ACTION AGAINST HUNGER’S MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEARNING SERVICES
WHAT WE OFFER

The Action Against Hunger UK MEAL Services can provide your team with support at all stages of the project cycle. Since 2015 we have provided support to 20 NGOs, UN agencies, consortia and donors in over 20 countries across six key areas:
Action Against Hunger UK hosts a hub of Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) expertise within the Action Against Hunger network. Since 2010, our London-based team have been supporting colleagues in country offices with the implementation of quality programme and project evaluations.

Overtime, our team has broadened its expertise by leading a number of major external MEAL services contracts. In the last two years, in addition to the internal work that we support, we have supported a range of small and large scale contracts for agencies including UNHCR, UNICEF, Start Network, Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), Norwegian Church aid, MercyCorps, GOAL, CARE and Cordaid, among others.

To meet the growing demand for our expertise, our team has expanded. In 2019, we are a committed, multi-lingual team of 15 experienced MEAL experts working flexibly and collaboratively across a range of projects.

We are passionate about better quality humanitarian assistance. We strive to provide evidence and learning to support the delivery of more effective and accountable humanitarian and development programming. Our position, both within the Action Against Hunger network and in the wider humanitarian sector, enables us to work independently and objectively. We harvest learning from project and programme evaluations, and facilitate discussions on innovative approaches.

Our services range from helping organisations to design programme-scale MEAL plans and build comprehensive, clear theories of change, to managing the design and implementation of multi-method evaluations. Clear messaging is a core principle which we abide by, so we additionally have in-house design capacity to create infographics and attention-grabbing reports.
MEAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

The strength of organisational MEAL depends on the accessibility and effective use of the information that we collect. Using a variety of software and tools, we help partners design systems to improve their MEAL systems and processes, so that data is available for decision-making at the right time, for the right people. We do so both by building the systems and tools needed to make this happen, and by providing support to existing systems to build on existing strengths while ensuring systems do not become redundant through lack of adaptation.

KEY EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK

Our team has conducted MEAL system diagnostics with the Action Against Hunger offices in Haiti, Cambodia, Niger and Nigeria. Based on our diagnostic tools, action plans were developed in a participative way in order to define a tailored support that Action Against Hunger UK would bring to help the country offices build on their strengths to improve their MEAL system.

We were also responsible for the re-design of the knowledge and information management system for the Disasters Emergency Committee. With 14 member agencies reporting against a handful of emergency appeals at any one time, we designed a system that allowed for the automatic collation and analysis of reporting and financial data, while maintaining the flexibility required by the DEC to manage such a dynamic programme portfolio. The system used Excel’s Power Query function to achieve this, and integrated this into an automated interactive Tableau dashboard to facilitate quick and accurate decision making.
EVALUATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS

We have extensive experience managing global and field-level research and evaluations, both internally for the Action Against Hunger Network, and externally for UN agencies, NGOs and consortia.

We have designed and conducted:

- baseline studies;
- process, performance and impact evaluations;
- nutrition assessments (SQUEAC/SLEAC/Link NCA/SMART/cost-of-diet)\(^1\);
- value-for-money and cost-effectiveness studies;
- gender analysis

and much more.

\(^1\) We work alongside Action Against Hunger UK’s Nutrition Assessment team. For more information about nutrition assessment technical support, see the Nutrition Brochure.

TECHNICAL CAPACITIES

We have experience with the following software for data collection and analysis:

- ODK
- KoboCollect
- Commcare
- NVivo
KEY EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK

In 2018, we led an evaluation to assess the impact of a UNHCR cash programme on protection outcomes for people of concern in Greece. The evaluation used a mixed methods approach of data collection with over 400 household surveys, focus groups and interviews to build on the body of evidence for using cash to achieve medium and long term protection outcomes.

An evaluation we led of Norwegian Church Aid’s emergency response in South Sudan reviewed nearly four years of programming to assess the relevance and effectiveness of the programme and the extent to which cross-cutting themes and issues had been addressed.

Further examples include a baseline study of Educate A Child and Mercy Corps’ ‘Educate A Child programme’ in Somalia, a three-year multi-country evaluation of the Disasters and Emergencies Preparedness Programme implemented in 10 countries, and an evaluation of the Standby Partnerships Results Based Management, which focused on an examination of the monitoring systems within the Standby Partnership.
DATA ANALYTICS

As the data collection systems used by the sector become better at capturing large volumes of high quality data, organisations need to ensure that this data is processed and used for decision-making and the management of projects.

We provide organisations with the skills and capacity required to perform powerful data analytics on their programmatic data, establishing connections and trends that help them better understand their impact.

TECHNICAL CAPACITIES

We have experience with the following software related to data analytics:

- R
- SPSS
- STATA
- Programming languages (e.g. python)

KEY EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK

We recently completed the 2019 UNHCR Jordan Vulnerability Assessment Framework Baseline, which establishes the vulnerability of Syrian refugees living in Jordan against a range of sectoral criteria. Using inferential statistics, the team analysed a representative sample of over 3,700 cases to update the vulnerability indicators, explore trends and correlations in the data, and make recommendations for strategic decision-making and planning.
DATA VISUALISATION AND INFOGRAPHICS

We believe that evidence is most powerful when it is accessible and actionable. The best way to achieve this is by synthesising complex data and presenting it in a succinct and engaging manner.

Therefore we produce infographics and interactive dashboards to accompany our products, in order to ensure the evidence we produce is useful and useable well beyond the scope of the project.

**TECHNICAL CAPACITIES**

We have experience with the following software related to data visualisation and infographics:

- Tableau
- Power BI
- Piktochart
- Adobe Illustrator
- Adobe InDesign
- Adobe Photoshop

**KEY EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK**
As a sector, we generate huge volumes of information and knowledge from MEAL activities. Key to closing the loop and ensuring this information is institutionalised and integrated back into programme design are the processes of knowledge management and learning.

From managing the development of knowledge management platforms, to helping organisations define and collect learning, we specialise in helping organisations manage and utilise what they have already learned, so that they can continue to improve and innovate with the work that they do.

Between 2015 and 2018, we managed the Learning Project for the £40 million DFID-funded Disasters and Emergencies Preparedness Programme. This £3.3 million, three-year project consolidated learning from over 50 member organisations by producing two Learning Reports, developing a global digital learning platform, and holding over 30 learning workshops across 11 countries.

We also champion knowledge management and learning within our own Action Against Hunger network. We designed and launched the Action Against Hunger International Knowledge Hub, an online repository where organisational knowledge and learning can be shared and accessed by all, both internal and external to the organisation (www.knowledgeagainsthunger.org.uk).
TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

We believe that sharing our skills and expertise with others is vital. We can facilitate a variety of MEAL trainings for both MEAL and programme teams, to ensure they have the skills and confidence required to respond to their day-to-day needs. Tailored training packages can be designed based on the specific needs of an organisation.

EXAMPLES OF TRAININGS AVAILABLE

(not exhaustive):

- Fundamentals of MEAL
- Developing a Theory of Change (workshop format)
- Developing a Logical Framework (workshop format)
- Core Humanitarian Standard and Accountability
- Evaluation design and management
- Value for Money

KEY EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK

VALUE FOR MONEY

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND TOC

MEAL AND THE PROJECT CYCLE
CROSS-CUTTING SKILLS

We have experience completing projects across a range of thematic areas, including:

- Agriculture
- Cash-based Programming
- Disaster Prevention and Preparedness
- Early Recovery
- Education
- Emergency Response
- Food Security & Livelihoods
- Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment
- Gender-based Violence
- Government and Civil Society
- Health
- Localisation
- Mental Health & Care Practices
- Nutrition
- Protection
- Resilience
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

Though we are based in United Kingdom, our diverse team can engage with you in a variety of languages:

- English
- French
- Spanish
- Portuguese
- German
- Greek
- Italian
- Punjabi
- Urdu
WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT US

―Their problem-solving skills are amazing and commendable. Professional, timely and efficient. I have already recommended them to my colleague‖

Christian Aid Nigeria

―Despite an extremely tight set of deadlines and challenges associated with soliciting feedback from multiple stakeholders the team were always manage to submit deliverables as agreed, and were extremely responsive to feedback...

We are extremely pleased by the quality of the final evaluation report, and found the team to be extremely professional, committed and responsive throughout the duration of the project.

A pleasure to work with!‖

UNHCR Geneva Evaluations Unit focal point

―The presentation workshop on the Core Humanitarian Sector worked very well and aroused the interest of the employees.‖

Action Against Hunger Haiti Country Director

―Working with you allows me to focus more on strategy, and not only on daily tasks.‖

Action Against Hunger Haiti MEAL focal point

―All those involved in the review were amazed by the quality of the document produced. To quote a colleague: "I'm amazed they created this document with that little amount of data.‖

Action Against Hunger Syria MEAL focal point

―The team kept a regular and clear communication. I never felt I was losing track of progress and always kept in the loop for any inconvenience that happened...

very professional but also very passionate!‖

DEPP Project Manager

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

For more information on our team and track record see our online portfolio [https://knowledgeagainsthunger.org/further-resources/meal-services/](https://knowledgeagainsthunger.org/further-resources/meal-services/), or contact us by e-mailing: MEALservices@actionagainsthunger.org.uk.
FOR FOOD.
FOR WATER.
FOR HEALTH.
FOR NUTRITION.
FOR KNOWLEDGE.
FOR CHILDREN.
FOR COMMUNITIES.
FOR EVERYONE.
FOR GOOD.
FOR ACTION.
AGAINST HUNGER.