Information Management Services to Humanitarian and Development Organizations

Malawi

iMMAP

Context

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. According to the World Bank, approximately 70% of the population lives below the international poverty line of USD1.90 per day. The Malawian population is heavily dependent on rain-fed agriculture, which makes it vulnerable to climatic shocks, as evidenced by increasing food insecurity due to droughts. The country also faces anticipated risks such as floods, prolonged dry spells, epidemics, pest infestations, and earthquakes.

Malawi is now being swept by a new wave of COVID-19 that is spreading rapidly and overwhelming the health system. According to WHO, the country is now among the 20 countries in Africa with a case fatality rate (3.6%) higher than the global average of 2.2%.

The humanitarian context in Malawi has demonstrated the importance of having access to reliable and timely data. There is also equal importance for collaborating to collect, use, and share these data to prepare and implement an effective humanitarian response. The humanitarian sector faces the challenge of non-operational data platforms, resulting in a fragmented approach to data collection, management and dissemination.

iMMAP Malawi

Starting in September 2021 and in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), the iMMAP program aims to strengthen information management coordination by improving the capacity of data producers to collect, process, analyze, and disseminate timely information to decision makers.

The project builds on the institutional and human resources currently available within the government's Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), which is mandated to coordinate emergencies in Malawi, and develops mechanisms and tools to strengthen Information Management (IM) processes.

Therefore, the project strengthens and streamlines existing processes by ensuring local ownership of the proposed workstreams. The project also involves information managers in selected districts and clusters to strengthen information collection and thus improve the availability and accessibility of humanitarian data by building on existing information management expertise in DoDMA, the UN Data Unit, the INGO Humanitarian Subcommittee, and OCHA.

Donor:
USAID - WFP

Project duration:
10 months (03/09/ 2021 – 15/06/2022)

Project budget:
USD 200,000.00
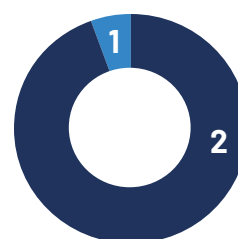
Partners supported:

- Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA)

- The UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO)

Personnel
Total personnel: 3

3

- ■ Men

- ■ National
- ■ International

1

2

Better Data, Better Decisions, Better Outcomes

Data Ecosystem and Landscape Mapping

At the early stages of the project, iMMAP conducted a mapping of capacities, stakeholders, and the data landscape to identify available capacities, gaps, challenges, and needs. This strengthened the understanding of data needs, information gaps, and minimized the gap between all local and international development and humanitarian actors.

Knowledge Sharing: The Data Summit

iMMAP, in collaboration with RCO and WFP, has organized, designed and hosted the Data Summit to enhance the exchange of best practices and innovative approaches using Big Data, remote sensing and artificial intelligence in the service of humanitarian and development actors. The audience will include policy makers as well as data producers, data managers, scientists and data analysts. This will promote innovation and the use of new technologies in humanitarian and development interventions to create a space for knowledge sharing and peer learning on existing and future information management initiatives and how they can be applied to localized contexts."

Capacity Building

iMMAP ensured that technical training packages were made available to key information management staff at the government, district, and cluster levels to raise their skills and competencies, while building on the existing capacity of the DoDMA information management unit, rendering it a more sustainable effort. This allowed strengthening capacity in emergency needs assessment, data collection and analysis, introduction to geographic information systems (GIS), and data visualization and presentation.

Provision of Technical Support

iMMAP also supported the DoDMA Information Management Unit by providing ad hoc information management support services to Malawi clusters at the national and sub-national levels, focusing on providing capacity support to ensure sustainable skills transfer and local ownership of information management workflows.

IM support services included:

• Provision of IM support to coordinated multisectoral needs assessments (survey design, data collection, harmonization of indicators and tools, data management, data analysis and data visualization).

• Provision of specific required deliverables such as spatial analysis, cartographic products, structured databases, developed software or systems if required.

• Provision of IM support for National Disaster Contingency Plan Monitoring.

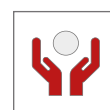• Review and update the Common Operational Datasets (CODs).

Clusters Supported

ICCM

WASH

Food Security

Shelter

Protection

Health

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