



EARLY LOOK AT THE FORTHCOMING ALNAP CRITERIA FOR HUMANITARIAN EVALUATION

UNEG EvalWeek 2025

10 FEBRUARY 2025
SARAH GHARBI

TODAY'S WORKSHOP



Presentation & discussions

Background ALNAP's revision process

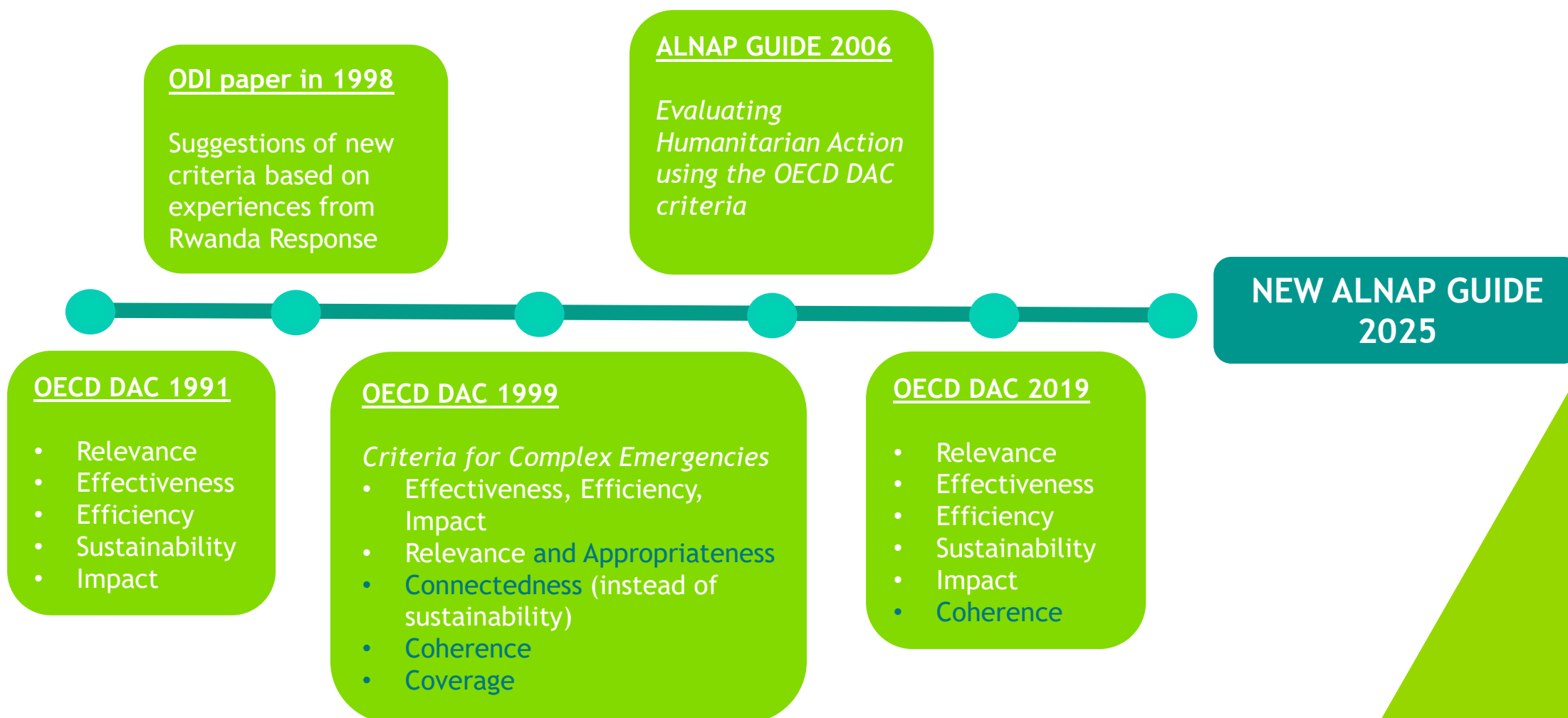
Overview of the draft guide



PART 1: BACKGROUND

- History of the criteria
- ALNAP'S revision process
- Findings from the consultation phase

HISTORY OF THE OECD EVALUATION CRITERIA



ALNAP GUIDE 2006

EVALUATING HUMANITARIAN ACTION USING THE OECD DAC CRITERIA



Evaluating humanitarian
action using the OECD-DAC
criteria

An ALNAP guide for
humanitarian agencies

ALNAP's guide has been used for the past 18 years.

Times have changed and new issues have arisen



REVISION PROCESS

Literature
review
(2023)

Consultation
phase (2023-
24)

Analysing
consultation
data and
drafting the
new guide
(2024)

Peer review
process
Finalising the
new guide
(2024-2025)

Publication in
2025

OVERVIEW CONSULTATION PHASE

Nine consultation events

- Online (5 events) and face to face (4 events)
- In Arabic, English and French
- Over 500 participants in total

Global online survey in Arabic, English, French and Spanish

- Total of 331 responses

KEY FINDINGS CONSULTATION PHASE

Alignment

Most survey respondents (82%) thought that it is very important or important to **align with the OECD DAC guidance**. This was echoed in consultation events.

- Respondents based in Africa, Middle East and Asia favour alignment more than respondents based in Europe.
- Evaluators favour alignment more than commissioners.

Main reasons cited for favouring alignment:

- To promote links to the triple nexus.
- To promote harmony and unity and avoid confusion.
- To enhance the credibility of the evaluation of humanitarian action.

KEY FINDINGS CONSULTATION PHASE

Feedback on specific criteria

Impact is perceived as difficult to evaluate and as more relevant in protracted crisis than in emergencies.

Coverage is perceived as seldomly used which is confirmed by the literature review. Most respondents (84%) thought that coverage should more clearly capture issues of inclusion, equity and meeting the needs of vulnerable groups in differentiated ways.

KEY FINDINGS CONSULTATION PHASE

Feedback on specific criteria (cont.)

Survey respondents thought both **connectedness** and **sustainability** should be used, with improved definitions.

But also:

- Connectedness is perceived as more relevant than sustainability in the evaluation of humanitarian action.
- Issues with the terminology of connectedness.

KEY FINDINGS CONSULTATION PHASE

Positionality & Decolonisation

Most survey respondents found it important to include the issues of decolonisation (76%) and positionality (83%) in the new guidance.

Suggestions on how the new guidance could do this:

- Recognise the limitation of OECD DAC criteria.
- Elevate local voices.
- Provide guidance on context-specific and culturally sensitive application of the criteria

ANY QUESTIONS?

PART 2: THE DRAFT GUIDE

- The evaluation criteria
-

THE DRAFT GUIDE

is partially aligned with the OECD criteria

Criteria are high level concepts that provide a normative framework to determine the merit or worth of an intervention

We have included the following criteria:

- **Impact, effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, coherence** (definitions has been tweaked where necessary to suit EHA)
- **Inter-connection** (formerly known as connectedness) - with a new name and clarified definition
- **Coverage & inclusion**

We have added:

- A box on **sustainability** in the inter-connection section, with examples of when it is useful or not in EHA

THE OECD CRITERIA

Relevance

- Similar to the OECD definition. Two level of analysis: macro- and micro-levels.

Effectiveness

- Similar to the OECD definition. We encourage users to go beyond listing which activities and outputs have been delivered and focus the analysis on the results at the outcome level, and identify unintended results.

Efficiency

- We have opted to align with the broad definition of efficiency adopted by the OECD DAC in 2019 which is a change from the narrow definition we had in 2006.

Impact

- Impact is defined as the analysis of 'wider effects' as in the 2006 guide
- We have introduced different aspects of impact : unintended, varied and collective.

THE OECD CRITERIA

Coherence

Draft ALNAP definition

Coherence refers to: a) complementarity and coordination of humanitarian action between actors engaged in humanitarian work; and b) alignment with, and consistency between policies and standards, both at organisational and system-wide levels

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR EHA

Inter-connection (formerly known as connectedness)

Draft ALNAP definition

Inter-connection refers to the need to ensure that a) short-term humanitarian action takes medium and longer-term considerations and implications into account in the way it is designed, planned and implemented; and b) humanitarian action is appropriately connected to development and peacebuilding.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR EHA

Coverage & inclusion

Draft ALNAP Definition

Coverage means exploring which members and groups within the affected population have been reached through humanitarian action, and how this relates to humanitarian need, including protection, in terms of focusing on those most affected by crisis.

Inclusion means humanitarian action without discrimination (e.g on the basis of nationality, race or ethnicity, gender, religious belief, class, disability, sexual identity and orientation), while also addressing the specific and diverse needs of different groups/ individuals.

EVALUATION EXAMPLE: INTER-CONNECTION

ANY QUESTIONS?

PART 3: THE DRAFT GUIDE

- Priority themes and cross-cutting issues
- Additional considerations

THE DRAFT GUIDE

includes a focused list of priority themes for transformational change of the humanitarian system.

NB: Priority themes guide the focus of the evaluation on specific areas or topics of importance



Putting affected people at the centre



Locally-led humanitarian action



Environment & climate crisis

THE DRAFT GUIDE

includes a focused list of cross-cutting issues which is integrated under each criteria.

NB: Cross-cutting issues are overarching issues that intersect with various criteria and can be integrated into all stages of the evaluation process.



Inclusion

Focus on those most affected by crises in terms of need, without discrimination and the specific and diverse needs of different groups/individuals.



Adaptiveness/ adaptive management

Adaptations in response to changes in context that go beyond everyday good management. It implies an iterative rather than linear approach, with multiple decision points.

THE DRAFT GUIDE

Also addresses Power & Positionality

Highlights how identities and biases shape evaluations.

Identifies opportunities for evaluators and commissioners to critically reflect on their proximity or distance to the communities they are evaluating and consciously seek to centre the perspectives of those often marginalised in traditional humanitarian evaluations, including local actors, women, people with disabilities, and other marginalised and vulnerable groups.

Encourages evaluators to explore overlooked areas, as power dynamics may not always be explicit.

THE DRAFT GUIDE

highlights how the humanitarian principles relate to the criteria

- Although humanitarian principles do not map directly onto the criteria, evaluation questions about the role of humanitarian principles in guiding decision-making and humanitarian action can usually be linked to one or other of the criteria.
- Throughout the guide, we highlight how each criteria can relate to the Humanitarian Principles

ANY QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU

s.gharbi@alnap.org