Provision of Information Management Support to Humanitarian Sectors in Ethiopia

Context

The past three years witnessed major changes in the governance landscape of Ethiopia accompanied by displacements of people due to conflict and climate shocks. The COVID-19 pandemic has also added another layer of complexity to the humanitarian situation across the country.

Since November 2020, Tigray has become a scene of fighting, causing suffering, displacement and disruption of basic services. This additional caseload came on top of conflicts in Benishangul Gumuz, Oromia, SNNP and regional boundaries.

Currently, about 4 million people are internally displaced in the country, with 1.8 million who were displaced in Tigray after the conflict broke in November 2020. Furthermore, there is an estimated 21.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance for 2021.

iMMAP Ethiopia

Since May 2017, iMMAP has supported 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 goal of this project is to support the response to the ongoing crisis in Ethiopia by strengthening the IM capacity of humanitarian sector members, improve the mechanism for regularly identifying the needs of vulnerable populations, and provide better data to the inter-sectoral coordination mechanism led by OCHA.
Progress

iMMAP’s information management products and services helped inform the geographical operational presence of partners across all iMMAP supported clusters, resulting in better coordinated response activities that minimized duplication of efforts and gaps in operations. The support also enabled the improvement of data sharing across the humanitarian landscape and the delivery of quality reports for planning, response and monitoring activities as well as evidence-based decision making.

Outcomes

The project increased 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.

COVID-19 Response

During the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, iMMAP supported humanitarian clusters in mapping the impact of COVID-19 on planned and ongoing activities, contributing to the preparation of the multi-sectoral preparedness and the overall 2020 response plan. The support continued through the revision of HRP 2020 to incorporate the COVID-19 activities. iMMAP IMOs support their respective clusters by developing tools to monitor the situation and the response to COVID-19. iMMAP is further supporting the Federal Emergency Coordination Center (ECC), led by the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), by developing briefings to partners and donors while drafting regular situation reports that facilitate coordination.

Capacity Building

As a part of the national capacity strengthening activities, all cluster IMOs have conducted training to cluster partners in the field. As a result, there has been an overall improvement in the quality of the 5Ws data across all iMMAP supported clusters.

Government Support

iMMAP IMOs played a crucial role in improving the information flow between humanitarian coordination and the government, enhancing collaboration around the HNO/HRP while supporting the ECC at the national level. iMMAP has also been supporting the regional governments of Oromia and Somali to reinforce field coordination and information between national and sub-national clusters.

Recently, iMMAP has scaled up its IM support to the Tigray crisis response by deploying IMOs to the regional Health Cluster and OCHA to support the inter-cluster coordination group in Mekelle and Shire.

Clusters Supported

Health  Agriculture  Shelter/NFI  Coordination  Protection  CCCM  WASH

Humanitarian Partners Supported 63