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# Orientation on the MIRA

The IASC Needs Assessment Task Force

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# Quotes from the field: Pakistan & Haiti

- **“We have a proliferation of assessments going on in Pakistan.** Nearly each organization does its own assessment, often without any coordination even within their respective cluster. Regularly questionnaires used are badly designed with inappropriate, insensitive and/or misleading questions that do not allow the needed analysis. Hence there is a lot of work needed to get assessments right.” [Manuel Bessler, OCHA Head of Office, Pakistan]
  - **In Haiti, a large number of needs assessments of varying scope were carried out (...)** Many assessment teams arrived late and reinforced biased assumptions rather than contributing to a clear picture of the situation and needs.” [Inter-agency real-time evaluation in Haiti: 3 months after]
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# IASC Needs Assessment Task Force



“To harmonise and promote cross-sector needs assessment initiatives for consistent, reliable and timely data on humanitarian needs in complex emergencies and natural disasters to strengthen informed decision-making and improve humanitarian response”

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# Key Outputs

## Guidance

- Operational Guidance on Coordinated Assessments

## Tools

- Key Humanitarian Indicators
- Multi Cluster/Sector Initial and Rapid Assessment
- Humanitarian Dashboard

## Capacity building

- Coordinated Assessment Pool and Roster
- Training



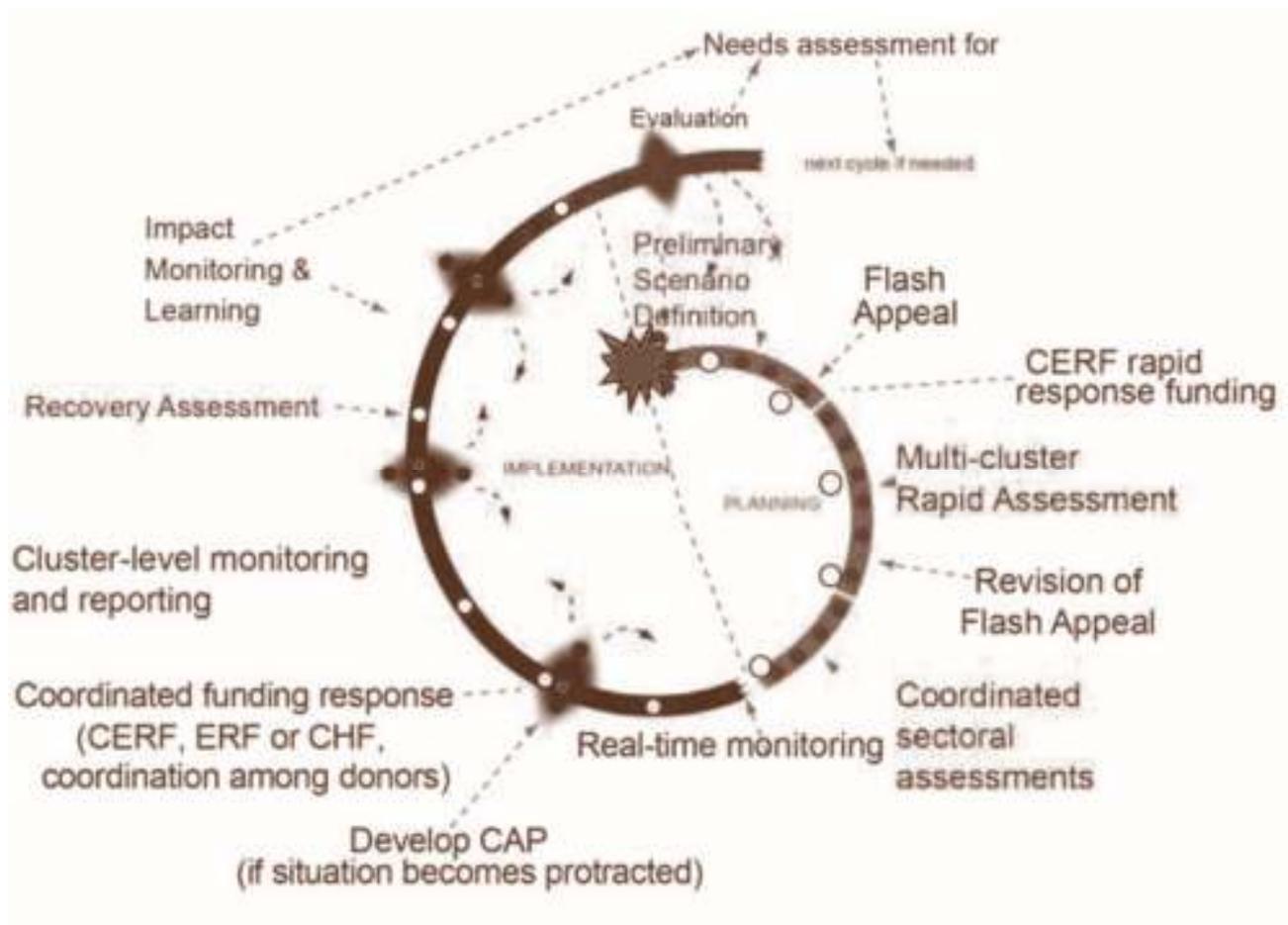
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# Defining Coordinated Assessments

**Coordinated assessments** are “assessments which are planned and carried out in partnership by humanitarian actors (...) with the results shared with the broader humanitarian community”. There are two types of coordinated assessments:

- **Harmonized Assessment:** This is when data collection processing and analysis is undertaken separately, however the data is sufficiently comparable to be compiled into a single database, and to serve as the subject of a shared analysis.
  - **Joint Assessment:** This is when data collection, processing and analysis form one single process among agencies within and between clusters/sectors. This leads to a single report. This is sometimes also referred to as a 'common assessment'.
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# Coordinated Assessments in the Program Cycle



# Operational Guidance on Coordinated Assessments in Emergencies

- Outlines the vision for coordinated assessments
- Establishes a common understanding of how to lead and implement coordinated assessments and analysis in humanitarian crises.
- Provides tools to implement the vision, as annexes



ENDORSED AT THE OG AT THE NOVEMBER 18 WORKING GROUP MEETING

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# Approaches to Coordination

- **During the first 72 hours after a crisis (phase 1)**, an initial assessment, using primarily secondary data, is undertaken to produce a Preliminary Scenario Definition that outlines the severity of the crisis, projects future trends, and informs the initial Flash Appeal. **In the first two weeks (phase 2)** a multi-cluster rapid assessment is undertaken jointly by Clusters, in order to support operational planning, and inform the revision of the Flash Appeal. ***Together these form the MIRA.***
  - **In the second two weeks (phase 3)**, Clusters harmonise the in-depth sectoral assessments undertaken by their members, and participate in inter-sectoral analysis. ***The Humanitarian Dashboard provides a process and platform to present this information.***
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# Process for Developing the MIRA

- September 2010: Agreement to develop joint (common assessment approach) for the earliest stages of an emergency. Establishment of a small technical working group (OCHA, WHO, ACAPS, UNHCR-later joined by WFP)
  - December 2010: NATF Workshop on the MIRA: Agreement on key conceptual issues
  - January to August 2011: NATF meetings/workshops to further define the MIRA
  - September 2011: NATF inter-agency mission to Philippines to seek feedback on MIRA approach
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## Where are we now?

- Basic agreement on over-all approach
  - However, still some minor inconsistencies and points of clarification to be finalised in the MIRA manual
  - Additional technical briefs from ACAPS to be incorporated into MIRA manual.
  - Training material under development
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# NEXT STEPS

- *IASC Working Group agreed to the roll-out and implementation of the MIRA in 2012 and report back to the IASC WG with conclusions*
  - *Development of an Action Plan that clearly defines roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders, identifies capacity-building requirements, and further activities. To be submitted to the IASC Working Group by December 31, 2011.*
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# Proposed Components of MIRA

## Action Plan

- A. Focus on preparedness: Missions to support country teams to undertake a MIRA in a disaster
  - B. Global level surge: Limited to mega-disasters (linked to IASC rapid response mechanism and agency surge capacity)
  - C. Clear definition of roles and responsibilities (more than enough work for all!)
  - D. Predictable and dedicated funding to support field activities
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