

What can HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY ANALYSIS do for you?



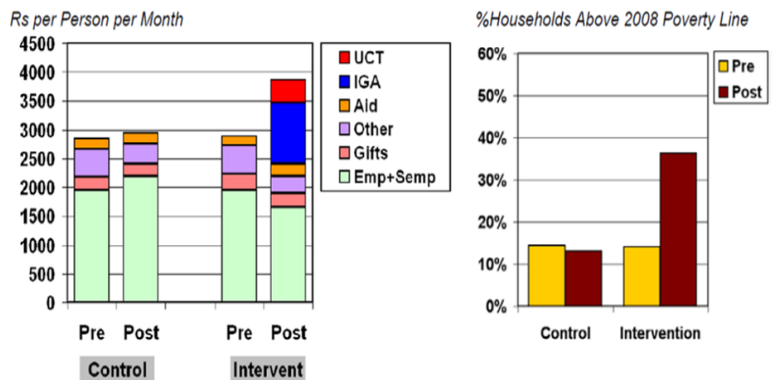
HEA in project monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation in Save the Children

Measuring the impact of a project on its intended beneficiaries is a key component of the project cycle. It is part of being accountable to beneficiaries, donors and partners. Without evaluating our work we cannot ensure its quality or improve what we do.

How does HEA help?

The HEA baseline records quantitative data on household assets, sources of income and patterns of expenditure for different wealth groups for a “normal” (non-shock) year. It therefore provides a good basis for measuring the effectiveness of a project aiming to build household assets or increase household income.

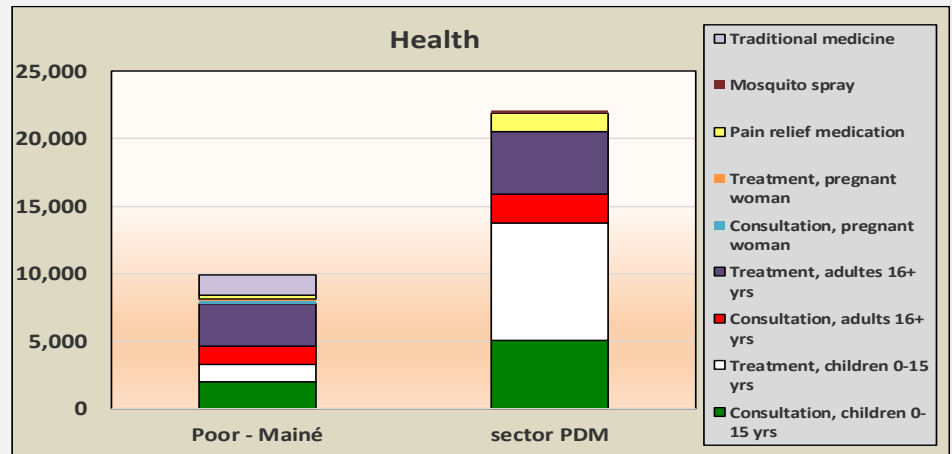


From evaluation of aid to tsunami-affected households in Sri Lanka, 2010: Changes in total income and poverty, intervention vs control



HEA's detailed expenditure data also allows you to look at whether a project has resulted in increased household investment in particular areas such as education or health. The graph below is an example of the expenditure data on health that was collected during the sector MEB study in Niger and Senegal in 2017-18. The data shows what is spent on children and what is spent on adults.

This graph compares expenditure on health care among poor households in Mainé (left bar) with the cost of meeting a minimum acceptable standard of health care (right bar)



Expenditure on healthcare among poor households in Mainé, Niger compared to the minimum expenditure basket for health ('sector PDM')

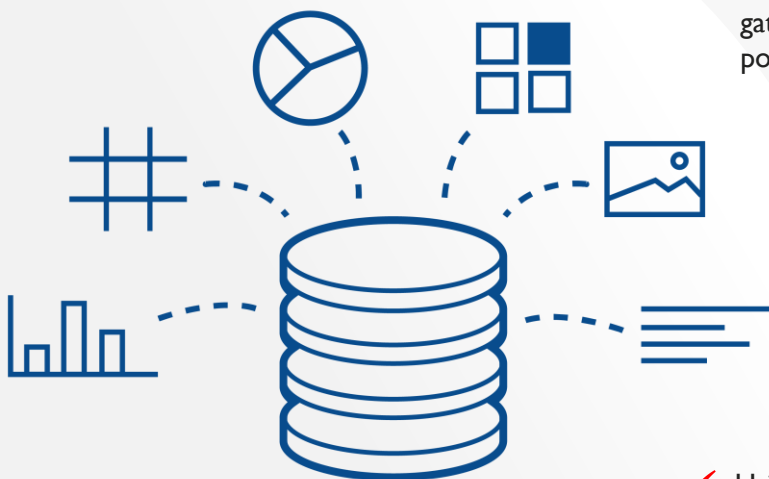
What is involved?

✓ Project evaluation using HEA usually involves conducting a **baseline before and at the end of the project.**

✓ If a baseline has not been carried out at the start, information on **pre-intervention income and expenditure** can often be gathered at the same time as information on post-intervention income and expenditure.

✓ An adapted version of HEA called **Individual HEA (IHEA)** is often used whereby specific beneficiary households are targeted and followed up. Statistical analysis can then be done to determine the significance of the results.

✓ Using HEA to evaluate project impact is complex and **outsourced** to date has been to experienced HEA practitioners in FEG.



Examples



Syrian refugees in Lebanon, 2016: Assessment of the impact of aid on their household economy

This evaluation used individual HEA (IHEA) in which the field data comes from individual households rather than focus groups. It used a minimum expenditure basket (MEB) against which to compare refugees' incomes. The MEB had been established by an inter-agency group and included the cost of a broader range of goods and services than a 'survival' threshold. The income of sample households fell far short of this threshold.

The study highlighted the particular vulnerability of female-headed households who are poorer (have more difficulty finding work and work that pays well), are at greater risk of gender-based violence, and have gender-specific health needs (i.e. reproductive and gender-based violence health needs).



Sri Lanka, 2010: Evaluation of assistance to poorest tsunami-affected households

IHEA was used to assess how far a cash transfer helped people meet a minimum expenditure basket (as defined by UNHCR/WFP) and survival food energy needs. It assessed how they managed the cash transfer, whether they spent any of it on assets or child-focussed goods and services, and whether they faced cash shortages.



Sudan, 2007: Evaluation of cash transfers in Red Sea State (Oxfam)

HEA was used to compare pre- and post-intervention expenditures to analyse the outcome of the transfer. It showed cash was sufficient to meet project objectives for middle and better off households but not for poorer households. The evaluation highlighted the very limited options for productive investment. HEA helped to identify what level of cash transfer would enable households to invest to improve livelihood security and the timing for it.



See also in '[HEA and resilience measurement](#)': 2018 evaluation of cash transfer in **Malawi** and sector MEB study in **Niger** and **Senegal**.



Go to <https://www.heacod.org> for more information on HEA and check out Save the Children's [HEA Common Approach site](#).