The Provision of Information Management Support to Humanitarian Responders in Ethiopia

Context

Conflict in northern Ethiopia, violence in other parts of the country, and natural hazards, most notably the drought in southern Ethiopia have substantially worsened the humanitarian situation in the country during 2022.

The expanding of the northern conflict into neighboring regions of Afar and Amhara during 2021 and into 2022, has left millions of people in need of assistance and protection across the region. Meanwhile, the drought continues to compromise fragile livelihoods heavily reliant on livestock, deepening food insecurity and malnutrition.

According to the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), more than 29 million people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2022, more than 26 million of those are non-displaced individuals in contrast to the 2.75 million (DTM 2022) that are displaced. Returning migrants constitute an additional population group in need of humanitarian assistance.

iMMAP Ethiopia

Since May 2017, iMMAP has been supporting the humanitarian community and the government in Ethiopia with information management (IM), mapping, and analysis services to assist decision-makers in planning, coordinating and evaluating the emergency response.

The main goals of these projects are to support the response to the ongoing crisis in Ethiopia by strengthening the IM capacity of humanitarian sector members and provide situational analysis support to improve the mechanism used to identify the needs of vulnerable populations.

Better Data, Better Decisions, Better Outcomes
Progress

IMMAP’s IM services and situational analysis reports have helped identify humanitarian needs in conflict and drought affected regions of Ethiopia in 2022 as well as addressing the information needs of IMMAP supported partners at country and regional level, resulting in better coordinated response activities. The support also improved data sharing across the humanitarian community and provided quality reports for planning, response, monitoring of activities, and thus informed decision making.

Recently, iMMAP has scaled up its IM support to the southern part of the country where at least 6.8 million has been affected due to the ongoing drought in the horn of Africa.

Outcomes

The projects increase the availability and quality of critical data to inform programming - enabling humanitarian responders to work with improved analyses to make evidence-based decisions as per the HNO process through the use of new tools and products while consistently improving the IM capacity of partner organizations.

Northern Ethiopia Crisis Response

Since onset of the northern Ethiopia conflict, iMMAP supported humanitarian clusters map the impact of war on affected communities in Tigray, Afar and Amhara regions, contributing to the surge response. The support continued through the production of the HNO and HRP.

IMMAP IM officers supported the clusters they were deployed to by developing tools to monitor the situation. iMMAP is further supporting the Federal Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) led by the National Disaster Risk Management, including in Tigray, through developing briefings and dashboards about various hazards being experienced in different parts of the country in terms of people affected, people in need, ongoing responses and any gaps and challenges being experienced in response activities.

Capacity Building

As a part of the national capacity strengthening activities, iMMAP capacity building team has conducted IM training to cluster partners based on their needs and gaps. From November 2021 to October 2022, the team delivered 18 rounds of online and in-person training across the country, on a range of IM topics to 434 staff across 73 humanitarian partners responding in Ethiopia.

Situation Analysis

Since November 2021, the iMMAP Situation Analysis (SitAn) team has produced six reports based on secondary data review methods. The reports assess the humanitarian situation in the crisis affected areas of Ethiopia to inform decision-making for the humanitarian actors. Topics have included drought, conflict, and protection areas.

Government Support

IMMAP Ethiopia played a crucial role in improving the information flow between humanitarian coordination and the government, enhancing collaboration around the HNO and HRP while supporting the Emergency Coordination Centers at the national level. iMMAP has also supported the regional governments of Oromia, Somali and Amhara to reinforce field coordination and information flow between national and sub-national clusters.

Actors Supported