

ANAIYSIS SPECIEUM

From observations to implications to conclusions to recommendations

4.4 What if, what else, what then? ANTICIPATE – Predict and forecast

Anticipatory analysis identifies the likelihood of future outcomes and trends at a specific time, based on current and historical data. It combines predictions (one-off estimates of a specific event in the future) and forecasts (sets of possible futures that include probability estimates of occurring)

Main Activities:

- What will happen next if nothing changes? Extend current conditions to forecast future outcomes • What else might happen? Examine and develop alternative futures
- What might be the consequences if this happen? Evaluate likelihood and impact
- How does this change my current conclusions and key messages? Update interpretation based on I ikely developments
- How can I tell if it does happen? Identify triggers and track new developments

At the end of anticipatory phase, you should have:

- An outline of the impact of a continuation of the current developments or trends;
- A set of scenarios which details likely alternative futures, their likelihood and their impact;
- A list of indicators o monitor whether these alternative futures are unfolding; • A revised conclusion and a list of (new) key messages in the light of potential future outcomes.

3. INTERPRET

4.3 So what (does it mean)? INTERPRET — Conclude and build your case

Interpretive analysis aims at moving beyond results to findings and drawing and evaluating conclusions through careful argumentation, evaluation of the strength of evidence and contextualisation of the findings.

Main Activities:

- What is important and why? Rate severity of humanitarian outcomes
- What comes first and why? Prioritise most important issues and their underlying factors
- How sure are you? Evaluate evidence and assess plausibility
- Can results apply to other settings or groups? Generalise and transfer results where appropriate
- What are the key messages? Focus on main findings and build your case

At the end of interpretation phase, you should have:

- A list of the most severe and/or priority issues be addressed, as well as the main underlying factors; • A conclusion upported by plausible explanations, evidence, and logical reasoning;
- An evaluation of thamount, strength and type of evidence supporting your claims, accuracy of your results;
- An evaluation of the likelihood and conditions under which your findings would apply to other
- An updated key assumption list to challenge assertions and identify faulty logic, weak evidence or flawed analysis

2. EXPLAIN

4.2 Why is it like this? How come? Explain – Connect and relate

- Explanatory analysis is used to identify association, correlation, and other connections between observations. It is based on careful investigation of underlying processes or causal mechanisms and the strength of their relationships. **Main Activities:**
- What is related to what? Connect the dots and look for association and correlation • What led to what? How does it work? Review main underlying processes, drivers and factors, link effects back to causes
- What else could explain this? Develop plausible explanations and entertain rival
- At the end of explanatory phase, you should have:
- Theory, best explanations, guesses and conjectures as to what is related or leading to what; • **Problem tree**epresenting causal mechanisms and which ones are contributing the most to
- the current outcomes; A list of rival or alternative hypotheses;
- **Key assumptions checklist**o challenge explanations and identify faulty logic, weak evidence or flawed analysis.

The analysis spectrum is a sense-making workflow allowing to move from observations to implications, from implications to conclusions, and from conclusions to recommendations.

- Following the steps allows to transform data (raw snippets or bits of facts such as words, tables, numbers, videos, radio talk, meeting minutes, etc.) into information (processed and ordered chunks of data allowing to identify patterns, trends, outliers and inconsistencies), then transform it into knowledge (signals vs noise, significance, priorities, uncertainty, generalization, etc.) and finally into meaning (conclusions, recommendations, etc.).
- The higher the level of analysis, the more forward-looking, proactive, model-based and solution-oriented are the processes, lines of inquiries and analytical techniques used.
- The steps beyond description should bring together subject matter experts and be conducted in collaboration as to strengthen agreement and interpretation. For this reason, analysis is considered a social and collaborative process.
- Each analytical level builds upon the findings of the previous ones. It is impossible to complete a higher-level analysis step if previous steps have not been completed. For instance, anticipation relies heavily on an understanding of underlying factors and mechanisms that led to the current situation (explanation step).
- The spectrum gives a false impression of linearity. In real life, steps are not equal. Analysis is an iterative sense-making process which start as soon as a few data points are available, and continues until it is possible to draw conclusions that answer the original questions with a reasonable degree of certainty and usability.

SHARED ANALYSIS

5. PRESCRIBE

4.5 What should we do? PRESCRIBE – Suggest and advise

Prescriptive analysis is about providing advice and suggesting policy or response options. It investigates the potential effect of future decisions and consider their refinement to align with more desired outcomes. It translates a situation analysis into a feasible plan, informs about opportunities and risks, and shows the implications of decisions.

Main Activities:

- What should we do about it? Link problem, strategy and targets
- What set of action(s) will have the greatest and quickest impact? Examine and weight the impact of respose actions
- In which order does it need to happen? Suggest and advise on response critical paths

At the end of prescriptive phase, you should have:

- A strategy and objectives to change the crisis outcome.
- Target population groups and geographical areas A comparative analysis of different types of interventions,
- For each objective, set of recommended interventions and sequence of action.

INDIVIDUAL ANALYSIS

1. DESCRIBE

4.1 What, who, when, where, how many? Describe – Summarise & compare

Group and summarize data to help identify patterns, trends or anomalies and confirm main points or interesting storiesin the data.

Main Activities:

- What meaningful comparisons reveal differences? Group alike observations and reduce your data • What summary measure best describe the data? Select the metric that best describe the situation
- What consistent patterns, trends or anomalies emerge from the data? and within groups of data to identify meaningful and significant differences or similarities

At the end of descriptive phase, you should have:

- Summary statistics and statements or each category of analysis (geographical area, affected group, Main confirmed patterns, trends, theories, messages and stories.
- sector, etc.) • Main assertions and propositions bout main patterns, trends, theories, messages and stories to be
- further explored, confirmed, or invalidated.
- **Key assumptions checklist**o challenge assertions and identify faulty logic, weak evidence or flawed analysis