GeONG 2016 - Future assessments for the humanitarian sector: Who are the providers and what can be and should be outsourced?

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A political question

• «Needs assessments» objective: to understand and finally to interpret reality to design strategies of intervention, relevant and effective.

• A question of power

  • The power of ICT: a new process of knowledge production, definitely link with governance.

  • The power of the humanitarian system: a basis for the priorisation, funds allocation and for leading the coordination.

  • The power of NGOs: a basis for fundings, a basis for its intervention,

  • The power of providors – what’s next? What’s behind?

  • The power of national and local actors and authorities in the countries of intervention: their role within the response.

  • The power of the people affected by the crisis or poverty situation: their role within the response, their power to voice their demands, rights and dignity.
Why it is not a neutral and technical operation?

To be rudely provocative: a need, a demand do not exist per se, by itself!

- The way humanitarians understand the situation, and the solution they have, will influence their choice of data and methods to collect them, data processing, their question to people, the analysis grid etc..

- The demand expressed by people and national actors will be also influenced by their understanding of humanitarian aid, the relationship they have with interviewers, the solution they think feasible

- All this can be contained with:
  - Clear positioning, ethics, Q&A standards including ICT uses.
  - Methology, skills and «time to listen»
  - Accountability on who we are and what we intend to do
  - Debates
Why it has to be done by or with NGO?

Needs assessment should be also an **assessment of resources, capacities, assets** of the country, the people, actors system: a **situation analysis**.

- Situation analysis aims to better understand the problem **but also to identify possible solutions and levers for potential action**. It prepares action.

- And contribute **to create the conditions required for implementation** – communication, common understanding, prerequisites for trust.

⇒ **Objectives and processes that rely on the identity, the mission of each NGO.**
What has to be defined, mastered by the NGO?

NGO should define

• the **objective** of the situation analysis,
• **information requirements**, 
• the necessary **data**, 
• the **way data will be collected and processed** to feed these needs 
• the way information will be **displayed, disseminated, discussed** 
• the way information will be **analysed** 
• the way new **information requirements can be redefined** – agile process 
• **The decision-making process.**
How it can be partially outsourced and to what type of organisation?

Requirements:

- **An ethical framework** for all professionals involved in situation analysis studies, including those involved in information management and ICT,

- A clear **policy and guidance** to frame the studies, information management and the use of ICT,

- Clear **guidelines to enshrine information management in** clear methodological processes, roles and responsibilities.

- **Capacity building for NGOs staff to enable them to lead the process** – methodology, information management, ICT.

Partially outsourced to whom?

- **Always in close collaboration with NGO** or with their representatives (global level)
- Always to an organisation respecting **humanitarian principals and quality standards (CHS)** – the role of H2H