Assessment & Response
Reflections from Field Experience in Sri Lanka

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Preparing & Guiding Assessments

- Boundaries between phases not fixed
- Strategic technical leadership, legitimacy & confidence and coordination capacity crucial
- International agency vs Govt vs local NGO governance, planning & financing systems
- Accessing Institutional Memory
Determining Priorities

• Let data lead decision-making. Move beyond rhetoric, anecdotes and pet issues.

• Who decides? Resist tyranny of the popular. Unpick the composition of community.

• Community as only unit of measurement?
How to Configure Response (Analysis)

- Formulating strategies for intervention requires contextual and historical knowledge.
- Desk review. Local memory. Global archive.
- Analysis plan requires programme expertise.
Capacity

• Leadership: deciding what is good enough; delivering training and management of assessment

• Conducting fieldwork: micro-skills, CP knowledge and capacity to document.

• Rapid training requires a base level of skills

• Relocating available human capacity
Methods

• Desk review requires documentation & updating of repositories

• KIIIs require some knowledge of local power structures and brokers. Useful to enrich FGDs and community-level assessments.

• FGDs/PRM subject to community dynamics. Need to supplement with other tools and alternative methods.

• Use other sources, apart from formal assessments
Involving Children in Assessment

- Dilemma
- Engaging children vital
- If we don't have the capacity to talk to children, how likely are we to be able to help them?
- Generating insights from casework
Thank You

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