

AGENDA OF THE CE-DAT TAG MEETING

Day 1 : November 24th 2003

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|-----------------------|---|
| 09.00 - 09.30: | Registration, welcome, coffee |
| 09.30 - 09.45: | Opening and round table introductions (Chair Paula Lynch) |
| 09.45 - 10.15: | Introduction to SMART (Anne Ralte) |
| 10.15 - 10.45: | Introduction to CE-DAT (Debby Sapir) |
| 10.45 - 11.15: | Update on CE-DAT Data Collection (Jessica Saussus) |
| 11.15 - 11.30: | Coffee |
| 11.30 - 11.45: | Country case: Iraq (Patrick Haenggi) |
| 11.45 - 13.00: | Lessons from global data collection (Chair: Courtland Robinson) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PRIO (Henrik Urdal)• UNHCR: Refugee Statistics (Bela Hovy) |
| 13.00 - 14.00: | Lunch (provided on premises) |
| 14.00 - 15.30: | Lessons from global data collection (contd. Courtland Robinson) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SIPRI: FIRST (Gerd Hagemeyer)• ESRI: (David Gadsden) |
| 15.30 - 16.00: | Coffee |
| 16.00 - 17.00: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Global IDP Project (Kathy Benetti)• HIU (Dennis King) |
| 17.00 - 17.30: | General Discussion |
| 19h00: | Diner at Edelweiss Restaurant |

Day 2 : November 25th 2003

9.00 - 11.00:

Round Table (Chair: Paul Spiegel):
Realities of epidemiological data use,
methodologies, pitfalls

Discussion leads: Wilbert van Panhuis, Michael
Golden, Rick Brennan (5 – 10 mins each)

11.00 - 11.15:

Coffee

11.15 - 12.30:

What do the users need for policy, monitoring
and advocacy purposes? (Chair: Anne Ralte)

Discussion around issues raised by Mike
Usnick, Paula Lynch, Annabelle Joe Ponte,
Michael Gerber, Andrew Mayne

The meeting will take place at the **Conference Center of Varembe (CCV), Geneva**

1. INTRODUCTION

On November 24th and 25th 2003, the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) and the US Department of State - Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, co-hosted the first Technical Advisory Meeting on CE-DAT.

This project, has two main goals:

- Support resource allocation and priority setting for humanitarian aid
- Promote effectiveness of international policy on conflict response and prevention through evidence based trends and impact analyses.

CEDAT will achieve these goals, in the first phase by constructing a multi-sourced, standardised database on global conflicts and their impact on human populations.

The specific workshop objectives were as follows:

1. To exchange information and experiences on data collection from existing databases and their use in conflicts and complex emergencies.
2. To brainstorm with first line users of these data - donor agencies who have to (or should) take decisions on evidence rather than hear-say.
3. To identify solutions to series of problems encountered during CE-DAT's first steps.
4. To build links between users and suppliers of data in conflict situations, bringing together data collectors and users in order to discuss gaps and weaknesses between data needs and data supplies.
5. To discuss with technicians who are able to advise on health measurements, methods and baselines that are useful for planners and evaluations

1.1. PARTICIPANTS

In total, 26 participants attended this meeting.

A complete directory of the participants and their affiliations is available in Annex 1

1.2. ORGANISATION

The meeting schedule was a combination of presentations, panel discussions and plenary sessions. A different chairperson was selected for each session, on the basis of their specific knowledge and experiences in the subject area.

The complete program of the workshop is available in Annex 2.

2. PROCEEDINGS

2.1. DAY 1 SUMMARY

After opening and round table introduction, the workshop began with Paula Reed Lynch, who provided an outline of the goals and objective of the meeting and the project.

An introduction to SMART was made by Anne Ralte followed by an introduction to CE-DAT by Debarati Sapir.

An update on data collection was made by Jessica Saussus followed by a country case on Iraq by Richard Garfield.

The rest of the day focused on lessons learnt from global data collection: PRIO (Oslo), UNHCR, SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute), ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute, Washington), Global IDP's project of the Norwegian Refugee Council, HIU.

In general, the main limitation was poor data and weak reliability of sources. It was suggested that further contact with the data sources be undertaken as far as practicable to strengthen source information in CEDAT.

It was also proposed that raw data be requested as some data reports have lead to misuse. However, systematic availability of raw data could be encouraged by the donor agencies but could not be mandatory for future operational funding

Ideally data should have 3 independent non-circular sources, although this is not realistic for most conflict situations.

Data collection methodology should be summarised in CEDAT if it is available. If possible, links or contacts for further details on the methods should be made available.

Establishing formal networks with specialised institutions to obtain detailed data on specific situation could be an option to improve and strengthen the database

Among the different population groups, the refugee situation is clearest. UNHCR has complete registration data broken down by age, sex and flows and stocks. Their methodologies of ascertaining refugee figures were described and the access of CEDAT to this data was confirmed.

2.2. DAY 2 SUMMARY

Day 2 began with a recapitulation of the previous day's presentations highlighting the recurrent themes

The second morning focused more on reality of epidemiological data use, mortality, baseline in conflicts, "dirty" data.

- Surveys

Surveys, while useful, varied greatly in quality. Several surveys with different methodologies upon areas of conflict could reveal important trends, especially if followed prospectively.

While much useful data could be generated from NGOs operating in the field, the absence of common, standard methodologies for surveys in unstable conditions were clearly a problem.

Surveillance data, if available, should be used and calibrated by surveys.

The data collection effort should aim, in the first instance to serve decision making purposes although operational research of policy significance should be kept in mind.

Although it was agreed that data need to be gathered and presented for use rapidly in order to be effective in the field, CEDAT was a humanitarian aid policy and planning instrument rather than serving immediate, real time operational purposes. Other methodological weaknesses and biases in data were discussed in this session such as seasonal swing effect on populations which are aggravated by bad survey timing.

Availability of raw data was mentioned again as it allows recalculations to be done and further conclusions drawn from the data. However, whether this is a realistic option remains to be seen.

The meeting concluded that the quality of survey data could be indicated in CEDAT using a set of standard indicators of quality. These should be developed during the first phase of the project.

The Consultation acknowledged that surveys in conflict situations are difficult because of poor access and security problems. In addition, the little that does exist is not comparable because of different methodologies or inadequate information

- Baselines

The new SPHERE guidelines propose using twice the baseline rather than the commonly used one per 10000 per day.

The validity of using a pre-conflict rate that dates from over a decade in some situations was raised. Time trends were considered more useful in this regard.

Baselines should be selected in order to reveal the contribution of expected mortality in the absence of a conflict and the conflict attributable mortality.

Different baselines were proposed: the pre-conflict baseline, a third comparable country, calculated rate based on time trend analysis, e.g. with serial prospective surveys.

The policy makers in the meeting emphasised that exact rates are not required for program targeting. What would be useful is a general idea of the overall trend in certain key health and nutrition indicators.

They also emphasised that the aim is reducing the human impact in the next years and assessing effectiveness of the current health and nutrition policies. CEDAT should also help in monitoring forgotten crises or protracted situations where humanitarian aid has been in place for several years.

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3.2. PROGRAM

AGENDA of the CE-DAT TAG meeting

Day 1 : November 24th 2003

09.00 - 09.30:	Registration, welcome, coffee
09.30 - 09.45:	Opening and round table introductions (Chair Paula Lynch)
09.45 - 10.15:	Introduction to SMART (Anne Ralte)
10.15 - 10.45: Sapir)	Introduction to CE-DAT (Debby
10.45 - 11.15:	Update on CE-DAT Data Collection (Jessica Saussus)
11.15 - 11.30:	Coffee
11.30 - 11.45:	Country case: Iraq (Patrick Haenggi)
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16.00 - 17.00:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Global IDP Project (Cathy Benetti)• HIU (Dennis King)
17.00 - 17.30:	General Discussion
19h00:	Diner at Edelweiss Restaurant

Day 2 : November 25th 2003

9.00 - 11.00:

Round Table (Chair: Paul Spiegel):
Realities of epidemiological data use,
methodologies, pitfalls

Discussion leads: Wilbert van
Panhuis, Michael Golden, Rick
Brennan (5 – 10 mins each)

11.00 - 11.15:

Coffee

11.15 - 12.30:

What do the users need for policy,
monitoring and advocacy purposes?
(Chair: Anne Ralte)

Discussion around issues raised by
Mike Usnick, Paula Lynch, Annabelle
Joe Ponte, Michael Gerber, Andrew
Mayne

The meeting will take place at the Conference Center of Varembe (CCV),
Geneva

3.3. PRESENTATIONS (SEE ATTACHMENTS)

- Debarati Guha-Sapir – CRED
- Jessica Saussus - CRED
- Richard Garfield –
- Henrik Urdal – PRIO
- Cathy Benetti – NRC
- Gerd Hagemeyer-Gaverus – SIPRI
- David Gadsden – ESRI
- Dennis J. King - HIU

CE-DAT TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP CONSULTATION

Action Points for Follow up

A. Collaborations with partner institutions

- The willingness of the World Food Program to work together with CRED/CE-DAT for provision of data and exchange of expertise and methodologies.
- Scientific collaboration will be explored between PRIO/SIPRI and the CE-DAT team in the upcoming year.
- Joint activities and analysis will be envisaged between SIPRI and CE-DAT.
- UNHCR is the best available source for population data for refugee communities and is prepared to work together with the CE-DAT team to promote comparability and standardisation.
- CE-DAT will open discussion with OFDA to identify ways that are mutually beneficial. CE-DAT will work towards collecting information that will serve evaluation and monitoring activities of OFDA and OFDA could assist in providing data or identifying data sources for the CE-DAT team.

Formal frameworks will be established with the appropriate organisation

B. CE-DAT workplan

- CE-DAT data collection procedures met with general approval. It was agreed that the future focus should be on compiling data from other non-UN sources and research studies.
- The issue of baselines or “comparative reference point” was considered urgent. CE-DAT will put forward a first draft of such reference points by country for discussion and improvement.
- Although the paucity of data was acknowledged by all, it was also agreed that dirty data is better than no data. CE-DAT will embark on a data quality assessment after having made the first compilation for the 8 selected countries.
- Baselines and demographic data for preparedness for future conflict (e.g. Zimbabwe) were a high priority for the main donors represented in our consultation. The macro-economic environment and links to the Millennium Development Goals, as well as review of past policies and program and planning future ones, will require the type of information collected by CE-DAT. The CE-DAT team will also focus on provision of benchmarks in order to allow rational and standardised comparisons.
- The CE-DAT database would aim to support the needs of USAID reporting on progress in different humanitarian sites and for strategic planning purposes. It will move away from the country level to regional and sub-regional entities as appropriate.



**CE-DAT TAG Meeting
Geneva, 24-25 November 2003
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