

SOUTH SUDAN DATA STEWARDSHIP PROOF OF CONCEPT WORKSHOP

FEBRUARY 22 - 23, 2024

SUMMARY REPORT



SOUTH SUDAN PARTNERS



BACKGROUND TO WORKSHOP

Following the publication of the Donor Cash Forum [Statement](#) and Guiding Principles on Interoperability of Data Systems in Humanitarian Cash Programming, the European Union Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) funded the [Collaborative Cash Delivery Network](#) (CCD) and [Dignified Identities in Cash assistance](#) (DIGID) consortium projects in 2022.

A data stewardship model developed by CCD, based on a Stack Approach comprising data, technical, legal, and governance layers, is being tested in South Sudan with participating organisations from both the CCD and DIGID consortiums. The project aims to apply principles of data stewardship to solve key collective action problems, with a focus on deduplication and referral mechanisms.

The South Sudan Data Stewardship Proof of Concept (PoC) Workshop supported by ECHO was held in Juba on 22th and 23rd February 2024 as a follow-up to the [Design Workshop with CCD and DIGID consortia partners in 2023](#). The first day (technical discussion) was reserved for CCD and DIGID partners, while the second day (engagement and strategic discussion) was open to external stakeholders - including ECHO, other CCD partners, UN Agencies (FAO, IOM, UNOCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR, and WFP). The South Sudan Cash Working Group was also represented.

PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop was designed for partners to address pivotal problems of deduplication and referrals in implementation and develop:

- A clear understanding of the concepts and tools which we can use to address the key challenges of deduplication and referral.
- A collective position on the pilot which can be presented to senior management and external stakeholders.
- An agreement on the next steps that we can take in order to move from a pilot to a live implementation.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

DAY 1

The first day was attended by CVA, MEAL, and ICT focal persons – and was framed around the four layers of the Stack Model (Governance, Legal, Technical, and Data). The key takeaways included:

- Data Stewardship would be a useful approach for CCD and DIGID members to improve Data Governance and service delivery for affected people in South Sudan.
- Challenges and opportunities for the four layers of the Stack Model (Legal, Governance, Data, And Technical) were identified and discussed, and feedback captured for documentation review. This will be further contextualised by partners for operational relevance.

- Data Standards will be developed based on mapping of partner tools, and an agreed set of data fields and formats will be agreed upon for data sharing and interoperability.
- The web-based deduplication prototype will be tested to securely upload, share, compare, and refer data by ready partners. Feedback will be provided to enhance the platform.

DAY 2

The seven partners shared experiences from the first day, and engaged external stakeholders in discussions, as well as gathered feedback on the approach.

- It was emphasised that South Sudan is [one of the largest operations for cash assistance, estimated at about USD 77 million](#) and expected to increase to USD 150 million. Yet the extent of duplication (of people reported as reached) is yet to be understood. The deduplication approach is designed to counter this gap.
- This approach is seen as complementary for CWG coordination - especially when scaled; this will be useful for [counties with multiple partners and potential overlaps](#).
- It was acknowledged that there is already a lot of data being exchanged, and a clear need to improve how it is managed.
- One of the partners is collaborating with four other organisations that face the challenge of duplication. A centralised platform with a data host that allows them to flag duplication can ensure the continuity of services.
- The approach will need to minimise barriers to operationalizing the stewardship model – especially ensuring issues around Data Protection are addressed.
- The data protection and sharing approach was appreciated, with suggestions made to map existing data-sharing agreements.
- There were suggestions to ensure a sustainability plan for the project.

WORKSHOP OUTPUTS AND NEXT STEPS

Agree on Governance and Legal Framework to implement Data Stewardship and Data Interoperability

- Partners will establish a Community of Practice (CoP) and schedule regular meetings to review documents, advocacy and training, and strengthen knowledge sharing.
- Refine tools and documentation based on workshop recommendations, for further contextualization by partners:
 - Revised Governance Framework – including underlying principles for the governance mechanism, and the Data Stewardship composition and structure.
 - Revised Data Sharing Agreements - including for multiple stakeholders.

Data and Technical Platform Readiness

- Harmonize Data Standards and agreed data collection fields for deduplication assessment.
- User manual for organisations' field teams to test the deduplication function via the online platform.

Pilot the Data Stewardship and Interoperability Approach and Technology

- Ready partners will plan to pilot the deduplication setup; outcomes of the testing exercise will be shared with the CoP for learning and subsequent feedback for product improvement.
- Improve platform functionality based on partner feedback for production-readiness.
- Partners will determine the suitable Data Stewardship model, and roles and responsibilities that will be adopted. It was observed that this is likely to evolve with time as new challenges and opportunities surface during implementation.

Raise awareness on Data Interoperability

- Develop advocacy material to raise awareness and get buy-in from organisations' senior management. This will also keep external stakeholders updated.
- Wider stakeholder involvement in information sharing on evolution of the approach.
- CWG co-chair IOM invited the group to present and keep the Cash Working Group informed and if needed leverage the task team.
- Develop Data Literacy content for beneficiaries / people we serve as part of Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP).