WORKSHOP ON
"COMMON AND FUNDAMENTAL OPERATIONAL DATASETS TO SUPPORT DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES"

July 16, 2015
ISO Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I.   Background and Objectives of the Workshop

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 However, an unreliable, incomplete, outdated, and inaccessible set of data and/or information does not and cannot be of any value.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.

With this objective in mind, the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD decided to merge under a same project the efforts initiated by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in collaboration with the Strengthening Information Infrastructure for Emergency Management project (SIIEM) and those aiming at collecting and harmonizing data initiated in collaboration with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Emergency Response Integration Center (ERIC).

Entitled "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)"[1], this project as for objective to improve decision making at all phase of the emergency cycle.

The following activities, defined during the June 2014 forum, have been placed under the umbrella of this project
1. 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;
2. 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;
3. Discuss how to improve the PSGC to make it more information-management friendly;
4. Address the question of availability of data that should be maintained by the LGUs (DILG) potentially through crowd sourcing or other solutions;
5. Discuss data accessibility including: conflict in data use between intellectual property act and the open data Philippines policy; data accessible with fees; confidentiality;
6. 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.

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[1] www.gaia-geosystems.org/PROJECTS/SIIEM/PHL/CAFOD_CONCEPT_NOTE.pdf

In this context, the present inter-agency workshop which has been organized to address the first activity in this list, more precisely to:

- Finalize the list of Common Operational Datasets (CODs) as defined during the June 2014 forum;
- Start the process aiming at defining the list of Fundamental Operational Datasets (FODs);
- Identify the government agency that has the mandate on each CODs/FODs.

II.   Agenda of the Meeting:

The meeting agenda (Annex 1) has been organized different sessions aiming at:

- Introducing the topic and highlighting the different data needed at different time of crisis as well as the difference between the COD and FOD;
- Finalize the preliminary list of CODs based on previous exercises and reference documents and defining which government agency has the mandate over them;
- Clarify and start the process aiming at defining an initial list of FODs that are vital during disaster response;
- Understanding the importance of the database structure and metadata profile for the COD/FODs.

III.   Participants Profile:

65 participants representing 37 different Agencies from the Government, the United Nations and other NGOs, International Organization as well as from the academic and the private sector attended the workshop (Annex 2). 6 people from ERIC acted as secretariat during the workshop.

IV.   Workshop Summary

The prayer and national anthem were led by Mr. Christopher P Grajo from ERIC.

Dr. Ma. Regina Estuar, Project Leader of eBayanihan and Professor of Ateneo de Manila University delivered the welcome address. She reiterated the importance of this event and the need to come up with common operational dataset in the context of emergency response to provide a cohesive and coordinated response for government and non-government actors.

Director John Fabic of NAMRIA also welcomed the participants by emphasizing the importance of this activity and how it support and works in parallel to the different initiatives of NAMRIA particularly on the government geoportal project which is used to collect, find, and access geospatial data from the government. He also mentioned the importance of this activity to support the National Exposure Information System.

Dr. Steeve Ebener, head of the SIIEM project presented the context, objectives and agenda of the workshop on behalf of Ltc Edwin C. Sadang. After reminding the participants about the origin of the project he presented the activities that have been conducted so far, which led to today's workshop including the creation of the Information Management Technical Working Group (IM-TWG) within the NDRRMC and the launching of the CAFOD project. He then explained about the type of data needed before and during a crisis before emphasizing the primary focus of this workshop which was to look at the pre-crisis baseline data (CODs/FODs), to review, complete and correct the preliminary list which has been established, confirm the institutional mandate on each of data, look at the database structure and metadata profile for these datasets as well as initiate the collection of existing CODs/FODs. His presentation can be downloaded from here: *http://www.gaia-geosystems.org/PROJECTS/SIIEM/PHL/WORKSHOP_071615/Context_Objectives_Agenda_160715.pdf*.

Mr. Lawrence Anthony Dimailig of DSWD clarified the concept of COD/FOD by explaining how the participants of the June 2014 forum came to modify the original definitions used by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to reach the following one:

- COD: Key geographic objects needed to support the operation and decision making during the response;
- FOD: Statistics or information attached to the key geographic objects.

He then explained the advantages of this approach before explaining how the CODs are being expressed depending on the type of geographic object (points, lines, polygons or continuous surfaces).

He then presented the preliminary list of COD which has been put together on the basis of the exercise conducted during the 2014 joint DSWD-SIIEM forum, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (NDRRMP), the National Disaster Response Plan (NDRP) and the data scrambling work conducted as part of the UN IMWG data sub group activities.His presentation can be downloaded from here: *http://www.gaia-geosystems.org/PROJECTS/SIIEM/PHL/WORKSHOP_071615/Preliminary_list_COD_FOD_160715.pdf*.

Mr. Joseph Addawe of UNOCHA facilitated the discussion on the review and finalization of the preliminary list of CODs just presented by Mr Dimailig. During this session, participants were asked to:
- Identify specific objects/geography that were not already included in the list and which are critical to support their operations in case of a crisis;
- Confirm the official mandate on both the registry (official, complete and up-to-date list) and the corresponding GIS layer;
- Identify institutions that are, or could be, contributing to the establishment of both the registry or the GIS layer;
- When possible, indicate if such registry or GIS layers were already available within the institution identified as being in charge.

Among the major categories of the CODs that were discussed include boundary, infrastructures, transport network, utilities, public services, natural resources, environment and hazards. One of the highlight of the discussion was the clarification of the mandate over the administrative boundaries layer. The Land Management Bureau (LMB) confirmed that they were having the mandate to produce and maintain this layer for the country and that they were currently in the process of generating a complete and up-to-date layer down to the barangay level based on the cadastre. This layer is expected to be available before the end of the year. The need to agree on which layer to be used in the meantime was highlighted by the participants.

This exercise ended up being much more time consuming than expected and it was finally not possible to go through all the list within the time allotted for this activity. It was therefore decided to continue this exercise as part of a consultation among all the group involved in the project and through the use of a google spreadsheet to be setup after the workshop (see the conclusion and recommendation section of this report). The inventory of spatial data conducted by NAMRIA in the context of the geoportal will also be used to complement this list.

After the lunch break, John Frederick de Guia of UNICEF and Rowell Casaclang from PSA led the discussion on the identification of the preliminary list of Fundamental Operational Datasets (FODs). Mr de Guia started the session by presenting how you would expect data, especially statistics, to flow before and during a crisis to support decision making. His presentation can be downloaded from here: *www.gaia-geosystems.org/PROJECTS/SIIEM/PHL/WORKSHOP_071615/Session_FOD_160715.pdf*.

Mr. Casaclang then presented some of the initiatives PSA has conducted with support from UN ESCAP on the consolidation of disaster statistics which includes the creation of a disaster statistics technical working group. After both presentations, participants were guided through an exercise meant to look at the list of CODs discussed during the morning session and provide a first list of FODs (information or statistics) of importance to their respective operations. This list will serve as a starting point for a consultation to be conducted in parallel to the one on the CODs workshop (see the conclusion and recommendation section of this report).

In the last session, Dr Steeve Ebener, head of the SIIEM project, clarified once more the objective of the CAFOD project and indicated where this activity fits along the data-information-knowledge-communication continuum. He then emphasized the need to ensure that the list of CODs and FODs that are currently been defined matches the needs of the NDRRMC members and therefore the importance to connect this exercise with the all decision making process. He then presented how the CODs and FODs database should be structured and documented using a simple metadata profile to comply with the geospatial and other data standards agreed upon during the July 10th workshop. Using these examples he ended his presentation by demonstrating how such a structure, together with complete and up-to-date registries and GIS layers, facilitate the generation of maps and therefore allows saving a significant amount of time during a crisis.

V.   Conclusion, recommendations and next steps

Thanks to the active involvement of all the participants to the workshop the preliminary list of CODs has been improved and completed but unfortunately not yet finalized.

The process regarding the establishment of a list of FODs has been initiated but further work remains to be done in order to come up with the complete list.

In view of the above, as well as the discussions that took place during the workshop, it is recommended for the member of the IM-TWG with the support of all the participants ofthe workshop, the international community and the SIIEM project to:

- Continue the consultation aiming at finalizing the list of CODs and FODs. An email will be sent to the all group in this regards;
- Discuss with the PSA disaster statistics technical working group on how to best leverage the work done in the context of the SIIEM project when it comes to the list of FODs;
- Once these lists finalized, collect and assess all the already available CODs/FODs in order to identify potential gaps and need for support;
- Engage the NDRRMC members in a discussion aiming at clearly defining their needs in terms of information and data and this at all the stages of the emergency cycle;
- Integrate the outcomes of this process into the guidelines, standards and protocols discussed during the July 10th workshop;
- Include the question of the generation, maintenance and sharing of the final list of CODs and FODs in the policy to be signed by the NDRRMC on CODs and FODs standardization, maintenance, and sharing.

The workshop was concluded by a Closing Remarks delivered by Director Felino Castro of DSWD on behalf of Ltc Edwin C. Sadang. He congratulated and thanked the participants for actively participating in identifying much needed CODs that are vital to disaster management and response and that it would go a long way in supporting lead government agencies on disaster response especially OCD and DSWD. He urged the participants to continue to support and participate in this initiative.
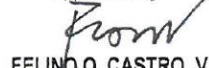
The workshop was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

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Annex 1 - Agenda of the meeting

8:00am	Registration	
8:30am	Prayer and National Anthem	
	Welcome Remarks and Round of Introduction	Hon Alexander P. Pama*- Under Secretary, OCD
9:00am	Context, objective and agenda of the meeting	LTC. Edwin C. Sadang - NDRRMC
9:30am	Preliminary list of Common and Fundamental Operational Datasets (CODs) based on previous exercises and reference documents	Lawrence Anthony Dimailig – DSWD
10:00am	Coffee break	
10:15am	Finalization of the list of CODs (objects) and identification of the institution having the mandate on each of them	All the participants (facilitator: Joseph Addawe -UNOCHA)
12:00pm	Lunch	
1:00pm	Preliminary discussion regarding the identification of the FODs (attributes/statistics) of common interest to support emergency management.	All the participant (facilitator: John Frederick de Guia - UNICEF; Rowell Casaclang - PSA)
2:00pm	Database structure and metadata profile for the CODs/FODs based on the geospatial and other data specifications/standards agreed upon during the July 10th workshop	Dr. Steeve Ebener -SIIEM
3:00pm	Conclusion and next steps including the collect and assessment of existing CODs/FODs	LTC. Edwin C. Sadang - DSWD

Annex 2 - List of participants to the meeting

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