PROJECT: IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY, QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF COMMON AND FUNDAMENTAL OPERATIONAL DATASETS (CODs/FODs) FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MANAGEMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES (CAFOD-DRRM-PH)

RATIONALE: In a disaster setting, data and information are as essential as food and water. It is the basis of all Preparedness and Response plans, as well as the ground that facilitate appropriate and timely response. This is very critical when lives are at stake and time is of the essence. However, an unreliable, incomplete, outdated, and inaccessible set of data and/or information does not and cannot be of any value. Building on the lessons from Typhoons Yolanda, Glenda, Ruby and Chedeng, it is but necessary to build maintain and give access to complete, up-to-date, and of quality Common and Fundamental Operational datasets (COD, FOD) to all stakeholders involved not only in response to crisis, but also for disaster risk reduction.

DESCRIPTION: The project was originally an off-shoot of forum and an inter-agency meeting jointly organized by DSWD and the Strengthening Information Infrastructure for Emergency Management project (SIIEM) respectively in February and June 2014 [1, 2] as well the white paper prepared in that occasion [3]. About at the same time, but independently, the ERIC, DILG, and OCD were also starting data collection and data harmonization efforts. Moving towards one direction, all these initiatives were woven into one project called CAFOD-DRRM-PH. Working in collaboration with concerned Departments of the government and external partners, it is envisioned to generate, improve and maintain (constantly update) a comprehensive and accurate baseline data that shall be made available to all stakeholders involved in Disaster Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery.   Such datasets also referred as the Common and Fundamental Operational Dataset (COD, FOD) will cover all sectors of the society in the most granular data bit. More specifically:

- When applicable, complete, up-to-date, and uniquely coded registries (master list) for the CODs that will have been identified. The Philippine Standard Geographic Code (PSGC) would, for example, constitute the registry for the administrative division;
- Complete, up-to-date, and documented (metadata) GIS layer for each of the COD that would match the corresponding registry, when applicable;
- Specific attributes or statistics attached to key geographic objects and defined as key to support disaster risk reduction and/or emergency management as part of the FODs.

The output of the project will be CODs and FODs being available, accessible, and used by all concerned stakeholder.

BENEFITS: Having access to common comprehensive, up-to-date, and accurate data will ensure not only more informed and timely decision making, but also data compatibility among all stakeholders and their respective information systems, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS). This benefits emergency planners and decision-makers, as well as humanitarian responders. Such a common operational reference will provide a firm basis for any plan, programs, and interventions. Quality data also saves resources, from funds, to relief packs; from man-hours to response time; and all other logistical concerns. Ultimately, this will benefit the potentially and actually affected population, most especially the vulnerable ones. Emergency plans and interventions could be specifically targeted to their locations and specific situation and needs. Quality data breeds efficiency.

GOAL: **Improved decision making at all phases of the emergency cycle**.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Defining and agreeing upon the list of CODs and FODs that are needed by member agency and clusters of the NDRRMC;
2. Clarifying CODs and FODs specifications and standards, curation and updating, format and compatibility;
3. Agreeing on terms of availability and accessibility of CODs and FODs, especially during disaster events;
4. Codifying the outputs in the form of NDRRMC policy and guidelines on COD and FOD standardization, maintenance, and sharing;

ACTIVITIES:

1. Raise the need for CODs and FODs among NDRRMC *(Done: 7 May 2014)*

2. Launch the CAFOD-DRRM-PH project under the umbrella of the Information Management Technical Working Group (IM-TWG) to be established within the NDRRMC

3. Define the list of CODs and FODs and clarify which institution has the mandate over which COD/FOD. Asses the availability, quality and accessibility of the current registries and geospatial data for the identified CODs;

4. Gather Operations Officers of each agency and cluster member of the different pillars of NDRRMC in a workshop aiming at defining and agreeing upon geospatial data specifications and standards to improve data compatibility among governmental and non-governmental agencies

5. Discuss how to improve the PSGC to make it more information-management friendly.

6. Address the question of availability of data that should be maintained by the LGUs (DILG) potentially through crowd sourcing or other solutions.

7. Discuss data accessibility including: conflict in data use between intellectual property act and the open data Philippines policy; data accessible with fees; confidentiality.

8. Finalize the policy to be signed by the NDRRMC on CODs and FODs standardization, maintenance, and sharing, as well as develop the guidelines that will support the operationalization of the policy.

TIMELINES:

- The project will run for four (4) months, from June to September 2015.
- Activities would be organized as per the schema reported in Attachment 1.
- Details are reported in Attachment 2

TARGET OUTPUTS:

At the end of the project on September 2015, it is envisioned that:

1. CODs and FODs are identified and clear mandate are being distributed and agreed upon among the concerned Departments;

2. Currently existing CODs *(registries and GIS layers)* and FODs *(attributes, statistics)* are available and made accessible to all stakeholders involved in DRR and emergency management;

3. Guidelines aiming at improving the availability, quality, and accessibility of the identified CODs and FODs, including agreed upon geospatial data specifications and standards, have been released;

4. The discussions about the conflict in data sharing policies (*IP-rights* and *Open Data Policy)* and the possibility to make the PSGC more information-management friendly have started and possibly already generated some solutions;

5. NDRRMC members have signed the policy on CODs and FODs standardization, maintenance and sharing.

MANAGEMENT:

- The Project shall be spear-headed by the OCD and supported by the DILG and DSWD, on the government side. This shall be supported on the NGO side by the SIIEM project, the United Nations through the Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), ERIC, and others.
- A representative from each of the above institution shall form part of the Steering Committee for this project;
- The Steering Committee will meet bi-monthly to implement and monitor the project from June till September 2015;

- A Project Coordinator will be nominated to supervise and ensure the timely implementation of the project;
- A Secretarial support shall be provided by the SIIEM project through the hiring of a specific staff for the duration of the project. She/he shall work closely with OCD and ERIC to facilitate the back-end tasks and monitoring of the project;
- OCD shall be responsible for officially inviting all concerned people; Project Coordinator shall do the follow-up to ascertain their attendance;
- Project Coordinator, with the support of the secretarial staff, shall be responsible for liaising with the agencies and institutions

FINANCE:

- The project shall be co-financed by the OCD and SIIEM *(and others)* as follow:
  - OCD shall provide the venue for meetings and workshops.
  - SIIEM shall provide logistical support *(food, workshop kit, etc)* as well as cover the cost of the secretarial staff;
  - Other stakeholders are welcome to also contribute to the effort by covering some of the expenses (for example through the sponsoring of meetings or workshops).

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GLOSSARY:

Common Operational Dataset (COD): Key geographic objects needed to support the operation and decision making during the response. This would include but not be limited to: administrative boundaries, populated places, transportation network, health facilities, schools, evacuation centers, etc. (June 2014 inter-agency forum [2]).

Data: Facts and statistics collected for reference or analysis [4]

Data Management: all the disciplines related to managing data as a valuable resource [2]. This covers, but is not limited to: data collection, cleaning, validation, documentation as well as the generation of data products (graphs, tables and maps)…

Fundamental Operational Dataset (FOD): Attributes or Statistics attached to the key geographic objects defined as part of the CODs (June 2014 inter-agency forum [2]). This would for example and not be limited to: Population, livelihood, response capacity,...

Information: Facts provided or learned about something or someone [4]

Information Management: The collection and management of information from one or more sources and the distribution of that information to one or more audiences. [5]

Information system: An integrated set of components for collecting, storing, and processing data and for delivering information, knowledge, and digital products. [6]

REFERENCE:

[1]   **Summary of the Forum on Improving the Availability and Accessibility of Relevant Data to Support Disaster Response In View of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in the Philippines** (Manila, February 17, 2014): www.gaia-geosystems.org/PROJECTS/SIIEM/PHL/DSWD-SIIEM_Forum_Summary_170214.pdf [Accessed May 17, 2015]

[2]   **Summary of the Inter-Agency meeting on "Increasing the availability, quality and accessibility of Common and Fundamental Operational Datasets to support disaster risk reduction and emergency management in the Philippines** (Manila; June 14, 2014): www.gaia-geosystems.org/PROJECTS/SIIEM/PHL/Executive_summary_DSWD-SIIEM_June_2014.pdf [Accessed May 17, 2015]

[3]   Ebener, S. , Castro, F. , Dimailig, L.A. (2014): **Increasing Availability, Quality, and Accessibility of Common and Fundamental Operational Datasets to Support Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management in the Philippines**: www.gaia-geosystems.org/PROJECTS/SIIEM/PHL/Green_Paper_DSWD-SIIEM_305014.pdf [Accessed May 17, 2015]

[4]   Oxford Dictionaries web site. http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/ [Accessed May 17, 2015]

[5]   Wikipedia web site. http://en.wikipedia.org/ [Accessed May 17, 2015]

[6]   Encyclopedia Britannica web site. http://www.britannica.com [Accessed May 17, 2015]

[7]   PSGC web site: http://www.nscb.gov.ph/activestats/psgc/ [Accessed May 17, 2015]