

Registration & Beneficiary Management Practices

Exploring registration & beneficiary management practices in South Sudan

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IOM

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Abstract This research examined current registration and beneficiary management practices in South Sudan, to better understand registration data collection and management practices, the commonality of data fields, and the current extent of data sharing agreements among organizations. It was conducted by the International Organization for Migration and supported with funding from ECHO and the collaboration from humanitarian organizations in South Sudan through a series of interviews, a survey and direct observation. The study found a large variance in all aspects of registration and beneficiary management, the practices around registration data collection, the data fields collected and systems capabilities that support the processes. The implications of this variance pose significant challenges to targeted, coordinated multi-sectoral action, but by highlighting the key barriers and framing them through a lens of interoperability this study can support the collective effort in improving targeting, deduplication and referral practices in South Sudan.

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1 Introduction

This goal of this analysis is to understand registration and beneficiary analysis in South Sudan, specifically:¹

- what data do organizations collect during registrations and to what degree of commonality exist among the data points collected?
- what are the practices, processes and tools that organizations use and to how are they similar or differ?
- what organizations have Data Sharing Agreements with each other and what does it look like as a network?

Information from this analysis² came from a survey to South Sudan organizations, individual and group interviews and observations, in Juba and Malakal in June and September 2025.

1.1 Acknowledgements

This analysis was co-funded by the European Commission's Humanitarian Office (ECHO).



Co-funded by
the European Union

2 Survey Analysis

The survey was conducted between 27th June and 14th October 2025 and contains responses from 16 organization.³

2.1 Profile of respondents

Responses were received from international NGO's nation NGO's and UN entities.



Figure 1: Survey respondent organizations by type

The respondents represent organizations responding across 11 sectors, with Food Security and Cash Based Interventions most prominently. 11 of the 16 respondents work in CBI.

There was significant diversity in the organization as only two worked in the same combination of sectors.

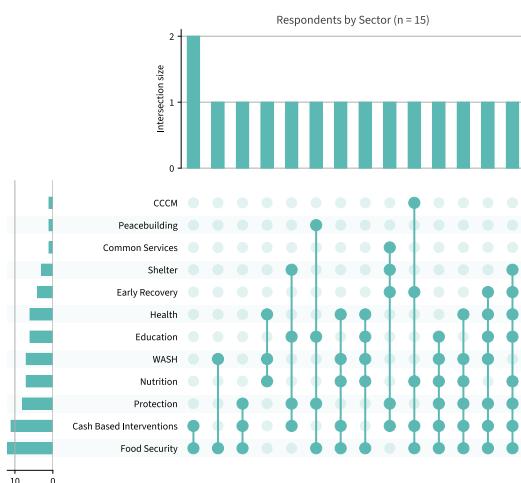


Figure 2: Respondent organizations by sector, with CBI and Food Security most common

All bar one organization work with both host communities and IDPs.

¹This analysis builds upon previous work done by the Collaborative Cash Delivery Network (CCD) and DIGID

²To identify patterns, this analysis makes use of Upsetplots. The selected dots represent selected values, the bars on the left represent the count of each value and the bars on top represent the count of intersecting/matching sets of values.

³Organizations who did not participate in the initial survey or share their registration forms are welcome to add their responses here if interested. The survey analysis will be updated on request, to reflect additional responses.

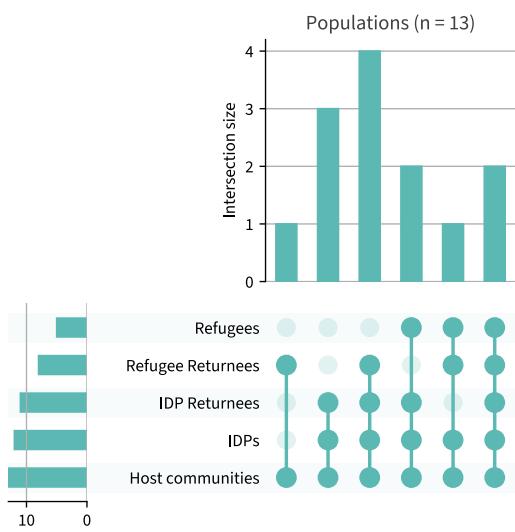


Figure 3: Target populations served by respondent organizations

2.2 Registration

Only two respondents do not conduct registration activities.

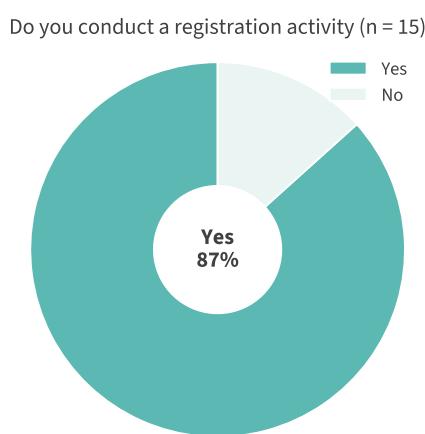


Figure 4: Proportion of respondents conducting registration activities)

Accountability as per the organizations procedures was the most cited purpose for registration. The purposes were also significantly varied - only 5 respondents shared the same set of purposes.

2.2.1 Purpose and basis

Accountability as per internal organizational procedures was the most cited purpose, appearing in all but one response.

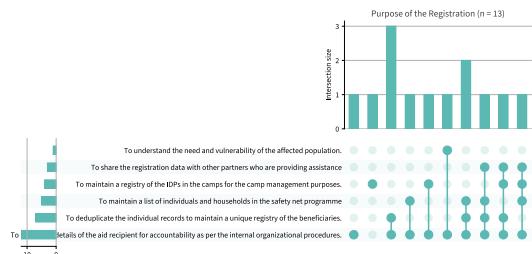


Figure 5: Primary purposes for registration, with accountability most cited

Of the organizations that conduct registration, only 29% (4) consider their registration efforts as inter-agency.

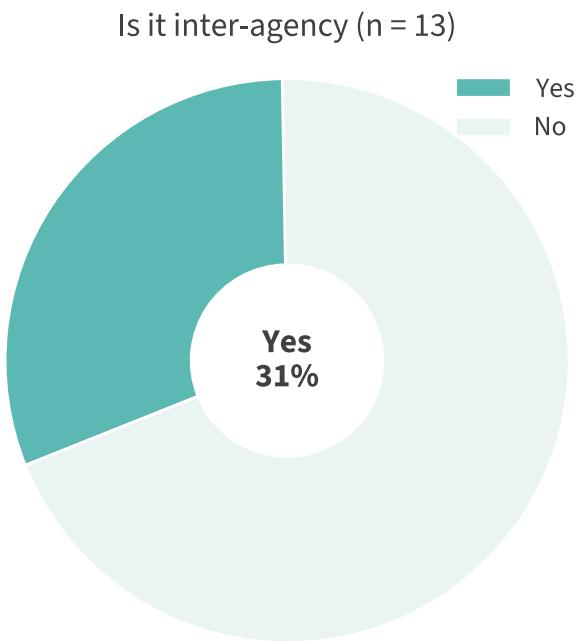


Figure 6: Inter-agency registration activities
The majority (70%) cited both informed consent and organizational mandate as the basis for registration activities.

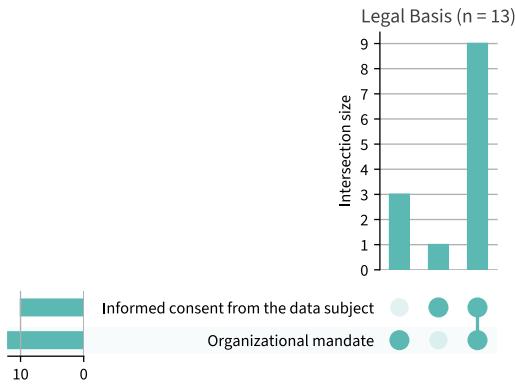


Figure 7: Legal basis cited by organizations for registration activities, with organizational procedures most frequently referenced

Similar to the responses on “purpose”, the primary policy for personal information collection cited by 85% of respondents was their organizational data protection or data governance policy.

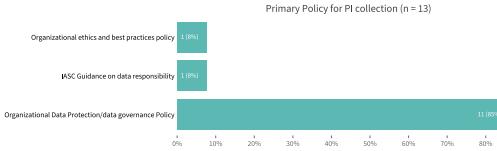


Figure 8: Primary policy frameworks cited by respondent organizations for personal information collection

2.2.2 Deduplication

The methods used to deduplicate⁴ show extreme variance across all respondents, with only two responding organizations using the same set of deduplication methods. Tokens were the most prominent method used for deduplication, used by all except two respondents.

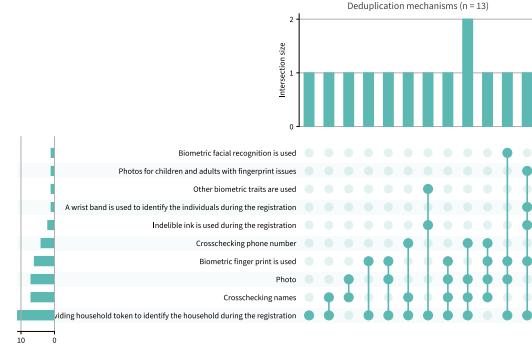


Figure 9: Deduplication mechanisms used by respondent organizations for registration and beneficiary data management

For deduplication across organizations over a third of respondents referred to performing deduplication against WFP’s SCOPE system, the largest registration system in South Sudan.

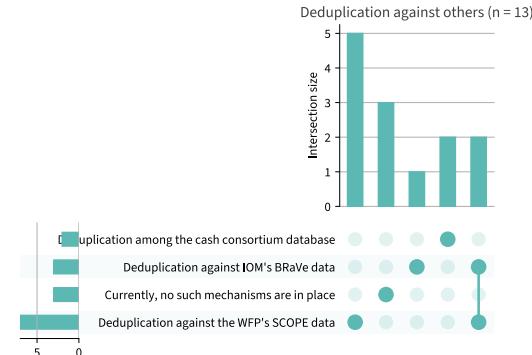


Figure 10: Deduplication methods used by respondent organizations when comparing beneficiary data against other organizations

2.2.3 Methods

38% of respondents only register head of household with information on household composition, along with registering alternative recipients from the same household.

⁴Deduplication refers to its two main forms - deduplication of records of individuals or households in one or across systems, and deduplication in reference to planned or received assistance.

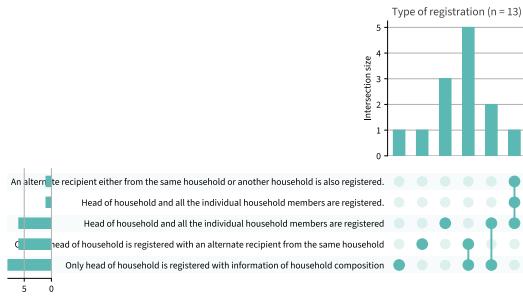


Figure 11: Registration types used by respondent organizations, with multi-purpose registration systems most common

Paper tokens are the primary means on confirmation, used by 62% of respondents.

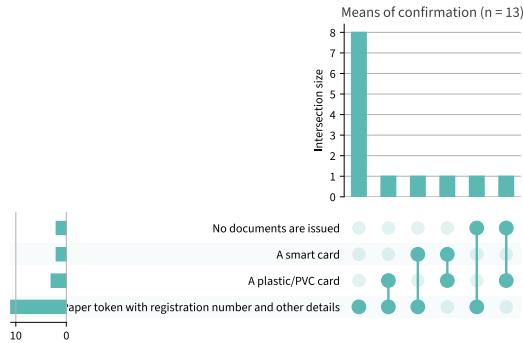


Figure 12: Means of confirmation used by respondent organizations to verify beneficiary identity during registration

Complaint and feedback mechanisms seen a wide variety of selections, with no two respondents using the same combination of methods.

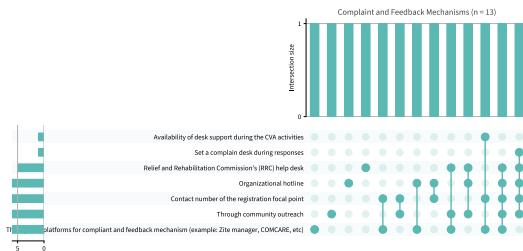


Figure 13: Complaint and feedback mechanisms used by respondent organizations for beneficiary engagement and accountability

2.2.4 Authentication

Authentication before assistance (n = 13)

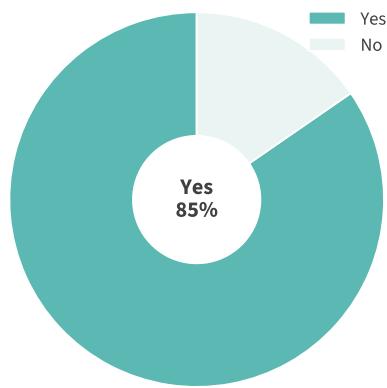


Figure 14: Authentication before assistance

While 85% of organizations authenticate before assistance, there is a large variance in the methods used for authentication, with producing a token the most cited of these.

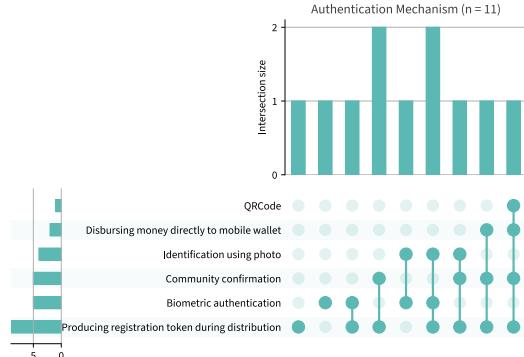


Figure 15: The authentication mechanisms used by organizations before providing assistance to beneficiaries

2.2.5 Data sharing

46% of respondents make their data accessible to other agencies, subject to the signing of a data sharing agreement.



Figure 16: Data accessibility for other agencies among respondent organizations

However only 46% of organizations share data with others and only 38% having formalized data sharing agreements.

Do you share the registration data with partners (n = 13)

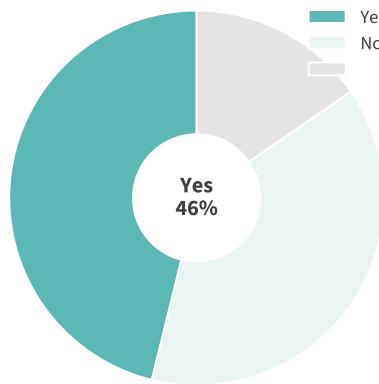


Figure 17: Proportion of organizations sharing registration data with partner organizations

Formalized Data Sharing Agreement (n = 13)

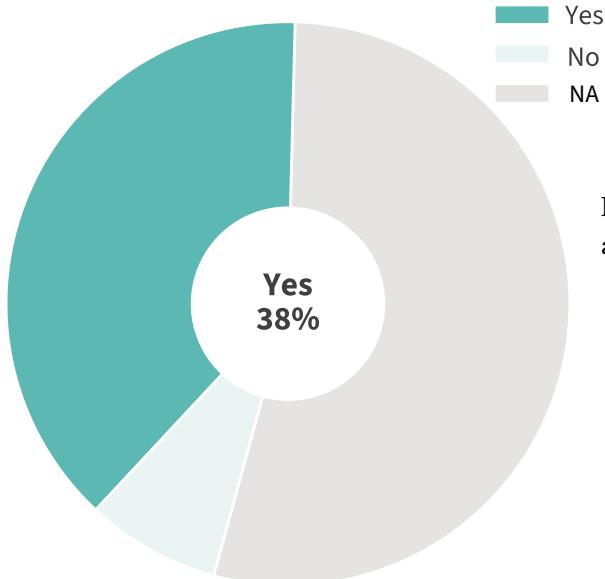


Figure 18: Proportion of organizations with formalized data sharing agreements among surveyed respondents

2.3 Non registrations actors

Of the two respondent that do not conduct registration activities, both have activities that include direct assistance, with only sourcing their lists from community leaders and the other from both leader and from camp management personnel.

Activities include direct assistance

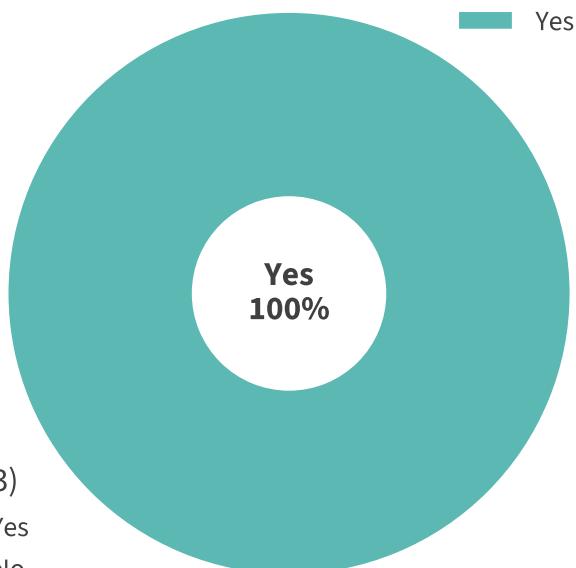


Figure 19: Organizations providing direct assistance at household or individual level



Figure 20: Beneficiary list sources for non-registering organizations

2.4 Systems information

73% of respondents manage their data inside a database system.

Data managed in a database system

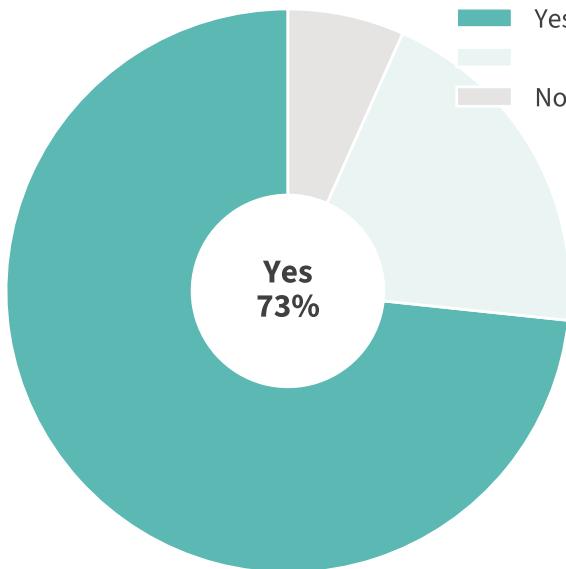


Figure 21: Use of database systems for registration and beneficiary data management

Commcare appeared as the most common system, however the question allowed the selection of only 1 system per response, some systems that are used by a number of organization but not necessarily as the organizations primary tool were not captured.

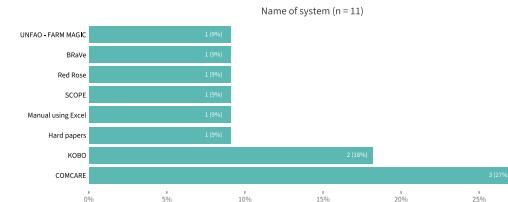


Figure 22: Database management systems used by respondent organizations

Only 23% of respondents consider their system to be interoperable with other systems.

Interoperable with other systems

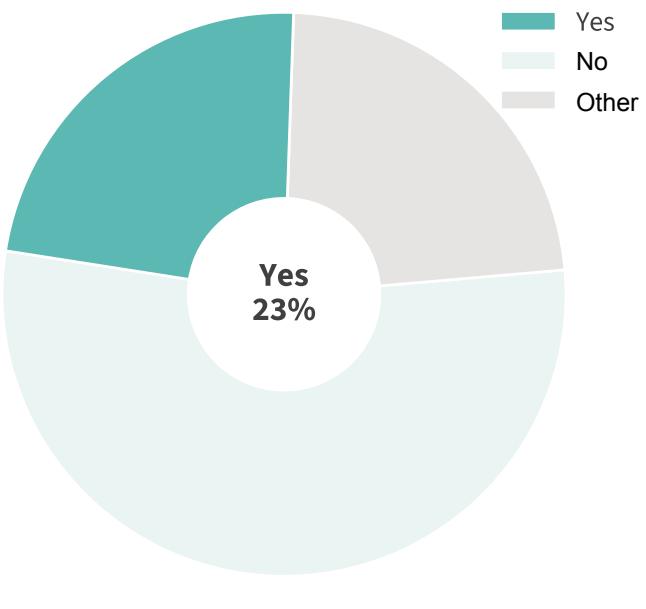


Figure 23: Interoperability of the system

3 Data Sharing Graph

Examining the surveyed organization, we can visualize which organizations have data sharing agreements with each other.

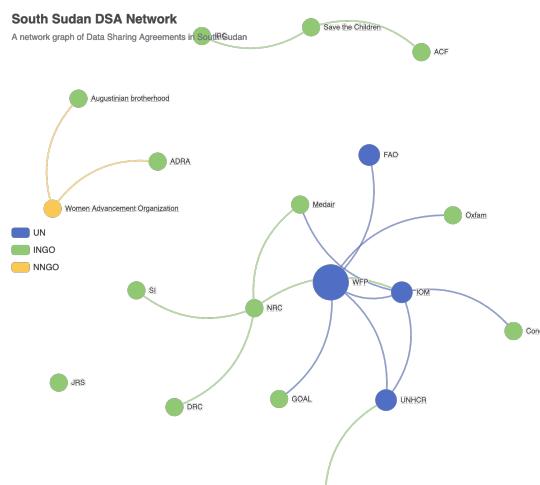


Figure 24: Data sharing agreement network showing fragmentation among surveyed organizations

Even among the small number of organizations surveyed we can see significant fragmentation.

tation and loosely connected data sharing networks.

4 Comparing Data Points

The following plot visualizes each data point collected by each organization. The histogram on the left show the count of datapoints among organizations - for instance, a 5 beside “Full name” means that 5 organizations gather that same data point. The top histogram show the number of organizations that collect the exact same data.

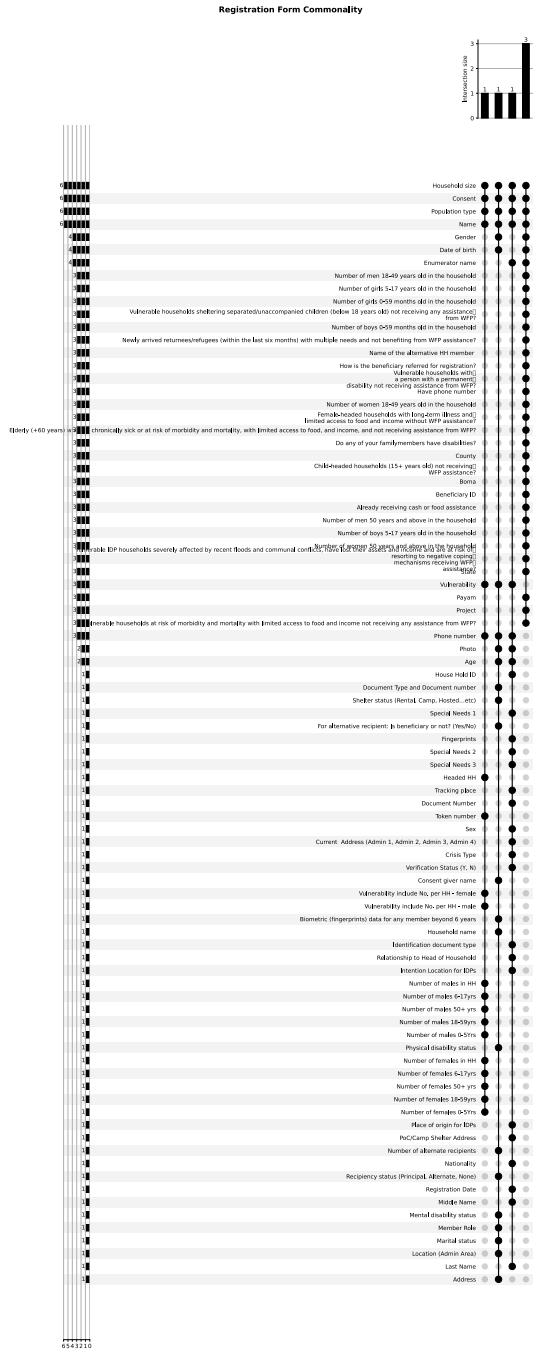


Figure 25: Registration data field overlaps across organizations. Left: frequency of each field; top: organizations with identical field sets. Note: Some fields were normalized for variations in wording

5 Conclusion

Overall, registration and beneficiary management practices are significantly varied. Along with limited data-sharing agreements

and a low degree of commonality of data fields across registrations forms, these factors limit the interoperability and use of beneficiary data across organizations and sectors in South Sudan.

Interoperability of data and systems is a key requirement for cross-organizational and cross-sectoral efforts for targeting, deduplication and referral.

While signs of progress are evident from previous in-country efforts , these impacts have mostly been limited to within small consortia of actors or UN agencies. To better address the challenge its should be viewed as an entire response-level challenge that requires as response-level approach to address.

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