

FbF guide # 5

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning guide for Forecast-based Financing

Introduction: Why do we need MEAL for FbF?

Forecast Based Financing (FbF) is a relatively new concept/approach with potential to reduce disaster impacts through increased use of available science to inform preparedness decision making. Since Forecast-based Financing is in its early stages of implementation, evaluations are crucial to inform the learning process that eventually informs upscaling.

A comprehensive strategy for Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) is the cornerstone to build knowledge and evidence about the Forecast-based Financing concept. It enable a systematic learning process which is crucial not only for the effective implementation of specific interventions but also to scale up from localized pilot projects towards national or regional wide interventions.

Target audience for this guide:

The MEAL process could be conducted by the implementing organization, the respective government or by an external research institution. The target audience for this guide are from one side implementing teams, in order to guide an ideas of the key elements that should be considered within the project/strategy to be able to build robust evidence, but on the other side by the technical team, responsible to conduct the respective evaluations.

Minimum standards to implement a MEAL methodology in the framework of Forecast-based Financing:

- 1) a rigorously developed theory of change (perhaps didn't happen rigorously enough in Uganda)
- 2) the use of a counterfactual (comparison)
- 3) representative samples (randomized and large enough)
- 4) specific standards related to process (such as maximum time lapse between the SOP and collecting data, training of enumerators, protection of data)
- 5) the use of a trained statistician during analysis

6) a facilitated process of critical reflection using the preliminary impact evaluation results where we consider fully the attribution of impacts to our actions, the monetary value of the impacts, what we can learn for future years and other field sites etc.

When possible, Forecast-based Financing should aim at establishing an 'ideal scenario' standards:

- 7) baseline and end-line data
- 8) qualitative data from interviews with staff and volunteers that is collected and analyzed at a high standard
- 9) qualitative data from beneficiary focus groups that is collected and analyzed at a high standard
- 10) a facilitated process whereby preliminary results are presented back to beneficiaries and their feedback is collected and added to the impact evaluation

Depending on availability of time and funding, we suggest either of the following MEAL strategies:

[Light MEAL strategy](#)

[Rigorous MEAL strategy](#)

Cost-benefit Analysis for Forecast-based Financing

As part of the MEAL process for Forecast-based Financing mechanisms, the Cost-benefit analysis (CBA) has been used to analyze the potential return on investment. CBA is a tool used to compare the benefits and costs of a project, program or action. The conclusions drawn from a CBA are in terms of the Benefit/Cost (B/C) ratios, which allows the determination of the economic benefits obtained for each dollar invested in the project.

[Click here](#) for a details description of the CBA approach in the framework of FbF