Cameroon

Enhancing coordination and response capacities through information management support to humanitarian actors in Cameroon

Context

Cameroon is facing multiple humanitarian crises, with low media attention and limited funding. Currently, there are three complex humanitarian situations in the country: conflict and violence in the far north region; conflict and hostilities in the northwest and southwest regions (NW/SW); and the influx of refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) into the eastern regions

Apart from direct humanitarian needs, Cameroon faces a general lack of information management (IM) capacities in active clusters, sectors, and other coordination mechanisms, which translate into a low availability of reliable information to plan and coordinate the response. Stakeholders are struggling to collect, manage, and analyze data for evidence-based decision making, creating difficulties to react appropriately when urgent actions need to be taken. In addition, the humanitarian community does not have centralized, coordinated, and uniformed IM approach, which affects data readiness and quality. Finally, most NGOs do not have strong IM capacity and therefore cannot efficiently contribute with their data and reports to the existing coordination system.

iMMAP Cameroon

In response to the identified needs, iMMAP has launced an 11-month project to contribute to the enhancement of the humanitarian coordination and its response capacities through IM support to the actors in Cameroon. This support will be conducted through (i) the deployment of IMOs in NW/SW clusters, (ii) the creation of an intersectoral information management support unit (IIMSU) to provide IM services, and (iii) capacity building activities for personal managing information and data.

Through this project, the implementation of OCHA's strategy to support the sectoral coordination in Cameroon will be facilitated as it will contribute to two key objectives: (i) strengthening sector coordination in priority regions for humanitarian intervention and (ii) ensuring that the capacities for sector coordination and support to the field remain strong at national level.

In addition, this project will contribute to address the information gaps and limitations identified in the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2021 by: (i) strengthening the capacity of local actors to conduct assessments according to humanitarian standards; (ii) improving the systematic exchange of assessment data and reports among humanitarian actors; and (iii) supporting coordinated multi-sectoral needs assessments.

As a result of this project, information is more accurate and shared more quickly among actors, and overall understanding of the crisis is improved, leading to well-informed decision making, equitable use of available resources, and enhanced response capacity.

Donor: USAID - BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (BHA)

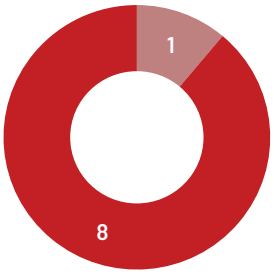
Project duration:
July 12, 2021 – June 09, 2022, 11 months

Project budget:
USD 399,834.00

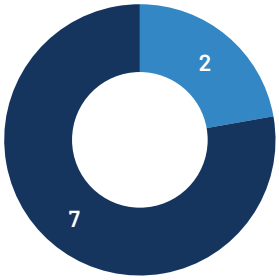
Number of partners iMMAP currently supports:
141 humanitarian organizations

Personnel

Total personnel: 9



Women
Men
National
International



Deployment of specialized IMOs to activated Clusters and AoRs in NW/SW

This project deploys four IMOs to fill the identified IM gaps in the active clusters and AoRs in NW/SW through the Stanby Partnership mechanism. This support consists of the deployment of national IMOs with the remote support of senior international IMOs. The IM experts design and implement cluster-specific IM strategies, support the conduct of needs assessments, design data collection tools, collect and analyze data and generate & disseminate essential information for decision-making. They enhance systematic data collection, analysis, and visualization of information on the humanitarian needs, responses and gaps, as well as help understand important regional trends in NW/SW.

IM services to OCHA, active clusters in NW/SW, sectors, and other humanitarian actors

iMMAP set up an the IIMSU in close collaboration with OCHA considering the various coordination mechanisms (clusters and sectors) and all the different actors involved. The IIMSU is composed of a team of IM specialists with expertise in data management, GIS, data analysis and visualization as well as information analysis. It helps to close the IM capacity gap between the NW/SW clusters and the rest of the regions. The unit focuses on providing critical IM products and services such as maps, data quality control, dashboards, snapshots, and database design, data analysis, and support for coordinated assessments. In addition, it supports OCHA in reviewing and updating Common Operational Datasets (CODs) as they are critical for operational planning and contribute to a centralized, coordinated, and consistent approach to IM.

Strengthening the IM capacity

iMMAP organizes several training sessions aimed at strengthening and empowering humanitarian actors in their use of IM tools, technologies, platforms, and best practices. The training provides current or future humanitarians with the operational tools and skills to perform multiple IM tasks to support coordination functions at the national or sub-national level, based on a thorough understanding of the relationship between IM, evaluation, cluster coordination and cross-cutting issues such as inter-cluster coordination. This activity is essential to help organizations meet more of their own needs and reduce demand for such surge services.

Cluster Supported

WASH

Nutrition

Child Protection

Health

GBV