

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
- KIIs 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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