# 2.1.1 Relationships between assessment, monitoring, and evaluation in crisis and unstable contexts

#### **MONITORING (PRE-CRISIS SITUATION)**

Prior to a crisis or as a situation becomes increasingly unstable, the usual ongoing situation monitoring has to change. Monitoring of the situation will increase in frequency. Early warning systems will figure importantly.



## PURPOSE

Understand the situation and the needs. Understand vulnerabilities / capacities. Forecast the likely evolution.



baseline reference for future M&E activities



planning programme response



When crisis hits, assessment is necessary to re-establish a baseline. In very unstable contexts, re-establishing the baseline picture is frequently required (e.g., an area/a group of people become newly accessible, a situation changes dramatically, information is required in greater depth) to the point that assessments begin to merge with monitoring activity. Each assessment or survey should be designed to build on previous surveys, information systems and local data, thus updating and expanding analysis of the situation.

#### MONITORING

#### **PURPOSE**

Determine whether the situation is improving/deteriorating. Determine whether the action is effective and any adjustments needed.



contributes to evaluation



adjust programme response

The distinction between the monitoring process and evaluation blurs in a crisis / unstable context. Given the rapid changes, it is necessary to "stop" more often and reappraise programmes in terms of changes in context, efficiency, and effectiveness, the relevance of goals/strategy, unintended impacts ("do no harm" principle).



### **EVALUATION**

#### **PURPOSE**

Determine whether programmes are relevant to a changed context. Recheck relevance of goals and strategy.

Check on unintended impacts of the project (do no harm).



revise programme response

