



PERFORMANCE REPORT (Sep-13 to Feb-14)

AWARD #: AID-OFDA-G-13-00108

STRENGTHENING THE PERFORMANCE MONITORING OF HUMANITARIAN RESPONSES IN THE SAHEL REGION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Basic monitoring of key humanitarian indicators has been in place since June 2012, but it needs to be improved by strengthening data collection and extending across the nine affected countries in the Sahel. In line with the Transformative Agenda and the Program Cycle, the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator (RHC) for Sahel requested the United Nations (UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and other humanitarian partners to ensure timely and accurate performance monitoring of their responses.

Based on lessons learned from the 2012 response it was noted that there were significant obstacles to data collection in response countries due to the lack of a centralized system. The system does not need to be a complex system but rather a system which enables clusters to report activities in a predictable and standardized format, ultimately against indicators derived for each respective cluster.

Cooperation and facilitation by UNOCHA throughout this project is a necessity for the success of this tool. All software development work conducted in this project will be hosted at the UNOCHA Regional Office for West Africa, with support coming from the respective UNOCHA Country Offices. This information management solution will provide a centralized platform for data collection and analysis to cluster members. It will allow cluster coordinators and UNOCHA to obtain a more comprehensive and accurate overview of the humanitarian response in the respective clusters and hence facilitate better unilateral and multilateral decision making.

iMMAP has provided support to UNOCHA Regional Office for West & Central Africa (ROWCA) for developing an online application to strengthen data collection for monitoring performance indicators. This report covers performance during the period September 2013 and February 2014.

Objective **To improve the analysis of the level of response to complex emergencies in the Sahel. iMMAP proposes to meet this goal by establishing and supporting an intra- and inter-cluster information management system for monitoring humanitarian assistance projects funded through the CAP in 9 countries.**

Beneficiaries **Primary Beneficiaries**
 ➤ Approximately 99 clusters (11 in each Sahel Country)

Secondary beneficiaries:
 ➤ 10,261,182 (500,814 refugees, 318,558 IDPs)
 * Figure targeted in June 2013

ANALYSIS

Analysis 1	Number of beneficiaries targeted, by objective
99 Clusters in 11 countries.	

Analysis 2	Number of beneficiaries reached, by objective
108 Clusters in 9 countries.	

Analysis 3	Cumulative number of beneficiaries targeted
10,261,182 (500,814 refugees, 318,558 IDPs) * Figure targeted in June 2013	

Analysis 4	Cumulative number of beneficiaries reached
This information is not available as the project was not ended and that's why a phase 2 has been requested and funded for 6 months more.	

Analysis 5	Total numbers of beneficiaries targeted and reached
This information is not available as the project was not ended and that's why a phase 2 has been requested and funded for 6 months more.	

Analysis 6	A description of assessments and surveillance data used to measure results. The reports from any evaluations completed should also be entered into ART
This information is not available as the project was not ended and that's why a phase 2 has been requested and funded for 6 months more.	

Analysis 7	Success stories and an explanation of successes achieved, constraints encountered, and adjustments made for achieving each objective
This information is not available as the project was not ended and that's why a phase 2 has been requested and funded for 6 months more.	

NEW REGIONAL (SAHEL) APPROACH BY OCHA AND CLUSTERS

All the clusters in nine Sahel countries have agreed to pursue a regional approach and also agreed on using one common set of indicators and activities (conforming to the OCHA log-framework) for all nine countries. This approach was decided in a November meeting of all the Humanitarian Needs Overview focal points from Sahel countries. The new resulting log-framework has incorporated fundamental changes and improvements.

During this meeting three strategic objectives and five humanitarian priorities were discussed and agreed upon for the Sahel region. All clusters redefined their activities and output indicators to achieve the goals, objectives, and priorities set out for the period of 2014-2016.

The strategic objectives decided upon at the meeting are outlined below:

➤ **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1**

Track and analyze risk and vulnerability, integrating findings into humanitarian and development programming.

➤ **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2**

Support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks by responding earlier to warning signals, by reducing post-crisis recovery times and by building capacity of national actors.

➤ **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3**

Deliver coordinated and integrated life-saving assistance to people affected by emergencies.

The following humanitarian priorities were also agreed upon at the meeting:

- Addressing the humanitarian impact of
 - Natural disasters (floods, etc.)
 - Conflict (IDPs, protection, etc.)
 - Epidemics (cholera, malaria, etc.)
 - Food insecurity
 - Malnutrition

CONNECTING ORS WITH OPS (ONLINE PLANNING SYSTEM)

ORS has been linked with OCHA Geneva's OPS to enable the ORS to utilize this key programme information in the system. Additionally the ORS can share its information with OPS. This is the first time that any external system is being used extensively to exchange information with any other UN system. By exchanging this information more comprehensive and representative reports and dashboards can be generated utilizing the information from both systems.

WHAT IS OPS?

The Online Project Planning System (OPS) is a web-based database that allows UN agencies and NGOs participating in the inter-agency planning processes (Strategic Response Plans or Emergency Action Plans) to directly upload their projects and funding requests for consideration during the planning phase, and update them during the course of the year.

- Organizations can upload their projects and edit them as needed.
- All projects are published publically hence all organizations may view other organizations projects.
- Cluster coordinators can review projects for their specific cluster.
- Summary and detailed reports of projects by cluster, organization, gender, locations etc. can be generated.

WHO CAN ACCESS OPS?

UN agencies and NGOs that would like to participate in the inter-agency planning processes OCHA promotes for each humanitarian response.

ORS WITH OPS

Subsequent to OPS users submitting their project related information they can be directly redirected to the ORS system. OPS users utilising the ORS can add mid-year and/or full year targets for their activities. This information saved in the ORS database and exposed to OPS. Users can view this information in OPS and export it as part one of the pre-defined reports in the system.

All information of a particular project can be extracted in an excel sheet from OPS and imported into the ORS. This project and activity information is the baseline for programme monitoring.

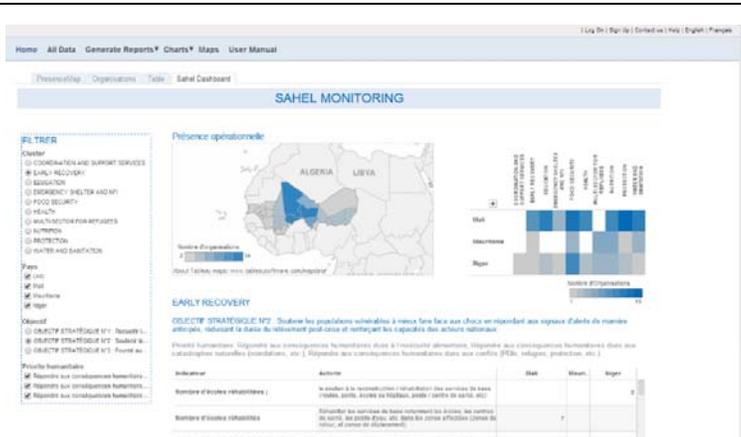


Figure 1: Home page of the Sahel Monitoring platform

In Error! Reference source not found. a snapshot of the current ORS dashboard is shown. Reports and dashboards generated from the ORS will allow national cluster leads, regional cluster leads and OCHA to approach the organizations not reporting on monitoring system and to assist them with trainings and technical support.

WORK DONE ON THE ORS

- Redesign of the ORS database to:
 - compliment the newly established log-framework for Sahel region;
 - accommodate emergencies outside of the Sahel region;
 - Adapt to the structure adopted by the OCHA for Sahel countries.
- Connected the ORS with OPS. This linkage allows OPS users to use the monitoring dataset to set mid-year and full year targets for their activities.
- Saved public OPS projects details in monitoring database to generate reports and dashboards to compare monitoring side and the targets set by organizations in OPS.
- XML feeds of OPS details for each cluster per country and region. This can be used to generate excel dashboards and to extract other information.
- XML feeds of monitoring data. This can be used as raw data to extract information and to generate dashboards.
- Bilingual (English, French) support of monitoring database.
- Generated 3W reports from OPS and monitoring system data.
- User friendly interface designed to capture mid-year and full year targets for OPS projects on monitoring site.
- Data Entry support for regional, country and admin1 level of a country.

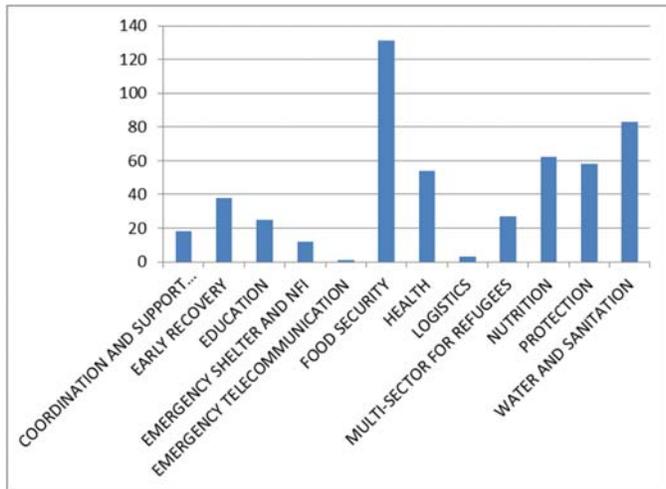


Analysis 8 Discussion of the overall performance of the project, including details of any discrepancies between expected and actual results and recommendations for improving the design of the program

Initially only two countries were targeted i.e. Mali and Mauritania but after the new regional approach the scope of the project widen to the whole region.

Number of Projects by Cluster

Cluster	# of Projects
COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES	18
EARLY RECOVERY	38
EDUCATION	25
EMERGENCY SHELTER AND NFI	12
EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATION	1
FOOD SECURITY	131
HEALTH	54
LOGISTICS	3
MULTI-SECTOR FOR REFUGEES	27
NUTRITION	62
PROTECTION	58
WATER AND SANITATION	83

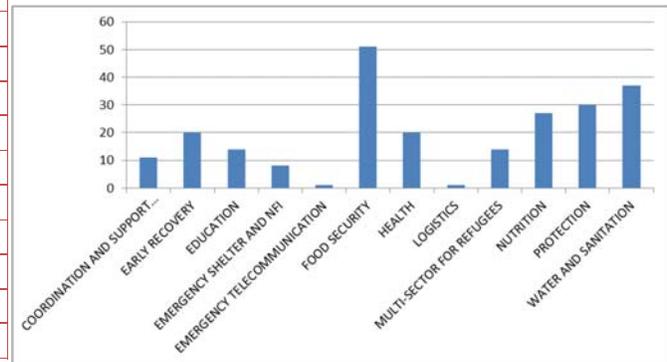


Number of Projects by Cluster and Country

Cluster	BFA	CHD	CMR	GMB	MLI	MRT	NGA	NIG	SAH	SEN
COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES	1	2		1	1	2	4	2	3	2
EARLY RECOVERY	5	9			16	4	2	2		
EDUCATION	1	1	4	1	12	1	1	3	1	
EMERGENCY SHELTER AND NFI		1			8		1	2		
EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATION					1					
FOOD SECURITY	18	26	6	2	27	14	5	23	2	8
HEALTH	5	9	8	1	14	3	4	6	1	3
LOGISTICS			1		1			1		
MULTI-SECTOR FOR REFUGEES	5	1	2	1		12		5		1
NUTRITION	8	11	4	1	10	12	1	7	2	6
PROTECTION	8	7	2	1	24	6	2	5	2	1
WATER AND SANITATION	5	18	3	1	19	7	5	16	2	7

Number of Organizations by Cluster

Cluster	Count of Organisations
COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES	11
EARLY RECOVERY	20
EDUCATION	14
EMERGENCY SHELTER AND NFI	8
EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATION	1
FOOD SECURITY	51
HEALTH	20
LOGISTICS	1
MULTI-SECTOR FOR REFUGEES	14
NUTRITION	27
PROTECTION	30
WATER AND SANITATION	37



Number of Organizations by Cluster and Country

Cluster	BFA	CHD	CMR	GMB	MLI	MRT	NGA	NIG	SAH	SEN
COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES	1	2		1	1	2	4	2	3	4
EARLY RECOVERY	5	4			10	4	1	2		
EDUCATION	1	1	3	1	11	1	1	2	1	
EMERGENCY SHELTER AND NFI		2			6		1	2		
EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATION					1					
FOOD SECURITY	10	13	4	2	17	10	4	16	2	5
HEALTH	3	5	5	1	14	3	3	5	1	2
LOGISTICS		1			1			1		
MULTI-SECTOR FOR REFUGEES	4	1	2	1		8		4		1
NUTRITION	5	9	3	1	10	10	1	7	2	5
PROTECTION	8	6	1	1	18	6	2	5	2	1
WATER AND SANITATION	3	11	3	1	14	6	5	7	2	4

The tables are to show overall performance of the project until Feb 2014. In the Sahel region 119 organizations add 512 projects in 9 countries and Sahel region.

Analysis 9

Overall cost effectiveness, with particular attention paid to cost savings and/or cost overruns, and other significant cost impacts such as major exchange rate fluctuations or other types of inflation shall be detailed

There were no cost impacts such as major exchange rate fluctuations. Expenses were incurred as budgeted.

Analysis 10

Comparison of actual accomplishments, with the established goals and objectives, and expected results

First beta release of the tool was planned in November 2013 which was done successfully. The alpha release of the tool was planned in December 2013 and it was also made available to the users but the change in the Sahel

Log-frame changed the scope of the project from Mali & Mauritania to the whole region and the new Sahel Log-frame forced us to change the whole design of the database to accommodate the changes and get maximum of the performance monitoring tool.

The change in design of the database according to the new Sahel Log-frame approach makes it possible to reach lot more organizations and beneficiaries.

Indicator 1

Number and percentage of humanitarian organizations utilizing information management services

3 months post activation: 60% of members from at least 4 clusters logging into the web application. Connecting with OPS allow organizations from 12 clusters in 9 Sahel countries to use the system to add their activities

Indicator 2

Number and percentage of humanitarian organizations directly contributing to information products (e.g., situation reports, 3W/4W, digital tools)

Change in design and approach of performance monitoring delayed the deployment of the actual reporting part of the performance monitoring

Indicator 3

Number of products made available by information management services that are accessed by clients

Change in design and approach of performance monitoring delayed the deployment of the actual reporting part of the performance monitoring.

MONITORING PLANS

#	Activity	Indicator	Target	Status
1	Deploy iMMAP developer to Senegal	International developers identified and recruited. Working from the UNOCHA regional office in Dakar	1	Sep 2013 Done
2	Release of BETA version of the platform	Provision of the platform on a highly-available server system which is accessible to all parties in Mali	First BETA Release	Nov 2013 done
3	Release of ALPHA version of the platform	Based on feedback from the BETA version releasing an ALPHA version of the platform to all parties	First ALPHA Release	Not done because of changes in design of the tool.
4	Analytical support to cluster coordination	A least 1 performance monitoring report / cluster participating	1	Not Done
5	Release of BETA version on highly available server	Number and percentage of humanitarian organizations utilizing information management services	60% of members from at least 3 clusters logging into the web application	Not Done because of new changes in design
6	Release of ALPHA version on highly available server	Number and percentage of humanitarian organizations directly contributing to information products (e.g., situation reports, 3W/4W, digital tools)	60% of members from at least 4 cluster using the web application to report on their activities using the Web Based application.	Not Done because of new changes in design
7	Release of ALPHA version on highly available server	Number of products made available by information	For at least 1 cluster: 3W and performance	Not Done because of

		management services that are accessed by clients:	monitoring reports issued on a monthly basis.	new changes in design
8	User training	Multilateral trainings conducted in Mali with clusters by UNOCHA and iMMAP	Train at least 4 clusters	Not Done because of new changes in design
9	Analytical support to cluster coordination	A least 1 performance monitoring report / cluster participating	At least 1 performance monitoring report issued on monthly basis	Not Done because of new changes in design
10	Transition Assessment	All work conducted for this project will be made open-source and freely available to the humanitarian community. At the conclusion of this project cluster leads will be able to administer their data and UNOCHA will assume responsibility of the maintenance of the system. However, it is the intention of iMMAP to pursue further funding to establish this system across the Sahel region and hence enhance information management across the region.	Cluster Leads and Users are trained to use the system and transfer code to UNOCHA regional office.	Not Done because of new changes in design

Analysis 11	Reasons why established goals/targets were not met (if applicable), the impact on the program objective(s), and how the impact has been/will be addressed
<p>Deployment of the performance monitoring tool 3WPM which is now named as ORS (Online Reporting System) delayed because of the new Sahel approach. After the November meeting of OCHA and all the clusters in Dakar the project design changed according to the new decisions made in that meeting. Performance monitoring tool linked with UN’s OPS system to exchange the information between these two tools.</p> <p>The project details entered in OPS and activities details entered in performance monitoring system. It was decided to use this extensive data by 119 organizations and 512 projects to use as starting point of monitoring.</p> <p>This change does not affect the program objective i.e. performance monitoring but leads us to more systematic performance monitoring approach. This change allows us to track the projects with pre-decided activities and integration of FTS (Financial Tracking System) with performance monitoring.</p>	

Analysis 12	Other pertinent information including, when appropriate, success stories (if available) which illustrate the direct positive effects of the program; how unforeseen circumstances affected overall performance compared to original assumptions (if applicable), how activities were accordingly adjusted or re-targeted; and analysis and explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs
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Linking performance monitoring and OPS poses very positive effect on the program. Organizations in Sahel region entered their project information on OPS and activities of their respective projects in performance monitoring in very user friendly environment without learning, training of new system.

The performance monitoring tool automatically pulls all the project related information in its database. All this information combined gives us initial 3W report i.e. Who (Organization) What (Activities) & Where (Location). This information also generates reports like which activities are being used very often. Which organizations are focusing which activities and where.

Work Not Done: ORS

The following work is planned for the next reporting period:

- Launch of Beta and Alpha versions and training of users (Because of log-frame structure);
- Offline data entry facility;
- Dashboard.