units, and food security analytical capacity within food security/early warning system teams/units.
- In countries where there is demonstrated capacity and leadership on the part of the national government, support costing.
- Promote embedding of data solutions solely within country institutions.

This is both as a key factor in sustainability and an underlying assumption in our theory of change.

Other factors that could improve sustainability include addressing the politicisation of data, which is a major disruptor of the theory of change. There needs to be political buy-in that will lead to sustainable financing by national governments and other in-country stakeholders. Often this is not the case as evidence from the six sample countries reveals continued dependence on international partner funding and technical support.

Guidance on addressing challenges identified in Part 1 (evidence synthesis)

As stated in the [guidance on best practice](#), partnerships and collaboratives around data use serve as the foundational element to strengthen

humanitarian data ecosystems. In this section guidance is grouped according to FCDO's different roles within a partnership: as an information user, an information funder and an information thought leader.

Leveraging FCDO's role as an information user

1. To enhance the quality, completeness, timeliness and usability of the information FCDO uses to inform decisions at global and country level, adopt a multi-pronged data for decision-making approach that:

- Checks the feasibility of, and if possible, supports the establishment and implementation of a harmonised, intersectoral, interagency analytical framework that can inform established processes such as IPC or CH, but also support real-time monitoring and enhanced contextual analysis (also applicable to FCDO's role as an information funder and thought leader).
- At a global (and possibly regional) level, triangulates data and works with analyst agencies to complete further analyses of evidence emerging from centrally managed programmes.
- At a country level, triangulates and further analyses evidence from bilateral programmes and programme decision-making.
- Package the above evidence in ready-to-use formats for business case development, geographical targeting and policy influence at global (e.g., through forums/platforms such as Scaling Up Nutrition) and country level.

2. Leveraging existing support mechanisms such as The Evidence Fund, enhance the capacity of FCDO country staff to formulate research questions, then triangulate, interpret and use evidence (quantitative and qualitative) on the context-specific drivers and determinants of food insecurity and/or malnutrition, not just on the levels and trends of conventional outcome indicators such as child stunting, child wasting, famine or extreme food crises.

Leveraging FCDO's role as an information funder

1. Support prospective-oriented work to strengthen early warning systems and projections. In countries where there already appears to be fledgling demand for contextual analysis (e.g., Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria), leverage approaches and capacities from existing demand-driven initiatives (e.g., The Evidence Fund) for:

- Thematic analysis to build a better understanding of context and needs in FCDO-supported geographies.
- Forward-looking analysis, including scenario-building.

2. Invest in institutionalising local analytical capacities for mixed-method data management, analysis and interpretation. This requires identifying ways to systematically utilise local capacities through practical, adaptable protocols and standard operating procedures.
3. Leverage global expertise (e.g., XCEPT) to advocate for the use of remote sensing, open-source data to understand the drivers, dynamics and direction of factors that impact food security and/or nutrition (e.g., conflict, destruction of land, infrastructure, etc.).
4. To further strengthen IPC and/or CH analyses, fund work that addresses data gaps impacting the quality of IPC acute food security classification (e.g., data from inaccessible/hard-to-reach areas; data on mortality, nutrition and displacement).
5. Enhancing the monitoring and reporting of research initiatives by documenting how research products are incorporated into policymaking (e.g., cited in policies, not just tracking the number of research products produced) and future programmes (e.g., ideas inform data facility of subsequent responses).
6. Based on FCDO's commitment to meeting the needs of affected populations and in accordance with FCDO's commitment to the Inclusive Data Charter, commission formal evaluations of the data innovations that specifically assess how well these innovations meet the needs of affected population groups.

Leveraging FCDO's role as an information thought leader

1. As a champion of informed crisis response, pursue and/or invest in tailored data advocacy with stakeholders (e.g., international, national and sub-national policymakers and budget holders) around integrated evidence for policy decision-making, accountability, resource allocation and service delivery to optimise food security and nutrition outcomes in the short, medium, and long terms.
2. To support greater food security and nutrition integration, lead or influence the improved harmonisation, joined-up management and reduction of duplication of relevant calendars and plans for collection and analysis of food security and nutrition data (e.g., Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plans).
3. Promote and invest in efforts to monitor assumptions about change (e.g., hazards and threats, economic stability, population dynamics), not just conventional outcome indicators related to food security and nutrition.

4. In FCDO-supported countries, identify and pursue opportunities to support intersectoral monitoring approaches such as Humanitarian System Monitoring in inaccessible areas to mainstream food security and nutrition security sensitive vision, particularly for affected populations.
5. Leverage FCDO's position as a member of the SUN Global Donor Network, as well as its roles as a SUN Donor Convenor in Somalia and Co-Convenor in Nigeria and Yemen⁴² to disseminate learning on data solutions and innovations, and diffuse effective innovations across partners, as appropriate.
6. Although not sampled as programmes of focus for Part 2 of this evaluation, it would be beneficial to leverage FCDO platforms that explicitly ground evidence creation and analysis in decision-making needs – for example The Covid Collective, as a model for rapid generation of policy-relevant evidence to inform decision-making, helping country stakeholders navigate the nexus between crisis and recovery and The Evidence Fund, an internal support mechanism for FCDO country offices centring on context-specific research to answer priority questions not covered by the global research evidence base.⁴³
7. Advocate for Inclusive Data Charter, for example principles 2 and 5 on data disaggregation and capacity building.

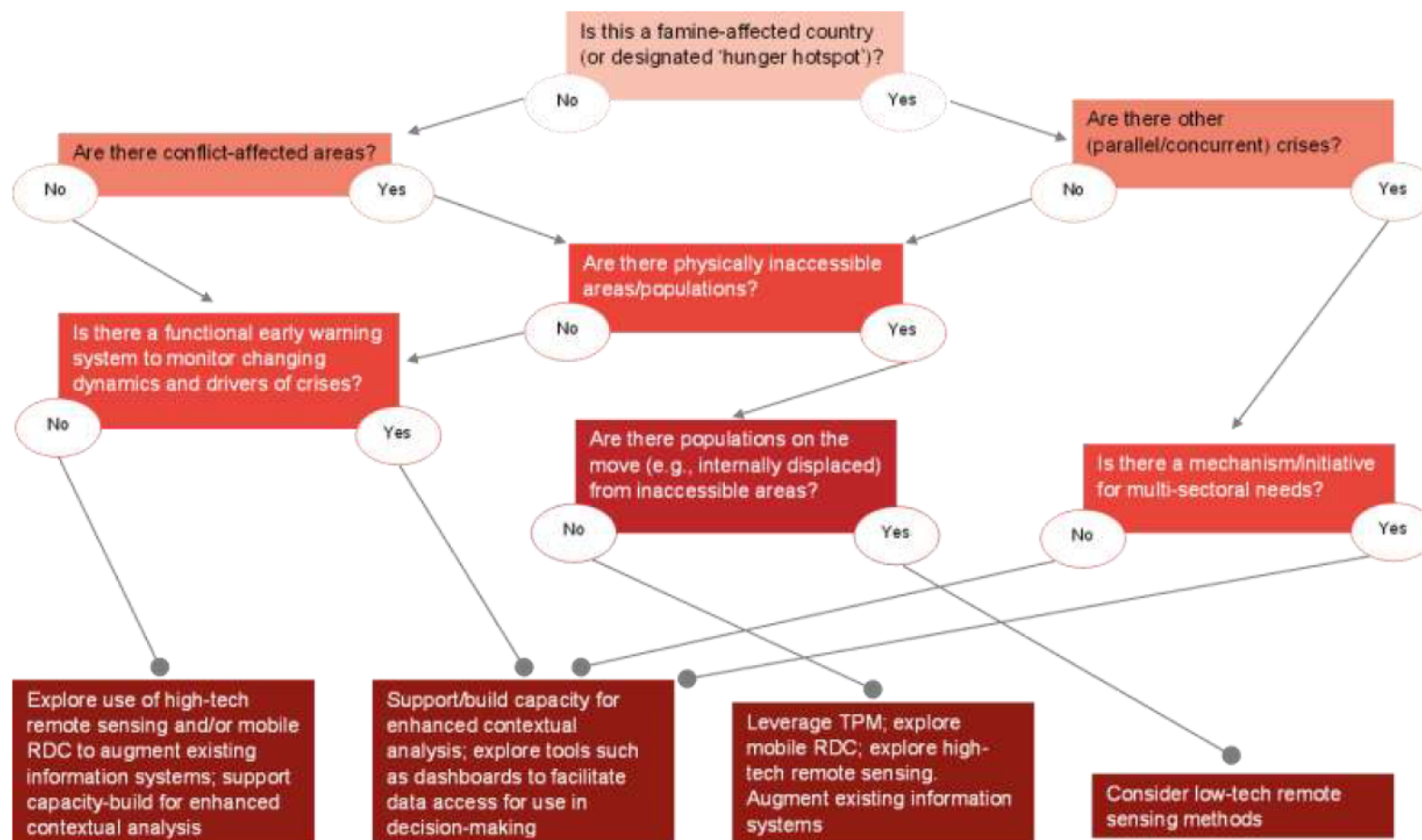
Criteria/conditions for determining alternative versus conventional options

Without cost-efficiency data, it is difficult to make specific recommendations on an approach to decision-making that centres on value for money. Nevertheless, there are opportunities to consider different tools and approaches that can enhance effectiveness and equity of FCDO's work. Key criteria and conditions are best presented in the form of decision trees.

⁴² Scaling Up Nutrition, 2022. SUN Donor Convenors. Available at: <https://scalingupnutrition.org/sun-countries/sun-donor-conveners> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

⁴³ FCDO, 2021. The Evidence Fund-Annual Review October 2021. Available at: https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/90000042.odt

Figure 2: Decision tree to aid in selection of options based local scenarios/conditions



Checklists of operational issues related to alternative approaches

Tables 3a-e present checklists of key operational considerations organised around five themes: aligning data with decision-making, vetting and selecting data solutions, adopting data solutions, financing data solutions and implementing data solutions. The checklists also highlight corresponding actions and whether they would be pursued by FCDO and/or other actors (e.g., government counterparts, other donors, implementing partners).

Table 3a: Operational considerations when aligning data with decision-making

Operational considerations	Actions	Action by
1. Quality data exists in the local context but is underutilised in decision-making.	<p>a. Map existing data (including national needs and demand) against priority decisions being made by FCDO and other humanitarian partners in the local context (e.g., for resource mobilisation, resource allocation, targeting, advocacy, etc.), to facilitate tailoring of approaches for sustainability.</p> <p>b. Conduct a bottleneck analysis to identify issues (e.g., improved timeliness, inclusion, data sharing issues) that need to be addressed to maximise use of existing evidence.</p>	<p>a. FCDO and other actors</p> <p>b. FCDO and other actors</p>

Operational considerations	Actions	Action by
2. There is a need to better understand local dynamics and assumptions underpinning risk/crises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Leverage TPMs to gather intelligence. b. Partner locally to identify/refine thresholds pertaining to local evidence that should catalyse coordinated responses and mitigation measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. FCDO b. FCDO and other actors
3. There is a need to make existing data tools/approaches more sensitive to the situation of affected populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Determine the extent to which there are coverage gaps in existing tools/approaches in relation to affected populations. b. Collaborate with grassroots actors, civil society and interest groups to explore ways that affected populations can have a voice in design, implementation and evaluation of data solutions that are responsive to local needs. c. Introduce/enhance mechanisms to track adherence (e.g., via humanitarian clusters) to Inclusive Data Charter principles in the local setting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. FCDO and other actors b. FCDO c. FCDO and other actors

Table 3b: Operational considerations when vetting and selecting data solutions

Operational considerations	Actions	Action by
1. There are risk dynamics and operational challenges to humanitarian assistance in the local context that require specific solutions.	a. Use decision tree presented in Figure 2 of this report to shortlist options.	a. FCDO
2. There are strengths (existing data systems, resources, inter-sectoral approaches) on which to build.	a. Use decision tree presented in Figure 2 of this report to shortlist options.	a. FCDO
3. Proof of concept has already been established in the local setting for data solution(s) under consideration.	a. Review learning and evaluation evidence. b. Take stock of any variation in contextual factors and operational constraints in areas where the data solution will be replicated.	a. FCDO and other actors b. FCDO and other actors

Table 3c: Operational considerations when adopting data solutions

Operational considerations	Actions	Action by
1. There is a need to implement the data solution(s) at scale	<p>a. Review red-line policies that prohibit who is engaged (e.g., direct government engagement) and/or where FCDO and partners can operate (e.g., government-controlled areas).</p> <p>b. Explore ways for actors (e.g., civil society actors, private sector actors, third party monitors) working in those areas to participate in cluster/intersectoral forums/platforms.</p>	<p>a. FCDO</p> <p>b. FCDO and other actors</p>
2. FCDO country advisers have constraints and/or capacity gaps to provide effective programme management for data initiatives under consideration.	<p>a. Develop guidance on priority data options for advisers.</p> <p>b. Leverage centrally managed programmes and mechanisms (e.g., the Help Desk) for country support.</p>	<p>a. FCDO</p> <p>b. FCDO</p>
3. The data solutions offer clear added value to existing country processes such as IPC or CH.	a. Explore in-country, institutional capacity related to the data solutions, with clear linkages to those broader processes.	a. FCDO and other actors

Table 3d: Operational considerations when financing data solutions

Operational considerations	Actions	Action by
1. Joint funding arrangements already exist among humanitarian partners to invest in data solutions that strengthen early warning systems, surveillance and/or real-time monitoring.	a. Pursue advocacy re: the proposed data solutions.	a. FCDO
2. FCDO (and/or other donors) must cover human resource costs (e.g., salaries, training) and/or other operational expenses associated with the data solution(s).	a. Explore cost efficiencies/cost-sharing opportunities with other donors and partners.	a. FCDO

Table 3e: Operational considerations when implementing data solutions

Operational considerations	Actions	Action by
1. The data solutions clearly fall within the mandate/remit of specific local institutions.	a. Assess the feasibility/capacity of government entities/units to house the implementation and rollout of the data solutions.	a. FCDO and other actors
2. There is an absence of technical leadership and capacity to ensure effective implementation.	a. Deploy global expertise from centrally managed programmes. b. Develop a harmonised approach to capacity development to support systematic transfer of knowledge, capacities and systems from international partners to national counterparts.	a. FCDO b. FCDO and other actors
3. There are mechanisms/systems to track and assess how the implemented data solutions are improving data coverage, completeness, timeliness and/or overall quality.	a. Develop and agree to a set of performance indicators for the data solutions in the short and medium terms.	a. FCDO and other actors

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Annexes

Annex 1: Original terms of reference for this evaluation

1. Introduction

FCDO is seeking a supplier to conduct a three-part thematic evaluation on the use of data and analysis to inform humanitarian crises response:

1. *Evidence review* summarising the challenges related to timely, accurate and comprehensive humanitarian-related primary data collection and analysis and identifying best practice, opportunities and limitations to respond to these challenges, with a focus on food security and nutrition data collection and analysis methods for needs assessments, targeting of interventions and measuring effectiveness.

2. *Performance evaluation* looking at the different approaches to data collection and analysis being adopted in response to these challenges before and during the Covid-19 pandemic by FCDO partners.

3. *Development of specific practical recommendations* to inform FCDO's decision-making on use and support of data and analysis in future crises responses, including identification of criteria for use of different data collection and analysis approaches.

The scope of the thematic evaluation will cover FCDO delivery partners collecting operational data as part of their delivery programmes as well partners focusing solely on data collection and analysis within a sample of countries.

2. Humanitarian data collection and analysis – background to the 'Difficult Data' challenge

Humanitarian programmes need to collect and analyse a range of data from transient people experiencing vulnerability in difficult, insecure and changing environments to understand and respond to humanitarian needs. There are a range of political, technical and operational barriers that limit the collection, analysis, sharing and use of quality, timely and complete information on crisis-affected people (their needs, their views and the risks they face) and the responses designed to support them.

Covid-19 has created new challenges and exacerbated existing major challenges for essential primary data collection and analysis needed to plan, deliver, monitor and evaluate humanitarian and development programmes. Physical access barriers (individual or geographical) related to lockdown measures, travel restrictions preventing deployments to crisis-affected areas and other challenges have been particularly limiting. Humanitarian actors have responded to these challenges by adopting alternative solutions, in the methods used for data collection (through switching to use of remote technologies, such as phone surveys and digital applications), as well as using alternative approaches (such as modelling, satellite data and other innovative technologies) to generate evidence and analysis needed to inform programme design, target aid recipients and monitor programme effectiveness.

3. FCDO support to humanitarian data collection

FCDO recognises the importance of data and digital technology to allow people to prepare for, respond to and recover from crises. Timely, accessible and good quality data and analysis is essential across the humanitarian programme cycle to understand and respond to crises. FCDO is using data analysis to drive better decision making in FCDO and the wider humanitarian community, making sure limited funding is allocated in the most efficient way to prepare for, respond to and recover from crises.

FCDO is involved in a range of activities through our policy, programmes and research to ensure that data is collected, shared and analysed across all stages of the humanitarian cycle to ensure humanitarian responses are efficient, effective and accountable to affected people. Through our centrally and bilaterally managed programmes, we fund a range of partners to collect and analyse operational, research and monitoring related data in crisis-affected countries. For example, FCDO supports global initiatives such as the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) – a multi-partner initiative to improve food security, nutrition analysis and decision-making, using a harmonised scale to classify severity and magnitude of acute and chronic food insecurity and malnutrition to promote evidence-based technical consensus amongst key stakeholders and to consolidate wide-ranging evidence to inform action.

Advocacy and engagement to encourage/improve good governance and responsible use of humanitarian data and analysis is also a key FCDO humanitarian policy objective. FCDO also funds a range of initiatives to

test and scale up new digital/data technologies used to improve humanitarian responses.

The table below highlights some of the relevant types of programmes we fund that we expect to be covered in this study.

Level	Methodology	Types of programmes
Centrally managed programmes	Assessed through key informant interviews and secondary evidence review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central funding for data collection and analysis partners such as INSO, Humanitarian 2 Humanitarian network • Funding for partners to support data governance and sharing (World Bank – UNHCR data centre) • Funding for partners to produce global secondary analysis including FAO IPC, REACH, GNC • Funding for partners to pilot and scale innovative digital technologies to collect and analyse data – GRID 3, Action Against Hunger
Country-level programmes	Assessed through interviews and light-touch project document review of selected partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding delivery partners (UN, INGO and local NGOs) to collect data for needs assessments, registration and monitoring • Funding partners such as REACH, IOM DTM to collect data and produce analysis to support responses • Funding partners such as ACAPs, Mercy Corps to produce secondary analysis • Funding partners to help coordinate and manage data (e.g., UN OCHA)

Inclusive Data Charter

As a 'Champion' of the IDC the UK has made explicit commitments to promote inclusive data. FCDO is developing an inclusive data action plan, building on the previous DFID action plan. This plan will include actions to ensure that humanitarian data collection methods and analysis processes are inclusive of marginalised people; that data is drawn from all available sources and disaggregated to describe all populations; and that there is accountability of those who collect and use data. We expect this study to be guided by the principles of the Charter and to provide insights on the implications of the Covid-19 crisis for collecting more inclusive data; highlight innovative practices; and identify areas for FCDO to strengthen its own capabilities and the capabilities of the humanitarian system.

4. FCDO and strategic, thematic evaluation

Strategic, centrally managed thematic evaluations are a new priority for evaluation at FCDO. Thematic evaluations will draw together evidence and learning from FCDO-funded programmes on 'what works' across different contexts to address high priority development challenges, such as what has worked to address the primary and secondary impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in LMICs, climate change and other key Ministerial priorities.

Thematic evaluations are led by the FCDO's Evaluation Unit, within the FCDO Economic and Evaluation Directorate, working closely with relevant policy and programme teams within FCDO. The Evaluation Unit will commission a series of three to four thematic evaluations this financial year, using rapid evidence review and light-touch learning techniques to explore strategic priority areas and create targeted, user-focused thematic evaluation products that can feed into upcoming policy influencing and programme portfolio-level decision-making opportunities.

5. Purpose and objectives

The overall purpose of the requirements set out in this Terms of Reference is to provide a strong evidence base on how humanitarian actors are responding and could respond to the scale, nature and impact of this 'Difficult Data' problem, through synthesis of secondary evidence from key FCDO, partner and external actors and evaluation of data collection and analysis approaches and methodologies used in FCDO-funded interventions.

The evaluation should enable FCDO to make decisions on when it is appropriate to use the data collection and analysis approaches under review, by providing clear recommendations on when these alternative approaches are likely to be more effective and provide better value for money than other options, or when conventional options should be used.

Key objectives of the evaluation are to document examples of best practice available and innovative methods being developed, and to propose evidenced recommendations to inform how FCDO responds. This should take into consideration the three ways that FCDO utilises evidence:

1. Information user – what is the quality, completeness and timeliness of the information we are using to inform decisions at global and country level?
2. Information funder – how can we use our funding to help respond to or address data collection/analysis challenges?
3. Information thought leader/advocate – as a champion of informed crisis response, are we making sure we advocate effectively on the challenges, solutions and implications of constrained primary data collection and use?

The purpose and objectives for the three successive parts of the thematic evaluation are as follows:

First stage – evidence synthesis

The purpose of this component is to aggregate and synthesise secondary evidence available (from FCDO and other sources) to build an understanding of the challenges (political, technical and operational) related to collection and analysis of humanitarian data on food security and nutrition (both existing challenges and opportunities, as well as how Covid-19 has exacerbated these issues). The main focus of the synthesis will be to identify, review and appraise examples of innovations and good practice (operational or technical) that are being used to respond to these challenges to inform effective operational responses.

Second stage – performance evaluation

This should focus upon FCDO-funded interventions collecting, analysing and using data in selected crises-affected countries. The evaluation should provide descriptive data on data-related interventions in use (on frequency of use, costs etc) and evaluate the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of alternative methods (encompassing both alternative means of data collection and

dissemination, and alternative approaches such as modelling) adopted before and during the Covid-19 pandemic and other crises.

Third stage – recommendations

The evaluation should propose specific, practical and action-oriented recommendations for FCDO on how to address the challenges. If alternative approaches are recommended (both for the Covid-19 response and beyond), this should make clear the criteria that should be in place for these approaches to be applied and propose additional recommendations for how they can be adopted, financed, implemented and incentivised in different contexts. These recommendations will be used by FCDO to select and apply appropriate data collection and analysis solutions to support FCDO-funded interventions managed at country level, centrally and through multilateral institutions.

6. The recipient

The recipient of these services is the FCDO Evaluation Unit. The primary target audiences for the thematic evaluation products are 1) FCDO Humanitarian and Migration Directorate, 2) FCDO Humanitarian Cadre/Advisors, 3) the FCDO Research and Evidence Directorate: Humanitarian Research Team, 4) FCDO Global Health Directorate: Nutrition Team.

Secondary target audiences for the evaluation products are:

- FCDO country offices and other government departments funding humanitarian response
- Other donors/potential donors funding humanitarian responses
- Populations affected by humanitarian crises, that humanitarian response interventions should assist
- For published outputs, audiences will also include humanitarian partners; the humanitarian and development aid communities; academic institutions and civil society organisations operating in this field as well as the UK public.

7. Research on humanitarian data collection

Prior to the Covid-19 outbreak, FCDO funded research with Tufts/CHC on the Complexity/Politics of information, synthesising findings and recommendations from a range of country case studies (South Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria, Yemen, Ethiopia and Kenya). The research ([The Constraints and Complexities of Information and Analysis](#)) focused on the

political economy of data sharing and analysis and highlighted a range of operational, technical and political challenges to producing timely, accurate and comprehensive food security and nutrition analysis. Some of the key challenges identified included: political pressure to influence analysis to avoid scrutiny or influence funding decisions; the lack of sex, age, and disability disaggregated data; and the underuse of qualitative data. Recommendations from the study relate to strengthening existing technical capacity, improved coordination, more triangulation of evidence and greater independence.

Tufts University has since published further studies on related topics:

2020 Hindsight? The Ecosystem of Humanitarian Diagnostics and Its Application to Anticipatory Action. This paper sets out a conceptual framework for studying humanitarian information systems and differentiates between ‘diagnostic information’ to understand the problem and who is affected, and ‘evaluative information’ that contributes to the evidence base about ‘what works’.

Early Warning and Early Action: commissioned by the FAO to examine the links between early warning and early action in East Africa (IGAD region) and what role(s) predictive analytics and machine learning can play in supporting EW-EA.

Seeing in the Dark: Real-Time Monitoring in Humanitarian Crises: this paper examines real-time monitoring (RTM), how it fits into a humanitarian information system, how systems adjusted toward RTM in 2020 in response to Covid-19 and provides a series of case studies of RTM systems, their objectives, and their outcomes.

The Politics of Information and Analysis in Famines and Extreme Emergencies: Synthesis of Findings from Six Case Studies: this study documents political influences on data collection and analysis in famine and extreme food security crises, synthesising findings from six different country case studies, and recommends good practice for better managing political influences.

FCDO has also supported the Modelling Early Risk Indicators to Anticipate Malnutrition (MERIAM) project to develop, test and scale up models to improve the prediction and monitoring of undernutrition in countries that experience frequent climate and conflict related shocks.

This existing research provides a good understanding of primary data collection and secondary analysis challenges in this field. The supplier should build on this to understand how Covid-19 has created new or exacerbated existing challenges. The requirements of this Terms of Reference focus upon obtaining more complete information on the different innovations and solutions (technical, operational and political) that are being used or could be used (based on evidence from other sectors) to address these challenges. This should include technology and innovations that has not been captured in depth in other studies.

8. Scope

This 'Difficult Data' issue will affect all FCDO programming, but we have focused the scope of this study on the following criteria:

- **Sector** – this should focus upon data and analysis required to monitor, predict and respond to food security and nutrition. Focus on this sector given global food insecurity risks and it is a key FCDO policy priority.
- **Types of data** – this study should focus upon data collection and analysis approaches and methods to gather and analyse disaggregated data relevant for assessing food insecurity drivers, risks, needs and responses including:
 - Food insecurity assessments
 - Situational data on food insecurity drivers including economic, environmental, conflict and access-related information, and data on social inequalities relating to gender etc.
 - Early warning and real-time monitoring information
 - Malnutrition data
 - Mortality and population data
 - Response targeting and delivery monitoring (including beneficiaries' perspectives on whether their needs are met)
 - This should include methods to gather disaggregated data in all of the above.

- **Types of solutions**

- Technical: digital innovations (remote collection, sensors and geospatial, social media, artificial intelligence and machine learning etc)
- Data types: quantitative and qualitative, expert judgement or community data
- Operational: ways of working and standard operating procedure, adapting data collection and analysis methodologies, greater participation or community led data collection
- Political: how resources and responsibilities have been prioritised, coordinated and deployed.

- **Geography and Actors**

- For the evidence review (Part 1 – evidence synthesis), we expect the supplier to interview a range of key global stakeholders. This should include interviews with FCDO partners as well as any key non-FCDO-funded actors identified in the selected countries to complement global findings and country programme evaluations.
- The performance evaluation (Part 2 below) will focus on FCDO-funded programmes, both centrally managed and country-office led in a limited number of countries at risk of extreme food insecurity (as defined by FCDO monitoring data). Case study countries will be selected to provide spread across regions and variation in terms of data collection capacity, challenges and approach. Suggested countries include Afghanistan, Yemen, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, DRC and an additional Sahel country. The specific programmes and countries will be finalised during the inception period in consultation with FCDO country teams. The programmes should include direct delivery partners collecting data as part of their operations (needs assessment, monitoring) as well partners collecting and analysing data to support wider response efforts.

9. Methodology and approach

The supplier is expected to develop an appropriately rigorous evaluation design and methodology during the scoping phase based on the evaluation questions below. The evaluation approach should be *utilisation-focused*, ensuring that the evaluation is useful and used by key stakeholders.

It is expected that this evaluation will be conducted through quantitative and qualitative analysis of data available on the different approaches and data collecting methodologies being adopted in response to these challenges before and during the Covid-19 pandemic. Some evaluation and monitoring data on FCDO-funded programmes are publicly available, such as business cases, log frames, annual reviews, project completion reviews and evaluations, however it is expected that the supplier will need to obtain further data from programmes included within the sample.

As the programmes included in the evaluation will be using a range of data collection modalities in diverse contexts, it will be important that the evaluation sets its findings in the context of both the interventions and locations. The evaluation should make clear the strength of evidence supporting the findings. The evaluation team should balance the need for analytical rigour with the need for a light-touch approach to information collection from busy FCDO actors and partner organisations.

The inception phase should include:

1. Development of both an analytical framework for the evidence mapping (Part 1 below) and overarching ToC or intervention logic for the evaluation (Part 2 below). This should highlight key assumptions and available supporting evidence.
 - a. Assessment of evaluability options for the evaluation component based on the ToC:
 - b. Refining/clarification of evaluation questions, based on the ToC and considering the purpose of the evaluation
 - c. Assessment of proposed evaluation approaches and recommendations for strengthening/improving, if necessary
 - d. Assessment of availability of data sources and access to key stakeholders (particularly policy decision-makers in LMICs) to address the evaluation questions.

Part 1 of the evaluation should include a review of relevant secondary information looking at academic and operational information on this topic from Covid and pre-Covid research on data collection and analysis methods for research on socially excluded populations (including resources such as the World Bank report on data collection in fragile states or research from Humanitarian Outcomes).

Part 2 of the evaluation will be a performance evaluation to assess the contribution of the data collection and analysis solutions adopted towards achieving data-related objectives for humanitarian needs analysis in a sample of up to six countries (see Section 8). It will examine the implementation processes as well as contribution towards achieving the intended objectives.

The evaluation should also include qualitative interviews (during Part 1 and Part 2) with relevant key informants involved in design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes included. These should include FCDO staff, partners and external key actors at international and country level with relevant topic or country knowledge. The evaluation should use descriptive data to summarise information collected during Part 1 and Part 2 of the evaluation.

The supplier should set out clearly how the evaluation will address crosscutting issues such as conflict-sensitivity, prevention of sexual abuse and harassment, gender equality and social inclusion, in relation the data collection approaches used for food security and nutrition.

The supplier should also outline how the evaluation will strengthen accountability to affected populations through measures to ensure diverse and meaningful participation of crisis-affected people and civil society in evidence collection, analysis, and dissemination of findings.

Given the desire to generate evaluation evidence rapidly to feed into ongoing UK government policy and programme decision-making, a joint or partnership-based evaluation is not being considered. FCDO staff are in regular communication with peer agencies with an interest in this field and will ensure coordination with other planned evaluations and that findings are disseminated in a timely manner. A steering committee of FCDO and key external contacts will review evaluation outputs.

The evaluation will be structured around three interrelated components, as set out below. These are based on different information sources and areas of enquiry.

Part 1: Evidence synthesis

The supplier should conduct an evidence synthesis, using secondary sources and qualitative interviews with key FCDO, partner and external actors (at global and country level), to summarise key challenges, implications and importantly document solutions and opportunities for

collecting and analysing food security and nutrition data collection and analysis (both before and during Covid-19). The supplier should combine secondary evidence with insights into FCDO programmes within selected countries using appropriate analytical frameworks (e.g., recognised data quality frameworks) to complete the tasks below.

The main focus of evidence synthesis should be to identify and appraise current or potential solutions and innovations to address the identified challenges. Thus, supplier should direct the majority of effort for this stage of the evaluation to deliver the task (3) below.

1. Provide a summary of the key challenges, barriers and opportunities (technical, operational and political) to collect the necessary primary data collection and analysis before and during the Covid-19 pandemic to understand food insecurity drivers and severity of malnutrition, needs and deliver effective responses.
 - a. Provide a summary of the implications of the limitations and constraints upon data collection and analysis before and during the Covid-19 pandemic on food security and nutrition-related analysis and subsequently response including in areas such as:
 - b. Accuracy – completeness, bias, coverage, level of disaggregation
 - c. Accountability – extent to which perceptions and preferences of affected people are represented, particularly people subjected to marginalisation, and extent to which affected people have access to relevant information to hold actors to account
 - d. Availability – timeliness and frequency
 - e. Political economy – what positive and negative behaviours has this caused (greater coordination or competition amongst data collectors)
 - f. Provide a summary of the solutions being adopted, or that could be adopted, by FCDO, its partners and the wider sector to respond to the identified challenges and limit the negative impacts of impeded data collection and analysis both before and during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This summary should include an initial assessment of how well each solution is able to improve the quality, coverage, inclusion and completeness of data and analysis, based on the data available. This evidence should provide readers with a set of potential options that could be considered when trying to respond to data/analysis challenges. This should identify solutions already being implemented across different contexts and actors and propose potential further solutions as relevant. Solutions covered should include adapted processes, better ways of

working, alternative data sources, new methodologies and new/innovative digital technologies.

It could also include solutions being used beyond the humanitarian sector to address issues of obtaining information on hard-to-reach populations (for example from development interventions, academia or the private sector). Examples of best practice and gaps across different contexts and actors should be clearly presented, using descriptive data as appropriate. (70% focus).

The analytical framework used for the evidence review should be informed by an appropriate framework for assessing data quality, for example, the IDRC Research Quality Plus Framework. The analytical framework should also specify where evidence has been triangulated by different sources. There is a risk that some evidence will be self-confirmatory, as interviewees may also be authors of programme documentation.

Part 2: Performance evaluation of different approaches and data collecting/analysis methodologies

Using the information captured in the evidence synthesis, an evaluation framework should be developed to appraise the different solutions and approaches to data collection and analysis identified, focusing on up to six case study countries (see countries listed in Section 8). This evaluation framework should be based on the questions below:

Relevance

- Are the data collection and analysis approaches and methodologies sensitive to the situation of affected populations? Do they consider social inequalities relating to gender, age, disability and other relevant identities? Are they inclusive of marginalised groups?
- Are they appropriate to the situation and data needs? Are trade-offs being made in the types of information being gathered, are some types of data prioritised over others?
- Do no harm: are the new approaches and modalities conflict sensitive and ensure mitigation for risks to the safety, security and dignity of the affected population?

Coherence

- How well do these data collection and analysis solutions relate to and coordinate with other data-related interventions in the country/across the sector? Are they isolated examples of good practice or being used at scale? Descriptive statistics to illustrate

the scale and coverage of different solutions across different countries should be included in the response to this question.

Effectiveness

- Effectiveness: are these data collection and analysis solutions able to provide the information needed, at the right time, with enough quality/reliability? Where are the gaps; what is not being covered?
- Early warning and real-time monitoring: have the new data collection/analysis approaches been sufficiently able to predict potential issues of concern? If not, what are the reasons for this? Is it due to problems with data, its analysis or other factors?

Efficiency

- Do the data collection/analysis solutions represent good value for money, especially in comparison to previous or other available modalities?
- Under what conditions are they able to provide better, similar or almost as **good** quality of evidence as existing/conventional tools and methods?
- What are the trade-offs or gains being made in terms of evidence quality and coverage when these new tools and methods are used?

Sustainability

- Are the data collection solutions able to be resourced and maintained over the medium term during the Covid-19 pandemic, and for other humanitarian crises simultaneously or in the future?

Part 3: Recommendations

Produce a clear set of specific prioritised recommendations for FCDO on:

- How to address the challenges identified in a manner that ensures value for money and best use of available resources in a cost-constrained context
- Criteria/conditions that should be met to enable optimum application of the alternative data collection and analysis approaches under review and the criteria/conditions when existing/conventional approaches would be recommended
- Sharing lessons and best practice to support and scale up effective solutions
- If alternative approaches are recommended to address the challenges identified, additional recommendations for how they can be adopted, financed, implemented and incentivised in different contexts, should be proposed.

10. The requirements

The supplier is expected to provide the following deliverables:

a) **Kick-off meeting:** on initiation of the project the suppliers will review and reconfirm the planned scope and approach.

b) **Inception report:** this should be provided in MS Word and include:

- Proposed analytical framework and methodology for evidence mapping (Part 1)
- Theory of change, key assumptions and available supporting evidence
- Assessment of evaluability options
- Evaluation framework (for Part 2) including updated evaluation questions, evaluation design and methodology to be followed
- Proposed case study countries and programmes to be included in Part Two
- Documenting of key risks to the evaluation and mitigating actions
- Work plan for conducting all three parts of the evaluation: evidence mapping, programme evaluation and development of recommendations
- Details of data collection instruments to collect the data required for the evaluation and storage of data in compliance with data protection laws. Datasets should be available for secondary analysis in compliance with the [FCDO open access data policy](#)
- Plan for engaging stakeholders, communication and uptake of evaluation findings
- Timeline for completion of key tasks
- Proposed structure for the reports on Part 1 and Parts 2 and 3 combined (see below)
- Details of the evaluation team including their experience and how they are suitable to conduct this evaluation.

c) Reports for publication

- Report on Part 1 – evidence synthesis
- Report on Parts 2 and 3 – evaluation and recommendations

Both reports for publication should be concise and logically structured, with a focus on meeting the overall purpose and objectives of thematic evaluation and responding to the evaluation questions. Draft version of the report should be shared with FCDO for feedback and a final version should be submitted that addresses the feedback received. Reports should include an executive summary and be no more than 25 pages in length (not including contents page, executive summary, acronyms,

annexes, references, etc.). Reports should be presented in a fully accessible, easy to read format (PDF/A and open document format), using non-technical language, visuals and graphics to highlight key points. Reports should comply with accessibility requirements for publication on gov.uk.

The report should make clear the strength of evidence that supports the findings and a clear distinction should be made in the findings of the report, between those that are based upon independently verified evaluation evidence and those that are based on data included in annual reviews and project completion reports (not independently verified).

- d) **Q&A session for FCDO reference group** to take place once draft report on Part 1 (evidence synthesis) is available.
- e) **Q&A session for FCDO advisors** to take place once the draft report for Part 2 is available, to gather feedback and feed into development of Part 3 recommendations.
- f) **Presentation slides** that can be used by FCDO to share the final report with stakeholders.
- g) **Presentation of key findings to key stakeholders within FCDO/HMG and external partners** via webinars, timed to allow participation of stakeholders in case study countries as well as UK.
- h) **Two-page policy summary**: for briefing policy decision-makers on findings of the evaluation, using non-technical, easily accessible language, with visuals and graphics to highlight/illustrate key points, submitted in PDF/A and open document format.

The evaluation should adhere to international best-practice standards in evaluation, including the OECD DAC International Quality Standards for Development Evaluation, the OECD DAC Principles for Development Evaluation and FCDO's Ethics Guidance for Research, Evaluation and Monitoring.

11. Submitting a proposal

Proposals should clearly set out the supplier's suggested approach to conducting the thematic evaluation, in line with the requirements set out in this Terms of Reference, team skills and experience and proposed team composition. The final evaluation questions, scope, sample countries and

methodology for project delivery will be agreed between FCDO and the selected supplier at the end of the inception stage.

The proposal should set out an approach to engaging stakeholders and communication and uptake of evaluation findings; and explain how they will address challenges and risks to the evaluation.

Proposals should include the CVs for all project staff and clarify roles and responsibilities of each member of the project team(s) (including days required for each and the associated day rates) and total budget inclusive all taxes.

12. Skills and experience required

The team should include the following expertise:

- Direct field experience of food security and nutrition-related primary data collection and analysis, particularly in the countries to be included in the evaluation
- A strong understanding of the global humanitarian, food security and nutrition sectors including good theoretical and operational knowledge of relevant analytical frameworks and standards, including relevant gender and inclusive approaches
- Knowledge and understanding of the local/national context in countries at risk of extreme food security, particularly those proposed above for inclusion in the sample (Afghanistan, Yemen, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, DRC and the Sahel)
- Operational and technical experience and knowledge of a range of quantitative and qualitative data collection modalities
- Demonstrable experience of carrying out similar evaluations for DFID/FCDO/HMG and/or other major development donors or organisations
- Demonstrable understanding of the key issues related to use of evidence for programme design, implementation and policy influencing
- Significant experience in portfolio-level evaluation, quantitative and qualitative research, synthesis and analysis skills
- Excellent communications skills, including writing for policy audiences and ability to distil succinct conclusions presented in non-technical language.

13. Budget

Maximum budget £120,000 excluding VAT but inclusive of all other taxes.

14. Constraints and dependencies

Stakeholder availability – interviews with key informants should be conducted virtually due to Covid restrictions on travel. Schedules should allow flexibility to accommodate likely constraints on availability due to heavy workloads and competing urgent priorities.

FCDO staff will be able to facilitate connections with relevant partners, but suppliers should have good existing awareness of and connections with global key informants and be able to identify appropriate country-level key informants. The supplier will be able to access externally available FCDO programme documentation via the [DevTracker](#) website but access to additional programme information and data will vary across contexts and partners so the methodology should take this into account.

Suppliers will have to take a light touch and flexible approach to collecting information in response to operational pressures and changing contexts. The supplier should have the appropriate knowledge, credentials, reputation and contacts to ensure good engagement with technical partners in this area. Suppliers are encouraged to consider the benefits of engaging locally based team members to facilitate engagement in countries included in the sample.

FCDO wishes to commission an independent objective evidence review and evaluation. It is recognised that some team members proposed by the supplier may have prior experience with one or more of the interventions to be examined by the study. Prior involvement with programmes likely to be included within the sample should be declared in the proposal for all team members and the supplier should demonstrate in the proposal the mechanisms that will be put in place to ensure the integrity and independence of the evidence review and evaluation.

15. Performance requirements

FCDO will set key performance indicators (KPIs) to ensure that the evaluation is delivered in a timely manner and meets expected quality standards. KPIs will relate to:

- Timeliness and quality of outputs delivered
- Provision of relevant recommendations for FCDO to address challenges identified, share learning and best practice, and support scale up and implementation of solutions proposed
- Evaluation outputs are presented in formats that are accessible to a range of FCDO audiences (especially those without specialist knowledge) and contain summaries, with appropriate summaries and infographics to aid use and communication

- Clear communication and timely, accurate financial reporting throughout contract (forecasts provided on time).

Payments may be withheld if outputs do not meet expected quality standards and/or are delivered late.

The supplier should arrange regular check in meetings with FCDO at key stages to provide progress updates.

16. Reporting and timeframe

It is anticipated that the thematic evaluation will commence July 2021 and will have a 26-week timeframe from signing the contract.

Reports are expected as detailed below.

Deliverable	Date expected (after contract signing)	Proportion of total level of effort
Kick-off meeting	1 week	0%
Inception report	4 weeks	25%
Part 1 final report and Q&A session for FCDO reference group	10 weeks	30%
Part 2 final report and Q&A session with FCDO advisors	20 weeks	30%
Part 3 Final report	22 weeks	10%
Presentation slides	23 weeks	5% (across presentation slides, presentation and policy summary)
Presentation to key stakeholders	24 weeks	5% (across presentation slides, presentation and policy summary)
Two-page policy summary	25 weeks	5% (across presentation slides, presentation and policy summary)

In line with FCDO's evaluation policy, the evaluation reports will be published together with a management response setting out how FCDO

will respond to the recommendations. The scoping report, protocol and evaluation report will be independently quality assured by the FCDO Evaluation Quality Assurance and Learning Service (EQuALS).

17. Use and influence

The findings, lessons and recommendations from this evidence review and thematic evaluation will inform and influence delivery of interventions to support the global call to action to protect the world's poorest people from coronavirus and the increasing threat of famine, led by the UK. It will also be used by FCDO advisors to guide future engagement with humanitarian actors on data collection and analysis interventions and will inform future programme design, implementation and the development of appropriate M&E strategies.

The report will be published on the Research for Development Outputs page on gov.uk so that findings may be used by other donors and agencies working in this field.

18. Break points

The contract will be subject to a break point after completion of the inception report and after completion of Part 1 (evidence synthesis) report. Continuation of the services after these periods will be based on renewed agreement of deliverables and on satisfactory performance and the progress of the supplier against the specified outputs.

19. FCDO coordination and governance

The supplier will report to the FCDO Evaluation Unit Evaluation Advisor (Thematic Lead) and the Head of Evaluation Unit. A reference group will be established by FCDO to provide technical advice to the evaluation.

To ensure effective governance of the evaluation, the scoping report and reports will be signed off by the FCDO Evaluation Advisor and the Reference Group convened by FCDO. The scoping report and the final reports for Parts 1, 2 & 3 will also be quality assured by the FCDO Evaluation Quality Assurance Service (EQuALS).

20. Other requirements

- Compliance with FCDO's Environmental and Social Safeguards and the Ethical Guidance for Research, Evaluation and Monitoring Activities.
- The supplier should consider whether external ethics approval is needed. If it is decided that submission to Institutional Review Board (IRB)/Research Ethics Committee (and the relevant regulatory authority in the country) is not required, FCDO expects the planning of data collection and analysis to reflect active consideration of FCDO's ethics principles and standards and that the process should be documented.
- FCDO will have unlimited access to the material produced by the supplier in accordance with FCDO's policy on open access to data as expressed in FCDO's general conditions of contract.
- The supplier will be expected to comply with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) governing the processing of personal data.
- Please refer to the details of the GDPR relationship status and personal data (where applicable) for this project as detailed in App A and the standard clause 30 in Section 2 of the contract.
- The supplier must use the UK Aid logo on all outputs to be transparent and acknowledge that they are funded by UK taxpayers. The supplier should also acknowledge funding from the UK government in broader communications, but no publicity should be given without the prior written consent of FCDO.
- Coherence with the principles of the Inclusive Data Charter of which the UK is a founding member.

21. Duty of care

Please note it is assumed that no travel will happen for the purposes of this review and that it will be conducted virtually, meaning that no face-to-face interviews should happen and presentations should be given virtually.

The supplier is responsible for the safety and wellbeing of their personnel and third parties affected by their activities under this contract, including appropriate security arrangements. They will also be responsible for the provision of suitable security arrangements for their domestic and business property.

Annex 2: Evaluation framework questions

Key evaluation questions on domain 1: relevance

- 1.1. Are data collection and analysis approaches clearly linked to information needs?
- 1.2. Are the data collection and analysis approaches and methodologies sensitive to the situation of affected populations?
- 1.3. Do they take into account social inequalities relating to gender, age, disability and other relevant identities? Are they inclusive of marginalised groups?
- 1.4. Are they appropriate to the situation and data needs? Are trade-offs being made in the types of information being gathered; are some types of data prioritised over others?
- 1.5. Are methodologies for data collection and analysis clearly stated and comprehensive?
- 1.6. Do no harm – Are the new approaches and modalities conflict sensitive and do they ensure mitigation for risks to the safety, security and dignity of the affected population?

Key evaluation questions on domain 2: coherence

- 2.1. How well do these data solutions across the data value chain (e.g. collection, analysis, dissemination, use) relate to and coordinate with other data-related interventions in the country/across the sector?
- 2.2. How are inter-sectoral humanitarian data and development data being used by food security and nutrition actors in humanitarian settings?
- 2.3. Are they isolated examples of good practice or being used at scale?

Key evaluation questions on domain 3: effectiveness

- 3.1. Are these data collection and analysis solutions able to provide timely, quality and reliable information used by end users?
- 3.2. Where are the gaps, what is not being covered?

3.3. Early warning and real-time monitoring – have the new data collection/analysis approaches been sufficiently able to predict potential issues of concern? If not, what are the reasons for this? Is it due to problems with data, its analysis or other factors?

Key evaluation questions on domain 4: efficiency

4.1. Do the data collection/analysis solutions represent good value for money, especially in comparison to previous or other available modalities?

4.2. Under what conditions are they able to provide better, similar or almost as good quality of evidence as existing/conventional tools and methods?

4.3. What are the trade-offs or gains being made in terms of evidence quality and coverage when these new tools and methods are used?

Key evaluation questions on domain 5: sustainability

5.1. Are the data collection/analysis solutions able to be resourced and maintained over the medium term during the Covid-19 pandemic, and for other humanitarian crises simultaneously or in the future?

5.2. For completed programmes (see Stage 2), have the approaches/interventions continued? Why or why not?

Key evaluation questions on domain 6: scalability/replicability

6.1. How feasible is it to replicate the innovation a) within the same context and b) in similar contexts?

6.2. What are the operational requirements to implement the solution as intended at the required scale?

6.3 How do the programmes adhere to IDC principles?

Annex 3: Focus programmes for Part 2 (performance evaluation)

Long list of programmes initially considered for Part 2

Team members consulted DevTracker and other grey literature resources (e.g., organisational websites) to determine the relevance of FCDO-supported programmes to the evaluation and the feasibility of including them (based on the nature and availability of programme documentation/evidence) in the Part 2 analysis.

Centrally managed

- MERIAM (Modelling Early Risk indicators to Anticipate Malnutrition)
- Humanitarian 2 Humanitarian Network
- Integrated Food Security Classification (IPC)
- REACH Initiative
- East Africa Research Hub – Strategic Research and Evidence Support to Country Office and Regional Research (SCORE Programme)
- The Evidence Fund

Ethiopia

- Accelerating Ethiopia's Economic Transformation
- Enhancing Digital and Innovations for Agri-food Systems and Livelihoods (eDIAL) Programme
- Jobs Compact Ethiopia
- Strategic Research Fund

Nigeria

- LAFIYA – UK Support for Health in Nigeria
- Northeast Nigeria Transition to Development Programme
- Working to Improving Nutrition in Northern Nigeria (WINNN)

Somalia

- Somalia Humanitarian and Resilience Programme
- Monitoring and Evaluation for the Somalia Humanitarian, Health and Resilience Programmes, MESH II
- Learning and Monitoring Programme For Somalia, LAMPS
- Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit Somalia - Nutrition Information Component.
- Somalia Monitoring Programme II
- UNICEF Somalia Nutrition
- Scaling up Nutrition Somalia
- Somalia Food Security Cluster
- Care for Children with Wasting

- Malnutrition Prevention
- Somalia Hunger Crisis 2021
- Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
- DEC East Africa Phase 2
- Somalia Emergency Relief and Resilience Project
- Integrated WASH & EFSVL response Jubaland through Sida HPA contributions
- HECA Food Crisis Response - Somalia
- RESTORE Building Resilience in Northern Somalia
- Response to urgent humanitarian needs of food crisis & COVID 19 in Somalia
- Famine Prevention and Drought Impact Response through Multi-Purpose Cash 'IRF#6'
- Somaliland East Africa Food Crisis Response
- PA Contribution to Somaliland (Sanaag & Sool) via Sida Hum Partnership Agreement
- Integrated lifesaving treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition among children under five and pregnant and lactating women in Somalia

South Sudan

- Evaluation and Learning Facility in South Sudan for Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience in South Sudan (HARISS) 2015 - 2021
- Building Resilience Through Asset Creation and Enhancement II (BRACE II)
- South Sudan Nutrition Cluster
- South Sudan Food Security Cluster
- REACH
- Increased food security and income among vulnerable farmers in Mvolo county, South Sudan
- South Sudan Health Pooled Fund Phase 3
- Health Pooled Fund Phase 3 South Sudan Lot 18: Delivery of the Basic Package of Health & Nutrition in TWIC, Gogrial West & Gogrial East in Warrap State
- South Sudan Rural Development: Strengthening Smallholders' Resilience in Greater Upper Nile
- Humanitarian Information Systems - Strengthening evidence-based decision making in South Sudan – HARISS Programme
- South Sudan Acute Food Insecurity JR - Programme
- Generating Sustainable Livelihoods and Leadership for Peace in South Sudan
- Strengthening The Preventative Malnutrition Approach in Children Under 2
- Right to Grow - Coordination
- South Sudan Peace and Prosperity Programme
- Sustainable development and strengthening community resilience in Rumbek
- South Sudan Protracted Crisis Joint Response 2022-2023
- General Food Distribution in Jonglei State, South Sudan
- Emergency preparedness and response to vulnerable populations in South Sudan

- Strengthening food security and community resilience in Walgak, South Sudan
- Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) in Jonglei state, South Sudan
- Strengthening food security and community resilience in Akobo, South Sudan
- Strengthening food security and community resilience in Lankien, South Sudan
- Promotion of improved and sustainable livelihood opportunities, investment, developing local markets
- iCCM2
- Operational support for Multi sectoral emergency response in Gogrial and Yirol East.
- Phase VII Multi-Sector Response for IDPs and Vulnerable Host Communities in Yirol East, Lakes State
- WASH and Shelter Emergency Response Project for Elmegenis District conflict (ALakaf, ALrawat and Ga
- Early Recovery for Resilience through Food Security and Livelihoods Restoration
- Multi sectoral emergency response in Gogrial/Yirol East.
- Multisector emergency response for IDP, returnee and host communities in Kajo-Keji, CES
- Enhancing Food security, livelihoods recovery and nutrition status for children, returning refugees
- Integrated solution for affected people in conflict affected area of Pibor
- Emergency response and strengthening community resilience in Lankien
- ARC_ZUID SUDAN ACORD

Syria

- Support to the United Nations Children's Fund in Syria
- Provision of Technical Assistance to the Syria Crisis Response
- Syria Independent Monitoring 2

Yemen

- Yemen Independent Monitoring, Evaluation and Data Analysis (IMEDA)
- Yemen Social Protection Programme, including the subcomponent 'Social Fund for Development, Covid-19 Cash for Nutrition Response'
- Logistics support including UN Humanitarian Air Service, a sub-component of Yemen: Access, Logistics, Liaison, and Accountability (YALLA)

Table A3.1: Sampled programme descriptions*

Country	Programmes	Implementer(s)	Dates**	Programme description
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Centrally managed	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)	Against Action Hunger, Care, Comité Permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CLISS), European Commission, Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, Intergovernmental Authority on Development In Eastern Africa (IGAD), Oxfam, Southern African Development Community (SADC), Save the Children, Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Program (WFP)	Not available	This multi-year and results-based management approach provides decision-makers with a rigorous, evidence- and consensus-based analysis of food insecurity and acute malnutrition situations. Through it, governments, UN agencies, civil society, and other relevant actors work together to determine severity and magnitude, considering levels of acute and chronic malnutrition, other forms of morbidity, mortality, food consumption, access to a quality diet, ability to meet essential food and non-food needs and by what strategies, resilience of livelihoods, and resilience to shocks. It then classifies into phases, with acute food insecurity ranging from non/minimal (1) to famine (5); acute malnutrition from acceptable (1) to extremely critical (5); and chronic food insecurity from minimal (1) to severe (4). It is an internationally recognised standard, allowing comparability of situations across countries and over time, to provide a "common currency" to inform emergency responses and medium- and long-term policy and programming. It was developed in 2004 for FAO's Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) in Somalia. Since then, a global partnership is leading IPC's global, regional, and country-level development and implementation. Over 18 years, it has become a best practice and a model of collaboration in over 30 countries across Latin America, Africa and Asia.
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Country	Programmes	Implementer(s)	Dates**	Programme description
Centrally managed	Modelling Early Risk Indicators to Anticipate Malnutrition (MERIAM)	Action Against Hunger, the Graduate Institute of Geneva, John Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, and the University of Maryland	01 Feb 2017–31 Mar 2021	The programme identified measurable risk factors that provide early warning before a child becomes acutely malnourished, forecasted the risk of acute malnutrition, established the conditions under which the risk is higher, and generated scenarios showing sub-national impacts, in order to try to mitigate impacts. It brought together an interdisciplinary team to develop, test and scale-up models to improve statistical modelling, prediction, and monitoring in places that experience shocks.
Centrally managed	REACH Initiative	IMPACT, its sister-organisation ACTED, and the United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT)	Not available	The initiative supports and conducts independent multi-sector assessments to inform humanitarian decision-making. It was created in 2010 to facilitate the development of information tools and products to enhance aid actors' capacity to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. All activities are conducted in support of and within the framework of inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms.

Country	Programmes	Implementer(s)	Dates**	Programme description
Centrally managed	<u>The Evidence Fund</u>	Bi Valve Shellfish Association of SA (Pty) Ltd, Centre for Economic Policy Research, DAI Europe, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, Development Initiatives Poverty Research, Economic Research Forum, Institute of Development Studies, International Institute for Environment and Development, Isandla Institute, JHU Bloomberg School Of Public Health, KPMG India, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, LTS International Ltd, Met Office, Mott MacDonald Limited, National University of Singapore, Oxford Policy Management, PATH, PwC Kenya, PwC India, University of Oxford, University of Edinburgh	30 July 2020–31 March 2026 SCORE (predecessor): 07 July 2014–31 March 2021	The Fund serves and works closely with clients in FCDO country offices and policy and strategy teams. It is a multi-national data initiative that procures and manages on-demand pieces of research and evaluation, to answer priority questions and strengthen the evidence base and allow clients to uptake that information and apply lessons across a broad range of operational themes and development priorities, to ultimately inform HMG's policy and programming.

Country	Programmes	Implementer(s)	Dates**	Programme description
Ethiopia	<u>Strategic Research Fund (SRF)</u>	British Council, CARE International UK, Ethiopian Development Research Institute, Ethiopian Economics Association, European University Institute, IMC Worldwide, International Food Policy Research Institute, Mokoro Ltd, PwC, Rift Valley Research Ltd, Oxford Policy Management, University of Oxford, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF, World Bank	3 Jan 2018–28 Jan 2021	This fund worked to strengthen partnerships with Government of Ethiopia, Ethiopian research institutions, and civil society, to bolster HMG's strategy and investments and provide a foundation to influence policy and maximise impact and value for money. It engaged in targeted, short-term analysis, with specific pieces of work under the fund including research, policy advice, and capacity building such as trainings and short-term surge support to government or other institutions. It has included gender-disaggregated analyses and been careful about whether the work funded would add value to the FCSO evidence base and be useful to staff (e.g., in business cases).
Ethiopia	<u>Cross-Border Conflict: Evidence, Policy and Trends (XCEPT) Component 1: X-Border Local Research Network</u>	Malcolm H. Kerr Carnegie Middle East Center, Rift Valley Institute, The Asia Foundation	01 Mar 2018–28 Feb 2023	In conflict-impacted border areas, the project works with local researchers to improve the appreciation of political, economic and social dynamics (including the flows of people, goods, and ideas). It supports more effective policymaking and development programming, leveraging research to advocate for peaceful change. It has applied tools such as satellite imagery and remote sensing, to paint a fuller picture and provide predictive/early warning data.

Country	Programmes	Implementer(s)	Dates**	Programme description
Nigeria	<u>LAFIYA – UK Support for Health in Nigeria</u>	Baker Tilly Nigeria, Ecorys, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Rescue Committee UK, Oxford Policy Management, Palladium International Ltd UK, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO)	26 Oct 2018–30 May 2026	The programme aims to save lives, reduce suffering and improve economic prospects for the poorest and most vulnerable in Nigeria. Through advocacy, data, and community-driven accountability measures, it encourages the Government to prioritise and increase investments in health. It applies innovative financing, health systems strengthening, and work with the private sector to deliver affordable health services for the poor, in order to improve effectiveness and efficiency of health services – public and private alike. And through demographic impact analysis, addressing social norms, and support to family planning services, it is working to decrease the fertility rate.

Country	Programmes	Implementer(s)	Dates**	Programme description
Nigeria	<u>Northeast Nigeria Transition to Development Programme</u>	Action Against Hunger UK, Baker Tilly Nigeria, CANADEM (International Civilian Response Corps), Christian Blind Mission UK, Crown Agents Limited, Impact Initiatives, International Committee of the Red Cross, International NGO Safety Organisation, International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee UK, Norwegian Refugee Council, Palladium International Ltd UK, Stichting International, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP	27 Apr 2017–30 Apr 2022	The programme delivered humanitarian assistance in nutrition, food security, protection, education, health, water, shelter, and livelihoods in North East Nigeria. It also enabled a more efficient response, strengthening government planning, budgeting, coordination, and risk management.

Country	Programmes	Implementer(s)	Dates**	Programme description
Somalia	<u>Monitoring and Evaluation for the Somalia Humanitarian, Health and Resilience Programmes, MESH II</u>	Cowater International (formerly Transtec)	Not available	<p>This project monitored the 2018-2022 Somalia Humanitarian and Resilience Programme (SHARP, below) and the Somali Health and Nutrition Programme (SHINE) 2016-2021.** Its aim was to strengthen and extend the evidence base on impact of UK humanitarian, resilience and health action and to support adaptive programming and evidence-based decision-making. It tracked and assessed the performance of FCDO Somalia humanitarian, resilience and health investments and used data and analysis to drive performance and sustained change across implementers. One of its core activities was third Party Monitoring, which includes collecting partner data (to show progress against targets), call centre data (as a primary source of feedback from population served), and field verification of outputs across partner activities, to identify delivery issues including cash-based programming accountability, staffing or supplies in health and nutrition activities, and protection amongst IDPs/refugees. This included monitoring over 250 health and nutrition sites and routinely managing 100+ field staff engaged in quantitative data capture. The project utilised the FCDO Performance Platform – a portal for all the data collected from partners and independent monitoring activities – which automatically extracts micro-level data and can generate visualisations.</p> <p>**SHINE focused on improving health, for improved human and economic development outcomes for Somalia.</p>

Country	Programmes	Implementer(s)	Dates**	Programme description
Somalia	<u>Somalia Humanitarian and Resilience Programme (SHARP)</u>	FAO, Galway Development Services International (GDSI), Ground Truth Solutions, International Committee of the Red Cross, International NGO Safety Organisation, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Norwegian Refugee Council, OCHA, Population Service International, Stichting International NGO Safety Organisation, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, World Bank	18 Aug 2017–30 Sep 2022	The project aims to provide life-saving assistance to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs of conflict and disaster affected populations and contribute to building impacted households' resilience, reducing dependence on international assistance. This includes being better able to prepare for, withstand, and recover from shocks, being able to integrate into communities through sustained housing and livelihoods, increased protection, and civic engagement. It was also highly adaptive itself in the face of Covid-19. ⁴⁴

⁴⁴ FCDO, 2021. Somalia Humanitarian and Resilience Programme (SHARP) Annual Review July 2021. Available at: https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/90000091.odt

Country	Programmes	Implementer(s)	Dates**	Programme description
Somalia	Support to Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) in Somalia	FAO, Federal Government of Somalia's Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, various Ministries of Puntland and Somaliland.	Not available	<p>This project contributed to building capacity for the FSNAU among government institutions in the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), Puntland and Somaliland. Capacity development activities were based on a participatory capacity needs assessment and an action plan to empower authorities and improve regular monitoring of emergency situations. The FSNAU trained a total of 653 people, including 199 government and local university staff, and provided them with practical experience in carrying out seasonal assessments. It established four food security and nutrition analysis coordination units to enhance institutional capacity in relevant government agencies. It conducted five livelihood baseline assessments, set up an Early Warning-Early Action (EWEA) database, and published and disseminated 194 FSNAU information products. It contributed to improving emergency and long-term responses by establishing a comprehensive and evidence-based livelihoods analytical system. The assessments provided more accessible, timely and reliable food, nutrition and livelihood security information for government, humanitarian and development stakeholders. Food security information is now better organized, developed and accessible through managed communication systems, which can be used to identify opportunities to reduce chronic food and nutrition insecurity and address household vulnerability. Strengthened FSNAU capacity and information available through the EWEA platform help the Government improve national food security policies and programmes and develop longer-term strategies to address underlying causes.</p>

Country	Programmes	Implementer(s)	Dates**	Programme description
South Sudan	<u>Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience in South Sudan (HARISS)</u>	CANADEM, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Crown Agents Limited, Danish Refugee Council, GOAL, FAO, Humanity Inclusion UK (formerly Handicap International), IMC Worldwide, Impact Initiatives, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Medical Corps UK, IOM, Medair, Norwegian Refugee Council, RedR, Oxfam GB, Palladium International Ltd UK, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP	04 Sep 2015– 31 May 2023	The project aims to help approximately three million South Sudanese people by providing an estimated two million with critical life-saving support (food, shelter, access to water and health services), and by building the skills of an estimated one million to recover and better cope with shocks such as conflict, drought and flooding. It applied third party monitoring.
Syria	Support to the United Nations Children's Fund in Syria	UNICEF	Nov 2017– Dec 2020	The project aimed to support UNICEF to provide lifesaving humanitarian assistance in education, health, WASH, child protection and nutrition, to support vulnerable children and their families in Syria.
Yemen	<u>Yemen Independent Monitoring, Evaluation and Data Analysis (IMEDA)</u>	Impact Initiatives, Norwegian Refugee Council, Satellite Applications Catapult Ltd	20 Jul 2018–31 Mar 2023	The project aims to improve the effectiveness and targeting of FCDO's large investment in humanitarian delivery in Yemen through the provision of independent oversight (given the conflict, FCDO has no staff in country). The project verifies whether other programmes are delivering the intended benefits and are providing a holistic range of support. It has used third party monitoring and remote sensing/satellite imagery.

Country	Programmes	Implementer(s)	Dates**	Programme description
Yemen	<u>Yemen Social Protection Programme (YeSP)</u> , including the subcomponent 'Social Fund for Development, Covid-19 Cash for Nutrition Response'	IBRD, Social Fund for Development (SFD), UNICEF	26 Sep 2018– 31 Mar 2022	The programme aimed – through improved access to cash based social safety nets, restoring access to basic services, and improving livelihoods – to help reduce extreme poverty and vulnerability and increase individual, household and community resilience in response to the ongoing humanitarian crisis.
Yemen	<u>Yemen Economic Tracking Initiative (YETI)</u>	ACAPS Yemen Analysis Hub	Not available	Provide data on economic trends and developments to support analysis and economic policy for Yemen. It has a dedicated team of analysts available to support secondary analysis, needs assessment, and other key functions.

* Descriptions are predominantly from the “summary” pages of DevTracker but have been streamlined and supplemented as needed.

** Dates are per DevTracker

Annex 4: Interview/Discussion Guide for Part 2 (performance evaluation)

INFORMED CONSENT STATEMENT

Difficult Data: Thematic Evaluation – Humanitarian Data Collection and Analysis



Informed Consent Form is for [_____], who we are inviting to participate in research, titled “Difficult Data: Thematic Evaluation – Humanitarian Data Collection and Analysis”.

Name of Project Lead: Donna Espeut

Name of Organisation: PATH

Name of Project: Difficult Data: Thematic Evaluation – Humanitarian Data Collection and Analysis

This Informed Consent Form has two parts:

Information Sheet (to share information about the study with you)

Verbal consent will be obtained

You will be given a copy of the full Informed Consent Form

Information Sheet

Introduction:

I am [X], working for [PATH or Development Initiatives]. I am doing research on the challenges and opportunities related to timely, accurate and comprehensive humanitarian-related primary data collection and analysis with a focus on food security and nutrition data.

I am inviting you to be part of this research. You do not have to decide today whether or not you will participate in the research. Before you decide, you can talk to anyone you feel comfortable with about the research. If you need anything contained within this consent form to be clarified please ask me or another member of the team now or in the future.

Purpose of the Research:

Humanitarian programmes need data to support crisis-affected people. This research project aims to identify and assess innovative tools that improve the collection and analysis of nutrition and food security data in humanitarian contexts and overcome the political, technical and operational challenges found in this area. With an end goal of providing the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office with recommendations on how to strengthen their relevant programmes and ways to pursue their advocacy work.

Type of Research Intervention:

This research will involve your participation in a Key Information Interview that will take about one hour.

Participant Selection:

You have been selected to take part in this interview because of your professional experience and can contribute to our understanding and knowledge of innovative ways to collect and analyse nutrition and/or food security data in humanitarian contexts.

Voluntary Participation and Right to Withdraw:

Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. It is your choice whether to participate or not. You may change your mind later and stop participating even if you agreed earlier. You will be given the opportunity to review/modify your remarks at the end of the interview.

Procedures:

If you accept, you will be asked to participate in an interview with [X]. The interviewer will be accompanied by [X] who will take notes. The interview will be conducted via Zoom or other similar technologies. If you do not wish to answer any of the questions during the interview, you may say so and the interviewer will move on to the next question.

With your permission, the interview will be recorded. No one will be identified by name on the recording and the file will be kept securely, with personal details – name, organisation, job title, country and sector – stored in a separate location to the interview content. Personal details are necessary in order to reference back when writing reports. Staff of PATH, Development Initiatives and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office will be the only people who can access the recordings and the personal details, they will not be shared with any other organisations.

Risks:

Although there are no obvious personal risks produced by discussing the challenges and opportunities surrounding data collection and analysis in humanitarian settings, there is always a chance that you may find a particular subject sensitive. If this is the case you can choose not to provide information on it.

PATH and Development Initiatives will identify and assess risk on an ongoing basis through the project lifecycle. Appropriate measures will be taken if problems are identified.

Benefits:

Your participation will provide information that will contribute towards the increased efficiency and effectiveness of programming by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in addition to other actors.

Reimbursements:

You will not be provided with any reimbursements for your participation in this study.

Confidentiality:

PATH and Development Initiatives will not share any information about you to anyone outside the research team and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. The information that we collect from this research project will be kept private. Any information about you will have a number on it instead of your name. Only the aforementioned stakeholders will know what your number is. Files will be kept behind passwords.

Sharing the Results:

Nothing that you share will be attributed to you by name. Participants will be able to access the results in the final report after publication. Note that the final report will be made available for public access.

Who to Contact:

If you have questions, you can ask them now or later. To ask questions later please contact the following: [name, organisation, email].

I have provided the information contained in this consent form to the participant in good time, and to the best of my ability made sure that the participant understands its content.

I confirm that the participant was given an opportunity to ask questions, and that they have been answered correctly and to the best of my ability. I confirm that the individual has given consent freely and voluntarily.

Interview Questions

Verbal consent indicated with respondent's acceptance of call invitation prior to the interview.

Not all of the questions will be asked in each interview. Each interview will be tailored to the information gaps identified during the desk review and considering time/availability constraints of the respondent.

TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER: Before proceeding, note the record no. and interview date in the header above. Next, complete the following fields.

A. COUNTRY/IES ADDRESSED IN THE INTERVIEW <i>(Mark "X" for all that apply)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ethiopia	<input type="checkbox"/>	South Sudan
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nigeria	<input type="checkbox"/>	Syria
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somalia	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yemen

B. FCDO PROGRAMMES COVERED IN THIS INTERVIEW <i>(Mark "X" for all that apply)</i>		IPC		LAFIYA (Nigeria)		LAMPS (Somalia)
		MERIAM		NENTAD (Nigeria)		HARISS (South Sudan)
		REACH		WINN (Nigeria)		UNICEF Support (Syria)
		SCORE		FSNAU (Somalia)		IMEDA (Yemen)
		eDIAL (Ethiopia)		SHARP (Somalia)		YeSP (Yemen)
		OTHER (specify):				

C. PRIMARY ORGANISATIONAL AFFILIATION OF RESPONDENT(S)		FCDO
		UN, <i>specify</i> :
		Cluster/Sector (Food Security or Nutrition) Coordinator
		National government personnel
		International NGO
		Local NGO
		Other, <i>specify</i> :

<p>p. DATA SOLUTIONS/ INNOVATIONS TO BE COVERED IN THIS INTERVIEW</p> <p><i>(Mark "X" for all that apply)</i></p> <p><i>Asterisk (*) denotes what FCDO has identified as a high-priority/high-interest data solution</i></p>		Mobile phone RDC*
		Other forms of RDC*
		Low-tech remote sensing (e.g., REACH's Area of <u>Knowledge</u>)*
		High-tech remote sensing (e.g., satellite <u>imagery</u>)*
		Laser tech. for height measurement
		Family MUAC*
		SMART methodology adaptations*
		"Nowcasting"
		Verbal autopsy (VA)
		Sentinel sites*
		Third Party Monitoring
		Link NCA
		VA analytical package*
		MERIAM*
		IPC*
		Scalable software solutions such as Power Bi*
		Humanitarian Data Exchange (<u>HDx</u>)
		UN Common Cash Statement
		WFP CODA
		Partnership-based collaboratives

NOTE TO LEAD INTERVIEWER: READ THE FOLLOWING: During our call, we will be exploring the following programmes (*READ THE PROGRAMMES YOU SELECTED ON PAGE 1*). The focus of our discussion will be on how data-related efforts within those programmes fit within the broader context of country context.

To start, what is/has been your role in relation to that/those programmes?

Mark "X" for appropriate response		PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTER
		SRO (FCDO PROGRAMME SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OWNER)
		FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER COORDINATOR
		NUTRITION CLUSTER COORDINATOR
		THIRD PARTY MONITOR
		Other, specify:

NOTE TO INTERVIEWER: IF RESPONDENT IS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE FCDO PROGRAMMES BUT CAN SPEAK ABOUT THE BROADER COUNTRY CONTEXT RELATED TO FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION DATA, INCLUDING ANY INNOVATIVE DATA SOLUTIONS OR INNOVATIONS, TAILOR THE INTERVIEW ACCORDINGLY.

Relevance

NOTE TO INTERVIEWER: POSE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS FOR EACH FCDO PROGRAMME WITH WHICH THE RESPONDENT IS FAMILIAR.

- How are/were the programme's data efforts linked to information needs?

Probes:

- Are/were certain types of data or data needs prioritised over others? Why or why not?
- How are the data approaches and methodologies implemented by the programme sensitive to the situation of affected populations? Just to clarify, affected populations can include most-at-risk or marginalised groups such as the extreme poor, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, displaced persons and migrants and refugees.

Probes:

- How are/were social inequalities relating to gender, age, disability and other relevant identities taken into account by the programme?
- How inclusive were the programme's data efforts of most-at-risk or marginalised groups?
- How do/did the approaches and methodologies used mitigate risks to the safety, security and dignity of the affected population?

Coherence

- What coordination occurred between the programme and other humanitarian data efforts in the country?
- Have any {STATE NAME PROGRAMME} data activities/approaches influenced data approaches or solutions adopted by other stakeholders?

Probes:

- What specific stakeholders/agencies?
- In which sector(s)?
- Did the programme use any intersectoral humanitarian data? If so, how?

Effectiveness

- How have data solutions implemented by {STATE NAME OF PROGRAMME} impacted the following:
 - a. The timeliness of information?
 - b. The quality of information?
 - c. The reliability of information?
- Are there any data activities {STATE NAME OF PROGRAMME} that can improve how stakeholders predict potential threats or crises related to food security and/or nutrition. For example, as an early warning system, or for real-time monitoring?

Probes:

- Why or why not?
- Are there problems with data, its analysis or other factors?
- Were there any missed opportunities by the programme to improve the timeliness, quality and/or reliability of information? If so, please describe.
- From your perspective, are there any good practices related the programme's data initiatives that should be implemented at scale within the country?

Efficiency

- Compared to other approaches or methodologies used within the country, how would you describe the data solutions implemented by {STATE NAME OF PROGRAMME} in terms value for money?
- Are there any trade-offs – for example, in terms of evidence quality and coverage – when these new tools and methods are used?

Probes:

- What are those trade-offs?
- Are there any gains – for example, in terms of evidence quality and coverage – when these new tools and methods are used?
- What are those trade-offs?

Sustainability

- What are the sustainability prospects for the data solutions we have been discussing?

Probes:

- How are the solutions able to be resourced and maintained now?
- In the future?

Replicability/scalability

- Is this a data solution that should be brought to scale? Why or why not?
- How feasible is it to replicate the data solution in the country?

Probes:

- What are the operational requirements to implement the solution as intended at the required scale?
- Before we end, are there any thoughts that you would like to express about the types of data solutions needed in the country to address food security and/or nutrition? Any recommendations on strategic priorities for FCDO to consider?
- Considerations as a funder of food, nutrition and data programmes in complex settings?
- Considerations as a thought leader in the humanitarian arena and, more broadly, in food security and nutrition?
- Considerations as a humanitarian data user?

Annex 5: Description of evidence for each sampled country

Table A5.1: Mapping of Part 2 evidence for programmes, according to six evaluation domains

Programme(s)	Overall strength of evidence score 1: Anecdotal/descriptive evidence (e.g., KIs) 2: Implementation/learning evidence (e.g., Annual Reviews, dissemination products) 3: Validation/evaluation evidence	Evidence on relevance (Y/N)	Evidence on coherence (Y/N)	Evidence on effectiveness (Y/N)	Evidence on efficiency (Y/N)	Evidence on sustainability (Y/N)	Evidence on scalability/replicability (Y/N)
IPC	3	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
MERIAM	2	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
REACH Initiative	3	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
The Evidence Fund	2	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
Ethiopia: XCEPT	2	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Nigeria-specific programmes	2	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Somalia-specific programmes	1	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

Programme(s)	Overall strength of evidence score 1: Anecdotal/descriptive evidence (e.g., KIs) 2: Implementation/learning evidence (e.g., Annual Reviews, dissemination products) 3: Validation/evaluation evidence	Evidence on relevance (Y/N)	Evidence on coherence (Y/N)	Evidence on effectiveness (Y/N)	Evidence on efficiency (Y/N)	Evidence on sustainability (Y/N)	Evidence on scalability/replicability (Y/N)
S. Sudan-specific programmes	3	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Syria-specific programmes	2	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Yemen-specific programmes	2	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
TOTAL	1 has level 1 evidence; 6 have level 2 evidence; 3 have level 3 evidence	9	10	8	0	4	6

Table A5.2: Assessment of whether sampled FCDO-supported programmes aimed to address the four priority crosscutting data challenges identified in Part 1 (evidence synthesis)

This table presents the results of whether the sampled programmes aimed to address the priority cross-cutting data challenges identified in Part 1 (evidence synthesis) of the evaluation. The evaluation did not assess whether or not individual programmes

achieved their specific programmatic aims or objectives. Evidence was weak regarding the programmatic outcomes therefore where feasible, it was supplemented with information from key informant interviews.

Guiding questions used to assess against the crosscutting data challenges:

Politicisation of data: Does the programme address denial of movement by political actors, prolonged delays in the approval process for data collection, the need to re-negotiate in-country permissions and/or censorship of results? Does the programme invest in additional advocacy with country decision-makers or engage directly with national authorities to promote principles of best practice (such as independence)?

Inter-agency mistrust, transparency and territoriality: Does the programme use participatory approaches? Does the programme support the development of partnerships and/or bring together stakeholders from different communities? Does the programme involve any work towards agreeing and putting in place standard data sharing practices? Are assumptions related to the local context identified and monitored?

Time pressures to produce results or act: Are the solutions in the programme able to provide or improve on timely, quality and reliable information used by end users? Have the new data collection/analysis approaches been sufficiently able to predict potential issues of concern?

In-country capacity: Does the programme embed technical experts alongside local specialists? Are there plans to develop the capacity locally to autonomously manage and deliver the solution?

Country	Programme	Overall strength of evidence score 1: Anecdotal/descriptive evidence (e.g., KIs) 2: Implementation/learning evidence (e.g., Annual Reviews, dissemination products) 3: Validation/evaluation evidence	Mitigates politicisation of data	Mitigates inter-agency mistrust, transparency and territoriality issues	Mitigates time pressures to produce results or act	Mitigates in-country capacity issues (e.g., analytical capacity)
Centrally managed	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)	3	N	N	Y	Y
Centrally managed	Modelling Early Risk indicators to Anticipate Malnutrition (MERIAM)	2	N	N	N	N
Centrally managed	REACH Initiative	3	Y	Y	Y	Y
Centrally managed	The Evidence Fund	2	N	N	Y	N
Ethiopia	XCEPT	2	N	N	Y (as part of early warning)	N

Country	Programme	Overall strength of evidence score 1: Anecdotal/descriptive evidence (e.g., KIs) 2: Implementation/learning evidence (e.g., Annual Reviews, dissemination products) 3: Validation/evaluation evidence	Mitigates politicisation of data	Mitigates inter-agency mistrust, transparency and territoriality issues	Mitigates time pressures to produce results or act	Mitigates in-country capacity issues (e.g., analytical capacity)
Nigeria	LAFIYA – UK Support for Health in Nigeria (26 Oct 2018 – 30 May 2026)	2	N	N	N	N
Nigeria	Northeast Nigeria Transition to Development Programme (27 Apr 2017 – 30 Apr 2022)	2	Y	Y	Y	Y
Somalia	MESH-SHARP	1	N	N	N	N
Somalia	Support to Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit	1	Y	Y	Y	Y

Country	Programme	Overall strength of evidence score 1: Anecdotal/descriptive evidence (e.g., KIs) 2: Implementation/learning evidence (e.g., Annual Reviews, dissemination products) 3: Validation/evaluation evidence	Mitigates politicisation of data	Mitigates inter-agency mistrust, transparency and territoriality issues	Mitigates time pressures to produce results or act	Mitigates in-country capacity issues (e.g., analytical capacity)
South Sudan	HARISS	3	N	Y	N	N
Syria	Support to the UNICEF in Syria	2	Y	Y	N	Y
Yemen	IMEDA	2	Y	N	N	Y
Yemen	YETI	2	N	Y	N	N
Yemen	YeSP	2	N	Y	N	N
TOTAL	-		5	7	6	6

Table A5.3: Desk review evidence base for Part 2: Centrally managed programmes

Programme	Business case	Log frame	Annual reviews	Assessment or monitoring reports	Project completion review	Peer-review journal articles	Other resources (e.g., workshop/meeting presentations or proceedings)
IPC	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 KIIs (1 stage I + 1 stage II) 2 IPC reviews/evaluations
MERIAM	1	1	0	0	0	2	1 workplan 1 information sheet/brief 1 workshop (slide deck + YouTube recording) 1 guidance document 1 user manual 1 KII (stage I)
REACH Initiative	0	0	2	1 (independent evaluation)	0	0	1 webpage 1 KII (Stage I)
SCORE/The Evidence Fund	0	0	1	1	0	0	2 KIIs (Stage II)

Programme	Business case	Log frame	Annual reviews	Assessment or monitoring reports	Project completion review	Peer-review journal articles	Other resources (e.g., workshop/meeting presentations or proceedings)
TOTAL	1	1	3	2	0	2	15

Table A5.4: Desk review evidence base for Part 2: Ethiopia

Programme	Business case	Log frame	Annual reviews	Assessment or monitoring reports	Project completion review	Peer-review journal articles	Other resources (e.g., workshop/meeting presentations or proceedings)
XCEPT	0	0	0	0	0	0	XCEPT programme website and blog posts Devex blog post
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	1	2

Table A5.5: Desk review evidence base for Part 2: Nigeria

Programme	Business case	Log frame	Annual reviews	Assessment or monitoring reports	Project completion review	Peer-review journal articles	Other resources (e.g., workshop/meeting presentations or proceedings)
LAFIYA – UK Support for Health in Nigeria	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Northeast Nigeria Transition to Development Programme	0	0	1	0	0	0	1 Humanitarian Situation Update 5 KIIs (2 Stage I + 3 Stage 2)
TOTAL	1	0	2	0	0	0	6

Table A5.6: Desk review evidence base for Part 2: Somalia

Programme	Business case	Log frame	Annual reviews	Assessment or monitoring reports	Project completion review	Peer-review journal articles	Other resources (e.g., workshop/meeting presentations or proceedings)
Monitoring and Evaluation for the Somalia Humanitarian, Health and Resilience Programmes, MESH II	0	0	2	0	1	0	1 methodology note
Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit Somalia - Nutrition Information Component	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 technical guidance 1 methodology note 1 user guide 1 IPC map
TOTALS	0	0	0	0	1	0	5

Table A5.7: Desk review evidence base for Part 2: South Sudan

Programme	Business case	Log frame	Annual reviews	Assessment or monitoring reports	Project completion report	Peer-review journal articles	Other resources (e.g., workshop/meeting presentations or proceedings)
Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience in South Sudan (HARISS)	1	0	3	0	0	0	1 facility overview 2 related documents on South Sudan context
TOTAL	1	0	3	0	0	0	3

Table A5.8: Desk review evidence base for Part 2: Syria

Programme	Business case	Log frame	Annual reviews	Assessment or monitoring reports	Project completion report	Peer-review journal articles	Other resources (e.g., workshop/meeting presentations or proceedings)
UNICEF Support in Syria	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	1	1	0	0

Table A5.9: Desk review evidence base for Part 2: Yemen

Programme	Business case	Log frame	Annual reviews	Assessment or monitoring reports	Project completion report	Peer-review journal articles	Other resources (e.g., workshop/meeting presentations or proceedings)
IMEDA	1	1	2	0	0	0	2 Klls
YeSP	0	0	0	0	1	0	-
YETI	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 website
TOTAL	1	1	2	0	1	-	3

Annex 6: Ethiopia case study

FCDO-supported programme highlighted in this case study:

- The Cross-Border Conflict Evidence, Policy and Trends (XCEPT) research

Data solution/innovation highlighted in this case study:

- High-tech remote sensing

Background

According to The World Bank's Fiscal Year 2022 List of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations, Ethiopia is classified as a "medium-intensity conflict" setting.⁴⁵ The country is experiencing parallel crises: conflict/insecurity in the northern part of the country (particularly in the Tigray Region) and severe drought that also extends to the southern part of the country (e.g., in Somali, Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' regions).⁴⁶ In Tigray, there is a range of operational challenges such as the lack of telecommunication for basic information exchange, disruptions in the reporting of routine monitoring data, movement restrictions that affect data collection and disruptions to supply chain/last-mile distribution due to the fuel and liquidity crisis.

Good practice in Ethiopia

The XCEPT programme demonstrated how higher-tech remote sensing can be used in an early warning system for future crises (1 KII with a global data expert).⁴⁷ Triangulation of high- and low-resolution data with other types of data (e.g., witness testimonies, social media, media reports of mass killings) to signal civilian attacks associated with military ambushes.

⁴⁵ The World Bank, 2021. Classification of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations. Available at:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/harmonized-list-of-fragile-situations> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

⁴⁶ World Food Programme, 2022. Ethiopia Emergency. Available at: <https://www.wfp.org/emergencies/ethiopia-emergency> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

Global Nutrition Cluster, 2022. Ethiopia. Available at: <https://www.nutritioncluster.net/country/ethiopia> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

⁴⁷ Bastholm Jensen, Mette, 2022. How Can Researchers Better Navigate the Profits and Perils of Satellite and Open-Source Investigations? Available at: <https://xcept-research.org/how-can-researchers-better-navigate-the-profits-and-perils-of-satellite-and-open-source-investigations-2/> (Accessed 28/07/2022).

Evaluation findings

Relevance

In February 2021, just three months into the war in northern Ethiopia, satellite data from a research organisation, Vigil Monitor, indicated the emergence of fires with systematic door-to-door burning of homes and other structures. Although analysis of that data and triangulation with other types of data were not specific to food security or nutrition, that endeavour signalled factors that have since contributed to food insecurity and other adverse outcomes in Tigray Region.

With the exception of identifying geographical hotspots of changing dynamics in northern Ethiopia, the XCEPT analysis did not involve data disaggregation or more nuanced evidence on affected populations.

Coherence

The evaluation team was not provided with evidence that would enable examination of coherence.

Effectiveness

The effectiveness of XCEPT's work focussed on the Tigray Region has not been formally evaluated, but the analytical work performed by XCEPT in the early stages of the Tigray crisis demonstrated the potential that use of satellite imagery, combined with other evidence, can have to augment early warning systems that should prompt coordinated mitigation and response measures.

Efficiency

No efficiency evidence is available on this data solution employed by the XCEPT programme. However, higher-tech remote sensing is a viable option when on-the-ground accessibility is not feasible or advisable and satellite imagery already exists.⁴⁸

Sustainability

Passive technology such as satellites exists globally. However, the evaluation team did not have access to evaluation evidence to rigorously assess this domain for the high-tech remote sensing used in Ethiopia.

⁴⁸ Jerving, Sara, 2021. 'In Brief: Satellite Imagery Shows Refugee Camps in Tigray Looted and Burned.' DevEx. Available at: <https://www.devex.com/news/in-brief-satellite-imagery-shows-refugee-camps-in-tigray-looted-and-burned-99109> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

Replicability/scalability

The use of higher-tech remote sensing and open-source data shows promise in terms of replicability and scalability, particularly when passive remote sensing (e.g., data from existing satellites) is used. However, analysis of satellite imagery data and the triangulation of that evidence with other data are capacities that would have to be addressed. The evaluation team did not have access to specific evaluation evidence to assess this domain.

Considerations for FCDO

The effective use of higher-tech remote sensing in Tigray Region warrants further exploration on how FCDO can leverage investments in initiatives such as XCEPT to augment early warning systems and strengthen predictive analysis. These may not be food security or nutrition focused but can be used to monitor changing local dynamics and activate timely responses that mitigate negative impacts on food security and nutrition outcomes.

Sources

This case study on Ethiopia is based on four interviews/consultations (1 focused on Ethiopia only, 3 had a global focus but with relevant parts) and the following documents:

- Global Nutrition Cluster, 2022. Ethiopia. Available at: <https://www.nutritioncluster.net/country/ethiopia> (Accessed 28/07/2022).
- Bastholm Jensen, Mette, 2022. How Can Researchers Better Navigate the Profits and Perils of Satellite and Open-Source Investigations? Available at: <https://xcept-research.org/how-can-researchers-better-navigate-the-profits-and-perils-of-satellite-and-open-source-investigations-2/> (Accessed 28/07/2022).
- World Food Programme, 2022. Ethiopia Emergency. Available at: <https://www.wfp.org/emergencies/ethiopia-emergency> (Accessed 28/07/2022).

Annex 7: Nigeria case study

FCDO-supported programmes that informed this case study:

- LAFIYA – UK Support for Health in Nigeria
- Northeast Nigeria Transition to Development Programme (NENTAD) (27 Apr 2017–30 Apr 2022)
- The REACH Initiative

Data solutions and innovations highlighted in this case study:

- High-tech remote sensing
- Remote data collection
- Low-tech remote sensing (Area of Knowledge/Area of Origin)
- Partnership-based collaboratives for intersectoral needs assessment
- Modelling early risk indicators to anticipate malnutrition (MERIAM)

Background

According to The World Bank's Fiscal Year 2022 List of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations, Nigeria is classified as a “medium-intensity conflict” setting.⁴⁹ The states in the northern/north-eastern parts of the country are most affected by conflict in addition to food insecurity and various forms of acute malnutrition, and thus have been an explicit focus of humanitarian programme and data efforts in the country. In addition, there are several inaccessible areas that have promoted innovative approaches to data collection, analysis and use.

Good practices in Nigeria

Humanitarian Situation Monitoring (a programme with a unique methodology) entails innovations such as the following:

- Inaccessible Areas Monitoring using the Area of Knowledge/Area of Origin approach, which is a form of low-tech remote sensing
- Mobile phone remote data collection
- Integration/triangulation of different types of evidence in analyses, including higher-tech remote sensing to monitor cropland changes.

⁴⁹ The World Bank, 2021. Classification of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations. Available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/harmonized-list-of-fragile-situations> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

There is also a REACH-UN Institute for Training and Research – Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT) collaboration that has used remote sensing (geospatial data collection and analysis). This partnership enabled the analysis of settlement dynamics in hard-to-reach areas in Nigeria.

Evaluation findings

Relevance

MERIAM developed a Nigeria-specific econometric model for use in multilevel analysis on acute malnutrition risk in children, accounting for household characteristics, local/contextual factors and macro-level factors.⁵⁰ However, the evaluation team was not able to obtain evidence on how that modelling is aligned with local decision-making needs and did not have access to evaluation evidence on the performance of this solution from the perspective of doing no harm to affected populations. As the solution relies on existing data collected for other purposes (e.g., a household survey, geospatial analysis) and likely poses no additional threats/risks to affected populations.

While the MERIAM econometric model met some user needs for enhanced disaggregated information but did not meet the overarching need for real-time and near-real-time monitoring of the food security and nutrition situations. This need was met by applying more integrated analytical processes such as Cadre Harmonisé (CH), an alternative approach to IPC food security and acute malnutrition classification.⁵¹

Under the auspices of the NENTAD project, FCDO has made contributions to CH and associated data work. In northern Nigeria, there are several highly inaccessible areas that were not being covered by CH. An approach to monitoring the food security situation in inaccessible areas, which was originally dubbed the “Famine Monitoring System”, has evolved and even expanded to include intersectoral inputs

⁵⁰ Action Against Hunger, Graduate Institute Geneva, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, University of Maryland, and University of Minnesota, 2021. Modelling Early Risk Indicators to Anticipate Malnutrition (MERIAM). Global Nutrition Cluster Predictive Analytics Workshop.

<https://www.nutritioncluster.net/sites/nutritioncluster.com/files/2021-02/Session%205%29%20MERIAM%20GNC%20Workshop.pdf>

⁵¹ Action Against Hunger, Graduate Institute Geneva, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, University of Maryland, and University of Minnesota, 2021. Modelling Early Risk Indicators to Anticipate Malnutrition (MERIAM). Global Nutrition Cluster Predictive Analytics Workshop.

<https://www.nutritioncluster.net/sites/nutritioncluster.com/files/2021-02/Session%205%29%20MERIAM%20GNC%20Workshop.pdf>

and analyses under what is now referred to as “Humanitarian Situation Monitoring”. The approach combines both food and nutrition security monitoring strategies and is positioned as a supplement to the CH analysis of inaccessible areas in the BAY (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe) States.⁵²

The 2021 Annual Review of NENTAD also indicated that improvements are being made with respect to data disaggregation and data on affected populations. For example, in addition to gender disaggregated data, data for persons with disabilities was consistently being reported on a quarterly basis.⁵³ However, the evaluation team was unable to access evidence on the inclusion and participation of affected populations in the data solutions described in this case study.

It should be acknowledged that while the different forms of Famine Situation Monitoring and Humanitarian Situation Monitoring have plus points, their sample sizes tend to be small, which is a significant drawback. The problems it causes are that it is hard, or even impossible, to achieve statistical significance, and local levels of disaggregation (i.e. ward) cannot be gained. A lack of ultra-local disaggregation increases the chances that the most at-risk populations are overlooked.

In addition distinguishing between civilians and combatants in these areas has also been problematic. This has led to disagreement and sensitivity around efforts to estimate populations living in these locations and which communities are categorised as empty, partially empty or inhabited.

Coherence

The multi-sector needs assessments conducted by one centrally managed programme, The REACH Initiative, have served as baseline data on needs in inaccessible areas, with subsequent data collection to monitor needs in hard-to-reach areas in northeast Nigeria.⁵⁴

Routine monitoring efforts pertaining to the situation in inaccessible areas is coherent, according to a non-FCDO thematic expert in Nigeria, who also noted that there is effective triangulation of different types of data through two rounds of CH.

⁵² Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development/Government of Nigeria, 2022. Humanitarian Situation Update-April, 2022 Bulletin. Available at: https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/hsm_bulletin_april_2022.pdf

⁵³ FCDO, 2021. North East Nigeria Transition to Development (NENTAD) Programme-Annual Review June 2021. Available at: https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/61955839.odt

⁵⁴ REACH, 2019. 2018 Activity Report. Available at: https://www.reach-initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/REACH_-_AR_-_2018_-_FINAL_-_V1.pdf

Effectiveness

As stated by one high-level key informant from the food security sector, government engagement has been a critical success factor to date. In inaccessible areas, there has been a tremendous amount of both formal and informal advocacy to establish an enabling environment for monitoring work in inaccessible areas, allaying concerns about spying, interference by external parties and other concerns that often arise when focusing on inaccessible, marginalised and/or conflict-affected settings. However, it should be noted that this advocacy while promising has yet to yield results in terms of significantly filling information gaps.

According to three non-FCDO key informants, there have been reported improvements in the timeliness of information to end users, which has been attributed largely to improved analytical capacity among local stakeholders to identify and examine emergency needs. Monitoring in inaccessible areas has also strengthened CH processes.

Efficiency

The 2021 Annual Review of NENTAD suggests achievement of cost-efficiencies in the programme's data efforts. Reported data from Third Party Monitors indicated "a decrease in the ratio between programme costs and research cycle activities at £12,888 as compared to £20,231 at the end of last year [2020]."⁵⁵ This positive value for money achievement was attributed to the adoption of remote data collection rather than face-to-face approaches, as well efficiencies around research design, data collection, analysis and dissemination. Although, it should be recognised that whether remote data collection was able to maintain the same standard of quality is unknown.

The evaluation team did not have access to other evidence to fully assess performance of the data solutions in terms of efficiency.

Sustainability

As mentioned by two key informants, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and State Government focal points provide leadership for the Humanitarian Situation Monitoring and CH. However, there remains a reliance on international partner investments. As of May 2022, UNICEF and WFP still fund CH refresher trainings. WFP, FAO and UNICEF also fund data collection. According to one food security key informant, financing will be a critical success factor in sustaining the approaches described in this case study. Government buy-in is slowly improving, with one key informant noting that some venues and halls are now being provided by state governments free of charge to host CH trainings. However, there is

⁵⁵ Ibid

still a need for effective advocacy on resourcing CH and Humanitarian Situation Monitoring with Federal and State decision-makers.

NENTAD's design centred on an assumption that the situation in BAY states would become increasingly stable over the life of the programme, "enabling the transition from humanitarian assistance to recovery and development. . . However, since August 2019 there has been significant and consistent deterioration in both security and humanitarian access with humanitarian needs", rivalling levels observed in 2017.⁵⁶ Hence the need for inaccessible areas monitoring might expand in future, and it is unclear whether there is the sufficient capacity to expand innovative approaches to response to increased magnitude or changing dynamics of need.

Replicability/scalability

As mentioned by two key informants, with government ownership and leadership, CH with inaccessible areas monitoring is now being rolled out throughout the country.

*"The Humanitarian Situation Monitoring System attempts to provide data needed to support analysis for the risk of catastrophic or famine-like conditions in hard-to-reach locations, either increasing the amount of data provided to the CH analysis process or improving the frequency of reliable data to support real time analysis of proxy outcomes when unexpected events develop outside the CH analysis cycle."*⁵⁷

Considerations for FCDO

In light of evidence and information examined for this case study, the following are considerations:

- Enhancing subnational analytical capacity for CH, particularly in light of changing assumptions around security in northeast Nigeria
- Advocacy and influence support to sensitise and foster buy-in from non-technocrats (policy decision-makers, budget holders) for CH and Humanitarian Situation Monitoring.

⁵⁶ FCDO, 2021. Lafiya-UK Support for Health in Nigeria-Annual Review September 2021. Available at: https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/90000445.odt
FCDO, 2021. North East Nigeria Transition to Development (NENTAD) Programme-Annual Review June 2021. Available at: https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/61955839.odt

⁵⁷ Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development/Government of Nigeria, 2022. Humanitarian Situation Update-April, 2022 Bulletin. Available at: https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/hsm_bulletin_april_2022.pdf

Sources

This case study on Nigeria is based on five interviews/consultations (3 focused on Nigeria only, 2 had a global focus but with relevant parts) and the following documents:

- Action Against Hunger, Graduate Institute Geneva, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, University of Maryland, and University of Minnesota, 2021. Modelling Early Risk Indicators to Anticipate Malnutrition (MERIAM). Global Nutrition Cluster Predictive Analytics Workshop. <https://www.nutritioncluster.net/sites/nutritioncluster.com/files/2021-02/Session%205%29%20MERIAM%20GNC%20Workshop.pdf>
- FCDO, 2021. Lafiya-UK Support for Health in Nigeria-Annual Review September 2021. Available at: https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/90000445.odt
- FCDO, 2021. North East Nigeria Transition to Development (NENTAD) Programme-Annual Review June 2021. Available at: https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/61955839.odt
- Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development/Government of Nigeria, 2022. Humanitarian Situation Update-April, 2022 Bulletin. Available at: https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/hsm_bulletin_april_2022.pdf
- REACH, 2019. 2018 Activity Report. Available at: https://www.reach-initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/REACH_-_AR_-_2018_-_FINAL_-_V1.pdf

Annex 8: Somalia case study

FCDO-supported programmes that informed this case study:

- Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit Support (FSNAU)

Data solutions and innovations highlighted in this case study:

- Dashboards using scalable software solutions

Background

According to The World Bank's Fiscal Year 2022 List of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations, Somalia is classified as a “high-intensity conflict” setting.⁵⁸ A 4 June 2022 release by IPC also highlights that Somalia is at increased risk of famine, particularly in the central and southern parts of the country.⁵⁹

Good practices in Somalia

Investment in local institutions, namely FSNAU, to enhance local capacities and manage evidence synthesis and contextual analysis of changing dynamics that affect food security and nutrition.

Evaluation findings

Relevance

FCDO is a co-funder of the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), and that unit has produced an analytical framework that supports contextual nutrition analysis, not just generation of prevalence estimates and thresholds for conventional anthropometric indicators such as wasting and stunting.⁶⁰ There are strengths on which to build.

⁵⁸ The World Bank, 2021. Classification of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations. Available at:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/harmonized-list-of-fragile-situations> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

⁵⁹ IPC, 2022. Somalia Faces Increased Risk of Famine as Acute Food Insecurity, Malnutrition and Mortality Worsen – Somalia. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-faces-increased-risk-famine-acute-food-insecurity-malnutrition-and-mortality-worsen> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

⁶⁰ Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit, 2022. Somalia. Available at: <https://www.fsnau.org> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

According to one KII with a non-FCDO Somalia expert who advises FSNAU, the FSNAU dashboard is constantly being refined to better align the tool with stakeholders' needs. For example, the level of geographical disaggregation is evolving (currently disaggregated at a district level), and a new security indicator was added to the dashboard in the past two years.

However, the dashboard is not a solution to the entire 'difficult data' issue. According to the key informant, there are gains in consolidating early warning evidence within a single dashboard, although there is a reliance on secondary data sources.

Coherence

As a single repository of early warning data, the dashboard contributes to coherence of data systems in Somalia. The investment in FSNAU as a national body theoretically facilitates coherence of effort across locations and partners, however the evaluation team did not have access to objectively verifiable evidence on this domain.

Effectiveness

As raised by a non-FCDO key informant who is directly involved in FSNAU's activities (including the dashboard), operationalising the dashboard was not an instantaneous endeavour. It took 1–2 years to convince some international agencies that were involved in the conceptualisation of the dashboard to share their data with FSNAU. Assurances had to be made on the part of FSNAU about not using that data to evaluate the performance of those agencies' programmes.

There has also been a substantial reduction in the lag time for submitting data. As of June 2022, it takes 2–3 weeks for FSNAU to receive requested monthly data, compared to a 2–3 month lag time when the dashboard first launched (1 KII). FSNAU has recently switched from WHO sources to Ministry of Health sources for health data and this has been particularly troublesome. According to the key informant consulted for this case study, getting data from the MoH is the only remaining real challenge FSNAU has in accessing data.

In terms of impact, the key informant confirmed that humanitarian response in Somalia is heavily guided by information from the dashboard. However, they also highlighted that, as is common to all data initiatives, decisions aren't only made based on information (e.g., other priorities, scarce resources, ideology, etc.),

Efficiency

Evidence for this domain is solely anecdotal. According to the non-FCDO key informant involved, the dashboard represents good value for money. There are substantial upfront costs to develop such a tool, but operational costs are very low.

Human resource requirements have also been streamlined. According to the key informant, there is currently a single focal person who is responsible for application development, making monthly data requests of stakeholders and cleaning and uploading data to the dashboard.

Sustainability

Direct investment in Somalia's FSNAU bodes well in terms of institutionalised capacity building. However, the evaluation team did not have access to evidence that enabled objective assessment of performance with regards to sustainability.

Nevertheless, the key informant indicated that Somali personnel constitute a large number of FSNAU's team, although there remains a need to transfer the dashboard to full government ownership. The key informant also noted the following requirements for sustainability of the data solution:

- Adequate and sustained compensation of FSNAU technical staff who are not currently on the government civil service payroll
- Improved analytical capacity (at present there are many enumerators but far fewer persons with data analysis skills).

Replicability/scalability

The institutionalised capacity-building approach targeting FSNAU is theoretically conducive to scaling innovations and best practices in Somalia. However, the evaluation team did not have access to evidence that enabled objective assessment of this domain.

Considerations for FCDO

In light of evidence and information examined for this case study, FCDO could:

- Support enhancement of FSNAU capacities to manage the dashboard, with mechanisms in place for data accountability and transparency.

Sources

This case study on Somalia is based on two interviews/consultation with non-FCDO key informants with intimate knowledge of FSNAU and the broader food security data landscape in Somalia. 1 interview was focused on Somalia only, and the other was focused on the global context with parts relevant for Somalia. It is also based on the following documents:

- Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit, 2022. Somalia. Available at: <https://www.fsnau.org> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

- FCDO, 2021. Somalia Monitoring Programme II Programme Completion Review June 2021. Available at:
https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/61581068.odt
- IPC, 2022. Somalia Faces Increased Risk of Famine as Acute Food Insecurity, Malnutrition and Mortality Worsen – Somalia. Available at:
<https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-faces-increased-risk-famine-acute-food-insecurity-malnutrition-and-mortality-worsen> (Accessed 28/07/2022)
- Somalia Nutrition Cluster, 2020. Information Management Presentation. Available at:
https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/sep-2020_som_nutrition_cluster_im_presentation-final.pdf

Annex 9: South Sudan case study

FCDO-supported programmes that informed this case study:

- Evaluation and Learning Facility in South Sudan for Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience in South Sudan (HARISS)
- IPC
- The REACH Initiative

Data solutions and innovations highlighted in this case study:

- Partnerships/collaboratives for different elements of the data value chain

Background

According to The World Bank's Fiscal Year 2022 List of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations, South Sudan is classified as a “medium-intensity conflict” setting.⁶¹ In light of accessibility constraints due to insecurity in various parts of South Sudan, programmes such as HARISS rely heavily on Third Party Monitoring. Additionally, other factors such as exposure to various hazards and threats (conflict, disease threats, climate change) and a host of political, socioeconomic and resilience factors mean that South Sudan fares amongst the worst in the world in terms of its risk profile.⁶²

Good practices in South Sudan

Collaborative, multi-stakeholder work on nutrition monitoring and analysis.

⁶¹ The World Bank, 2021. Classification of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations. Available at:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/harmonized-list-of-fragile-situations> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

⁶² European Commission Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre INFORMRISK, 2022. Country Risk Profile: South Sudan. Available at: <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Risk/Country-Risk-Profile> (Accessed 28/07/2022).

Glinski, Stefanie, 2018. How to Declare a Famine: A Primer from South Sudan. Available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b7400e5a.html> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

Maxwell, Daniel, Peter Hailey, Janet Kim, Erin McCloskey, and Maria Wrabel, 2018. Constraints and Complexities of Information and Analysis in Humanitarian Emergencies: Evidence from South Sudan. Available at: <https://fic.tufts.edu/assets/SouthSudan-Case-Study-Report.pdf>

More frequent data collection and reporting pertaining to affected populations via community-based surveillance.

Evaluation findings

Relevance

A monitoring, evaluation and learning mechanism that uses Third Party Monitoring that is tangential to HARISS, known as Evaluation and Learning Facility in South Sudan for Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience in South Sudan, has generated a high volume of project documentation across the HARISS portfolio that has the potential to contribute to decision-making; however verifiable evidence of those specific contributions is lacking.

Coherence

As will be described later in this case study, IPC is a global standard process to consolidate and analyse country evidence and classify food insecurity severity and risk. However, building consensus around IPC classification has been challenging in South Sudan.⁶³ One key informant said that the reason for this is because of the number of disparate voices in the nutrition sector in the country. Effectiveness

The South Sudan IPC illustrates several challenges highlighted in Part 1 (evidence synthesis) of this thematic evaluation, namely the politicisation of data, time pressures to gather evidence and act, and the “good” versus “good enough” quandary related to data quality. As highlighted in an independent review of IPC in South Sudan in 2020, issues with the source data, in particular timeliness (time lags between data collection and analysis, the late availability of nutrition data) and reliability (how the data should take planned humanitarian assistance into account, and whether ground-truthing was desirable or even possible) contributed to consensus-building challenges.⁶⁴

A range of ‘innovations’ emerged to circumvent in-country challenges in reaching consensus on IPC classification, these focused on clearly defining and distinguishing roles and responsibilities in the IPC analysis process, at national and global levels. These included ensuring that governance of the IPC at national level was a high enough level of seniority (between government and the international community), to ensure political considerations and interests are discussed and negotiated. The South Sudan experience highlights global-national tensions related to who (which

⁶³ FAO, 2019. Final Evaluation of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Global Strategic Programme (GSP) 2014-2018. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/ca4203en/ca4203en.pdf>

⁶⁴ Buchanan-Smith, Margie, Jane Cocking, and Sam Sharp, 2021. Independent Review of the IPC South Sudan. Available at: www.odi.org/en/publications/independent-review-of- (Accessed 28/07/2022).

entity) is responsible for facilitating the process, providing quality control and technical support; as well as ensuring trust and coherence of inputs from multiple stakeholders. It also highlighted trade-offs in prioritising the preservation of the IPC as a global ‘gold standard’, namely the lack of ‘institutionalisation’ of the IPC within government institutions.⁶⁵ One non-FCDO key informant consulted for this case study highlighted that these concerns still exist in the present day.

Efficiency

The evaluation team was unable to access detailed evidence to assess efficiency issues for any of the programmes highlighted in this case study.

Sustainability

Without addressing design flaws highlighted in the IPC evaluation of the South Sudan experience⁶⁶ – in particular, competing objectives of maintaining global standards versus promoting ownership and institutionalisation of the IPC process – sustainability will be contingent on donor/UN/international partner-driven inputs and execution.

One non-FCDO key informant notes positively that the Nutrition Cluster in South Sudan is at full technical capacity to conduct conventional data activities such as SMART surveys and contribute data to the country’s Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System activities, which occur twice per year (post-harvest and lean season). This indicates positive progress towards ensuring sustainability.

The key informant also identified the nature of funding, not just the amount, as a critical success factor in sustaining innovations and promising practices that can enhance the IPC process. For example, FCDO supported HARISS via multi-year funding, which gave flexibility to the partners to make incremental and sustainable improvements in terms of how nutrition data was being used, how efforts are coordinated to eliminate duplication of effort and how data quality was improved.

Considerations for FCDO

Consultation with both food security and nutrition key informants indicates a need to support greater contextualisation of data, not just wholesale implementation of global standard approaches such as IPC, with an emphasis on drivers and dynamics underlying malnutrition and food insecurity.

⁶⁵ Buchanan-Smith, Margie, Jane Cocking, and Sam Sharp, 2021. Independent Review of the IPC South Sudan. Available at: www.odi.org/en/publications/independent-review-of- (Accessed 28/07/2022).

⁶⁶ Ibid

Sources

This case study on South Sudan is based on four interviews/consultations (all were focused on multiple countries and had relevant parts on South Sudan) and the following documents:

- Buchanan-Smith, Margie, Jane Cocking, and Sam Sharp, 2021. Independent Review of the IPC South Sudan. Available at: www.odi.org/en/publications/independent-review-of- (Accessed 28/07/2022).
- European Commission Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre INFORMRISK, 2022. Country Risk Profile: South Sudan. Available at: <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Risk/Country-Risk-Profile> (Accessed 28/07/2022).
- FAO, 2019. Final Evaluation of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Global Strategic Programme (GSP) 2014-2018. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/ca4203en/ca4203en.pdf>
- Glinski, Stefanie, 2018. How to Declare a Famine: A Primer from South Sudan. Available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b7400e5a.html> (Accessed 28/07/2022)
- Maxwell, Daniel, Peter Hailey, Janet Kim, Erin McCloskey, and Maria Wrabel, 2018. Constraints and Complexities of Information and Analysis in Humanitarian Emergencies: Evidence from South Sudan. Available at: <https://fic.tufts.edu/assets/SouthSudan-Case-Study-Report.pdf>
- REACH, 2019. 2018 Activity Report. Available at: [https://www.reach-initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/REACH - AR - 2018 - FINAL - V1.pdf](https://www.reach-initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/REACH_-_AR_-_2018_-_FINAL_-_V1.pdf)

Annex 10: Syria case study

FCDO-supported programmes that informed this case study:

- UNICEF Support in Syria
- REACH Initiative

Data solution/innovation highlighted in this case study:

- Partnerships/collaboratives for intersectoral needs assessment
- Low tech sensing

Background

According to The World Bank's Fiscal Year 2022 List of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations, Syria is classified as a “high-intensity conflict” setting.⁶⁷ However, another layer of complexity is introduced due to FCDO's red-line policy regarding the political regime that currently governs Syria. This red-line stance prohibits direct engagement of/with government entities and limits programming in government-controlled areas (GCAs) of the country.⁶⁸

Good practice in Syria

Strengthened identification and monitoring of risk factors/drivers/determinants associated with malnutrition in the Syrian context (e.g., disability, child marriage) via a community-based, intersectoral surveillance system.

This approach was not identified in Part 1 (evidence synthesis) of this thematic evaluation. However, this grassroots, multisectoral and inclusive approach appears to have enabled deeper analysis of drivers and determinants of malnutrition in families where undernourished children and/or pregnant and lactating women are found.

⁶⁷ The World Bank, 2021. Classification of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations. Available at:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/harmonized-list-of-fragile-situations> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

⁶⁸ Physicians Across Continents, and UNICEF, 2021. Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) Final Report; (Idleb and Aleppo Governorates, Northwest Syria, Syria) Survey Conducted: (02nd June – 13th June 2021) - Syrian Arab Republic. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/standardized-expanded-nutrition-survey-sens-final-report-idleb-and> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

Evaluation findings

Relevance

According to one key informant, there has been a paradigm shift from focusing primarily on anthropometric measures such as stunting and wasting to better understanding drivers and determinants of malnutrition. There is now a multi-stakeholder commitment to collect, analyse and use intersectoral data to inform nutrition programming in the country which will ensure the data have greater relevance.

REACH data and analyses have informed Syria's HNOs and HRPs.⁶⁹ Syria was also the pioneer country for REACH's Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (introduced in March 2014) to monitor the prices of essential goods across a crisis-affected area on a monthly basis.⁷⁰ That data has in turn been used to inform cash transfer programmes that are responsive to local markets.

The FCDO-supported UNICEF bilateral programme was fairly conventional in its approach to data, with an emphasis on filling data gaps that had persisted during the decade of armed conflict. For example, UNICEF conducted an under-five mortality study and a nationwide SMART survey, and both data sources were used to improve response planning such as geographical targeting and the prioritisation of interventions.⁷¹ As noted in the Programme Completion Review for the UNICEF programme, there was some data disaggregation (e.g., according to age and sex); however, there were missed opportunities to collect and report on more nuanced information of specific populations and extend programme reach to most affected and hardest-to-reach populations.⁷²

The above work has since evolved into a more nuanced identification and analysis of affected populations. A community-based surveillance approach that was introduced in the northwest areas of the country has enabled Nutrition Cluster partners to gather data on children and women with disabilities, survivors of gender-based violence, and girls subjected to child marriage – all of whom have been associated with elevated malnutrition rates in Syria.

⁶⁹ REACH, 2019. 2018 Activity Report. Available at: [https://www.reach-initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/REACH - AR - 2018 - FINAL - V1.pdf](https://www.reach-initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/REACH_-_AR_-_2018_-_FINAL_-_V1.pdf)

⁷⁰ Ibid

⁷¹ FCDO, 2021. Support to the United Nations Children's Fund in Syria Programme Completion Review September 2020. Not in public domain.

⁷² Ibid

Coherence

The Nutrition Cluster's Whole of Syria approach, coordinated by UNICEF, has proven effective establishing harmonised approaches across in all three hubs of Syria (Northeast, Northwest, and GCAs). However, the line of delineation between GCAs and other parts of the country (namely the northeast and northwest) has had major data implications. For example, according to one key informant, SMART surveys have not been conducted in GCAs in at least the past five years.

Effectiveness

FCDO's red-line position regarding government engagement limits involvement in data collection. According to one key informant, this has served as a disincentive for government use of data/analytical findings from international partners.

Efficiency

Considering the multiple dimensions of value for money (effectiveness, efficiency, economy, equity), the Project Completion Review of the FCDO-supported UNICEF programme highlighted equity-related issues. More specifically, it raised the issue of monitoring data often being disaggregated by age, sex, geography and disability but missed opportunities for narrative reporting of evidence that highlights gender and other equity issues.⁷³

Sustainability

One non-FCDO key informant (a programme implementer) noted that there are critical success factors for sustainability:

- The existence of on-the-ground operational capacity
- Access to target populations
- Functional multi-stakeholder coordination – particularly in northwest Syria – that are conducive to introducing and sustaining good practices and innovations.

There are concerns about sustaining the described good practices in GCAs.

“Obtaining and maintaining up to date representative nutritional status data across all 3 hubs in Syria will remain a significant challenge for UNICEF and its nutrition partners, given the complexity and scale of the crisis and the approvals required from the Government of Syria. This constraint is likely to remain constant for the foreseeable future.”⁷⁴

⁷³ FCDO, 2021. Support to the United Nations Children's Fund in Syria Programme Completion Review September 2020. Not in public domain.

⁷⁴ Ibid

Replicability/scalability

FCDO's UNICEF support ended prematurely due to reduced funding. Two key informants expressed concerns about the implications this will have on scaling and sustaining innovations. Additionally, the red-line policies by both international actors and the government place limits on geographical coverage (limited presence of humanitarian partners in GCAs).

Considerations for FCDO

In light of evidence and information examined for this case study, the following require further consideration:

- Feasibility, nature and scope of any advocacy and influence work, in light of clear 'red-lines' that prohibit cooperation, technical support and capacity building with government actors
- Re-assessment of value for money potential in relation to the nutrition data landscape in light of FCDO's significantly reduced funding to Syria
- Maximisation of opportunities to fill outstanding information gaps via contextual analyses on the drivers and determinants of malnutrition (according to one key informant, FCDO's Middle East and North Africa Evidence Hub has solicited inputs from countries in the region re: priority research questions)
- Data needs in light of an anticipated strategic shift for FCDO, from humanitarian support to support for early recovery in Syria.

Sources

This case study on Syria is based on two interviews (both were focused entirely on Syria) and the following documents:

- FCDO, 2021. Support to the United Nations Children's Fund in Syria Programme Completion Review September 2020. Not in public domain.
- Physicians Across Continents, and UNICEF, 2021. Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) Final Report; (Idleb and Aleppo Governorates, Northwest Syria, Syria) Survey Conducted: (02nd June – 13th June 2021) - Syrian Arab Republic. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/standardized-expanded-nutrition-survey-sens-final-report-idleb-and> (Accessed 28/07/2022)
- REACH, 2019. 2018 Activity Report. Available at: https://www.reach-initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/REACH_-_AR_-_2018_-_FINAL_-_V1.pdf

Annex 11: Yemen case study

FCDO-supported programmes that informed this case study:

- Yemen Independent Monitoring, Evaluation and Data Analysis (IMEDA)
- Yemen Economic Tracking Initiative (YETI), which is a special product delivered by ACAPS under IMEDA
- REACH

Data solutions and innovations highlighted in this case study:

- Partnerships/collaboratives for inter-sectoral needs assessment and analysis
- High-tech remote sensing
- Enhanced contextual analysis
- Third Party Monitoring

Background

According to The World Bank's Fiscal Year 2022 List of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations, Yemen is classified as a “high-intensity conflict” setting.⁷⁵ In addition to protracted armed conflict/insecurity, the country has also experienced economic crises, Covid-19 and other public health hazards and climate-related crises.

Good practices in Yemen

Triangulation of quantitative and qualitative evidence to support context-specific and forward-looking economic analyses, with recognition amongst Yemen stakeholders that economic crises, not just protracted armed conflict, have been a major driver of food insecurity in the country. Types of data informing the above analyses are:

- Qualitative data from daily media monitoring, secondary data review, thematic products and discussions with regional experts
- Quantitative data from publicly available platforms and sources such as Telegram, World Food Programme's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM), Humanitarian Data Exchange and World Bank.

Use of higher-tech remote sensing (satellite imagery) through Satellite Applications Catapult to enhance FCDO's understanding of humanitarian access, population movement and infrastructure damage. In future, it may be possible to use satellite data to better target FCDO's humanitarian programming and advocacy.

⁷⁵ The World Bank, 2021. Classification of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations. Available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/harmonized-list-of-fragile-situations> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

Evaluation findings

Relevance

One key informant consulted for this evaluation noted that Yemen is a positive example of elevating analyses to include the identification of the risk/early warning factors, not just a focus on food security outcomes. Another global nutrition information systems expert mentioned that a Results Monitoring Framework is being piloted in Yemen which will examine the food security and nutrition situation between IPC classification processes.

A third key informant for this case study noted that Yemen's economic crises have been a driver of food insecurity and malnutrition in the country. In light of this, Yemen Economic Tracking Initiative (YETI), a data initiative outside of the food security or nutrition realm implemented by ACAPS, supports economic analyses and establishes a stronger link between evidence and economic policy than other initiatives in Yemen. YETI supports secondary data analysis, needs assessment, scenario-building, risk, and analytical capacity-building in the economic arena.

Coherence

As with other sampled countries for this evaluation, the centrally managed REACH Initiative demonstrates several examples of coherence in Yemen. The programme has informed HNOs and HRP in the country.⁷⁶ Beyond REACH, the evaluation team did not have access to other evidence on coherence.

Effectiveness

REACH Initiative's Joint Market Monitoring Initiative monitors the prices of essential goods on a monthly basis and its data has informed cash transfer programmes that are responsive to local markets.⁷⁷ The Joint Market Monitoring Initiative is a collaboration between REACH, Yemen's WASH Cluster and the Cash and Market Working Group (CMWG). The collaboration harmonises price monitoring among all cash actors in Yemen. It tracks both non-food and food items including the Food Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket.⁷⁸ It also provides a supply chain overview that includes, but is not limited to, querying food vendors to assess shortages of key

⁷⁶ REACH, 2019. 2018 Activity Report. Available at: <https://www.reach-initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/REACH - AR - 2018 - FINAL - V1.pdf>

⁷⁷ Ibid

⁷⁸ WASH Cluster, CMWG and REACH, 2022. Yemen Joint Market Monitoring Initiative: March 2022 Situation Overview. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-joint-market-monitoring-initiative-march-2022-situation-overview> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

food items such as wheat flour, vegetable oil, salt, rice and lentils in the two weeks prior to data collection.

Challenges persist in producing timely evaluation evidence, and the reasons are consistent with some of the operational challenges identified in Part 1 (evidence synthesis) of this thematic evaluation. For example, a planned formal evaluation of SFD by IMEDA (using a Third Party Monitor Tahseen) was delayed by six months due to delayed government approvals for data collection in the northern part of the country. Compromises were also made to the types of data collected, which limited the ability to conduct a more robust evaluation.⁷⁹

Efficiency

IMEDA employed higher-tech remote sensing (satellite imagery) through a satellite service provider (Catapult) to enhance FCDO's understanding of humanitarian access, population movement and infrastructure damage. The total value of the satellite imagery component is GBP 1.8 million.⁸⁰

The 2019 Annual Review for IMEDA mentioned that "it may be possible to use satellite data to better target DFID's humanitarian programming and advocacy".⁸¹ The 2020 Annual Review of IMEDA noted that quality satellite images actually supported humanitarian analysis of hard-to-reach areas, which relates to the equity component of value for money. However, it is not clear whether/how the analytical findings have informed programming.⁸²

Sustainability

Yemen's SFD, which is a quasi-governmental entity that oversees Yemen's social protection programmes, has been a key FCDO target for capacity-building since 2004.⁸³ The evaluation team did not access additional evidence that might provide insight on sustainability issues.

⁷⁹ FCDO, 2022. Yemen Social Protection Programme (YeSP) Programme Completion Review March 2022. Available at: https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/D0000804.odt

⁸⁰ FCDO, 2020. Independent Monitoring, Evaluation and Data Analysis (IMEDA) Annual Review July 2020. Available at: https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/56615883.odt

⁸¹ FCDO, 2019. Independent Monitoring, Evaluation and Data Analysis (IMEDA) Annual Review July 2019. Available at: https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/49706194.odt

⁸² FCDO, 2020. Independent Monitoring, Evaluation and Data Analysis (IMEDA) Annual Review July 2020. Available at: https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/56615883.odt

⁸³ Ibid

Replicability/scalability

Although strides have been observed in terms of SFD's data timeliness and quality, one key observation has been the significant burden that independent monitoring places on SFD at multiple levels (headquarters, branch).⁸⁴

Considerations for FCDO

Consider harmonised joint monitoring efforts with other donors to minimise the burden placed on government counterparts such as SFD. As noted in YeSP's March 2022 Programme Completion Review, harmonisation might also yield better value for money.

Explore ways to fully leverage work that FCDO is supporting in the economic stabilisation space to strengthen predictive analytics and early warning work in the food security arena.

Sources

This case study on Yemen is based on five interviews/consultations (two were specifically on Yemen and three were on multiple countries and had relevant parts on Yemen) and the following documents:

- FCDO, 2022. Yemen Social Protection Programme (YeSP) Programme Completion Review March 2022. Available at: https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/D0000804.odt
- FCDO, 2019. Independent Monitoring, Evaluation and Data Analysis (IMEDA) Annual Review July 2019. Available at: https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/49706194.odt
- FCDO, 2020. Independent Monitoring, Evaluation and Data Analysis (IMEDA) Annual Review July 2020. Available at: https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/56615883.odt
- REACH, 2019. 2018 Activity Report. Available at: [https://www.reach-initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/REACH - AR - 2018 - FINAL - V1.pdf](https://www.reach-initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/REACH_-_AR_-_2018_-_FINAL_-_V1.pdf)
- WASH Cluster, CMWG and REACH, 2022. Yemen Joint Market Monitoring Initiative: March 2022 Situation Overview. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-joint-market-monitoring-initiative-march-2022-situation-overview> (Accessed 28/07/2022)

⁸⁴ FCDO, 2022. Yemen Social Protection Programme (YeSP) Programme Completion Review March 2022. Available at: https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/D0000804.odt

Annex 12: Description of evaluation team members

Donna Espeut, Evaluation Expert – PATH

Dr. Espeut, the evaluation team leader, has over 25 years of experience in operations research, knowledge management, technical writing, and programme design and management. She understands humanitarian contexts, having field experience in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somaliland, South Sudan and Yemen. Her in-depth operational and technical experience with a range of quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis modalities, theoretical and operational knowledge of relevant analytical frameworks and standards –including gender and inclusive approaches, and her experience with portfolio-level evaluation and using evidence for programming and policy influencing is based in part on supporting DFID/FCDO/HMG in several areas. These include assuring quality on social protection programmes; designing a Northern Nigeria nutrition programme; analysing context and supporting Yemen to develop a multisectoral nutrition and M&E plan; providing expertise for the SUN Movement’s midterm review and global strategic review; assessing the nutrition data landscape to identify areas for future investment; leading a synthesis of projects for pastoralist areas; and leading examination of global threats, to inform the new global nutrition strategy. Her role was leading all activities including completion of all deliverables.

Joanne Chui, Nutritionist – PATH

Ms. Chui, a registered dietitian and public health nutritionist, has eight years of operational and technical experience, including fieldwork for primary data collection, analysis, dissemination, and use in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Nigeria. She has supported similar contexts such as Afghanistan and Myanmar, having a strong understanding of the humanitarian, food security and nutrition sectors, including good knowledge of analytical frameworks and standards and quantitative and qualitative data collection modalities. She has mentored implementers to use logic models in project development and implementation; conduct needs assessments; and develop, monitor and evaluate community nutrition programmes. She has created and applied qualitative and quantitative tools; recruited and trained staff to conduct surveys in northern Ethiopia; assessed data gaps and challenges in an FCDO-funded nutrition programme in Northern Nigeria – providing operational recommendations to improve strategy, coordination, service delivery, data management, and supply chain; and conducted literature, programme and policy evidence review – sourcing data, reviewing documents, and analysing data. She has also evaluated the use of a mobile application for acute malnutrition treatment support. Her role was leading literature reviews, supporting KIIs, and triangulating information.

Kaitlyn Samson, Nutritionist – PATH

Ms. Samson – a nutritionist with over three years of experience – has an appreciation of the issues related to using evidence for programme design, implementation and policy, to influence in the global humanitarian, food security and nutrition sectors; and an understanding of relevant analytical frameworks, standards, and gender and inclusive approaches. She also excels in quantitative and qualitative research, analysis, and synthesis including the use of various data analysis tools, as well as in systematic and literature reviews, and evidence synthesis/translation for publication. Her experience ranges from working with hospital staff for timely, accurate data collection – to producing resources to help Country Programme Officers design and implement programmes. She has co-authored guidance on how governments, NGOs, and agencies can effectively treat, prevent and reduce anaemia; published on various nutrition-related topics; and written policy audiences, distilling conclusions in non-technical language. Her role was engaging in desk and literature reviews, evidence synthesis and translation, and report/publication drafting.

Irene Owusu-Poku, Public Health Specialist – PATH

Ms. Owusu-Poku has over 15 years of experience in maternal and child health and nutrition, sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, WASH, community health development, gender, and social behaviour change. Her data experience includes developing newborn health indicators with Ghana health service for the national data management system, collecting data as per instruments, entering data into DHMIS, conducting data checks, analysing data trends in implemented projects, and managing municipal data quality – resulting in high performance. She has certification from in Data Analysis and Action Planning Course and in Data Collection, Monitoring, and Evaluation. She has overseen baseline surveys, including planning and stakeholder engagement, and has conducted qualitative research including collecting impact stories from high-level stakeholders and community leaders and conducting interviews and focus group discussions. Her role was supporting desk and literature review.

Alex Miller, Data Scientist – DI

Mr. Miller has 10 years of relevant experience, using best-practice econometrics to create actionable knowledge from diverse primary data sources, with a focus on local data collection and use, including making recommendations to state government bodies. His quantitative and qualitative research, synthesis and analysis skills include the use of multiple software packages to manipulate big datasets. He plays a lead data role for the Global Nutrition Report creating visually compelling, easy-to-use online profiles, which are used for decision-making. He understands humanitarian contexts and the food security and nutrition sectors, has good knowledge of analytical frameworks and standards, and appreciates the issues related to use of evidence for programme design, implementation and policy influencing. He managed a database for the humanitarian appeals process; helped

facilitate the launch of the 2013 Syrian Humanitarian Response Plan; developed a beta site for financial tracking; and worked with Ugandan software developers to build a foreign aid data tool. His role was engaging in development of evaluation framework and data collection instruments, assisting with data-focused desk research, and executing performance evaluation based on available documentation.

Dan Walton, Senior Humanitarian Analyst – DI

Mr. Walton has over six years of experience conducting analyses on relevant contexts – including field experience in Uganda, co-authoring work on humanitarian WASH issues in Nigeria, analysing the humanitarian/development nexus in Somalia and similar contexts, developing unique methodologies, and serving as data lead for several humanitarian reports and initiatives. He has an understanding of humanitarian, food security and nutrition sectors including good theoretical and operational knowledge of relevant analytical frameworks, standards, and gender and inclusive approaches (e.g., disability). He has operational and technical experience with a range of quantitative and qualitative data collection modalities, analysis, and synthesis, and has trained others in various data analysis tools. He has portfolio-level evaluation experience; understands the key issues related to use of evidence for programme design, implementation and policy influencing; and can distil conclusions in non-technical language. His role was supporting desk and literature review and methodology development.

Sam Wozniak, Senior Data Analyst – DI

Mr. Wozniak has 6 years of experience in data governance; administrative data systems; and interoperability and barriers in national systems – such as in Uganda and South Sudan. He has experience with various data collection modalities, analysis, and synthesis tools; developed and delivered to diverse audiences several training modules on data protection and data interoperability; and mapped data ecosystems, design, and implementation, including developing methodological frameworks, conducting desk research, doing KIs, and writing gap analysis and country diagnostics. He is interested in local data collection and use and has field experience in Bangladesh and India. His background in African political economy gives him a nuanced perspective on humanitarian contexts, food security, and nutrition, and an ability to write for decision-makers. He is skilled in conceptual framework development; has good knowledge of analytical frameworks and standards, including gender and inclusion; and understands evidence use issues. His role was supporting desk and literature review, methodology development (e.g., questionnaires for interviews), conducting interviews, and report drafting.

Annex 13: Accessible version of decision tree (Figure 2)

Table A13.1: Text version of decision tree to aid in selection of options based local scenarios/conditions

Solution	Suitability limitations: environment
Support/build capacity for enhanced contextual analysis and explore tools such as dashboards to facilitate data access for use in decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The solutions are suitable in locations that: • Are not famine-affected country (or designated 'hunger hotspot'), and • Are not conflict-affected areas, but • Do have a functional early warning system to monitor changing dynamics and drivers of crises <p>Or locations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are not famine-affected country (or designated 'hunger hotspot'), but • Do have conflict-affected areas, and • Do not have physically inaccessible areas/populations, but • Do have a functional early warning system to monitor changing dynamics and drivers of crises <p>Or locations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are famine-affected country (or designated 'hunger hotspot'), but • Do not have other (parallel/concurrent) crises, and • Do not have physically inaccessible areas/populations, but • Do have a functional early warning system to monitor changing dynamics and drivers of crises. <p>Or locations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are famine-affected country (or designated 'hunger hotspot'), but • Have other (parallel/concurrent) crises, and • Have a mechanism/initiative for multi-sectoral needs.

Solution	Suitability limitations: environment
<p>Explore use of high-tech remote sensing and/or mobile RDC to augment existing information systems; support capacity-build for enhanced contextual analysis</p>	<p>The solutions are suitable in locations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are not famine-affected country (or designated 'hunger hotspot'), and • Are not conflict-affected areas, and • Do not have a functional early warning system to monitor changing dynamics and drivers of crises <p>Or locations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are not famine-affected country (or designated 'hunger hotspot'), but • Are conflict-affected areas, but • Do not have physically inaccessible areas/populations, and • Do not have a functional early warning system to monitor changing dynamics and drivers of crises <p>Or locations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are famine-affected country (or designated 'hunger hotspot'), but • Do not have other (parallel/concurrent) crises, and • Do not have physically inaccessible areas/populations, and • Do not have a functional early warning system to monitor changing dynamics and drivers of crises.
<p>Leverage TPM; explore mobile RDC; explore high-tech remote sensing. Augment existing information systems</p>	<p>The solutions are suitable in locations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are not famine-affected country (or designated 'hunger hotspot'), but • Are conflict-affected areas, and • Have physically inaccessible areas/populations, but • Do not have populations on the move (e.g., internally displaced) from inaccessible areas <p>Or locations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are famine-affected country (or designated 'hunger hotspot'), but • Do not have other (parallel/concurrent) crises, but

Solution	Suitability limitations: environment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do have physically inaccessible areas/populations, but • Do not have populations on the move (e.g., internally displaced) from inaccessible areas.
Consider low-tech remote sensing methods	<p>The solutions are suitable in locations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are not famine-affected country (or designated 'hunger hotspot'), but • Are conflict-affected areas, and • Have physically inaccessible areas/populations, and • Have populations on the move (e.g., internally displaced) from inaccessible areas <p>Or locations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are famine-affected country (or designated 'hunger hotspot'), but • Do not have other (parallel/concurrent) crises, but • Do have physically inaccessible areas/populations, and • Do have populations on the move (e.g., internally displaced) from inaccessible areas.

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