Thematic synthesis report on evaluation of humanitarian action

UNICEF in Humanitarian Action
Background

- UNICEF has provided humanitarian assistance since its inception in 1946.
- The Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs), revised in 2010, provide a framework for UNICEF and partners.
- The thematic synthesis report on evaluation of humanitarian action (EHA) gives a snapshot of how evaluation has promoted humanitarian accountability and learning over the past five years.
UNICEF has undertaken significant evaluative exercises of its humanitarian work, and with partners at inter-agency level, which has led to positive action and change.

However key coverage and quality gaps remain at the decentralized level suggesting uneven or low EHA capacity.

UNICEF HQ capacity has not kept pace with growing demands.

Policy developments in the UNICEF Strategic Plan for 2014-2017 and the Transformative Agenda offer opportunities to address these gaps.
(a) The Division of Human Resources (DHR) should include key Evaluation of Humanitarian Action (EHA) elements into training of Country Reps and Deputy Reps; and develop a roster of EHA-qualified monitoring and evaluation staff for surge deployments.
Action

- EHA orientation shall be included as a session in the orientation programme for Representatives and Deputy Representatives by the end of 2013.

- EHA awareness will be included in Regional meetings beginning in 2013 and going forward (e.g. Regional Management meetings; Deputy Reps and Operations meetings; Regional Emergency meetings).

- The Pool of EHA qualified candidates for surge deployments will be expanded in 2013.
(b) The Evaluation Office should continue its support for enhancing Evaluation of Humanitarian Action (EHA) capacity at decentralized levels.
Report Recommendations and Actions (b)

**Action**

- The Evaluation Office, working with Organizational and Development Learning Section (OLDS), will finalise a module on the Evaluation of Humanitarian Action to add to the existing internal online learning course on the “Decentralised evaluation function at UNICEF”.

- This will be available by the end of 2013.
c) EMOPS should follow through on its commitment to embed the humanitarian knowledge management function within the organization.
Action

- A dedicated post focusing on humanitarian knowledge management and learning capacity is being established in EMOPS.

- An inter-divisional working group has been established to identify knowledge needs and gaps in humanitarian action; establish priorities and strengthen coordination on development and dissemination of planned resources.

- A draft humanitarian knowledge management (KM) strategy will be prepared by the end of 2013 as a contribution to the development of an organization-wide KM strategy (itself coming out of UNICEF’s Effectiveness and Efficiency Review).
(d) The Evaluation Office should develop a strategic and results-oriented approach to addressing evaluation gaps and providing balanced evaluation coverage to meet UNICEF learning and accountability needs.
Action

• The Evaluation Office, in consultation with EMOPS, Programme Division and regional and country offices, will prepare an action plan setting out steps to improve evaluation coverage of UNICEF’s humanitarian activities and strengthen the evidence base informing humanitarian action. The action plan would address gaps in evaluation coverage including evaluation of level 1 emergencies and evaluation of the results of humanitarian action.

• The plan will be ready for consideration by Senior Management by the end of 2013.
Thank you