

DTM & Partners Toolkit: practical implementation of the Grand Bargain EDAUUR outcomes¹

Humanitarian response should be based on relevant, reliable data and a shared understanding of context and needs. However, even when data and analysis is produced with the aim of informing a response, it is not always fully utilized. This may depend on several factors, including insufficient and unstructured engagement of data users and other actors in the data collection planning, analysis and dissemination phase. This often results in resources being invested in collecting data that do not fully correspond to the information needed by decision makers.

The approach proposed by EDAUUR group members aims at an improved engagement between data producers and data users before, during and after the data collection, analysis and dissemination process. This approach helps humanitarian responders obtain information they can use, through effective, predictable and clear engagement of all the necessary actors, according to their roles and skillsets.

The underlining assumptions are that:

1. Data and analysis obtained through a predictable process with clear roles and responsibilities will provide responders with the right information to make decisions and better meet needs of affected population.
2. Data users / responders will be more likely to correctly use data they contributed to collecting and analysing for their response.

EDAUUR group work outcomes include a common predictable working approach and tools for ensuring usability and usefulness of data and analysis.

The approach is based on a shared responsibility in the implementation of the assessment process, and a clearly defined engagement of relevant actions, including 4 “profiles”: Decision Makers, IM/Data experts, Subject-Matter experts and Contextual/Cultural experts.

Roles and responsibilities of each “profile” are clarified, linked to their specific skillset and to 4 crucial steps of the assessment process: planning/design phase, selection of methodology, development and use of the joint data plan, and analysis (including exploration, description, explanation, interpretation and definition of response options).

The **Working Group on Useful and Usable Data and Analysis (EDAUUR)** under the Grand Bargain work stream on Needs Assessment is composed by:

- ❖ Global Clusters and AoRs (including Global CCCM Cluster, Global Child Protection AoR, Global Education Cluster, Global Food Security Cluster, Global GBV AoR, Global Health Cluster, Global Protection Cluster, Global Shelter Cluster, Global UNICEF Cluster Coordination Team, Global WASH Cluster)
- ❖ UN Offices and Agencies (including UNHCR FICS, DTM IOM, WFP VAM, OCHA FIS, OCHA NAAS)
- ❖ Donors (including DIFD, ECHO, OFDA)
- ❖ NGOs (including DRC, Geneva Centre for Humanitarian Demining, MapAction, REACH - Impact, Terre Des Hommes Lausanne) and
- ❖ Other organizations and initiatives (including ACAPS, JIPS, PIM, IDMC, ICRC)

EDAUUR outcomes are included in the Pocket Guide, available online at: <https://dtm.iom.int/dtm-partners-toolkit/predictable-approach>

DTM & Partners Toolkit and the EDAUUR approach

DTM and Partners¹ started the implementation of EDAUUR results by jointly developing a toolkit that applies the approach to the work of DTM teams & partners² in the field and supports cooperation.

¹ DTM worked with the many partners, including: Global CCCM Cluster, Global Child Protection AoR, Global Education Cluster, Global GBV AoR, Global Health Cluster, Global Protection Cluster, Global Shelter Cluster, Global UNICEF Cluster Coordination Team, Global WASH Cluster, Geneva-based Cash Working Group, Global AAP and PSEA experts from IOM and IASC Task Force, Translators Without Borders.

² Partners are those who participate in the humanitarian response, and include Clusters, Sectors, WGs, NGOs, International Organizations, Authorities, UN agencies, IOM Programmes and more.

The common objective of DTM and Partners is to ensure DTM collects data that partners can use. After common challenges faced by field colleagues were identified, DTM and partners worked jointly to find ways to overcome such challenges. The resulting approach and tools are now in the jointly developed and publicly available toolkit³.

In line with the results of the EDAUUR work, a predictable approach was defined, to be consistently rolled out in all responses. The approach is based on the common assessment process (EDAUUR partners identified that such process is commonly recognized as effective, as well as agreed upon by most actors).

The main components of the approach are:

- Cooperation between DTM and Partners is a shared responsibility and starts from the planning phase. (Planning include jointly identify information needed, questions, modalities of data sharing, planned analysis, provision of feedback for improvement). Time pressure can limit the cooperation, especially in the beginning of a response: a plan can be developed on progressively widening the partners DTM cooperates with.
- DTM and Partners have each clear roles and responsibilities at each step of the process. Within partners organizations or clusters/WGs, one may also find complementary professional competencies (e.g., decision makers, subject matter experts, cultural experts and IM experts). Some of the responsibilities can be defined at global level as common across responses, while others should be agreed upon in country, depending on the situation, resources and coordination structures in place.
- DTM and Partners start by identifying decisions to be made and information needed for those decisions, and only then develop questions based on these information needs. At all times, the link between collected datasets, their analysis and their use for humanitarian response is clear to DTM and partners. The links are documented and shared during planning, so to decrease collection of data that will not be used and enable a shared understanding of results.
- Partners can enhance DTM accuracy in data collection by training enumerators on specific sectoral concepts, definitions and interviewing modalities (e.g., Protection, GBV and Child Protection).
- Partners have a variety of information sources at their disposal, including DTM, for analysis and response planning. When strengths and limitations of DTM and other sources are clear to the partners, partners will know what they can use DTM information for, and where to look for additional sources. This ensures that specific *decision-making is based on data that can support it*. Such shared understanding of complementarities amongst different methodologies is critical for sound data analysis
- Dissemination of DTM is predictable and partners should be aware if the three main modalities of data sharing: 1) public, through DTM global website: <https://dtm.iom.int/> or emails) 2) When DTM & Partners jointly identify specific datasets as sensitive in the Data Analysis Plan, they also agree on data-sharing modalities and sign Data Sharing Agreements/MoUs. 3) DTM & Partners agree from the design phase on modalities for URGENT ACTION data-sharing. This will ensure that DTM knows what data are needed for immediate action and knows when, how and with whom to share such data in real time
- Presentations and discussion of results with partners (e.g., at clusters meetings) is effective to enhance accurate understanding and use of DTM data: it supports the interpretation and response-options-planning done by subject matter experts and contextual experts for decision making.

The *DTM&Partners Toolkit* contains tools that facilitate implementation on the field: presentations on DTM, methodology documents, FAQs, lists of DTM datasets used for strategic, programmatic & operational decision-making, guides on effective use of DTM data for specific sectors, and the *DTM Field Companion*. The Field Companion is an analysis plans for *DTM Multi Sectoral Location Assessments* **questions that were agreed upon by DTM and Global Clusters, AoRs and WGs**: it links information need to question, analysis and use of results.

³ <https://dtm.iom.int/dtm-partners-toolkit>. Support on DTM for each sector is available here: <https://dtm.iom.int/dtm-partners-toolkit/sectors-and-themes>.