Enhancing Coordination and Response Capacities Through IM Support to Humanitarian Actors in Cameroon

Context

Cameroon is facing multiple ongoing 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 North-West and South-West 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 generalized lack of information management capacities in clusters, sectors, and other coordination mechanisms, which translate into a low availability of reliable information to plan and coordinate the response. Stakeholders struggle 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 a centralized, coordinated, and uniformed IM approach, which affects data readiness and quality.

iMMAP Cameroon

In response to the identified needs, iMMAP is deploying a nine-month project to enhance humanitarian coordination and response capacities through IM support to the actors in Cameroon. This support will be done through the deployment of IMOs, the creation of an Intersectoral information management support unit (IIIMSU), and capacity building activities for personnel 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: strengthening sector coordination in priority regions for humanitarian intervention, and ensuring that the capacities for sector coordination and support to the field remain strong at the national level.

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

Donor: USAID
Project duration: July 2021 - April 2022
Project budget: USD 400,000.00
Number of partners iMMAP currently supports: 141 humanitarian organizations

Personnel

Total personnel: 4
Recruitment to be finalized
(9 team members)
Project Activities

Deployment of IMOs to activated Clusters

This project deploys 4 IMOs to fill the identified IM gaps in the active clusters and AoRs in NW and SW through the SBP mechanism. This support comprises the deployment of national IMOs with the remote support of senior international IMOs. The IM experts design and implement cluster-specific information management 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 and help understand significant regional trends in NW/SW.

IM services to OCHA, clusters, and other humanitarian actors

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

Capacity Strengthening

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

Clusters Supported

- WASH
- Nutrition
- Child Protection
- Health
- GBV