

Sudan Crisis and Recovery Mapping and Analysis Project (CRMA)



*A strategic planning- and decision-making toolkit for
recovery and development programming and coordination*

I. Core Objectives

- Building local capacities for crisis mapping, conflict analysis and strategic planning
- Institutionalising evidence-based and conflict-sensitive planning across UNDP portfolio
- Enhancing knowledge management and coordination for the UN 'Delivering as One'
- Using innovative GIS-enabled platforms and participatory methods for early warning and conflict prevention

II. Background

The complexity of Sudan's security, political and socio-economic situation is difficult to overstate. The constantly shifting and intertwined landscapes of humanitarian, early recovery and development contexts are manifestations of a vast country which despite the signing of three peace agreement (Comprehensive Peace Agreement, Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement and Darfur Peace Agreement) still struggles with ongoing political tensions and regional crises. A multitude of actors are working in Sudan to alleviate poverty and promote peace: two UN peacekeeping missions, almost all UN agencies in existence, over 300 international aid agencies and more than 2,000 national NGOs, work in partnership with the government to deliver critical humanitarian and development aid. However, unless key triggers of volatility are not mitigated, as the country prepares for South Sudan's independence in July 2011, two of Africa's largest countries risk returning to conflict and instability.

The breadth of these challenges calls for effective tools to assist actors in identifying and prioritising interventions that can enhance peace and stability. Coordination is a key aspect of crisis and recovery responses, and UNDP, as lead agency for early recovery and host of the RCO, has a key role to play in assuring effective coordination support. In Sudan, the UNDP CRMA project is working with key international actors, government and community actors across Sudan's conflict-affected areas to respond to the need for enhanced coordination and prioritisation through three principal, interconnected mechanisms.

Firstly, a core component of the support has been the establishment of an *Information Management Working Group (IMWG) of the UNCT* – the first of its kind at country level – which includes the UN's leading field-based agencies (UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO, WFP/JLC, OCHA, IOM, UNFPA, FAO, UNMAO and UNDP). The IMWG has developed a formal information-sharing platform and updating mechanism that provides all recovery and development actors with a common basic package of available and relevant information for their individual analysis, planning and programming efforts. The success of this Working Group at the national level has led to the set up of a regional IMWG for Darfur and one in South Sudan. The membership of the IMWG will extend in the near future to include UNMIS (in South Sudan), UNAMID (in Darfur), (I)NGOs and national and state government counterparts.

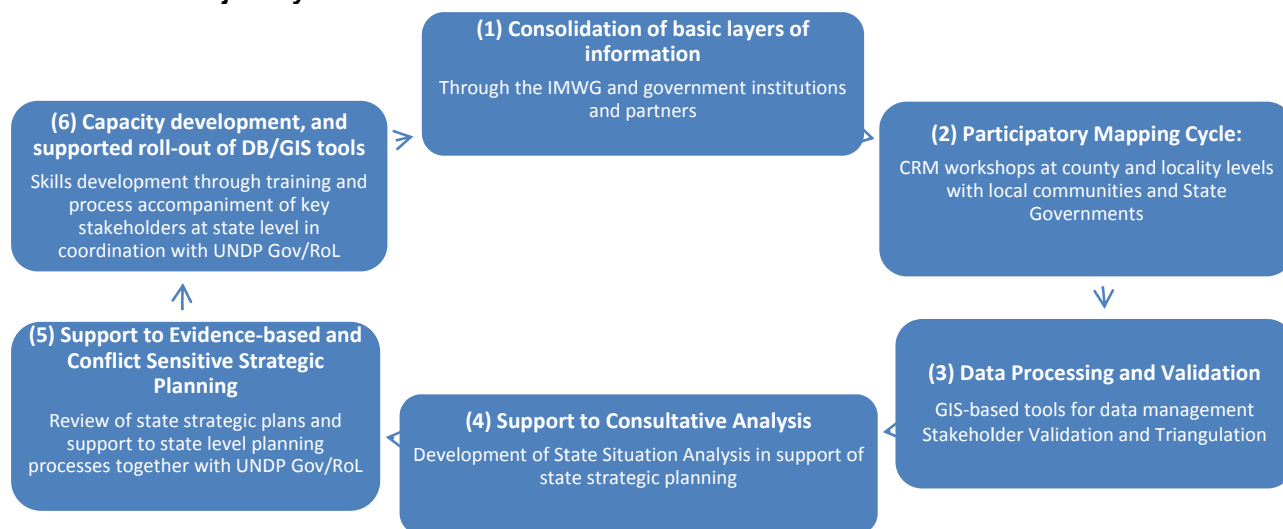
Secondly, CRMA has worked with government and community actors to develop a template for state and community-level participatory workshops that capture community perceptions of priorities and emerging risks. Priorities and risks are grouped along socio-economic and security lines and identified for specific geographic and thematic areas. Qualified participants are drawn from a socially and culturally diverse group of people that seeks to ensure as wide a representation as possible. The aim is to capture the full spectrum of dynamics in any given locality or state. Reflecting the complex contexts in Sudan, participation has included youth representatives, cultural and religious leaders, women's unions, pastoralists and farmers unions among others. This community level process serves to provide a link between state and population with the findings feeding directly into state policy.

Thirdly, community perceptions of threats and risks are systematized through the information management platform and used by state governments, with CRMA support, to feed into the development of their State Situation Analyses and State Strategic Plans. The community level information also informs UNDP efforts to develop solid Conflict Development Analyses to guide their programming. These situation/conflict analyses cover the range of conflict, recovery and development issues from peace-building; governance and rule of law to livelihoods and basic services. The methodology focuses on a participatory and consultative approach, ensuring leadership and ownership of the process is firmly embedded with the project's counterparts. Producing a joint analysis brings a multitude of actors together and provides a solid platform for coordinated and evidence-based designing and targeting of programmes. CRMA maintains this support to partners throughout their planning and programming processes.



CRMA has thus combined new technologies, participatory methods of crisis mapping and analysis, and capacity development on knowledge management to design strategic planning and decision-making support mechanisms for recovery and development programming and coordination. Furthermore, CRMA offers tailored support to donors, UN agencies, government partners and INGOs in their programming, work on needs assessments, disaster risk reduction, conflict prevention and early warning as well as monitoring and evaluation.

III. Basic Project Cycle



III. CRMA methodology and resources

CRMA has developed an **adaptable, context driven and client-oriented methodology and implementation modality**, which can easily be replicated for the benefit of other UNDP Country Offices in complex (post) crisis and recovery settings. The key strength of the CRMA approach is its implementation modality, which brings together staff with experience in a range of data collection, processing and analysis techniques – from traditional GIS to participatory community security workshops. This CRMA team uses a variety of new and established data processing and mapping technologies, with a strong focus on volunteered GIS data (VGIS). The methodology and outputs are adapted to the specific needs of each client, but always deliver:

- a tangible product that supports ongoing planning activities

- recorded data collection and analysis best practices
- classroom and on-the-job training to clients / counter-parts

Geographic information system (GIS)-based toolkits are rapidly emerging as a core component of crisis prevention, conflict mitigation and recovery interventions. Reflecting this, CRMA has developed a set of GIS enabled information management support tools. The formats and software used are license-free and open source and designed to be cost-effective and user-friendly. They have been designed to be compatible with DevInfo, OCHA's ProMIS and other GIS platforms, allowing for full interoperability with key partners' internal databases and tools.

A **standardized Digital Atlas package** is produced through the IMWG, based on Arc Reader GIS software. The information is provided by the members of the group, then mapped and distributed by CRMA. The IMWG quarterly Digital Atlas provides users with a static multi-sectoral atlas containing geo-referenced information from a variety of international and national actors. The datasets are sourced and dated to facilitate queries and temporal analysis. The software is free, with a user-friendly design, enabling easy correlation of a variety of datasets. Maps can be exported, saved and printed. The Digital Atlases are available on CD formats and cover all states of Eastern Sudan, the Three Protocol Areas, Darfur and Southern Sudan.

Further, CRMA has developed in-house a **unique information management platform** for its users. This platform enables networked flow of information amongst partners, basic mapping and statistical reporting. The formats and software used are license-free and open source and designed to be cost-effective and user-friendly. They have been designed to be compatible with DevInfo, OCHA's ProMIS and other GIS platforms, allowing for full interoperability with key partners' internal databases and tools.

The platform has four interfaces/modules, customised according to client needs. Each module has a data-entry component, a dynamic visualization tool and reporting/statistical function, as well as –crucially- a simple Export/Import function that allows for internet-based sharing and updating of the user network. Users can switch from one module to the other and combine different datasets according to need. The existing modules are:

Who-does-What-Where-When (4Ws)

The 4Ws module allows users to populate a project/activities tracking database tool with their project-specific information.

Crisis and Recovery Mapper (CRM)

Developed to map human security related threat and risk indicators, this tool supports conflict-sensitive analysis and planning by the UN and its partners, with a specific focus on conflict prevention and mitigation activities.

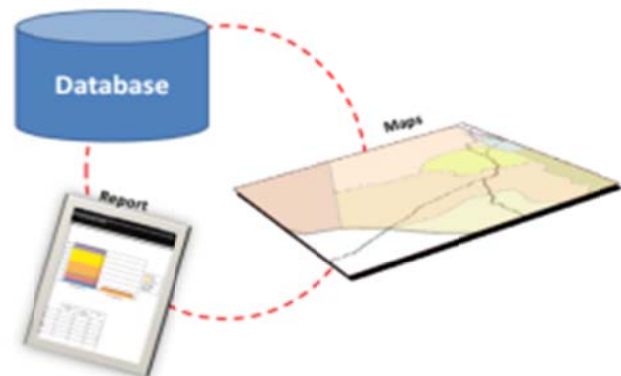
Incident and Event Mapper (IEM)

The tool is designed to capture details around conflict and community security related incidents as observed and recorded by field-based professionals.

Basic Service Mapper (BSM)

This module allows the user to track existing services, functionalities and current coverage, thereby facilitating gap analysis and evidence-based strategic planning.

The project has documented the process, tools and evaluations along the way to ensure that lessons are learnt and resources are easily available to those who wish to learn more about the specific project components and set up.



IV. Capacity Development



Phase II of CRMA, launched in 2010, focuses more exclusively on capacity development across all regions. CRMA will provide support to state governments, UNDP and the RC system to develop and establish a knowledge management base for enhanced strategic planning.

State Information and Knowledge Management Capacity Enhancement

CRMA will provide support to state governments in East Sudan and the Transitional Areas to develop and implement a knowledge management base for enhanced state strategic planning. The aim of strengthening the State strategic planning processes (linking core CRMA processes of data collecting, analysing, planning and monitoring functions) will be achieved by:

- Providing role-specific skills and ICT training that support State strategic planning;
- Accompaniment through the state strategic planning cycle;
- Developing a sustainable State-wide ICT platform that connects a core network of users, enabling the systematic sharing of knowledge for strategic planning purposes.

Information Management Working Group

CRMA will work to assure sustainability of the information sharing process, the IMWG processes will be based on a decentralized, license-free networking tool to assure flexibility and gratuity of use, and fully automated updating to reduce the “transaction costs” of information exchange. An online resource centre for recovery and development information will be made publicly available, linked to the existing UNSudanIG, developed by OCHA. Additionally, a sector-by-sector process of standardization of the information collection criteria and formats needs to be carried out following the IASC guidelines, assuring that the sharing process can be streamlined and inter-operability is ensured.

Technical Assistance to CRMA Replication

Key to Phase II of the CRMA will be the successful implementation of the full project cycle in South Sudan and Darfur, as well as the preparation of a standardized package of methodologies, processes and tools for possible replication of the CRMA project/approach outside of Sudan.¹

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¹ For further information on CRMA:

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