Welcome
to our 2021 annual report

iMMAP is an international not-for-profit organization that provides information management services to humanitarian and development organizations, enabling partners to make informed decisions that ultimately provide high-quality targeted assistance to the world’s most vulnerable populations.

Our mission is to harness the power of information to facilitate evidence-based decisions to improve people’s lives. By turning data into information, we create knowledge for decision-makers operating in development contexts, situations of violence, post-disaster, and conflict recovery.

Better Data | Better Decisions | Better Outcomes

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Executive Message

The iMMAP board salutes our talented personnel, loyal partners and stakeholders who work tirelessly across the world tackling today’s seemingly relentless humanitarian crises. “Resiliency” is the word often used to spread hope for the future. Resilient indeed were our country teams collecting data and proposing solutions to governments, aid agencies and civil society.

“2021 was a continuation of iMMAP’s history of supporting our humanitarian partners in protracted and complex emergencies. I commend the iMMAP team in their provision of information management services. This work assists our partners in better decision-making, translating into successful advocacy for people’s needs and resource mobilization.

After two years of the global pandemic and an increase in conflict around the world, iMMAP continues to innovate through an effective use of information technologies. Thanks to our donors, especially the European Union, for their support in complex crises like Ethiopia, and to all our personnel for their commitment in difficult settings like Afghanistan, Yemen and Syria.
iMMAP had an extensive presence across the world in 2021.

**Country Offices**
- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Colombia
- DRC - Democratic Republic of Congo
- Ethiopia
- Iraq
- Nigeria
- Malawi
- Syria
- Yemen

**Headquarters**
- Washington DC
- Marseille

**Regional Offices**
- Amman, Jordan

**Technical Offices**
- Medan, Indonesia

**Countries Supported**
- Somalia
- Haiti
- Sudan
- South Sudan
- Ukraine
- Mali
- Zimbabwe
- Guinea
- Niger
- Chad
- India
- Honduras
- State of Palestine

**Regional and Global Offices Supported**
- Switzerland - Global Health, Nutrition, Protection and WASH Clusters (Geneva)

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**Financial Report**

iMMAP’s 2021 financials and donor base

**iMMAP Revenue by Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Revenue (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$5m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$10m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$15m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$20m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$25m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**iMMAP Revenue by Region in 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>04.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**iMMAP Revenue by Donor in 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union</td>
<td>24.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations</td>
<td>10.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO/Other</td>
<td>08.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>08.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Government</td>
<td>06.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Bilateral Donors</td>
<td>01.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Global Surge

iMMAP facilitated timely and accurate support to our partners and their response activities in some of the direst humanitarian crises in 2021. Through iMMAP’s global surge roster, composed of information management, GIS, analysis, capacity strengthening and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) experts, we helped raise the capacity of our partner organizations by seconding skilled and experienced personnel that provided targeted services in support of emergency operations through various surge mechanisms, including the Standby Partnership. See below how iMMAP’s personnel was distributed across different world regions, partner organizations, and thematic areas.

### iMMAP seconded 53 expert personnel to our partners in 2021

#### Receiving Organization
- WHO: 35
- UNICEF: 06
- OCHA: 06
- UNHCR: 05
- IOM: 02
- FAO: 01
- WFP: 00
- UNFPA: 00
- Total: 53

#### Sector of Support
- Health: 35
- Coordination: 00
- WASH: 03
- Shelter/NFI/CCCM: 03
- Protection/CCCM: 02
- Nutrition: 02
- Food Security: 01
- RCCE: 01
- Total: 53

#### Region of Origin
- Africa: 35
- Asia: 08
- Europe: 06
- North America: 02
- South America: 02
- Oceania: 01
- Total: 53

#### Supporting Donor
- USAID: 34
- CDC: 15
- ACF: 02
- WHO: 02
- UNICEF: 02
- Total: 63

#### Funding Mechanism
- Standby Partnership: 47
- Long Term Agreement: 02
- Partnerships Framework Agreements: 02
- Field Support Team: 02
- Total: 53

#### Modality
- In-Country: 32
- Home based: 14
- Remote: 07
- Total: 53

#### Country/Region/Area of Support
- Ethiopia: 09
- Democratic Republic of Congo: 07
- Global Health Cluster: 05
- Somalia: 04
- Haiti: 04
- Sudan: 03
- Afghanistan: 03
- World Health Organization HQ: 02
- South Sudan: 02
- Mali: 02
- Zimbabwe: 02
- Burkina Faso: 02
- Guinea: 01
- Niger: 01
- Chad: 01
- India: 01
- Honduras: 01
- Global Protection Cluster: 01
- Global Nutrition Cluster: 01
- Global WASH Cluster: 01
- Total: 53

*Risk Communications and Community Engagement/Collective Service

### In-Country Personnel Distribution

- USAID: 34
- CDC: 15
- ACF: 02
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- UNICEF: 02
- Total: 63

- Standby Partnership: 47
- Long Term Agreement: 02
- Partnerships Framework Agreements: 02
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- Home based: 14
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- Burkina Faso: 02
- Guinea: 01
- Niger: 01
- Chad: 01
- India: 01
- Honduras: 01
- Global Protection Cluster: 01
- Global Nutrition Cluster: 01
- Global WASH Cluster: 01
- Total: 53
From Latin America to Africa to southeast Asia, the world continues to witness major humanitarian emergencies. One of the most challenging and protracted crises is Haiti’s. The Caribbean island has been facing recurrent socio-political, security and economic challenges for several decades, combined with the exposure to sudden onset natural disasters. According to the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2021, more than 4.4 million people, approximately 40% of the population, are food insecure. While the country suffers from the consequences of climate change and deteriorating economic conditions, COVID-19 has added an extra layer of complexity and hardship for the population. This has resulted in lower access to health care and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

In order to support the response to the growing WASH needs, iMMAP’s surge expertise was called upon by the United Nations. Alca Kuvituanga, an information management officer (IMO) with vast experience in supporting humanitarian responses across different world regions, was seconded to the WASH Cluster from August to November, as part of the Field Support Team (FST), to conduct a diagnostic of their information management (IM) structures and strengthen their capacities in order to establish more effective systems to coordinate the response.

Upon his arrival, Alca swiftly conducted an assessment of the current IM structure, identified priorities and supported the development of the annual work plan.

Throughout his deployment, he established a coordination structure for the WASH Cluster members in collaboration with OCHA, while mobilizing them to utilize the mWater Platform to report activities.

Although the mission was impacted by the fragile security situation and the lack of fuel and online communications systems, Alca was able to develop four situational analysis reports within the first month in coordination with 30 partners, made up of 27 NGOs, two UN agencies and a government institution.

To better understand the population’s water needs, he further developed thematic cartographies on the rate of access to water, mapped the functionality of drinking water supply systems and hydraulic structures, and developed an assessment report on the state of water infrastructure.

This information was shared with the wider humanitarian community to improve intersectoral coordination with clusters such as Health, Education, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and Shelter and Non-Food Items (SNFI), together with the IM Working Group. Although the humanitarian response in Haiti continues, the WASH Cluster is now better equipped to respond to the vast needs of the population after iMMAP’s intervention. Through accurate information and strengthened coordination, humanitarian partners can reduce the gaps in the services provided, minimize duplication of efforts, and better understand the population’s needs.

In addition to being part of the Field Support Team Consortium, iMMAP is a member of the Standby Partnership Network, leading the provision of information management deployments.
Information Management Support to the World Health Organization in Afghanistan for the COVID-19 Response

After over 40 years of war, increasing levels of displacement, deepening poverty, and recurrent natural hazards, the people of Afghanistan were dealt with another deadly blow from COVID-19. In June 2021, Afghanistan’s third – and most severe to date – COVID-19 wave gripped the country. There was an exponential increase in the number of cases, with an average of over 2,000 new cases and 100 deaths per day (the actual figures were likely to be significantly higher, due to low testing rates and the lack of a national death register). Nearly half of all people being tested in June 2021 were positive for the virus.

In response, iMMAP scaled up its direct information management (IM) support to WHO Afghanistan by developing new infographics. These infographics included the COVID-19 Response Updates, which provided key figures on the response’s nine pillars of work – from case management and therapeutics to surveillance and reporting – and the COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage Updates, which highlighted the country’s vaccination progress: doses administered, cumulative number of people fully vaccinated, and breakdown of vaccinated by population groups.

iMMAP also provided cutting edge information visualization support to WHO on an ad-hoc basis, such as the production of the One UN Afghanistan COVID-19 Response Update. This infographic was produced in support of the One UN Afghanistan COVID-19 Health Response Plan, implemented by nine UN entities to support the then-Afghan Government’s pandemic response.

These innovative and informative visual products, based on data shared with iMMAP from WHO’s regional and field focal points, provided a snapshot of the COVID-19 response in Afghanistan, helping WHO and its partners to better understand the impact of COVID-19 and make informed decisions related to the COVID-19 response in the country. The infographics were regularly posted on WHO’s official website.

During what was a particularly challenging year, iMMAP continued to provide direct support to WHO throughout 2021. This included assisting WHO and its partners to monitor the COVID-19 response through a reporting tool developed by iMMAP, and by providing the agency with IM assistance, particularly information visualization.

Establishment of the Intersectoral Information Management Support Unit

In 2021, Cameroon was struggling with a multitude of complex crises and continued to receive an influx of refugees from neighboring countries. On the other hand, an open conflict sparked due to secessionist claims to gain power on a national level compounded the ongoing international conflict around the Lake Chad Basin. Vulnerable populations faced multiple protection risks with ongoing violence, while the level of internal displacement increased to alarming levels due to conflict, drought, and flooding. There is a prevailing need in the country for accurate and up-to-date information that allows humanitarian partners to tailor their response to the overwhelming needs of the affected communities. In this context, iMMAP started in 2021 a new project based on the request of OCHA Cameroon to support the wider humanitarian community with information management (IM) services.

The iMMAP Cameroon team, specializing in data verification, analysis and visualization and geographic information systems (GIS), has been supporting the response at national and regional levels. In the northwest/southwest, iMMAP supported the WASH, Nutrition and Health Clusters and the GBV and Child Protection Sub-clusters, while at a national level, this support was extended to OCHA and stakeholders requesting assistance from the Intersectoral IM Support Unit (IIMSU) established by iMMAP.

The IIMSU team also supported the local, international, and national NGO forum, the Nexus Task Force, the Cash Working Group, and the Protection Cluster in order to help them obtain an accurate picture of the humanitarian situation and needs across the country. By December 2021, more than 160 humanitarian organizations utilized IM services, with over 50 products made available to the humanitarian community.

Building on iMMAP’s extensive training experience, the Cameroon team developed training materials to strengthen the overall IM capacity of humanitarian responders. In 2021, iMMAP launched several online courses following a wide-ranging needs identification survey.

Capacity building support was provided through a three-pronged approach, ranging from self-paced online courses and online tutorials to project-specific coaching for different skill levels. The courses covered the challenges of IM across needs assessment, data collection tools such as KoboCollect, processing and analysis tools such as Excel, GIS and mapping tools such as Qgis, and data visualization tools such as PowerBI. These capacity strengthening efforts are proving to be successful, and the demand for these services is expected to grow in the coming year.

Photo: OCHA
Colombia

Relentless Innovation for Efficient and Thorough Humanitarian Response in Colombia

In 2021, Colombia continued to grapple with internal armed conflict, recurring natural disasters, and an influx of refugees and migrants from Venezuela. This situation was compounded by the economic crisis resulting from the government restrictions imposed to combat the spread of the global COVID-19 pandemic throughout the country, all of which has severely affected access to health, education, and water and sanitation services for the most vulnerable communities.

In order to provide effective assistance and aid to these individuals, IMAP in Colombia is leveraging the power of new technologies and innovations to obtain, process and analyze data, which is then translated into reliable and quality information that provides the means and the tools for the humanitarian community to make better decisions throughout the humanitarian program cycle.

In 2021, IMAP Colombia, for the first time, utilized the Data Cube—the first open-source geospatial data management and analysis platform designed to help the humanitarian and development sectors address critical economic, environmental, and social challenges by leveraging earth observation data from satellites and climate models. The tool was used to identify and share the educational risk index information in order to facilitate decision-making that improves access to education and the retention of students in the education sector within vulnerable populations.

As a part of the technological innovations, we continue to use satellite imagery and artificial intelligence (AI) to detect settlements, to easily identify and map internally displaced people affected by conflict and natural disasters together with Venezuelan migrants and refugees—saving both time and funding for the humanitarian community in their response efforts.

IMAP also developed a chatbot focused on contacting migrants and refugees on the move to facilitate their access to humanitarian aid services. Through a virtual assistant integrated with WhatsApp, we have real-time access to the data collected in the registration forms, data updates and arrival reports at the destination.

IMAP Colombia is also promoting the use of Balcony, an innovative tool that merges geo-collaboration capabilities based on the exchange of critical information, mobile messaging from smartphones and real-time location of affected people. This tool provides a broad view of the emergency. It enables organizations on the ground and communities to make decisions based on data and knowledge to safeguard lives, all in a technologically secure environment while upholding data protection and privacy regulations.

IMAP, by identifying and adapting the latest technology from the private sector, aims to reach more individuals in need of assistance and support the decision-making of humanitarian partners.

Supporting the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Surveillance

For more than 15 years, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has faced a major humanitarian crisis. As violence deepens across the country, over 13 million people are in need of emergency assistance.

DRC is regularly confronted with localized epidemics (measles, cholera, malaria) as well as the Ebola virus disease (13th epidemic recorded since 1976). Vigilance remains necessary in the face of resurgence, the last of which was officially recorded on October 8, 2021, in the province of North Kivu.

In order to support the Ebola virus disease (EVD) survivor program in eastern DRC, IMAP is utilizing and adapting the WHO Go.Data tool for the collection, management and analysis of data in the field. In addition to the technical development of the tool, considerable work has gone into establishing a clear structure for data collection and management using local staff working in EVD survivor clinics, with ongoing technical and operational support provided by the WHO–IMAP team.

So far, five EVD survivor clinics have been established in Beni, Butembo, Goma, Mambasa, and Mangina, all managed by local clinicians, nurses, lab technicians, psychologists, pedictricians, psychosocial workers, and data managers.

Since late 2019, IMAP has deployed three staff to Beni and Goma to follow 1,184 EVD survivors for 18 months after the end of the epidemic. Six components have been integrated into the data visualization dashboards created by IMAP—general, biological, clinical, psychological, nutritional, and ophthalmological.

Since the beginning of the project, a total of 18,747 files (followed by the different components) have been entered into the database. This represents 95.8% data completed for 2021, whilst 56.7% of the data for 2020 has been entered.

In September 2021, staff from Ebola survivor clinics in the health zones of Mbandaka, Bikonjo, Ingende, Lotumbe, and Sololoma (Equateur Province) were trained in the use of the Go.Data tool to respond to the 13th outbreak of the disease across the province. The deployment of the IMAP team allowed for the configuration, implementation and development of a tool dedicated to the follow-up of EVD survivors in order to improve their care through targeted information on the different components mentioned above.

Overall, Go.Data is a major asset to the decision-making process of the EVD survivor program and has enabled and improved monitoring of the program, enhanced the data-based review of activities, and supported local teams to better manage their data while simultaneously improving EVD survivors’ care.
Disaster Risk Management Assistance for Ethiopian Authorities

In 2021, Ethiopia grappled with multiple ongoing crises, unprecedented emergencies and humanitarian needs. Conflict, food insecurity, floods, drought, locust infestations, and COVID-19 all continue to strain the lives, livelihoods, and coping mechanisms of an estimated 12.8 million people in several areas of Ethiopia.

Humanitarian actors worked to overcome limited access to some areas while local populations struggled to receive essential services. As a result, many humanitarian organizations had to scale back or even suspend their life-saving operations.

In this context, iMMAP Ethiopia provided vital support to the National Disaster Risk Management Committee (NDRMC), both at the national level, from the NDRMC central office in Addis Ababa, and in the disaster-affected regions, such as Tigray, Oromia, and Somali, from the regional emergency coordination centers (RECCs).

Technical support was provided by collecting, verifying, and analyzing datasets from humanitarian and government actors involved in the response and developing robust information management processes to coordinate the overall response. The services provided by iMMAP allowed for a better understanding of the rapidly changing humanitarian situation, planning and monitoring of the response, identification of gaps and finally, finding appropriate solutions. Concretely, iMMAP supported the NDRMC’s activities across states’ response activities for specific task forces focused on floods, droughts, and locusts’ infestations, all of which ultimately exacerbate famine across Somali and Oromia regions.

Similar involvement of iMMAP for state actors also began in 2021 in Tigray to help address the increasing humanitarian needs. As a result, humanitarian partners were able to rapidly respond to the disasters in 2021 more effectively with up-to-date information on the specific needs across the targeted areas. Maps and infographics were produced in coordination with OCHA every week and presented at UN and government agencies’ meetings to ensure good visibility and reliable information sharing among response actors.

Upon request, the iMMAP Ethiopia team also conducted ad-hoc training on tools used by humanitarian and government actors, including reporting templates, 4Ws (Who does What, Where and When), data entry, and Excel training. As a result, national actors working with humanitarian and governmental agencies were able to strengthen their capacities to respond to natural and man-made disasters while benefiting the localization of the overall response efforts.

Humanitarian Information Management Project Support to Government Agencies

Malawi is a landlocked, low-income country with over 80% of the income generating population consisting of small-scale farmers. At the time of writing, approximately 70% of the rural population are living under the poverty threshold. The country is highly dependent on rainfall agriculture, making it vulnerable to climatic shocks that increase poverty levels. The country frequently faces several anticipated hazards, including floods, prolonged dry spells, strong winds, and earthquakes, which are compounded by disease outbreaks and pest infestations.

In order to prepare for and respond to those disasters, the government facilitated the development of the National Multi-Hazard Contingency Plan and the National Lean Season Food Insecurity Response Plan through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA). However, due to frequent small and large-scale disasters in almost all districts, information management (IM) activities have proven to be a challenge as part of these national disaster response plans.

Subsequently, the United Nations Regional Coordinator Office (UNRCO) in Malawi, in partnership with iMMAP, initiated the Humanitarian Coordination Information Management Project (HCIM) to enhance IM capabilities while supporting DoDMA in the coordination of response activities. As part of iMMAP’s activities under the HCIM project, iMMAP engaged several leading governmental agencies responsible for disaster response and recovery.

iMMAP has been providing regular support by creating and delivering IM products (needs assessments, mapping, data collection and analysis, among others) to identify gaps in the response and prioritize the mobilization of resources to ultimately improve decision-making. Disaster response updates were developed and updated weekly to inform national and district-level response activities.

iMMAP provides valuable IM support to DoDMA while continuously developing and improving data collection tools to enhance the humanitarian response reporting mechanisms.

To ensure the continuity of IM activities locally, iMMAP carried out a data mapping exercise to identify data and capacity gaps. Based on that assessment, training packages are now being developed to address the identified capacity gaps at both community and national levels, with the aim of improving humanitarian raw data quality and enhancing disaster and needs reporting across Malawi.
Iraq

Open-Source Database for Mine Action for the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA)

Iraq has long been and continues to be one of the countries most extensively contaminated with landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). Information Management (IM) systems are vital for demining activities and the Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) sector at large. However, many IM systems face challenges in implementing the growing demands of stakeholders due to changes in the scope of information needed.

The Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA), as the National Mine Action Authority, oversees the management of HMA efforts in accordance with the Kurdistan Regional Government strategic plan. To manage the growing demands, they requested iMMAP to develop an IM system that satisfies their current needs while expanding the system internally to meet future changes. In response, iMMAP created the Open-Source Database for Mine Action (OSDBMA) in conjunction with the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).

The system is an online database that allows meeting stakeholder needs. It reduces system operating and maintenance costs while allowing IKMAA to maximize its limited funding. It has many features to support data collection, processing, validation, and analysis. One of the primary features is a user-friendly form designer that allows users to create forms for entities in HMA activities and a Geographical Information System (GIS), which is vital as HMA activities significantly rely on location.

“The OSDBMA database will enable us to better report and manage activities in accordance with both our and stakeholder requirements while also strengthening data exchange with other ministries in the KRG,” said Niazi Khalid Qussaim, Deputy Director General of IKMAA.

The base system was officially handed over and deployed at the IKMAA offices in November 2021. IMAP is now working on expanding the system’s functionality to the final level required. IMAP continues to support mine action partners in Iraq by harnessing the power of technology and creating innovative solutions to the most challenging humanitarian emergencies.

Nigeria

Improving the Effectiveness of Humanitarian Response Through Information Management Technology

Borno state remains the worst hit across the BAY (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe) states of northeast Nigeria—all severely affected by the ongoing humanitarian crisis. The state records dozens of incidents regularly. The Borno State Agency for the Coordination of Sustainable Development and Humanitarian Response (BoACSDHR) was set up in 2018 by the Borno State Government. It was established as a unifying body for coordinating all humanitarian intervention activities across Borno, to coordinate government, humanitarian, and development activities and programming to align with the recovery, stabilization, and development plans of the state.

In line with this strategy, BoACSDHR formulates the rules of engagement such as policies, guidelines, programs, including coordination and monitoring of humanitarian response activities. The agency also sustains an enabling working environment for humanitarian and development partners, including national and international non-governmental organizations, civil society and community-based organizations, and other stakeholders.

BoACSDHR is committed to tackling the crisis. The state records dozens of incidents regularly. The Borno State Agency for the Coordination of Sustainable Development and Humanitarian Response (BoACSDHR) was set up in 2018 by the Borno State Government. It was established as a unifying body for coordinating all humanitarian intervention activities across Borno, to coordinate government, humanitarian, and development activities and programming to align with the recovery, stabilization, and development plans of the state. In line with this strategy, BoACSDHR formulates the rules of engagement such as policies, guidelines, programs, including coordination and monitoring of humanitarian response activities.

The agency also sustains an enabling working environment for humanitarian and development partners, including national and international non-governmental organizations, civil society and community-based organizations, and other stakeholders.

In 2021, as part of our efforts to promote and sustain a data-centered approach and ensure effective coordination of humanitarian response in northeast Nigeria, iMMAP provided critical information management (IM) services such as data collection and consolidation, development of information products, digitalization of the agency’s analog data, capacity building, among others.

iMMAP’s support allowed for the main humanitarian challenges, such as food insecurity, health, protection, and inadequate hygiene, to be highlighted using verified data, leading to better response activities and outcomes.

iMMAP continues to support the state government localization of humanitarian response initiative by dedicating slots in its IM capacity building program for University of Maiduguri (UNIMAD) graduates and a selected number of Borno State Agency (BSA) staff. This helps develop the IM capacities of local youth and facilitates a community-centered approach to tackling the crisis.

iMMAP further supports the BSA by developing tailored IM products to visualize partners’ presence and response activities, including a set of reference maps with administrative features and services, to enhance the overall response coordination and improve decision-making.
The Euphrates River's importance to Syria cannot be understated. The conflict-stricken country receives nearly 85% of its water supply from the Euphrates River alone. Its 2,800 km in length runs through three hydroelectric dams along its path - dams that provide power and drinking water to millions in Syria. Furthermore, the vast river irrigates Syria's farmland, its breadbasket, which the country's economy is heavily reliant on, adding even more weight to the Euphrates' stretched shoulders.

During the 2020/2021 winter season, however, the state of the Euphrates would fall under the microscope. At the time, reports from vested stakeholders were flooding in, suggesting a reduction in water supply destined for Syria. Syria's water flow is largely regulated. Based on the 1987 Syria-Turkey Agreement on the Euphrates, water flow at the Syrian border should remain between 500-1,000 cubic meters per second, which occurred in February 2021.

The IMMAP Data Cube was deployed to investigate this alarming reduction. Utilizing water extent analysis centered on the Water Observation from Space algorithm, the IMMAP Data Cube uncovered a decrease in water supply of more than 54% within the shallow northern streams of Lake Assad, a major beneficiary of the river's water supply in Syria. To further validate these results, the IMMAP Data Cube was also utilized to assess the extent and condition of crops that manifested during this unsettling period. The assessment revealed a drastic decrease of 33% in total area under crop as a result of a distinct lack of water irrigation. The IMMAP Data Cube uncovered a 33% drop in water extent from April to May 2020, indicating a reduction in water supply to millions in Syria.

Like many conflict-stricken crises, the context on the ground in Yemen is constantly changing. To provide meaningful and timely information, the Information Management Officers (IMOs) have to engage in the processing of enormous amounts of data, often unstructured, and with limited resources. Given the high variety of data sources, the process is often accompanied by lengthy follow-ups with partners, to ensure data consistency. That's where IMMAP's Yemen program stepped in.

Over the years, IMMAP's Yemen program team developed a workflow to automate large swaths of broad and complex information. The automated data workflow streamlines and systematizes a process from data collection to the creation of information products, reducing the involvement of the required personnel and communication channels, while ensuring optimal data quality and eliminating human mistakes. Ultimately, the workflow allowed clusters to expand the analysis spectrum and created the necessary conditions to access critical information relevant to the context and time, thus enabling partners to swiftly respond to the needs of the most vulnerable people. Moreover, the team has been afforded more time and space to shift their attention to other critical priorities, while sectoral specialists were encouraged to use the tools in a self-serve manner, inspiring people to develop creative approaches.

AUTOMATED DATA WORKFLOW

Streamlining Access to Timely Information to Partners

Access to information during a crisis is equally important as access to basic commodities of those in need. However, crisis information is perishable, and time of its use is short, especially for tactical decision-making.

2021 wasn't any different, neither better nor brighter for ordinary Yemenis. The humanitarian crisis remains dire and devastating in the conflict-stricken country. Over 20 million Yemenis - 66% of the population - remain in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. Like many conflict-stricken crises, the context on the ground in Yemen is constantly changing.

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Like many conflict-stricken crises, the context on the ground in Yemen is constantly changing.

To provide meaningful and timely information, the Information Management Officers (IMOs) have to engage in the processing of enormous amounts of data, often unstructured, and with limited resources. Given the high variety of data sources, the process is often accompanied by lengthy follow-ups with partners, to ensure data consistency. That's where IMMAP's Yemen program stepped in.

Over the years, IMMAP's Yemen program team developed a workflow to automate large swaths of broad and complex information. The automated data workflow streamlines and systematizes a process from data collection to the creation of information products, reducing the involvement of the required personnel and communication channels, while ensuring optimal data quality and eliminating human mistakes. Ultimately, the workflow allowed clusters to expand the analysis spectrum and created the necessary conditions to access critical information relevant to the context and time, thus enabling partners to swiftly respond to the needs of the most vulnerable people. Moreover, the team has been afforded more time and space to shift their attention to other critical priorities, while sectoral specialists were encouraged to use the tools in a self-serve manner, inspiring people to develop creative approaches.

AUTOMATED DATA WORKFLOW
The difference that we note with the arrival of this platform is that donors can easily access the real CSOs that work in the areas of peace, development and security by zone and sector of activity.

This platform will allow CSOs to become more visible to donors and capacity building structures, which is really important in order to enter into a development process in the regions in which we intervene. DIMS will also inform us.

Mrs Moula Reine KAMKAM, Program Manager’s Assistant of the NGO APSELPA (translated from French)

The global COVID-19 pandemic impacted the world on many levels; however, the major consequences were felt most acutely by countries that were already facing humanitarian crises. The government restrictions imposed in order to contain the spread of the virus impeded humanitarian access to vulnerable communities, while limiting the abilities of organizations to deliver aid and conduct regular monitoring and assessments.

Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), iMMAP partnered with Data Friendly Space (DFS) to strengthen the assessment and analysis capabilities in Syria, Colombia, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso and the Democratic Republic of Congo alongside global efforts. Together, iMMAP and DFS developed tailored remote data collection and analysis processes for each country by using the Data Entry and Exploration Platform (DEEP). DEEP generated repositories of pre-organized secondary data for each country, addressing the challenges in data and information comprehensiveness, consistency, and value for the humanitarian community.

The project, which started in July 2020 and was finalized at the end of 2021, collected and analyzed data provided by humanitarian actors and other stakeholders including academia, private sector and government agencies, and produced regular joint situational analysis reports that facilitate a better understanding of the humanitarian impact of COVID-19. It also aimed to provide a solution to the methodological challenges faced by humanitarian actors and to address information gaps exacerbated by the effects of the pandemic, with the ultimate objective to better support partners in planning and targeting response operations amid the global crisis.
For the past two decades, Colombia has been struggling with internal displacement due to violence, conflict, and natural disasters, and recently, the impacts from the influx of Venezuelan migrants and refugees. However, the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted further social, economic, and structural inequalities, which had major implications — including a staggering 69% rise in maternal deaths between 2020 and 2021.

The iMMAP COVID-19 situational analysis project team identified this significant increase during routine data gathering and analysis. The team conducted extensive research, including a nationwide survey, in partnership with RIWI, and a field investigation in the Amazonas region, focusing on the communities in Leticia and Puerto Nariño, to gather relevant first-hand information from the indigenous population and NGOs serving those communities.

Looking at the history of maternal health in the country, between 2000-2015, maternal mortality in Colombia reduced by 34%, and 97% of women between the ages of 15-49 delivered in a healthcare facility. However, the country still fell short of meeting the Millennium Development Goal (MDG)-5 with reporting 64 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015, missing the target ratio of 45.

Colombia, as many other countries, faced underlying institutional problems before the COVID-19 pandemic that affected the provision of equitable, high-quality, and timely reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health (RMNCH) care. These can be summarized through the following factors:

- The variation in the availability and quality of RMNCH between regions in Colombia,
- Inadequate RMNCH medical and nursing training and education programs,
- High rotation, a lack of opportunities, and low remuneration of medical staff,
- A slow and complicated health insurance financing mechanism,
- The need to adapt healthcare delivery to address ethnic and cultural traditions and taboos – specifically for Afro-Colombian and indigenous populations.

These underlying factors were exacerbated by the increase in COVID-19 cases across the country. According to the analysis conducted by iMMAP, approximately 30% of the increase in maternal deaths in Colombia can be directly attributable to COVID-19 itself — which is in line with the estimated 35% excess mortality in the general population attributable to COVID-19. Indeed, there is some evidence that COVID-19 may disproportionately affect pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) and may cause more severe outcomes as well.

However, COVID-19 infections alone do not explain the full increase in maternal mortality in Colombia. The major question is: What accounts for the remaining 70% increase in maternal deaths between 2020 and 2021?

The themes identified include lower demand for healthcare due to fears of contracting the virus, lower levels of access to quality and timely healthcare services, an increase in waiting times for healthcare assistance at facilities, and an overwhelmed healthcare system due to high bed occupancy rates and decreased availability of healthcare workers.

Yenica, an indigenous midwife in Puerto Esperanza, echoed these sentiments stating that “during the pandemic, pregnant women did not attend healthcare centers for assistance, as the assistance was focused on cases of COVID-19 and there was a fear of contracting the virus.”

The pandemic has magnified the continued problems across the globe — especially those nations struggling with ongoing natural disasters, epidemics, and internal conflict. In Colombia, this is evident with a 69% increase in maternal mortality between 2020 and 2021. However, only around 30% of those maternal deaths are directly linked to COVID-19 cases. The rest of the mortality cases, are the consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, contributing to the ongoing issues faced by the healthcare system in the delivery of quality and timely healthcare to the population.
“I am afraid of explosives,” a schoolboy in Washokani Camp in Northeast Syria (NES) professes. “I once saw a rocket near my uncle’s home and had to leave my village because of the war.” As many young people, he learns first-hand about life as a refugee in a tough world that is complicated by COVID-19. Ayman (23) never thought the war would find its way to his village of Sheikh Ali. ISIS didn’t even constitute a threat; they focused on cities, not villages. But one afternoon, in an instant, all that would change. It was October 2019, the month “Operation Peace Spring” loomed in Syria’s northeast. The offensive affected many areas in NES with multiple airstrikes and artillery barrages. That afternoon, “dark bombs” as Ayman described them, started falling from the sky. One of them would hit his family’s home, destroying it in its entirety.

A shrapnel left by the bombing found its way to Ayman’s right leg but it couldn’t be salvaged. Among those hundreds of thousands displaced were not only Ayman, but also a group of six schoolkids. Through their ordeal, they would all come together to form a makeshift camp, with the hope of an imminent return. Three years have passed, and none have yet made that return.

Syria’s Washokani Camp
Steadfast and Hopeful in the Face of War, Explosives, and COVID-19

Encounters with Explosives
COVID-19 isn’t the only worry on the minds of those inside the camp. Amid relentless warfare, unexploded explosive ordnance (UXO) is another source of anxiety. Its presence is rife throughout Syria and since 2011, they have claimed 900 fatalities in northeast Syria alone. iMMAP is the Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) coordinator in NES, collecting data about these contaminated areas and coordinating the clearance activities with partners. Thanks to these activities, the threat of UXOs seems to have quelled and appears faint, at least inside the camp.

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
HMA organizations also offer Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) activities, which aim to reduce the risks inflicted by UXO by raising awareness. Some of these awareness activities include training sessions, leaflets and posters, billboards, school and short message service (SMS) campaigns. iMMAP also coordinates EORE activities within NES such as Training for Trainers (ToT), radio and school campaigns. “Since 2017, over 55% of the people in NES have had some form of awareness raising,” states Frank Boerhave, iMMAP project manager. “We still see frequent incidents, so we are working hard to make sure that we reach everybody.”

The six students on the Washokani schoolyard

Read the full story