



Disasters Emergency Committee

Myanmar Earthquake Appeal 2025

Call for expressions of interest: real-time response review

Background and context

The **Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC)** brings together fifteen of the UK's leading aid charities to raise funds in response to major international humanitarian crises. To support members' activities, harness lessons learnt, and inform real-time revisions to ongoing humanitarian responses, the DEC Secretariat is commissioning a review of programmes funded by the **Myanmar Earthquake Appeal**.

All fifteen DEC members, alongside tens of local and national partners, will be participating in this response. The DEC Myanmar Earthquake Response will span a **two-year period** lasting from April 2025 until March 2027. The response is split into two phases: phase 1 spans the first six months of the response, and phase 2 spans the subsequent 18 months. Traditionally, these phases indicate a shift between immediate and emergency response activities through to an increased emphasis on livelihoods, resilience and early recovery-based activities. However, priority activities and sectors are determined by members and their partners in consultation with communities and based on other information including targeted needs assessments and Cluster guidance. The **DEC welcomes and encourages flexible and adaptive programming** in line with evolving community needs and changing context during the response duration.

Real-time response review - overview

Within all DEC appeals, a real-time response review is commissioned to **take place during Phase 1** of the response. The intent of this approach is to generate timely learnings that **drive programme improvements and strategies throughout the remainder of the response period**, as well as contributing to the body of learning available to the wider sector within this context.

As such, the DEC is **inviting expressions of interest to undertake this response review** at the time of launching the appeal. Because the intent is for learnings and findings from this review to inform phase 2 plans, we anticipate the selected review team **beginning the project in May**, with research conducted and at least a **preliminary analysis of findings available by the end of July**.

To view other examples of recent response reviews for previously launched appeals, please visit the DEC's research and learning webpage: <https://www.dec.org.uk/research-learning>

Purpose of the response review

The primary purpose of this review is to instigate **collective real-time learning to inform adjustments** across DEC members' responses. Learnings from this piece will draw on the initial phase of the response so that lessons can be applied in real-time and into the second phase of the members' programmes. The response review also serves as an **accountability function**, both to the affected population, as well as to the UK public and other key stakeholders in the DEC appeal.

The Response Review will...

- Contribute to the **identification of key areas of enquiry** for this and other accountability and learning activities throughout the response, in consultation with the DEC and members, during the inception phase
- Critically engage with the **Theory of Change developed for the DEC-funded response** at the outset of the appeal to test assumptions, identify divergent outcomes, and explore the extent to which DEC member and partner programming contributes to the changes articulated within it
- Draw out **key lessons, particularly at the operational level**, that can inform real-time adjustments and be utilised during implementation of DEC Phase 2 programmes
- Provide an **overview and assessment of the response so far**, with consideration given to intended and unintended consequences, and with reference to selected CHS commitments
- **Highlight good practice** in the humanitarian operations funded by the DEC;
- Gather **feedback from local and national partners** on relationship with members and support provided to locally led humanitarian activities through quality partnership
- **Dynamically communicate key learnings** from the response to date and engage members with the findings through a range of mediums, including workshops and written outputs

Thematic Focus

The precise areas of thematic focus and enquiry for this review would be finalised and determined with the selected review team, in consultation with members and partners as part of the inception phase. However, general priority areas across the DEC research and learning agenda relate to:

- Equitable and quality partnership approaches
- Complaints, feedback and response mechanisms
- Inclusion of marginalised groups
- Exit and transition strategies
- Climate and Environment mainstreaming, particularly with reference to the commitments of the [Climate and Environment Charter](#)

Within this response, initial discussions with members and partners, and context analysis and monitoring, have led to the emergence of several initial guiding questions specific to this response, namely:

- How can we support or **facilitate trust-building**, and effective consultation and **feedback-sharing with communities**, given the wider context in Myanmar
- How are DEC members and partners addressing challenges relating to **data sharing and safeguarding** of community members receiving assistance?
- What is required to effectively and safely facilitate the incorporation of **community perceptions**?
- How can we promote and ensure **accountability to affected communities**, and **coordination** within the wider DEC-funded response, within the constraints inherent within the response context?
- How are DEC members and partners responding to, and/or preparing for, the impacts of **cyclical climate and environmental shocks** (as well as the risks of earthquake) during and after the response period? How do, or how could, members better incorporate climate change adaptation efforts into their response efforts, particularly in phase 2?
- What is the status of **power and risk-sharing between DEC members and partners**, and how can we pursue equitable partnerships and uphold high standards of duty of care?
- How can **trauma-informed approaches** be integrated into the response effort within this context?
- How can we integrate **conflict sensitivity** at the community and wider level into programming and wider strategies?
- To what extent are DEC members and partners designing programmes that incorporate **Build Back Better/ Build Back Safer** approaches?

Note: not all of these guiding questions and thematic focus areas would necessarily be covered within the response review; applicants are invited to suggest a conceptual framework that prioritises some or all of these. **All DEC-commissioned reviews are underpinned by the CHS commitments framework, explicitly addressing some or all of these.**

Outputs, Methodology and Deliverables

We welcome expressions of interest to propose creative and flexible methods which are adjustable to the context.

It is anticipated that this review will take place through a hybrid approach, involving some in-person data collection, and also some remote/online efforts. However, in some locations, it may be necessary for the approach to be fully remote.

The review should involve both primary data collection (which could be through one or more approaches including interviews, focus groups, questionnaires, and other more innovative methods), as well as a secondary data review of member programme plans and other relevant external literature.

Though we are keen to centre and elevate the perspectives of affected community members, we also wish to avoid being extractive, contributing to survey fatigue, or raising safeguarding and privacy risks.

As such, we are NOT expecting extensive household surveys to be part of this methodology. It is very likely that the DEC will commission, or contribute to, one or more dedicated perception surveys as separate pieces throughout the response. However, applicants are welcome and encouraged to incorporate more light-touch approaches, including working through members and partners, to facilitate affected community priorities and feedback being centred within the response.

Deliverables would include:

- An **inception workshop** bringing together members, their partners, to review the research design alongside the Theory of Change for the appeal
- A **validation workshop** to review initial findings in a participatory process
- A **final report of 30-40 pages** summarising key learnings, findings and recommendations from the review
- A 2 page brief or factsheet highlighting the main findings in an accessible format
- (desirable) Another engaging format of **findings dissemination**, such as a podcast, video, or visual guide

Budget

The budget available for this project will be between £50,000 - £75,000, to be confirmed with the selected group.

How to express interest

In order to express interest in undertaking this real-time response review, interested applicants should submit a short written response to accountability@dec.org.uk by **Friday 25th April**.

We suggest that this EOI is not longer than three pages. You are welcome to also include other general information about the group or organisation you are applying on behalf of if you so wish, but this is not essential. The purpose of this approach is to reduce the time burden on those wishing to express interest, and also to ensure that the DEC Accountability and Learning team is able to rapidly review and respond to shortlisted applicants.

All applicants will receive a response to notify them as to whether they have been shortlisted. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted in the week commencing 28th April, and will be invited to submit a full proposal and attend an interview, likely in the week commencing 5th May. We would hope that the selected consultant/s were able to begin work on the inception phase before the end of May.

What to include

Within the submitted EOI, please provide the following details (suggested length: maximum 3 pages):

- An initial indication of the proposed conceptual framework, areas of focus, and approach to data collection
- Suggestions for how the team will address or respond to the main constraints or limitations of the proposed approach within this context
- Details of how you believe that your proposed approach is suited to the structure of the DEC-funded response, and to the response context

Please also include:

- CVs and/or short biographies (2-3 paragraphs) for the proposed team member/s. Please note that we do not advise applying as a sole individual due to the timeframe and scope of this review.
 - Indicative daily rates for each member of the team, with justification where there are extreme discrepancies between staff operating in different regions
- Confirmation of availability to undertake this work within the proposed timeframe and budget
- Links or attachments to previously published reports that team members have worked on addressing similar topics or responses

Additional guidance

Generic expressions of interest are almost never shortlisted by the review panel. The strongest expressions of interest across recently commissioned pieces demonstrate reflections on the response context, an understanding of the DEC response landscape, and explicit reference to how the proposed approach is grounded in these analyses.

We also tend to rarely engage review teams where at least one member of the team does not have local knowledge of the context or expertise by lived experience.

If you have any questions about this EOI, please reach out to accountability@dec.org.uk.

Essential requirements for the proposed review team include:

- Previous experience undertaking real-time (or midline) evaluations and/or learning reviews of similar humanitarian programmes, including knowledge of methodologies for engaging with crisis-affected people and communities
- Previous experience of undertaking multi-stakeholder reviews, and promoting learning within and across organisations
- In-depth understanding of the context in Myanmar
- Sound knowledge of the Core Humanitarian Standards, and an appreciation of the challenges surrounding their application within this context
- Demonstrable ability to produce concise and engaging written outputs in English
- Ability to organise effective and participatory workshops
- An ability to demonstrate understanding of the importance of incorporating climate and environment considerations within this and other humanitarian response efforts

Expressions of interest are particularly welcome from consultants based in the region and/or those with lived or family experience of displacement, receiving humanitarian assistance, along with women-led consultancies and those led by people with disabilities.

If there are insufficient qualified expressions of interest submitted by the deadline, the DEC reserves the right to publicly advertise the complete Terms of Reference to ask for full proposals. All timescales and deadlines will be reviewed and confirmed at contracting stage.