

Workshop Summary:

Data from Conflict-Affected  
Regions: Filling-in the Blanks

June 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – Brussels, Belgium





## Workshop Summary

### **Data from Conflict-Affected Regions: Filling-in the Blanks**

**June 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – Brussels, Belgium**

#### BACKGROUND

The debate over how to expand the evidence base for interventions in humanitarian crises is longstanding but there is a consensus on the essential role of improved data collection and capacity building at the national level. Several steps towards the improvement of data collection have been made through some international initiatives but a more synergetic and sustainable approach to it has to be defined.

In the context of CE-DAT workshop “Data from Conflict Affected Regions: Filling in the Blanks” CRED brought together experts from a wide range of backgrounds, data collection methods and areas of influence to discuss the current obstacles to obtaining better data and consequent sounder policy decisions and add to the international debate with concrete ways forward.

We provided the platform for a diverse group of interested parties to meet, discuss and foster collaborations. Participants included the donor community, recipient country representatives, NGO’s, international organizations, as well as academia.

#### DISCUSSIONS

The workshop covered issues relating to field data collection - ranging from nation-wide surveys to small sample surveys; how to use the existing infrastructure to strengthen civil registration and monitor population dynamics in conflict-affected zones, the use of mapping and scientifically-sound analyses for decision making. Participants and panelists provided their insights on how their own institutions can work together towards better measuring conflict-related risks, population vulnerabilities and the impact of conflicts and of aid interventions. We strived to identify ways through which synergies between different data providers can enhance analyses and promote needs-based decision making.

#### THE WAY FORWARD

This meeting laid the ground work for building bridges between disciplines and, based on a consensus, identified ways to move forward:

1. There is a need for more complementarities between small-scale surveys carried out by NGO’s and other operational agencies and large-scale surveys, such as DHS and UNICEF’s MICS. Without synergies and standardization, the danger of duplication and population fatigue can seriously compromise the quality of the data and lead to the inefficient use of resources.

2. Cooperation and coordination must also be extended to data analysis. Carrying out meta-analyses using both types of surveys can provide greater insight on the status of conflict-affected populations.
3. GIS and other spatial techniques that can help guide sampling and surveys must be used to improve data collection
4. Stakeholders must be encouraged to make use of the available evidence for decision making. Donors are urged to connect available data and analyses to the projects they fund in order to monitor outcomes and therefore aid effectiveness.
5. The humanitarian community must improve and test methods for data collection to identify the best, context-specific, tradeoff between fast and precise (e.g. sentinel sites, satellite-based sampling)
6. There is a need to include in survey questionnaires specific questions that provide insight on the impacts of conflicts, including displacement and cause of death.
7. The recipient community should be able to demonstrate both results and value for money to donors.
8. International lending and development agencies need to pay special attention to displaced and conflict-affected populations, as these are the segments of populations that often have the most impact on failing to meet the MDG's at national levels.

# Data from Conflict-Affected Regions: Filling in the Blanks

June 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Pavillon des Conférences, Université catholique de Louvain, 19 Clos Chapelle aux Champs, 1200 Brussels

Thursday, 09<sup>th</sup> June 2011

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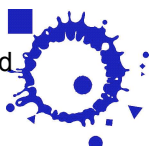
09:30-10:00	D. Sapir	Welcome and brief introduction of the participants
10:00-11:30	Chair: N. Bartlett (USAID)	<b>Collecting data from the field: nation-wide surveys</b>
	K. Ogden (WFP)	Food Security in civil conflicts: experience from UN WFP
	P. Justino (IDS)	Integrating conflict related data: proposed module from the HiCN
	M. Ali (WHO/EMRO)	<i>Discussant</i>
11:30-11:45		Coffee break
11:45-13:00	Chair: E. Ndayisaba (ECHO)	<b>Collecting data from the field: small sample surveys</b>
	A. Agar (GOAL)	Collecting multi cluster indicator data: strengths and weaknesses
	C. Salpéteur (ACF)	Innovative methods for assessing nutritional situation
	O. Bilukha (CDC)	<i>Discussant</i>
	C. Altare (CRED)	<i>Discussant</i>
13:00-13:30		Lunch break
13:30-15:00	Chair: S. Gardiner (Dfid)	<b>Civil registration and population dynamics in conflict affected zones: building capacities</b>
	A.R. Ghafoori (CSO)	Managing statistics in conflict situations: the case of Afghanistan
	K. Dalen (FAFO)	Doing surveys during conflicts: from Iraq to Libya
	S. Doocy (Hopkins Un.)	Challenges of surveying displaced populations
	M. Dinc (WB)	<i>Discussant</i>
15:00-15:15		Coffee Break
15:15-17:00	Chair: J. Gillijns (IFRC)	<b>Moving from data to knowledge: the power of mapping and analysis for decision making</b>
	G. Eilerts (USAID)	Moving from data to decision making: what is your question?
	D. King (US State Dep.)	Mapping conflicts without borders
	L. Alinovi (FAO)	<i>Discussant</i>
	C. Linard (Afripop)	<i>Discussant</i>
19:00	Conference Dinner	Restaurant "Armes de Bruxelles", Rue de Bouchers 13, Brussels (free of charge)



Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2011

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09:00 - 10:45	Chair: S. Doocy (Hopkins Un.)	<b>Measuring risk, vulnerability and impact in conflicts: doing better through data collaboration</b> <i>Panel discussion</i>
	J. Fletcher (Dfid) K. Ogden (WFP) A. Hatloy (FAFO) A. R. Ghafoori (CSO)	How the panelists foresee the way forward within their own institutions to better measure conflict-related risks, population vulnerability and aid impact. They will also comment briefly on how synergies between different data sources could enhance their analyses.
10:45-11:00		Coffee Break
11:00 – 13:00	Chair: P. Justino (IDS)	<b>Fostering conflict data synergies: combining types and sources</b> <i>Panel discussion</i>
	C. Raleigh (ACLED) P. Heudtlass (CRED) G. Moloney (FSNAU)	Brief presentation of datasets, potential synergies with other datasets; FSNAU experience combining data types and sources.
13:00-13:30		Lunch Break
13:30-15:30	Chair: D. Sapir (CRED)	<b>Measuring aid effectiveness &amp; impact: what about the policy makers?</b> <i>Panel discussion</i>
	M. Dinc (WB) S. Gardiner (Dfid) G. Milante (WB) E. Ndayisaba (ECHO) G. Aldashev (Namur Un.)	The panelists will respond to the following questions - promoting needs based decision-making: are we kidding ourselves? - They will also comment on ways in which national civil statistical systems can be strengthened and how funders can actively promote synergies and complementarities in vulnerability and risk assessment.  Commentator
15:30-15:45		<b>Wrap up and closure</b>
15:45		Goodbye coffee





List of Participants to the Workshop:

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## List of Participants to the Workshop:

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