COMMON OPERATIONAL DATASETS (CODS) IN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
Endorsed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on 1 November 2010

Summary Overview

Introduction:
The IASC Guidelines on Common Operational Datasets (CODs) in Disaster Preparedness and Response has been developed to help national authorities and humanitarian organizations exchange data thereby improving the effectiveness of humanitarian response. Baseline and post disaster information is collected and controlled by many autonomous actors, including national authorities, many of whom may be working together for the first time. Developing and implementing a basic framework that improves the interoperability of data collected before, during and after an emergency is essential to building better response capacity.

These guidelines aim to ensure that the CODs support national information systems and standards, build local capacities and maintain appropriate links with relevant Government, State and local authorities. In doing so, humanitarian agencies seek to strengthen, not replace or diminish national efforts, including those of institutions not part of the Cluster Approach or Government.

Purpose:
The primary audiences for these guidelines are Humanitarian Country Teams, composed of Resident Coordinators/Humanitarian Coordinators, UN Agencies and other international organizations, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent and National Societies and NGO representatives, who are engaged in disaster risk management actions, particularly inter-agency contingency planning, in order to increase their level of preparedness and enhance their ability to respond to emergencies. In applying these guidelines, Humanitarian Country Teams should work based on knowledge of the planning, capacities and systems of national and local authorities and be guided by the principles of neutrality and impartiality. The secondary audiences are humanitarian organizations responding to a humanitarian emergency that were not engaged in pre-event disaster risk management actions.

Governance Model for Datasets:
In order to support the management of the common datasets agreed upon by the Humanitarian Country Team, an agreed global governance model should be applied to support the predictability of preparedness actions. There are three levels of governance for the datasets outlined in this guidance: Guardian, Sponsor and Source (See table below for recommended Governance).

Common Operational Dataset List:
The table overleaf outlines the minimum list of common datasets that should be included in a Humanitarian Country Team’s Contingency Plan. With the exception of the Humanitarian Profile dataset, which will be an estimate developed through scenario development, and the Population Statistics datasets, all other datasets are geographic.

Following an event triggering a humanitarian emergency, the datasets and their governance arrangements should be widely disseminated through national, regional and global channels to support the interoperability of information pertaining to the emergency. This should be as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the event.

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1 Samia Amin & Markus Goldstein (ed), Data Against Natural Disasters: Establishing effective systems for relief, recovery, and reconstruction, World Bank, 2008
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<table>
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<th>Dataset</th>
<th>Recommended Governance</th>
<th>Mandatory Data Characteristics</th>
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| **Humanitarian Profile (disaggregated by admin level and populated place)** | **Guardian:** OCHA  
**Sponsor:** OCHA  
**Source:** Government, Assessments, UNHCR, IOM | - Internally Displaced  
- Non-displaced affected  
- Host family/resident community affected - Refugee  
- Dead -  
- Injured -  
- Missing |
| **Population Statistics** | **Guardian:** OCHA  
**Sponsor:** OCHA, UNFPA  
(Other potential sponsors could include UNDP, Government agencies or INGOs)  
**Source:** Government | - Total population by admin level (Individuals)  
- Total population by admin level (Number of Households)  
- Age  
- Sex  
- Average family size by admin level  
- Unique identifier |
| **Administrative Boundaries (Geographic) admin level 1 admin level 2 admin level 3 admin level 4** | **Guardian:** OCHA  
**Sponsor:** OCHA, UNFPA  
(Other potential sponsors could include UNDP, Government agencies or INGOs)  
**Source:** Government | - Unique identifier (P-Code)  
- Name |
| **Populated Places (Geographic)** | **Guardian:** OCHA  
**Sponsor:** OCHA, UNFPA  
(Other potential sponsors could include UNDP, Government agencies or INGOs)  
**Source:** Government | - Unique identifier (P-Code)  
- Names  
- Size classification  
- Population statistics - Status if capital of administrative division  
- Type (Village, spontaneous settlement, collective center, planned settlement) |
| **Transportation Network (Geographic)** | **Guardian:** OCHA  
**Sponsor:** Logistics Cluster  
**Source:** Government | - Roads (Classified by size)  
- Railways  
- Airports/helipads  
- Seaports |
| **Hydrology (Geographic)** | **Guardian:** OCHA  
**Sponsor:** OCHA, UNOSAT  
(Other potential sponsors could include UNDP, Government agencies or INGOs)  
**Source:** Government | - Rivers (Classified by size)  
- Water bodies |
| **Hypsography (Geographic)** | **Guardian:** OCHA  
**Sponsor:** UNOSAT  
**Source:** Remote sensing, Government | - Elevation  
- Resolution |