

## Information Management Working Group (IMWG)

### Background

The United Nations in Sudan faces 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 early recovery and development interventions.

It was therefore proposed in 2008 to establish an *Information Management Working Group* (IMWG) with the following goals:

1. Facilitate the development of a coherent information management approach for the United Nations Agencies and INGOs in Sudan in close cooperation with local authorities and institutions
2. Support and advise the UNDAF Technical Working Groups and Work Plan sectors in accessing and utilize available data for improved development planning and programming
3. Develop/advise on the development of, a 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 the DevInfo (SudanInfo) system development, and can eventually be adopted/integrated as a standard plug-in for the same)

### Achievements

- To date the following UN agencies have joined: UNDP, UNICEF, WFP/JLC, OCHA, IOM, FAO, UNFPA, UNHCR and WHO. Every agency has signed an information sharing protocol in which they, in a metadatasheet annex, also specify which datasets they will share with the other members.
- In December 2009 a regional IMWG was established in Darfur, and in May 2010 a UNCT/GOSS Task Force was established to initiate an IMWG for Southern Sudan.
- A Quarterly digital ATLAS is published (Version 5 published October, 2010). The ATLAS consists of the datasets shared by members and government partners, digitized and layered by CRMA. The ATLAS now covers Darfur, Eastern Sudan, and the Three Protocol Areas. A second digital ATLAS was published in conjunction with the SSCSE for Southern Sudan December 2010.
- Establishment of a Standardization Task Force with the purpose of standardizing names and location of settlements as well as locality boundaries across Sudan.
- Joint mapping exercises have been carried out by IMWG members of key IDP camps in Darfur.
- Development of four integrated information management tools:
  - o The 4Ws database for project tracking and coordination;
  - o The Incident & Events Mapper for community security and conflict tracking;
  - o The Basic Service Mapper for tracking of services, functionality and delivery gaps;
  - o The Crisis and Recovery Mapper for tracking of community level threats and risks.

### Pending Issues

- UNMIS and UNAMID to become official members of the IMWG (particular sections are already participating as observers)
- Full integration of the information management tools and the digital ATLAS
- Proposed Head of Agency Workshop on Information Management for Strategic Planning and Scenario Development
- Full implementation of the Standardization Task Force with link to relevant national authorities

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