ALNAP’s work on Monitoring Humanitarian Action (MHA) aims to help organisations conduct holistic, meaningful analysis of the outcomes achieved by their activities. Scoping work with the ALNAP Membership identified challenges around three main areas: monitoring outcomes, capturing and using qualitative data, and how M&E can be better used for project decision-making and learning.

To address these issues ALNAP produced three complementary papers which were presented and discussed in workshops in Geneva, London and Nairobi.

Key achievements


Thirty participants from HQ MEAL teams across the ALNAP membership attended the London launch, with accompanying animations and a workshop on ‘Breaking the Mould’. A parallel workshop in Geneva on ‘Back to the Drawing Board’ drew more than 35 participants, chiefly HQ MEAL staff from donors, the UN, the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and INGOs.

Both events received outstanding feedback from participants, many of whom expressed a keen interest in further related discussions with ALNAP. Indeed, eagerness for smaller-scale peer-learning among M&E stakeholders prompted ALNAP to establish a new, strategically focused ‘M&E Network’ of practitioners.

That network later hosted 30 participants from more than six countries across East and West Africa at a two-day workshop for Members in Nairobi on outcome monitoring, qualitative approaches and evaluation. The quality of the workshop was highly praised with requests for more of the same. A follow-up webinar enjoyed a steady online audience of 60 to 70 people.

Further activities cascaded from the papers, including:

- a well-received WFP training session co-facilitated by ALNAP in Cairo;
- an invitation to speak at the CaLP webinar panel on measuring outcomes of cash assistance;
The training has been beneficial to my work; particularly in planning, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on our humanitarian action in seven West African countries. I want to thank ALNAP most sincerely for the opportunity.

IFRC staff member, Nigeria

- a blog from Save the Children on improving analytical capacity; and another from Action Contre La Faim on M&E ‘diagnostics’ and improving M&E systems;
- and an ALNAP-hosted Skills Building Day in Berlin for M&E practitioners in humanitarian contexts – with highly positive feedback from participants.

To reach a broader audience, ALNAP digitally disseminated the full package of MHA reports produced in 2019–2020. It also published video playlists for the ALNAP M&E workshop sessions during the year.

ALNAP also advised Members – some on an ad hoc basis, others through a more continuous rapport. These included an advisory role in the HPC Monitoring Group as part of the IASC Revision Process.

Humanitarian Evaluation Capacities

ALNAP’s work on Evaluation of Humanitarian Action (EHA) recognises that evaluation of humanitarian responses faces particular challenges – both on the ground and sector-wide. It aims to provide systematic and objective examinations to draw out lessons learned, helping to improve policy and practice and to enhance accountability.

Over the past year ALNAP has helped Members to navigate towards better evaluations both through an advisory capacity for specific Member needs and through activities including the launch of a dedicated webpage, a presentation and workshop, and scoping for new projects.

Key achievements

Direct engagement with Members is a defining characteristic of much of ALNAP’s EHA work, and this past year was no exception. ALNAP advised several Members – some on an ad hoc basis, others through a more continuous rapport. These included:

- SPHERE – advising on the revision of the M&E chapter of the SPHERE handbook;
- UNICEF – supporting evaluation of the Cameroon response and the revision of the Core Commitments for Children;
- OCHA-led Centre for Humanitarian Data – advising on terms of reference and processes for an evaluation of their services;
• OFDA – advising on the evaluation of a forthcoming programme on humanitarian leadership, in a role to be extended;

ALNAP’s continuing role with the UN Evaluation Group included a one-day seminar during UNEG Evaluation Week in Nairobi and with the UNEG Humanitarian Evaluation Interest Group on evaluation mapping.

The launch of a new thematic page on humanitarian evaluation at the BetterEvaluation site enhanced the EHA online profile, supported by a blog on EHA’s importance.

ALNAP presented on incorporating key principles of accountability into M&E at the M&E Group Meeting hosted by the German Federal Foreign Office, attended by key humanitarian NGO stakeholders there. ALNAP attended the Future of Financial Assistance workshop hosted by CaLP in Amman. Other invitations were to co-facilitate M&E trainings with WFP in Cairo and East Africa, and with IRC in Dhaka.

ALNAP published Learning from What We Know with guidance on when and how best to do an evaluation synthesis. Scoping was completed on the evaluation mapping tool pilot, with an initial paper shared with UNEG. Work began on a paper on evaluation of cash-based assistance, due in the next financial year.