1.Overview

The Global Information Management, Assessment and Analysis Cell (GIMAC) is a humanitarian multi-stakeholder[1] initiative, proposed jointly by several United Nations and international NGO partners.

GIMAC aims to coordinate, structure, collate, manage and analyse COVID-19 related information; and to provide technical support and services to prioritised countries and for global decision making, based on a request.

1.1Objectives

GIMAC is a time-bound activity meant to be operational for a limited period, as signalled by demands received from, and relevance to users.

1. Technical support to prioritised countries on situation analysis and response planning decisions related to the humanitarian impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Provide secondary data analysis support and space for COVID-19 secondary data, assessments, reports and analysis from trusted sources.
3. Link with global coordination structures and provide decision making support.
(Please see concept note for more details)

Targeted field support

As of September 2020, GIMAC capacity enables it to provide targeted technical support and services based on field requests. This support is available to 25 countries which are implementing Humanitarian Response Plans. The geographical scope of this initiative may expand based on resources of the cell. This country list is periodically updated based on available resources.
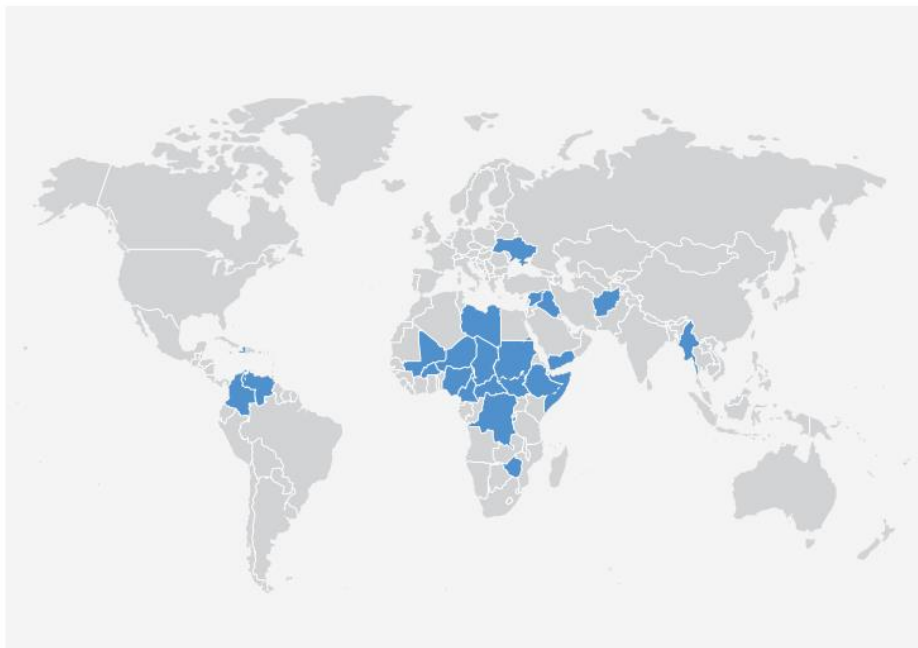
HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLANS (HRP)

25

Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Colombia DRC, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, oPt, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe

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[1] Co-leads: OCHA NARAS, UNHCR, WHO, Global Health Cluster and IOM. Partners: IFRC, JIPS, UNICEF, Data Friendly Space, IMMAP, MAPACTION, IOM, REACH/IMPACT Initiative, ACAPS, WFP, Mercy Corps, OCHA-ERS, OCHA-FIS, inter-agency Data Entry and Exploration Platform (DEEP), UNFPA, HDX, UNOSAT, WorldPop and FlowMinder.

Note: This map shows countries who can request support from GIMAC. The list of countries is valid from 1 September 2020.

1.2.GIMAC scope
In-Scope

- The emphasis of GIMAC is on mapping and analyzing existing secondary data relevant to COVID-19 humanitarian response and promoting the use of secondary data in order to develop different types of report and analysis.

- GIMAC is focused on secondary data as an entry point for GIMAC support, and only once this support has been completed, and clear information gaps are identified; then GIMAC will be able to provide primary data collection advise, limited to:

  - Reviewing, proposing or advising on intersectoral analytical frameworks for multi-sectoral primary data collection exercises.
  - Reviewing, proposing or advising on multisectoral primary data collection forms including the adaptation of methods to remote data collection in the context of COVID-19.
  - Providing training on multi sector-primary data collection, including training for data collection in the context of physical distancing.
  - Referrals to specialist organizations with expertise in particular areas of primary data collection.

Out of scope

The points below are out of GIMAC scope:

- The development of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) and related monitoring activities. GIMAC does not produce GHRP documents but some types of analysis that it produces could be useful for the development of GHRP documents.

- The development of country Humanitarian Need Overviews (HNOs).
  GIMAC does not produce HNO documents but the analysis that it produces can be useful for the development of HNO documents.

- The calculation of Persons in Need (PIN) for a specific country or geographical area. GIMAC may be able to provide figures that will influence PIN calculation, but the calculation of the PIN is a country responsibility

- Analysis produced by GIMAC can be used for Severity of needs analysis by the country operation; however GIMAC does not work on severity analysis directly and will refer all such requests to JIAG.

- The implementation of primary data collection exercise. GIMAC can advise on best practices, methodologies and techniques but not data standards. In addition, GIMAC does not lead or implement primary data collection exercises. (see specifications on the in-scope section)

- Mediating country-level interagency problems. GIMAC is a technical service, and its role is to support the country operations on issues of technical nature only.

- Sector/cluster-specific requests. GIMAC addresses multi-sectoral/multi-cluster field requests only, while specific sector or cluster technical support should be escalated to the specific sectors or global clusters.

2.Support modalities

Please read the following support modalities before submitting the field support request:

- ☑ Countries requesting support must **define the scope and objectives of the request** with a clear beginning and end.

- ☑ The relationship between the country requesting support and the GIMAC is of **mutual collaboration, partnership and trust**; working together to achieve agreed-upon objectives of the request.

- ☑ The support **requests must be generated in close collaboration with the United Nations Country Team/Humanitarian Country Team or Inter-Cluster Coordination Group**. However, the request can be initiated from various coordination forums which are inter-cluster/agency in nature. This may include **Information Management Working Group (IMWG), Assessment Working Group (or equivalent)**, Inter-Cluster Coordination Groups, Humanitarian Country Team and or by multiple stakeholders.

- ☑ The GIMAC field request mechanism is for **inter-sectoral or multi-sectoral requests only**. Countries requesting support should provide an "in-country" group of experts (called country experts group) that will collaborate with the GIMAC-designated project manager on the development of the project including the joint analysis and final report. Preferably this group will include a member of each of the cluster/sector participating on the request, a member of each GIMAC co-lead agencies and key partners involved in the process.

- ☑ Since GIMAC will not be able to respond to all the requests simultaneously, **each support request will be evaluated based on the combination of the following criteria. Priority will be given to support requests that are**:

- o **Time-critical** in nature and linked to **well-defined decision-making process** such as revision of response plan etc.;
- o From countries where the **humanitarian situation has deteriorated significantly** due to COVID-19 direct and indirect consequences;
- o From countries where there is **a high likelihood of specific risks** that may result in life-threatening consequences for a significant portion of the population; and
- o From countries where there are **technical or resource gaps** with low capacity to undertake requested support.

☑ Once GIMAC receives the request, a **call will be scheduled to understand the support** needs further. To manage expectations, a set of objectives with a process, outcomes and timeline will be agreed.

☑ **Countries can submit only one request at a time**. Once the request is completed, another request can be submitted. The second request will be considered based on the capacity of the Cell and workload of other pending requests.

☑ For each request, the **country can choose one of the three support categories offered** for the time being. However, the country can choose multiple support sub-categories.

☑ Most of the **support services are dependent on data and information availability**. The country requesting these services must share data and information promptly for the Cell to produce the requested support. Simultaneously GIMAC will collect secondary data from partners and sources publicly available.

☑ The **collaboration and quick feedback between field counterparts** and the Cell is essential to interpret and validate findings or provide guidance which is relevant to the context.

☑ The **support request mechanism may be closed for some time** if the number of requests exceeds the capacity of the Cell until the pending requests are completed.

☑ **The status of the request** will be available on the GIMAC.info and products or summary of the products will be shared on the website after consultation with the requesting country.

☑ GIMAC will **share all field requests with the Global Clusters Coordination Group (GCCG)** and work closely with **Global Clusters, in addition to agencies and participating organisations**.

Based on the initial capacity, GIMAC can provide the following remote country-level support. (updated on September 2020):

1. Support for data preparedness and structuring

Definition: Data preparedness is the ability of organizations to be ready to responsibly and effectively deploy and manage data collection and analysis tools, techniques and strategies in a specific operational context before a disaster strike.

Objective: Utilising the secondary data review methodology, support the field operations to structure qualitative and quantitative data, in order to be ready, to responsibly and effectively manage its data.

Outputs

1. Qualitative data and need assessment reports (with DEEP software)
   - Secondary data review using the DEEP to collect and structure different sources (documents) and tag information based on the GIMAC analytical framework.

2. Quantitative data (with PostgreSQL software)
   - Structure quantitative data using the PostgreSQL database; an open source object-relational database system that uses and extends the SQL language combined with many features that safely store and scale the most complicated data workloads.

3. Training
   - Training on secondary data review, using the DEEP and the GIMAC framework; allowing the field operations to continue with the secondary data review and the development of the project.

2. Support for situation analysis

Definition: A situation analysis is a short snapshot of the humanitarian situation in the country or a specific geographical area. The analysis provides awareness, understanding and interpretation of what is happening in the operational environment and how the crisis is impacting people. It anticipates what is about to change or happen based on past trends and emerging shocks or stresses.

Objective: Using the secondary data review methodology to support countries on the development of a snapshot of the humanitarian situation which supports decisions at the strategic level such as formulating humanitarian response strategy, tactics, policy, advocacy and access modalities.

Outputs

1. Report
   - Analysis report based on the Secondary data review of qualitative and quantitative data. This report also includes information on risks.

2. Qualitative data (with deep software)
   - Secondary data review the DEEP project based on GIMAC framework

3. Quantitative data (with Postgre software)
   - Structure quantitative data using the PostgreSQL database; an open source object-relational database system that uses and extends the SQL language combined with many features that safely store and scale the most complicated data workloads.)
   - Power Bi dashboard with key analysis and graphics
   - Maps on specific topics

3. Support on remote training on secondary data analysis and use of the DEEP platform.

Definition: The DEEP is an intelligent web-based platform offering a suite of collaborative tools tailored towards humanitarian crisis responses. It includes common analysis workflows and frameworks for thinking using both structured and unstructured, quantitative and qualitative data.

Objective: To train key humanitarian actors in the country on the use of DEEP software

Output: Training on the use of DEEP software and if requested on the GIMAC analytical framework.

4. Support in primary data collection advice

Definition: Primary data is collected by researchers directly from main sources through interviews, surveys, experiments, etc. Primary data are usually collected from the source.

Objective: To provide advice to countries on methodologies and techniques for primary data collection

Output: Advice on primary data collection (including remote data collection) on a specific or thematic exercise.

5. Specific technical support

5.1 Secondary data review (qualitative/unstructured) on a specific thematic or geographical area

Definition: Secondary data review is a rigorous process of **data** collation, synthesis and analysis building on a desk study of all relevant information available from different sources such as the government, NGOs, UN agencies, media, social media, etc.

Objective: using the DEEP software and the GIMAC framework to support the country on the secondary data review of qualitative data on a specific thematic or geographical area.
Output: DEEP secondary data review (SDR) document based on GIMA framework.

5.2 Data visualization on a specific thematic or geographical area

Definition: Data visualization is the graphical representation of information and data

Objective: To support the country on the development of specific data visualization in a specific thematic or geographical area.

Output: Power Bi dashboard and maps

5.3 Data analysis (quantitative/structure) on a specific thematic or geographical area

Definition: Data analysis is a process of inspecting, cleaning, transforming and modelling data with the goal of discovering useful information, informing conclusions and supporting decision-making.

Objective: To support the country in a specific quantitative data analysis

Output: Postgres database, Power Bi dashboard and maps

5.4 Spatial analysis on some specific thematic or geographical area.

Definition: Spatial analysis or geospatial analysis includes approaches to applying statistical analysis and other analytic techniques to data which has a geographical or spatial aspect

Objective: To support the country in a specific spatial analysis

Output: Geographical database and maps.

5.5 Satellite imagery and analysis

Definition: The satellite-derived analysis can be provided for natural disasters (see catalogue) or in a conflict setting.

Objective: To support the country on specific analysis which would need satellite imagery. County would need to provide relevant details on the request such as type of context (for example tropical storm, flood, earthquake, conflict); geographic area/location, ideally sent as KML file or latitude/longitude coordinates; however, place names are also acceptable).

Output: satellite-derived maps. Outputs will be discussed with requesting countries at the start of the request.

Support request form

Please use this form the online field request form on GIMAC website.