

Arrangements & components

Limitations

HQ support technical guidance and oversees the work of GIS officers and other related specialists to Country Representations and Field Offices.

Cooperation is coordinated through regional Bureaux and Desks requesting support in information management.

Deployed geospatial information management capabilities:
 - A small network of GIS officers covers needs of a few countries representation and of two regional hubs.

Lack of awareness on GIS capabilities.

Lack of resources for efficient information management: geospatial data collection, reliable archiving, centralized coordination.

Internal Geospatial Information Access

Organizational side
Technical side

FTP Server: file exchange between GIS Officers at HQ and in the field is done through a FTP server.

Intranet: HCR-Net offers "pdf" format of most public domain maps, and others for internal distribution only.

Internet: a subset of the previous map collection is also available on www.unhcr.org.

Operational Data Portal: A web-based GIS is being developed as a tool to access information internally and to allow data entry and reporting by partners.

Many field offices do not have Internet connection or access through a kiosk PC is limited.

The two environments are managed by two different services thus duplication in posting procedure.

GPS data collection not yet streamlined in all operations.

GIS tools not widespread in organization.

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www.unhcr.org is currently the only medium to disseminate spatial data outside UNHCR ("pdf" format only, hence very static information).

Maps are posted on the GIST data repository since the emergency of Lebanon in Summer 2006.

Lack of resources to homogenize and post information and maps produced in field operations.

Posting delayed or incomplete datasets due to constraints listed above.

Data confidentiality on personal information of refugees or internally displaced persons.

Geospatial Information Dissemination to partners

Organizational side
Technical side

Uploading of static maps on the internet site of UNHCR.

External map requests are also handled by FICSS when users are directed to its services but no formal entry point exist yet.

Operational Data Portal: The web-based GIS being developed for internal UNHCR use will also give access to maps and datasets to external users.

Absence of a good search capacity based on metadata.

No mechanisms to channel back integrated information to field or global partners which had inputs in databases.

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Only a few bilateral agreements through Country representations involved in inter-agency work (eg. UNCT or Humanitarian Reform clustres coordination).

GIST serves where emergencies exist.

Bilateral cooperation at HQ level (eg. SALB, GAUL, IMO, UNOSAT, RESPOND).

No platform exist for periodic and automatic data sharing and co-development of common datasets:
 -global core datasets,
 -data collection in refugee camps and IDP locations relying more and more on various implementing partners.

Data exchange for emergencies and for joint operations not institutionalized. Need for standards and simple MoUs.

External Geospatial Information Access

Organizational side
Technical side

The development of GeoNetwork metadata catalogue for UNHCR being planned.

The Operational data portal of FICSS could include tools that links datasets for comprehensive coverage or complementary datasets.

UNSDI expectancies:

SERVICES

Link any system harvesting datasets and portals promoted or developed under UNSDI partnerships with the UNHCR Operational data portal.

STANDARDS

Promote use of standards and common protocols guidelines and recommend standards for data sharing.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Provide training materials and standards/guidelines on data exchange protocols,
- Develop a best practices database on data management partnerships,
- Provide technical materials for awareness raising and capacity building (multilingual).

ORGANIZATIONAL

- Interagency coordination on these issues and on data collection and data exchange mechanisms/tools,
- Facilitate platforms where data exchange becomes central to inter-agency coordination in the field and globally reduce duplication, identify gaps and support synergies,
- Support national GIS groups for datasets consolidation and increase their visibility in the UN System,
- Create a platform for project news (in implementation or in design) to create partnerships.