



GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

Period Covered in this Report: 1 October 2013 to 31 December 2013
Organization: Information Management and Mine Action Programs [iMMAP]
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Program Title: Common Operating Picture for Humanitarian Coordination
Country/Region: Afghanistan
Total Dollar Amount of Grant: \$5,955,801.00
Total Period of Performance of Grant: 11 July 2010–28 February 2014

GOAL[S]

Afghanistan is in the midst of a complex humanitarian crisis. Natural disaster events, coupled with growing insecurity throughout the country, increase the challenges faced by Afghans in accessing basic services, including education, health care, livelihoods, and economic opportunities. Humanitarian access to vulnerable populations is impeded by insecurity, natural disasters, difficult terrain, and climatic conditions. In this reporting period the Country has experienced flooding and earthquakes.

This project aims to provide the humanitarian community and relevant government actors with effective methods for reliably capturing, reporting, sharing, and analyzing information concerning the humanitarian situation according to baseline indicators, as well as safety and security information.

The overall goal of the project is to provide a common operating picture concerning humanitarian coordination and security, and this will be achieved by meeting the objectives as listed below.

ASSOCIATED OBJECTIVES OF THE GRANT

The project objectives are:

1. Improve the safety and security of humanitarian field operators.
2. Enhance and integrate current databases of humanitarian projects and activities and support distribution of related information in near real-time.
3. Provide a Common Operating Picture of humanitarian data and baseline indicators of the humanitarian situation.
4. Identification of hazardous areas and populations-at-risk.
5. Improvements in currently available datasets.

iMMAP has maintained its OASIS system in Afghanistan since the beginning of 2009. Although iMMAP has installed OASIS in 77 organizations, and trained 138 users, it is difficult to estimate the number of people in these organizations that directly benefit from use of the OASIS system. This depends very much upon the size of the organization and how OASIS is used to conduct operations management, security analysis and minefield status analysis. Field planners and security officers may have influence on only ten people, but in larger organizations, field planners and security officers can influence the movements of hundreds of employees.

Currently 4509 printed maps have been distributed to over 170 organizations since the beginning of the project, while 441 digital maps were published on websites such as iMMAP, OCHA and/or the Clusters. During this reporting period 14 new maps were created, 257 hardcopy maps were distributed, and 14 new maps were posted to the iMMAP website.

iMMAP conducted portions of the project work in 2011 with funding provided by the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement [PM/WRA], U.S. Department of State. While the PM/WRA project focuses upon the Humanitarian Mine Action [HMA] community, the OFDA funding allows a much wider reach throughout the broader humanitarian community. One major focus of the OFDA grant is to identify populations at risk to various disasters, and this report will demonstrate progress in those areas.

PM/WRA funding ceased in May 2011 with the successful conclusion of that project, and therefore all work conducted from this date is fully OFDA funded.

Information management tools and solutions provided to the humanitarian community originally under the PM/WRA grant are now updated to develop new synergies in the context of the OFDA grant, enhancing continuity and sustainability between programs.

SUB-SECTOR: COORDINATION

INDICATOR 1

Number of organizations coordinating relief operations, and through these entities, the number of implementing organizations coordinated through these efforts and reported upon through this project.

In the current reporting period the protracted humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan continues, with people affected by conflict and natural disasters. iMMAP has continued to provide timely and critical information products to a variety of humanitarian actors to improve the humanitarian community's overall situational knowledge, response, planning, decision making, and coordination. Key information products developed and disseminated by iMMAP, whether static maps or a dynamic common operating picture, have been used by humanitarian decision makers in the field, at regional, national, headquarter and donor capitals. In particular, iMMAP information products continued to provide key guidance in the development of flood contingency plans and other programs for Disaster Risk Reduction and Response.

Through this project, information management support has been provided to the Cluster groups directly involved in relief operations and the inter-cluster coordination mechanism. The following Clusters have benefited from iMMAP support during Q4:

1. Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC)
2. Protection Cluster
3. Education Cluster

Examples of the work undertaken during the reporting period for the clusters include:

- Food Security and Agriculture Cluster:
 - iMMAP assisted FSAC with data base systems for the storage and retrieval of the Spring Assessment data. iMMAP designed and built the initial database and assisted FSAC with new reporting and query requirements, and delivered a full dataset in SPSS format for WFP/VAM analysis.
 - iMMAP continued work on a drought map using remote sensing satellite data following a consultative process with OCHA and FSAC. In Q4 iMMAP continued the data processing and had numerous consultative meetings with MAIL (Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livelihoods). The map is scheduled for completion in Q1 2014.
- Protection Cluster:
 - iMMAP prepared and analyzed all security-related CHAP indicator data for the HLP subcluster
 - Created a data plan with Solidarites on KIS winter planning and supporting data sets.
 - Discussion began with UNCR regarding secondment of iMMAP staff in 2014 to the Protection Cluster.

- Continued support and training was provided to the UNHCR IDP database.
- Education Cluster:
 - Work continued on mapping FOCUS school projects (Fig. 1)
 - Draft maps of Save the Children DRR schools prepared and submitted to Save
 - Finished first phase of BEACON mapping and initiated discussion on capacity building ToTs

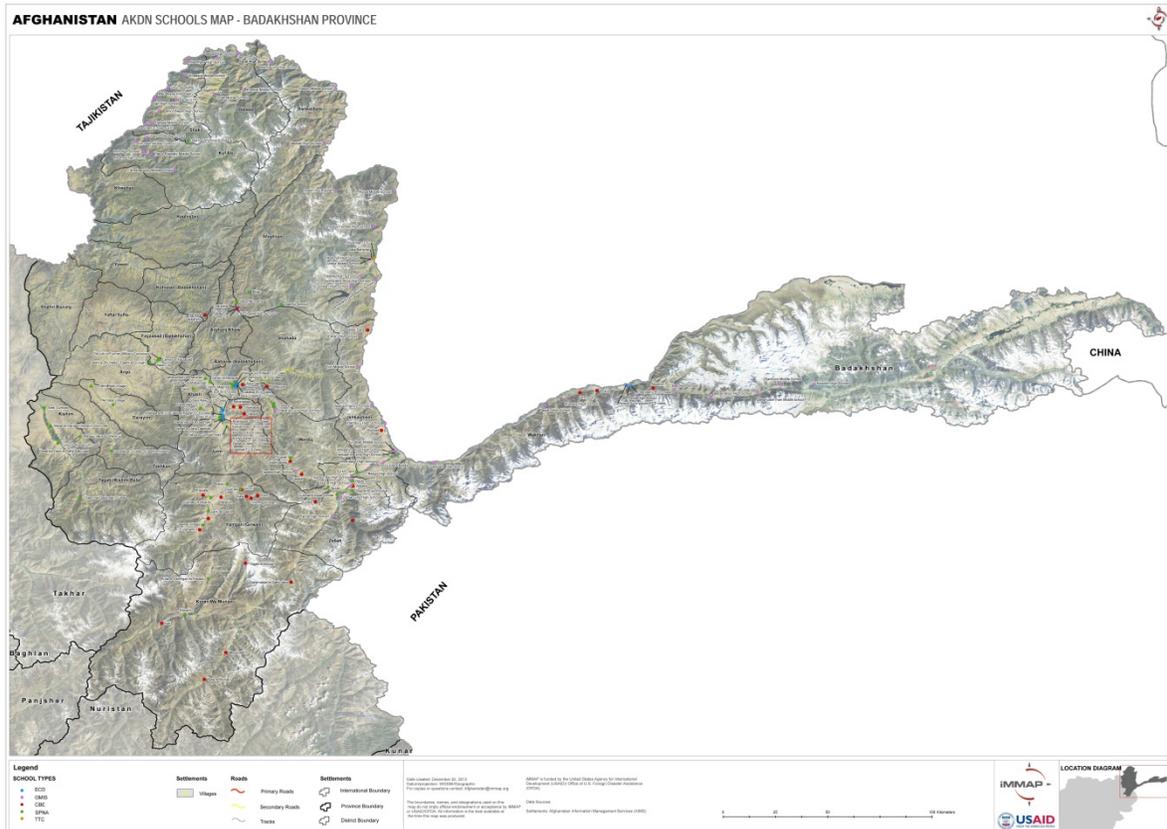


Fig 1 - FOCUS Project Schools

SUB-SECTOR: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

INDICATOR 1

Number of organizations utilizing common information management services.

OASIS is currently used by 77 organizations with 162 installations, and approximately 135 trained users.

Other NGOs and Cluster lead organizations are using OASIS to bring together agency specific programmatic information with the common operating picture delivered through OASIS. Examples from this reporting period include the development of a project enterprise system for FOCUS, the UNHCR IDP database, and the CPI disability database.

During Q4, 2013 the partnership with the ERM consortium (Medair, ACF, Solidarites, People in Need, Mission East) working in Disaster Risk Reduction continued although product output was slowed due to more turnover of ERM staff. iMMAP provides continuity to a loss of institutional memory following the consistently high turnover rate in these organizations. The presence of the information management tools developed by iMMAP allowed the ERM Consortium to quickly recover from the departure of key staff by providing a knowledge base and a platform for data that remained in place regardless of staff departures. iMMAP was able to bridge the information gap and immediately engage with the new staff. Although these particulars were reported previously, the ERM staff turnover. iMMAP has developed an internal information sheet to be shared with incoming staff to allow them to quickly understand the relationship between iMMAP and ERM, the history of product development, and the requirements of their job (Fig. 2).

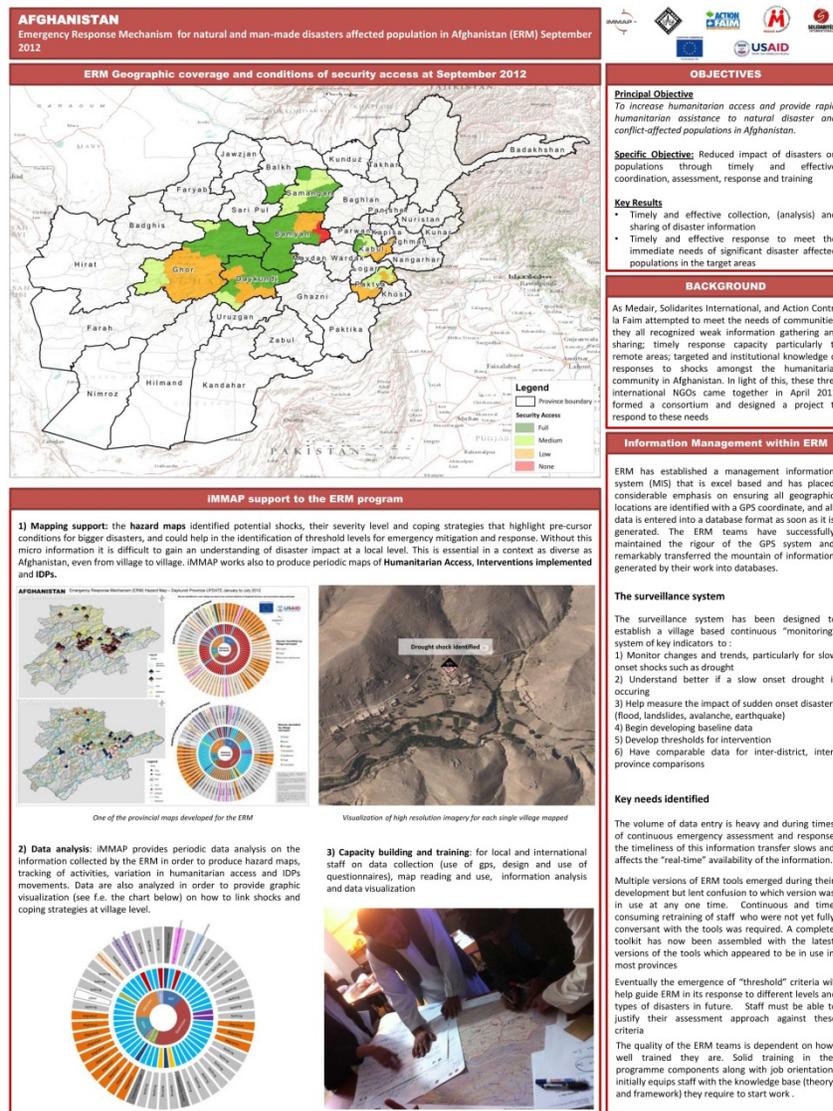


Fig 2 – ERM "Snapshot" document

INDICATOR 2

Number of information products made available through common information management services that are utilized by clients.

New or updated datasets that were developed and provided to clients via maps and OASIS exclusively during this reporting period include the following products:

Coordination Mechanism	New Information Products Made Available (Q4)
ANDMA	➤ Natural Disaster database
OCHA	➤ Security incidents summary ➤ Local (civilian) population targeted in security incidents
DRR (MRRD, IOM, ERM)	➤ Rapid Assessment reporting (Fig. 3) ➤ Natural disaster IDPs mapping ➤ Common Operating Picture Provincial and National maps ➤ Selected provincial disaster and assessment mapping
Education in Emergencies Working Group	➤ BEACON school mapping ➤ FOCUS school mapping
Protection Cluster	➤ CHAP 2014 vulnerability ranking ➤ Security incidents

OBJECTIVE ONE OUTPUTS AGAINST INDICATORS

Improve the safety and security of humanitarian field operators.

NARRATIVE

In Q4, 2013 iMMAP continued to expand the OASIS database. A total of 113,329 security incidents reside in the database, and 4,617 new incidents were entered in Q4. This database allows humanitarian actors to obtain updated and historical information concerning the security situation in their areas of operation. The database is unique in the humanitarian community as it allows users to view spatial relationships with other layers such as roads, thereby providing the user with an overview of where hot spots are located over a specified time period. This enables field personnel to see an overview of historic security events in specific areas before or during deployment (Fig. 4).

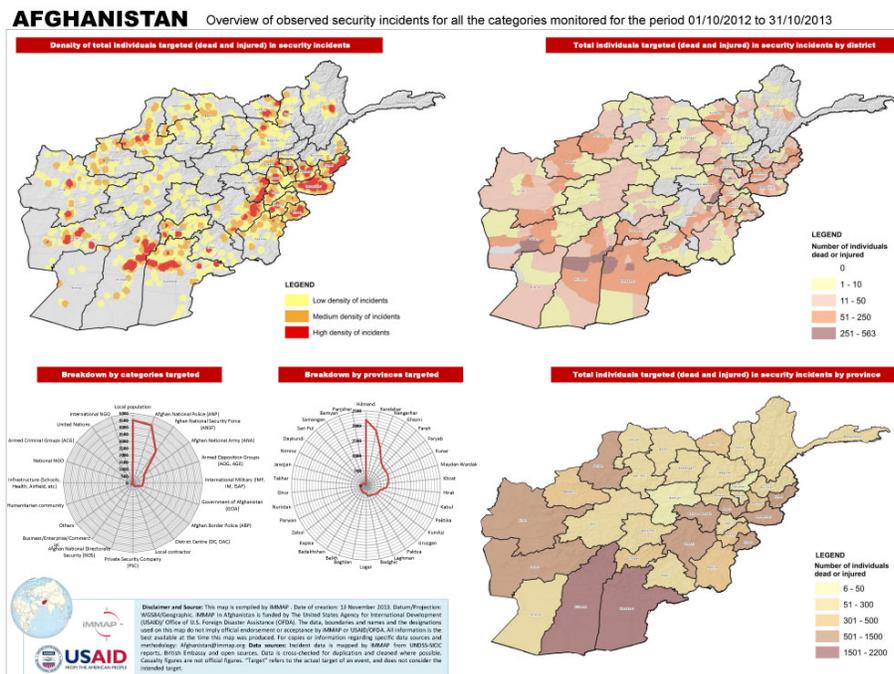


Fig. 4 – Security incident map 2012- 2013

Below is a list of current and new OASIS clients, data partners and agencies that have been supplied with software and training support:

Q 4, 2013 OASIS installations and trainings

- Host Nations Perspectives (SWA)
- UNHCR
- UNDP
- INTERSOS

Previous Oasis Clients

Acted	G4S Afghanistan
AECOM	Halo Trust [HT]
ANDMA	Helvetas
Afghan Technical Consultants	Independent Election Commission [IEC] of Afghanistan
Afghan Women's Educational Center	International Assistance Mission [IAM]
Afghanistan Civil Support Service	International Foundation for Electoral Systems [IFES]
Afghanistan Information Management Systems [AIMS]	International Organization for Migration [IOM]
Aga Khan Foundation [AKF]	International Relief and Development [IRD]
Canadian International Development Agency - Canadian Program Support Unit	International Rescue Committee [IRC]
Care International	INTERSOS
Caritas Germany	Madera
ClearPath International [CPI]	Medair
Catholic Relief Services [CRS]	Mercy Corps
Danish Demining Group [DDG]	Mines Advisory Group [MAG]
Deloitte [supporting USAID projects]	Mine Clearance Planning Agency [MCPA]
Demining Agency for Afghanistan [DAFA]	Mine Detection and Dog Centre [MDC]
Dyncorp	MineTech International
Edinburgh International	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
Education Cluster [various members]	Norwegian Refugee Council [NRC]
EOD Technology	Nutrition cluster [various members]
European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan [EUPOL Afghanistan]	Office for Weapons Removal and Abatement [WRA] Afghanistan
Ex-Med	Organisation for Mine Clearance & Afghan Rehabilitation [OMAR]
Focus Humanitarian Assistance [FOCUS]	Oxfam GB
Food Security and Agriculture Cluster [FSAC]	Oxfam Novib
Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO]	
RONCO Consulting Corporation	[MACCA]
Save the Children [SC]	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs [UN-OCHA]
Shelter Cluster [various members]	United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime [UNODC]
Sicuro Group	United States Embassy
Solidarites	USAID's Capacity Development Program [CDP]
Swedish Committee for Afghanistan	UXB International
Swiss Development Cooperation [SDC] - Swiss Cooperation Office Afghanistan	War Child Holland
Swiss Foundation for Mine Action [FSD]	Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
United Nations Children's Fund [UNICEF] Education	World Conservation Society [WCS]
United Nations Environment Program	World Food Program Education
United Nations Development Program [UNDP] [ELECT]	World Food Program – Global GeoPortal
United Nations Development Program [UNDP] Country Office [CO]	World Vision
United Nations High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR]	
United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre Afghanistan	

PROJECTIONS

In Q4, 2013 iMMAP continued to expand the OASIS database with daily additions of security information updates. This data has become a core component of humanitarian information management and is used extensively by a wide variety of clients. The inclusion of this data in the CHAP 2014 (for the 3rd consecutive year) as a proxy indicator signifies the credibility and utility of the information. The Protection cluster has come to rely heavily on this data, as have a wide range of other actors. iMMAP intends to continue to provide this service to the community and will continue to integrate the data into a variety of regional and country-wide analysis.

Also in Q4 iMMAP initiated a new series of security mapping products to allow a more localized analysis of specific attributes. These new maps were provided to NGOs working in

specific areas and consist of both an overview of incident types (Fig. 5), and the analysis of road networks (Fig. 6).

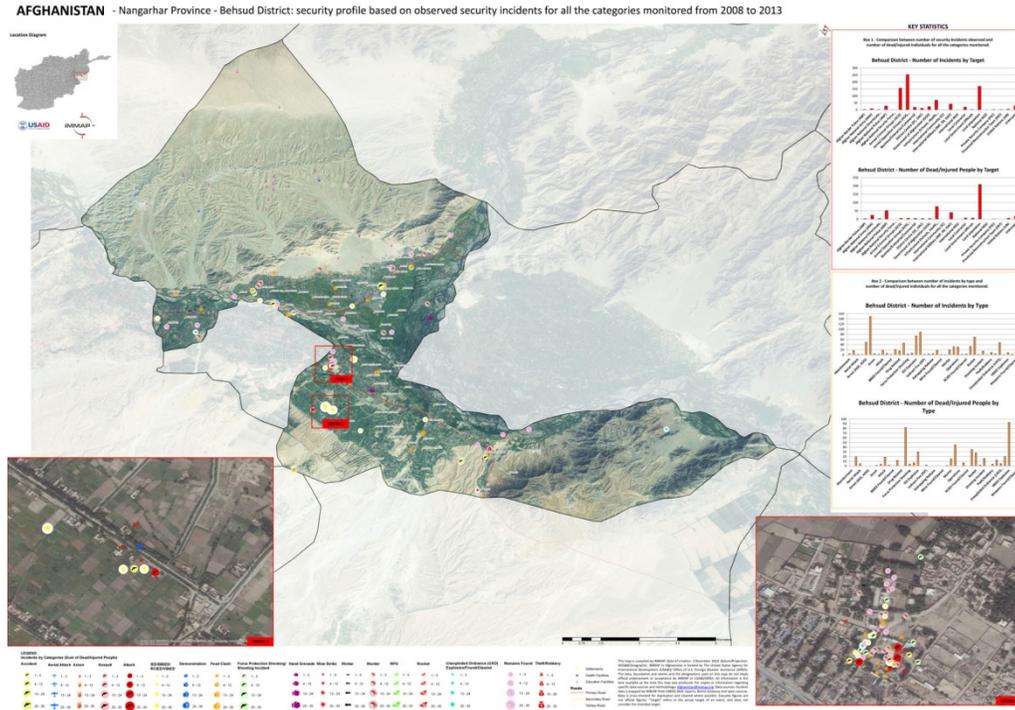


Fig. 5 – Nangarhar security profile

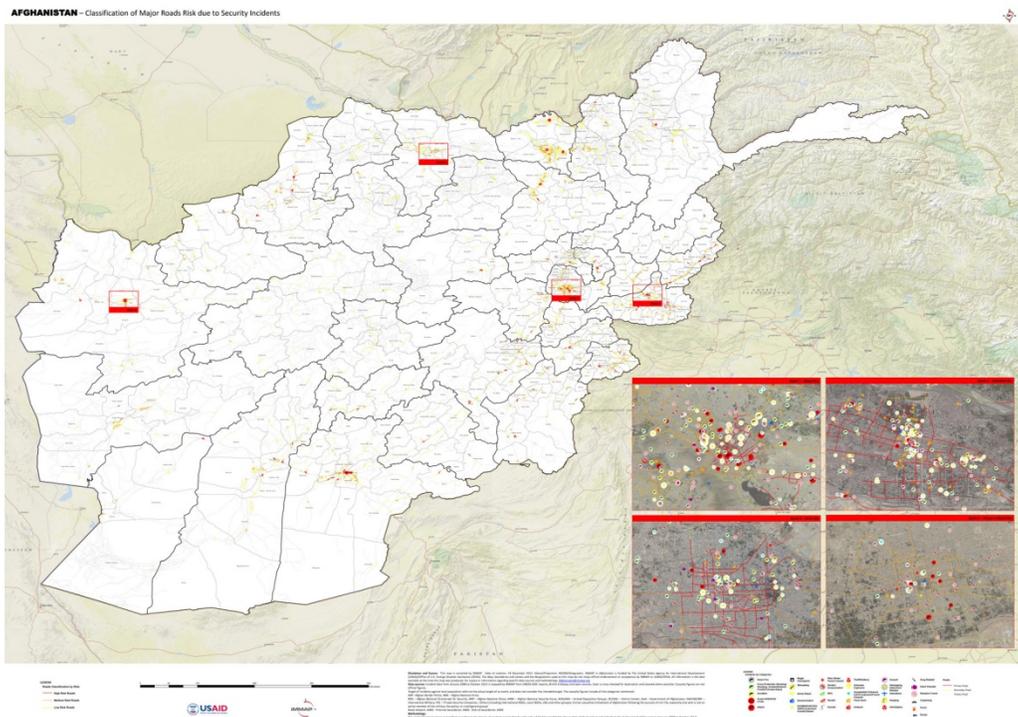


Fig. 6 – Road hazards based on security incidents

OBJECTIVE TWO OUTPUTS AGAINST INDICATORS

Enhance and integrate current databases of humanitarian projects and activities and support distribution of related information in near real-time.

NARRATIVE

In support of DRR data coordination, the following datasets have been gathered during the reporting period, and are undergoing preparation for addition to the OASIS database: MRRD Disasters; IOM & ERM Reported Incidents, Populations, and Assisted figures. The data has been mapped both at a national level and provincially, and is available through .pdf maps on the website.

During Q4, both the ANDMA database was revisited during a series of meetings to ensure approval by senior management. Approval was given verbally, but full implementation has been slow. The MRRD database continued to be used successfully on a daily bases (Fig 7).

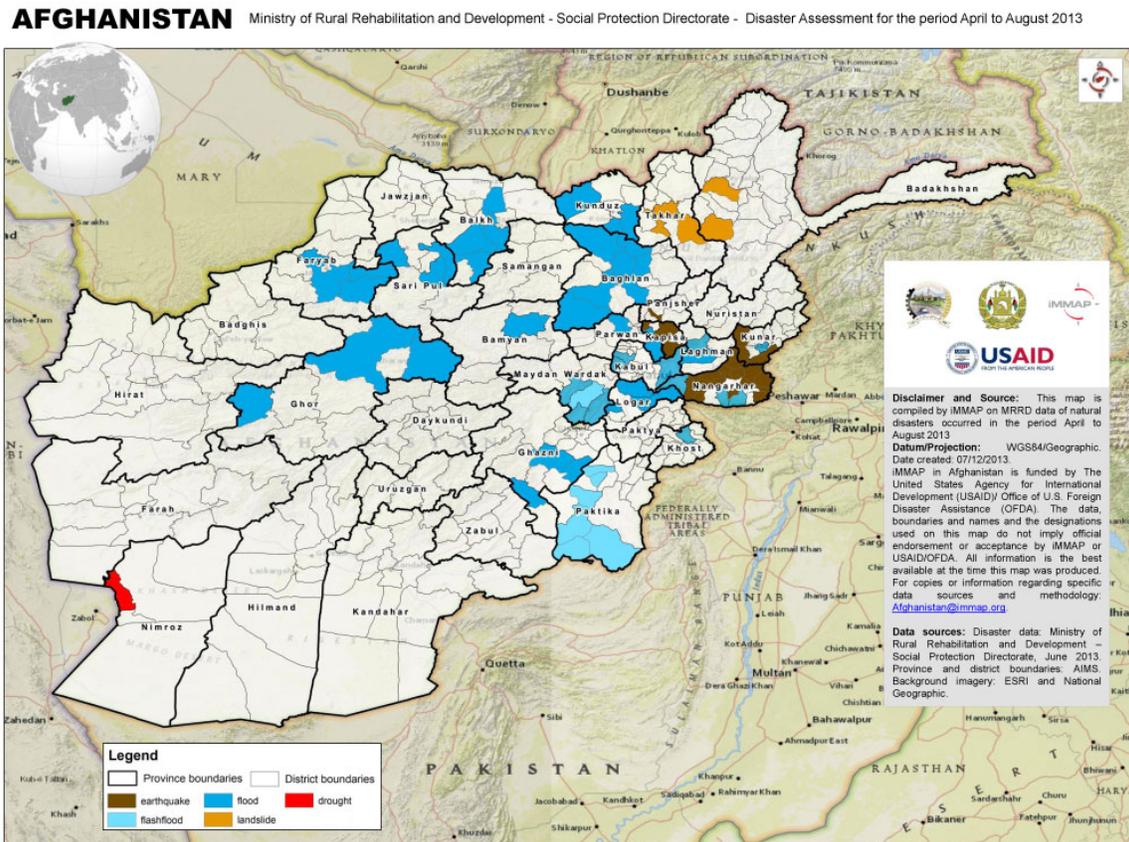


Fig. 7 – Road hazards based on security incidents

PROJECTIONS

Efforts over the past year at coordinating and consolidating disaster data sets have achieved significant results in the last quarter. Despite those problems previously mentioned the delivery of standardized systems into major government offices is a noteworthy accomplishment. The systems are being used a varying capacities by the government and future efforts will focus more on institutional work-flows to enable the proper management of the data.

Within MRRD the system was adopted quickly, although not without problems. The Ministry is using the database daily to record disaster information and MRRD activities. Some challenges remain regarding data flow, and staff capacity, as well as the eventual adoption of some of the more advanced features of the OASIS system, such as bespoke mapping. iMMAP will focus its efforts on fixing the bottle necks in the information flow and in capacity building for the database team.

In ANDMA the challenges are greater. Future efforts will continue to focus on the use of the as part of an ANDMA business model and the adaption of IM systems as a daily routine. The secondment of staff by OCHA and IOM has helped facilitate this process and data entry has begun. ANDMA is currently constructing reporting formats that may be programmed into the database.

OBJECTIVE THREE OUTPUTS AGAINST INDICATORS

Provide a Common Operating Picture of humanitarian data and baseline indicators of the humanitarian situation.

NARRATIVE

The iMMAP Afghanistan OASIS team has established a large network of OASIS clients and as such a large number of data sharing opportunities, which contribute to building the Common Operating Picture [COP], ranging from Explosive Remnants of War [ERW] and the HMA environment in Afghanistan to topographic maps [incorporates 1:250,000, 1:100,000 and 1:50,000 American topographic maps, as well as Russian topographic map series], satellite imagery, high resolution town imagery, accurate elevation data, settlement lookups, water sources, snow cover, soils, land cover, health facilities, military and security locations, etc., are all essential information to properly plan activities in the field.

In this reporting period, iMMAP continued to focus on the Common Operating Picture developed in the previous phases of the project with the activities of the Cluster groups. The primary aim of this activity was to provide simultaneously a platform to share findings and strategies among a wide variety of humanitarian actors and raise awareness on current security in remote areas to evaluate the options to access vulnerable communities.

In support of OFDA partners iMMAP has continued the development of a project tracking database for FOCUS and CPI in this quarter. This enterprise system will allow the rapid integration and reporting of data related projects across Afghanistan.

iMMAP has initiated a sub-project of this objective to develop a Common Operating Picture for Disasters in Afghanistan. The vision of this project is to enable DRR actors operating in Afghanistan to review, analyze and understand current and recent disaster data. iMMAP is integrating information from key DRR actors such as ANDMA, IOM, ERM, MRRD, and others to create an information platform to share this data through OASIS. The actual data will be available to users through a new website (currently under construction but available at: <http://js.oasiswebservice.org/web2/>).

The databases that have been newly developed or enhanced during Q4 are:

- International Organization for Migration [IOM]: As in Q3, the Non-food Items [NFI] distribution database and IDP database were updated and mapped. iMMAP continues to work with IOM to assist with NFI and natural disaster IDP information.
- UNHCR continues to request assistance from iMMAP to update and modify the IDP tracking and reporting system in OASIS. iMMAP provided advisory and technical assistance on site to enhance the system including several new installations and trainings
- ERM project and disaster data was updated and mapped
- Atlas of disasters for all Afghanistan was published
- FOCUS School locations
- BEACON School locations

PROJECTIONS

With the release of the 34 provincial Common Operating Picture maps, a major portion of the Common Operating Picture for Disaster Risk Reduction was completed. This effort collated disaster data sets from a variety of disparate sources into a single information product. In addition, the COP promotes data standards and aims to become the primary reference for DRR information. In the coming months iMMAP will continue to receive data sets from established partners, will examine and clean the data, and will add it to the common operating picture. The COP will continue to be available both through hard copy maps and the website mentioned above.

OBJECTIVE FOUR OUTPUTS AGAINST INDICATORS

Identification of hazardous areas and populations at risk.

NARRATIVE

In this reporting period efforts have continued to promote data interoperability among different sources (e.g. IOM, FSAC, NGOs, Government) in order to fill the existing gaps in the identification of hazardous areas and populations at risk, as well as to support the

coordination of humanitarian response with specific attention to enhancing the safety of relief operators.

- Common Operating Picture for Disaster Risk Reduction: The initial provincial datasets were finished and mapped, and then collated to national level. This will serve as a single source for all verified Afghanistan disaster data for the last two years (Fig. 7).
- IOM: In the current reporting period iMMAP has updated and mapped the IOM disaster database on selected disaster-affected IDPs. These data sets have formed the backbone of the COP DRR and will be used to populate the ANDMA database.
- ERM: iMMAP continually provides assistance to the ERM group with information management, advisory services, and mapping. The activities in this reporting period were centered on data strategies for the coming year.
- ANDMA: iMMAP updated the ANDMA disaster database and facilitated the discussion of reporting formats. The 3rd annual MoU is still pending signature by ANDMA.
- MRRD / Social Protection Department: MRRD database of disasters and responses is being used daily by MRRD. iMMAP has continued to publish these maps in both English and Dari

AFGHANISTAN Disaster Risk Reduction Day : Common Operating Picture for Disaster Risk Reduction - country outlook January 2012 – May 2013

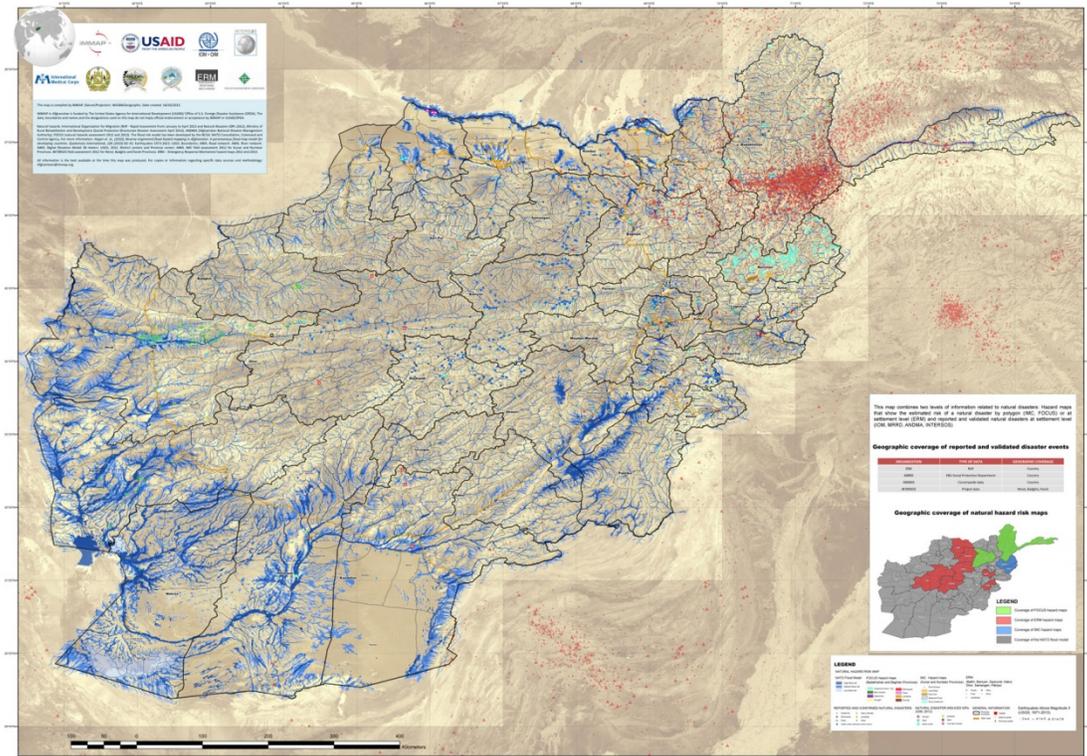


Fig. 7 – Afghanistan COP for DRR

PROJECTIONS

As iMMAP works with clusters and with bilateral partners, an expanded inventory of disaster data will continue to be developed and more readily accessible through the Common Operating Picture for DRR. iMMAP will facilitate the integration of information on different options for mitigation and disaster response mechanisms developed by the Cluster groups. Information Management tools and techniques will contribute to an overall enhanced understanding of the situation for the end user, especially Clusters, and government partners. These efforts will be realized through the creation of a DRR website module in Q1, and the continued provision of services to DRR actors and coordination bodies.

OBJECTIVE FIVE OUTPUTS AGAINST INDICATORS

Improvements in currently available datasets.

NARRATIVE

iMMAP has collated, cleaned and error-checked multiple datasets from various sources. The new and updated datasets exclusive to this reporting period are:

- IOM Populations affected by natural disasters
- IOM natural disaster IDPs
- Save the Children DRR Education facilities
- BEACON CBE school locations
- FOCUS school locations
- Security Incidents
- ERM project and disaster data
- ACBAR donor/activity mapping
- DRC project mapping
- PIN project mapping
- Welthungerhilfe project mapping
- Medair project mapping
- IRC project mapping
- French Embassy/CPAU regarding Peace Council project mapping
- Democracy Int'l project mapping

PROJECTIONS

Many of the current datasets mentioned in this report, as well as past reports are constantly updated as new information is gathered, processed and added to the knowledge base. Indeed, ensuring relevant and timely data is one of the key functions of providing information services to the humanitarian community. iMMAP works with partners to develop new datasets, as well as improving their existing ones. iMMAP will continue these efforts in Q1 with the intention of ensuring partners are using information management to enhance their activities, and contributing to the overall improvement of humanitarian information in Afghanistan.