STRENGTHENING THE RESPONSE CAPACITY OF THE EDUCATION CLUSTER/SECTOR AND LOCAL EDUCATION AND COORDINATION STRUCTURES IN EMERGENCIES.

Context

As part of the Education Cannot Wait initiative, in 2021, UNICEF and iMMAP implemented a technical assistance project to provide information management and training to the Education Cluster and the GIFMM’s Education Subgroup. The aim was to bolster sectoral planning and response capacity to humanitarian crises.

There is a constant demand for up-to-date information on access, retention, and the quality of education in Colombia. However, currently, there are data shortfalls, as most indicators are aggregated at a departmental or municipal level and cannot be disaggregated by educational institution. Also, there are data gaps for some years, with figures being estimates taken from national censuses or surveys, or secondary information. As such, ongoing information management and coordination are key for decision-making, drawing up response plans, and ensuring performance accountability of humanitarian structures.

iMMAP Colombia

iMMAP has been providing information management (IM) services to different stakeholders in Colombia since 2009. Currently, iMMAP provides services to coordination bodies, such as the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), and the Inter-Institutional Group on Mixed Migratory Flows (GIFMM).

In coordination with the GIFMM, iMMAP provides support services to the Education, Food Security and Nutrition, Health, Socioeconomic Integration and WASH Sectors, as well as to the INGO Forum.

Coverage

National coverage through technical information management support for the Education in Emergencies Cluster and the GIFMM’s education sector.

Local coverage through certified territorial entities (CTEs) targeted by UNICEF and the Local Education Groups (LEGs) for Arauca, Atlántico, Norte de Santander, Nariño, Magdalena, La Guajira, and Chocó.
To provide information management support to ensure access and retention for the school-age population in the education system. To guarantee that children and adolescents are fulfilling their educational trajectory in Colombia, even in emergencies, through information management and interactive and automatized tools.

Strengthened national and local coordination capacity to better manage the educational response in emergencies.

- By January 2023, the Education Cluster/Sector will have a strategy and humanitarian architecture that strengthens the flow of information and communication between local education groups and the EiE/Education Cluster.
- By January 2023, the Education Cluster/Sector will have a plan outlining partner action for implementing the Temporary Protected Status for Venezuelans (ETPV) in schools.
- By January 2023, the Secretaries of Education of the targeted CTEs will have an analysis of education supply and demand for boys and girls from migrant and host communities. This analysis will cover the institutional framework and local and international cooperation.
- By January 2023, local education teams will have the capacity and tools to plan and monitor the emergency response to migration, conflict, and natural disasters, as well as ensure accountability.

The EiE Cluster and the GIFMM’s Education Subgroup received information management support from iMMAP in 2020 and 2021, enhancing information accessibility and analysis within the education sector through a national strategy undergirded by local programs. However, there are still many response challenges and much urgency for coordinated work. The results from sectoral information management capacity assessments indicate an ongoing need for information management to facilitate humanitarian decision-making, particularly in regional settings. As the Cluster leader, UNICEF is responsible for compiling Cluster reports and sharing information with actors and donors. Shortfalls in data, knowledge, and information management will prevent the Cluster from reaching its full potential and demonstrating to donors the range of benefits it provides.