

DTM& Partners Toolkit: Practical Implementation of the Grand Bargain EDAUUR Outcomes¹

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

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

The underlying assumption is that 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 the needs of affected populations.

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 to the implementation of the assessment process and clear definitions for the engagement of relevant actors, including 4 “profiles”: Decision Makers, IM/Data experts, Subject-Matter experts and Contextual/Cultural experts.

The roles and responsibilities of each “profile” are clarified and linked to their specific skillset and to four crucial steps of the assessment process: the planning/design phase, the selection of methodology, the development and use of the joint data plan, and the analysis (including the 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 Assessments is composed of:

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

DTM & Partners Toolkit and the EDAUUR Approach

DTM and Partners² began implementing and operationalizing the results from EDAUUR’s work by jointly developing a toolkit that applies the approach developed by the working group to the work of DTM teams and Partners³ in the field to support cooperation.

¹ EDAUUR is the acronym of *Ensuring Data and Analysis are Useful and Usable for Response*, working group under Work Stream 5 (Needs Assessments) of the Grand Bargain. EDAUUR outcomes are included in the Pocket Guide, available online at:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1HyX2qIH7cM1p3oyxTe1f2W5MUKtIHWHR>

² 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, the IASC Task Force and Translators Without Borders.

³ 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 that 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 said challenges. The resulting approach and tools are now in the jointly developed and publicly available toolkit (<https://displacement.iom.int/dtm-toolkit/dtm-partners-toolkit>).⁴

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, which was identified by EDAUUR Partners as 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 that starts from the planning phase. Planning includes jointly identifying information needs, questions, modalities of data sharing, planned analysis and provision of feedback for improvement. Time pressure can limit cooperation, especially in the beginning of a response; to take into account this urgency, DTM can develop a plan to progressively reach out to new Partners over time.
- DTM and Partners have clear roles and responsibilities at each step of the process. Within Partners' organizations or clusters/WGs there may be 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 the information needed for these decisions, and only then develop questions based on these information needs. At all times the link between collected datasets, their analyses and their use for humanitarian response should be clear to DTM and Partners. The links are documented and shared during the planning stage to decrease the 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 the 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 of the three primary modalities of data sharing: 1) public, through DTM global website: <https://displacement.iom.int/>, country websites or emails 2) Data Sharing Agreements/MoUs, when DTM & Partners jointly identify specific datasets as sensitive in the Data Analysis Plan, they also agree on data-sharing modalities. 3) URGENT ACTION data-sharing, DTM & Partners agree from the design phase on modalities for urgent data sharing. This will ensure that DTM knows what data is needed for immediate action and knows when, how and with whom to share said data in real time.
- Presentations of and discussions concerning 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 context experts for decision making.

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

⁴ Approach and main tools are included in the *DTM & Partners Cooperation Pocket Guide* available at: <https://displacement.iom.int/dtm-partners-toolkit/predictable-approach>. DTM Field Companions by sector are also available in the toolkit.