

# MODULE 3 ASSESSMENT, DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

## PART 5 Project Evaluation

In this part of module 3, we are going to explore Beneficiary and Community Engagement in Project Evaluation.

The final part of project cycle management is evaluation. If you have engaged successfully with the target community or beneficiaries then this should be reflected in the *evaluation assessment process*.

When conducting an evaluation, *mistakes and achievements are revealed*, especially those that have *affected the impact or efficiency of aid assistance delivery*. This can often be due to the *level and manner of engagement between aid organizations and beneficiaries*. The more malaligned assumptions and miscommunications between beneficiaries and aid organizations, the more ineffective and problematic the assistance being evaluated.

Let's look at the following example: your aid agency planned to and did provide 100 blankets to a small community. However, during evaluation, the monitoring needs assessments, and means of verification documents indicate that target beneficiaries were more in need of fuel provision for heating than they were of blankets. Consequently, this project was somewhat inappropriate because the *needs of the community were recognized but not addressed* because the

This example illustrates that in your evaluation you need to be looking at *the impact of the project, sustainability at the household and community levels, and the suitability of project activities and outputs*. All of these factors require *good engagement with beneficiaries and communities who should be aware of the purpose and timing of the evaluation*.

Evaluations can also often yield unexpected results such as the creation of *jealousies* or *social tensions* between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries as a result of your aid delivery. These *unanticipated results are perfect learning opportunities* to improve on past practices and standards to increase the appropriateness of future projects and methods of beneficiary engagement.