

Southern Sudan Information Management Working Group (SSIMWG)

Background

The International Community, the United Nations, the Government and the development partners in Southern Sudan face multiple challenges in acquiring, and managing effectively, adequate baseline information for joint planning purposes, as well as for coordination, monitoring and evaluation, especially as regards to early recovery and development interventions.

The Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation (SSCCSE) with the support of the UNDP's Crisis Recovery Mapping and Analysis Project (CRMA) therefore proposed to establish an *Information Management Working Group* (IMWG) for Southern Sudan. This proposal was endorsed in June 2010 by both Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) with the following objectives:

1. To facilitate the development of a coherent information management approach for Government Institutions, United Nations Agencies and (I)NGOs in Southern Sudan.
2. To support and advise the Budget Sector Working Groups and UNDAF Technical Working Groups in accessing and utilize available data for improved development planning and programming.
3. To develop and advise on the development of a Southern Sudan-specific tool, or set of tools, to support decentralized information-sharing and common GIS mapping (in such a way that it will be consistent with SudanInfo system development, and can eventually be adopted/integrated as a complement for the same).

The inaugural meeting of the SSIMWG took place on June 10, 2010, during which the group defined the work plan for the first trimester of its operation. The working group will release its first digital atlas, which consists of multiple layers of data on Southern Sudan from GOSS Ministries and UN agencies, on July 22, 2010. The atlas will be updated and published on a quarterly basis.

Achievements

- To date, four GOSS Institutions, in addition to SSCCSE, have joined the SS IMWG and signed their respective letters of agreement; namely Ministry of Education, Ministry of Energy and Mining, Ministry of Regional Cooperation, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation.
Seven UN agencies have also become members of the SSIMWG through the information sharing protocols that each agency signed: UNDP, FAO, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOCHA and WFP/UNJLC. Each agency has specified in a metadata sheet which datasets it will share with the other members.
- Version 2 of three separate CD products containing state specific data from the three geographical regions of Southern Sudan (Greater Bahr el Ghazal; Greater Upper Nile and Greater Equatoria) were made available publicly in December 2010. Each CD is further divided into three parts: 1. The Digital Atlas, containing various types of data such as basic services, infrastructure, population, health, agriculture, topographical and meteorological information. 2. The State Strategic Plans Section which links to all existing State Strategic Plans; and 3. The survey section containing published surveys from SSCCSE and other partners.

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