

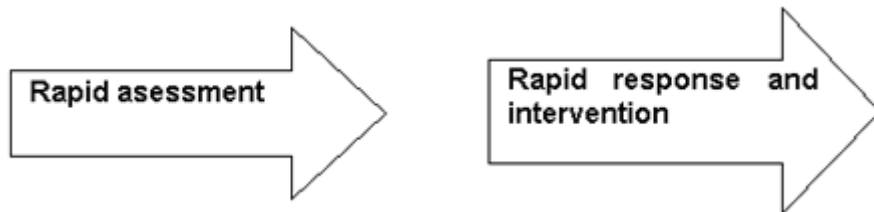
Rapid Assessment and response

I) Origin of RAR

RAR is used to help make decisions about appropriate interventions for public health issues.

Definition: Rapid Assessment and Response

Rapid Assessment and Response (RAR) is a means for undertaking a comprehensive assessment of a public health issue in a particular study area, including the characteristics of the health problem, population groups affected, settings and contexts, health and risk behaviours, and social consequences. It identifies existing resources and opportunities for intervention, and helps plan, develop and implement interventions.



[...]

Many public health problems occur in settings where there is little assessment capacity. Some public health problems can emerge, develop and change quickly. Many of the major public health problems facing the world today are linked with culturally sensitive behaviours (eg sexual behaviour, substance use, diet) and or occur in groups that are hard to contact. Conducting proper assessment and developing appropriate responses therefore raises major challenges. [...]

II) Principles of Rapid Assessment And Response

RAR has certain features (or principles) that distinguish it from conventional social science and public health surveillance.

◆ Speed

Time is vital when tackling social and health problems, which may occur more rapidly than can be assessed by public health surveillance or in the time it takes to undertake conventional research. A typical RAR is completed within 12 weeks.

◆ Cost-effectiveness

RAR uses techniques that have a high output of information in relation to input of research effort..

◆ **Practical relevance to interventions**

RARs are used to assist the development of interventions. The utility of a RAR may be judged by its adequacy for decision making, rather than increasing scientific knowledge for academic purposes.

◆ **Strengthening local responses**

RAR identifies and involves local stakeholders, including those with a responsibility for developing interventions. RARs encourage community participation to increase the practical relevance and applicability of the assessment.

◆ **Use of existing information**

New data gathering exercises (such as surveys) are undertaken only where the existing sources of information are inadequate. RARs use existing information to describe and understand the local situation and use this description to identify gaps in knowledge.

◆ **Multiple methods and data sources**

RAR combines methods and sources of data. A single method or source of data cannot encompass all aspects of complex social problems, particularly those that are sensitive and tend to be hidden.

◆ **Multi-level analysis**

There is a need to see the problem in the social, cultural, religious, political and historical context. RARs commonly move across several levels of investigation (individual, community and structural) in order to identify different levels for intervention. All societies are in a state of dynamic change, particularly those in developing countries. Public health problems may be emerging or rapidly developing and may be linked beyond the community level with structural and economic features of these countries.

◆ **Reliability, validity and triangulation**

Findings and conclusions are established through cross-checking multiple sources of data - sometimes referred to as 'data triangulation'. RAR methods are potentially more rigorous, reliable and valid, than investigations that use a single research method or data source.

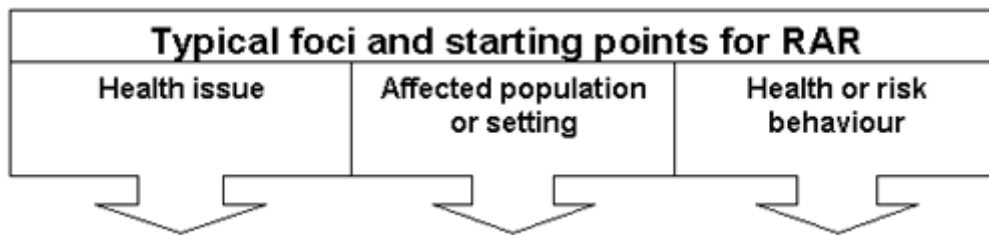
◆ **Adequacy for public health response**

The purpose is to gather enough information to take effective action. The purpose is not to produce scientific papers (though this may be a by-product).

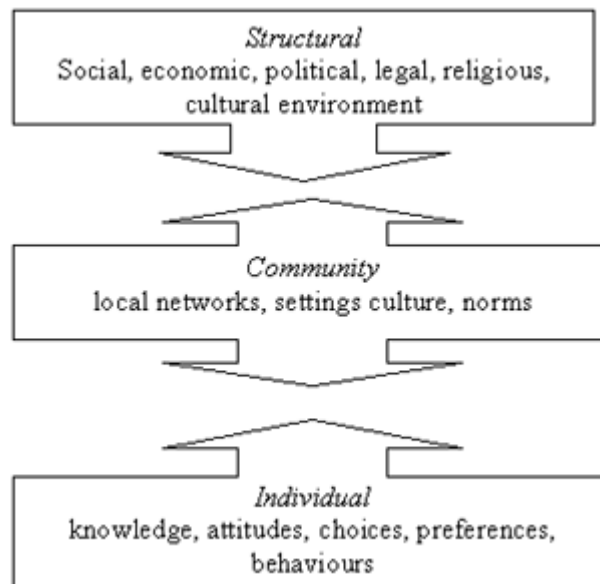
III) Scope and focus of RAR

RARs vary in geographical coverage. They can be undertaken within a locality, city, country region, country or region.

RARs vary in focus.



RAR uses a simple model to identify the different levels of influence on health risk behaviours. This is important for identifying the levels of assessment and levels at which interventions may be developed. [...]



[...]

IV Organising a RAR

- ◆ Identify issue as priority for action
- ◆ Establish Core RAR Team..
- ◆ Conduct advocacy
- ◆ Undertake field work.
- ◆ Establish community consultation process.
- ◆ Translate findings into action plan.
- ◆ Implement interventions.
- ◆ Monitor, evaluate and sustain the differences

[...]

Quelle: <http://www.who.int/docstore/hiv/Core>: *Rapid Assessment and Response Technical Guide*, (2003) Gerry V Stimson, Martin C Donoghoe, Chris Fitch and Tim J Rhodes, with Andrew Ball

and Gundo Weiler, World Health Organization: Department of HIV/AIDS, Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development, Geneva.