



TRACK: Population and Priority Needs in a Limited Access Crisis

14th International Conference on
INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR CRISIS RESPONSE AND MANAGEMENT

“AGILITY IS COMING”

Workshops and Doctoral Symposium May 21th, 2017
Conference May 22nd-24th, 2017

ALBI (FRANCE)
Ecole des Mines d’Albi-Carmaux



INTRODUCTION TO THE TRACK

With the overall theme of “Agility is Coming” for the 2017 ISCRAM event this track submission proposes a track named “Population and Priority Needs in a Limited Access Crisis”

Problem Statement

While more common in active conflict complex emergencies, there are also examples in natural disaster situations which require dynamic approaches for the detection, adaptation and reactivity for the effective identification of needs and population estimation in limited access emergencies. The fundamental starting point of a humanitarian response is based on the identification and severity of needs, which is then compared to the estimated population size.

Classic needs assessment methodologies, such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) endorsed Multi-cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA), and other cluster/sector specific methodologies are poorly designed for application in these access restrictive situations. Most of these assessment and population methodologies were designed for natural disaster situations assuming national collaboration and full access to the population. The result is the blind application of methods developed for other situational applications with very limited adaptation, flexibility in approaches, or worse, organization around certain methods only to realize that the application is infeasible or that the implementation produces very poor results. Additionally, population estimation is many times integrated with methods suited for the identification of needs, but poor for population estimation. Finally, a humanitarian emergency requires responders to be familiar with potential appropriate approaches, tools and methodologies at the preparedness stage. With limited work on appropriate agile needs identification and population estimation methods in limited access environments, there are no viable alternatives to existing ill-fitting methodologies.

TRACK TOPICS

Using the 3 dimensions outlined for ISCRAM 2017, Information Systems, Crisis Response / Management and Scientific Domains, topics could cover:

- 1) Information system applications in limited access environments which target collection, processing, analysis and communication of data/information to overcome access barriers. Use of social-media and web-based platforms to source and codify needs information. Remote sensing applications and methodologies to identify needs.
- 2) Advances in agile needs identification including the use of established monitoring systems, rapid capacity building of pre-existing enumerator groups, remote management experiences in adaptive identification of needs. Comprehensive approaches and methodologies or specific aspects of how to address the problem statement through applied humanitarian work.
- 3) Appropriate applied population estimation in limited data environments with access restrictions, population modeling and the application of remote sensing and proxy indicators for adjusting population in limited access situations.

AUTHORS AND REVIEWERS RECRUITEMENT

- Educational networks including the Università Della Svizzera, Clark University, Feinstein International Center
- United Nations, INGO and NNGO Information Management online forums
- Professional networks related to the topic developed over the last 18+ years of work.

TRACK CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR

Track Chair - Andrew J. Alspach

Andrew Alspach holds an advanced academic degree in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and International Development from Clark University. He has 18+ years of professional experience focused on improving response to individuals affected by humanitarian crisis by building United Nations, national, and international capacities to mitigate the effects of natural and complex emergencies. With the United Nations, he has facilitated the drafting and consensus building to produce global policy in information

management and data standards. He is an adjunct professor at Università della Svizzera Italiana for the Master of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Logistics and Management. He has a diverse background in development focused on low-income housing / urban development, apiculture, watershed management with applied skills in the application of remote sensing and GIS to humanitarian and development interventions. He currently works for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) as the Deputy Head of an office responding to the crisis in Yemen. Andrew is committed to bringing individuals affected by a crisis into decisions and solutions while building capacity of national governments, other UN Agencies and civil society to improve humanitarian and development initiatives.

Co Chair- William S. Chemaly

William Chemaly brings a practitioner’s perspective with his hands-on work in several humanitarian and development response operations, incl. Lebanon, Uganda, Kenya, Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, DR Congo, Haiti, Serbia and Yemen. William is the OCHA’s Deputy Head of the Regional Office for the Syria Crisis and has an avid interest in the area of humanitarian negotiations, policies, linking of humanitarian and development work, and politics of complex humanitarian emergencies. Previously, William served as Representative of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in Geneva prior to which he founded the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) and headed its team for several years (2009-2013). Before JIPS years William served in several operations with CARE international, OHCHR, ILO and UNHCR, He earned degrees in Economics, International Relations and Human Rights Law from Saint Joseph University in Lebanon, the University of Malta and the National University of Ireland in Galway.

	<p>Andrew Alspach</p> <p><i>alspach@un.org</i></p> <p>UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</p>
	<p><i>William S. Chemaly</i></p> <p><i>chemalyw@un.org</i></p> <p>UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</p>

**Corresponding Chair*