Information Management Working Group (IMWG)

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Start Time: 05-May-2022, 10:00 AM
Location: Microsoft Teams (online).
Chaired by REACH & UNHCR

List of Participants:

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- Ken (Guest)

Agenda:

1. **Big data analysis**
2. **Activity Info**

Big Data Analysis

- **UNHCR** updated the IMWG on ongoing discussions and activities regarding the possibility of using non-traditional or "Big data" to fill information gaps in the refugee response.

- This all begins with the great work being done by **UNDP-Moldova** who has an ongoing project with the Ministry of Interior Affairs. This work used anonymous CRS data from Orange telecom customers, 1112 emergency call data and anonymous electricity bills from the utility company. Previous projects looked at things like population density, land cover, and COVID-19 mobility (or lack thereof).
- Now the question is how to leverage this data in support of the refugee response. Several meetings have taken place at the Moldova level as well as at the Regional/HQ level with actors such as UNICEF, IOM, WB, Global Pulse, and UNHCR involved.
- The IMWG was requested to provide some research questions. Experts will advise the feasibility of existing data in country and from outside (i.e. Facebook) to address these questions. The IMWG provided the following questions:
  - Where are refugees living? District? Village? Etc.
  - How mobile are they? i.e. length of stay in one place? How many moves?
  - How many people (and percentage) return back to Ukraine? How many returns? Is it many people making few trips back and forth or few people making many trips?
  - Are refugee hosting families spending much more in electric bills? Do we know in which areas?
  - There is also the dimension of social connectedness - how many people call/message which can be used as an indicator of economic wellbeing. More calls/messages and contact people is a proxy indicator about the wellbeing of the refugees in Moldova
  - Anything related to the costs incurred by host communities would be very interesting for WFP, as well as vulnerability levels of both refugees and host communities
  - Any way to assess the languages spoken and information channels used by Ukrainian refugees?
- These practical questions were appreciated by the data scientists at the HQ level. UNDP will add to this list with questions they receive from the Government.
- There is another meeting planned next week where UNDP will share its report on the analysis that has already been done. This will also be shared with the IMWG. The data scientists will also advise on the possible way forward.
- Stay tuned for more exciting stuff in this work stream!

Activity Info

- UNHCR briefed on the progress made towards configuring and deploying an Activity Info database to support activity tracking and response monitoring.
- The advantages of Activity Info were explained, as was the basic structure of the database Who, for Whom, What, Where, When.
- A demo of the tool (using dummy data) was shown.
- Several questions were asked and answered related to bulk upload, duplicate data entry, as well as continued use of the current 5W
- The time frame for full implementation of Activity Info is approximately 2 weeks away. Sector leads will have a week to agree on lists of agencies, activities, and indicators, and there will be a week to develop the db, test and deploy.
- Training sessions are expected to accompany the roll out.

Next IMWG meeting scheduled for Thursday, 12 May 2022