

Humanitarian Assistance Evidence Cycle



What is HAEC?

The Humanitarian Assistance Evidence Cycle (HAEC) Associate Award works to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency food security activities funded by the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) by increasing the use of cost-effective and timely impact evaluations in humanitarian contexts.

Impact evaluations provide robust evidence to inform technical approaches to improve the impact of humanitarian interventions. HAEC is a three-year activity (2021-2024) funded by USAID/BHA and issued through the IDEAL Leader with Associate Awards Activity, implemented by TANGO International, Save the Children, 3ie, and Causal Design.

Why Focus on Impact Evaluations?

Impact evaluations are a key tool to better understand program effectiveness, in terms of outcomes met and cost-effectiveness. Impact evaluations use cause-and-effect analysis to determine which interventions are responsible for changes in outcomes, both positive and negative. The findings from impact evaluations allow staff to make data-driven decisions, provide evidence for replication and scaling, and influence broader humanitarian policy decisions.

Importantly, impact evaluations can also answer key operational research questions for implementers, such as which version of a program is most impactful or cost-effective. Impact evaluations are rarely conducted in humanitarian contexts. This is largely due to a lack of experienced and qualified researchers with a willingness to lead impact evaluation in the contexts where humanitarian awards are implemented. This is exacerbated by general misconceptions around the cost, timeliness, difficulty, feasibility, and value of impact evaluations.

To address these challenges, HAEC will:



Increase the quantity and capacity of researchers and evaluators willing to lead impact evaluations in humanitarian contexts.



Demonstrate cost-effective approaches to achieve insightful and informative impact evaluations.



Reduce the time, cost, and capacity barriers that limit humanitarian organizations' ability to partner with researchers to achieve evaluation goals.



Disseminate research learnings and findings to the broader humanitarian community to improve future rounds of emergency activities.

How will HAEC do this?

- 1. Generate evidence through collaborative impact evaluations.** HAEC plays a pivotal role in evidence generation by funding and facilitating collaborative impact evaluations. These evaluations are conducted in partnership with a range of humanitarian organizations and focus on assessing the effectiveness of various interventions in emergency food security. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, HAEC ensures that these evaluations are operationally focused, contextually relevant, and geared towards tangible improvements in humanitarian practices. They were intentionally selected and designed to fill gaps identified through the [Evidence Gap Map](#) that HAEC published in 2022.
- 2. Enhance the capacity of implementing partners through workshops and tools.** Understanding the crucial role of capacity strengthening, HAEC enhances the capabilities of implementing partners by offering workshops and practical tools that can be used to better execute and utilize impact evaluations. These resources are designed to provide partners with the skills and knowledge necessary for coordinating rigorous impact evaluations and interpreting their results. This initiative not only strengthens individual organizations but also contributes to the broader goal of elevating the standard of humanitarian evaluations globally.
- 3. Disseminate and advocate through events and external communication.** HAEC actively disseminates impact evaluation findings and advocates for promising practices in humanitarian evaluation through a mix of in-person and online events, our *Evaluation in Action* brief series, and other communication materials. Through these efforts, HAEC shares insights, discusses challenges, and explores new approaches to executing impact evaluations. Notably, HAEC conducted a robust consultation process with stakeholders to identify key constraints to implementing impact evaluations in humanitarian contexts, which HAEC detailed, along with actionable steps to address these constraints, through our report [Navigating Constraints to Conducting Impact Evaluations in Humanitarian Contexts](#).

HAEC-Funded Impact Evaluations

