Population data in conflict areas and humanitarian settings

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OCHA is the part of the United Nations Secretariat responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies. OCHA also ensures there is a framework within which each actor can contribute to the overall response effort.

OCHA's core functions:

- Coordination
- Policy
- Humanitarian Financing
- Advocacy
- Information Management
Common Operational Datasets (CODs)

• The Common Operational Datasets (CODs) are critical datasets that are used to support the work of humanitarian actors across multiple sectors. They are considered a de facto standard for the humanitarian community and should represent the best-available datasets for each theme.

• The Common Operational Datasets are basic pieces of information infrastructure common to most emergencies.

• CODs include but not limited to:
  – Population datasets;
  – Administrative boundaries;
  – Transportation networks and roads;
Population Datasets during Emergencies

• Assessment comes as the first step in response operations;
• Population datasets is immediately utilized to estimate the affected population and determine the people in need to start delivering different aids;
• The availability and accuracy of population datasets directly proportional with the quality of response in emergencies;
• Poor population datasets hinder response operations and endangers people’s lives where they most in need of humanitarian assistance;
Population Datasets during Emergencies

- Sub-national population Datasets;
- Segregation by gender;
- Segregation by age groups;
- Data privacy: individual data is not needed, only aggregations;
How to Contribute

Crucial questions in emergencies:

- Where are the most vulnerable populations?
  Women – older people - children

- Where are the most populated places?

- How many children at school age?

- How much Antenatal care needed?
  (Women of reproductive age)

- Where to distribute kits containing food for infants?
How to Contribute

• Population Census data is critical in any emergency;
• Only Census data can accurately answer the above questions which in turn boost the humanitarian assistance efforts;
• Sharing aggregated data is crucial to effectively direct the response efforts to the people in need;
• There is no need for any individual data;
• Linking the data with exact location is very important for the facilitation of aid distribution;

Population Data Template v1.2.xlsx
Thank you