INFORMATION MANAGEMENT FOR BETTER DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

World Vision ®

The **Topic**
The **Trend**
Our **Efforts**

Know Your Emergencies...

When a disaster strikes, the response manager (team) must develop, coordinate and manage a response in order to support the government and other Disaster Risk Management stakeholders provide relief to affected communities as quickly as possible. These responsibilities are substantial. Coordination is essential to gather accurate data / information to ensure an effective response. Among many other aspects that will need to be considered in a response plan, a response manager must consider the geographical location (access), the types of intervention and priority sectors based on the status of the affected population, and the required funding, human resources and capacity.

Responding to disaster is complex and challenging. Life and death often depend on how quickly emergency support can be provided. This support relies on vital information from the affected area, which responders often struggle to gather, and whether there is pre-existing accurate baseline data. That is why strong coordination mechanisms among Disaster Risk Management stakeholders at local, national, regional and global levels are essential. This requires strong partnerships among Government Disaster Management bodies, the UN,

civil society organisations faith-based organizations, the military and the private sector.

Response managers must have the right information at the right time. To do this, they need to extract and make use of data from available sources successfully.

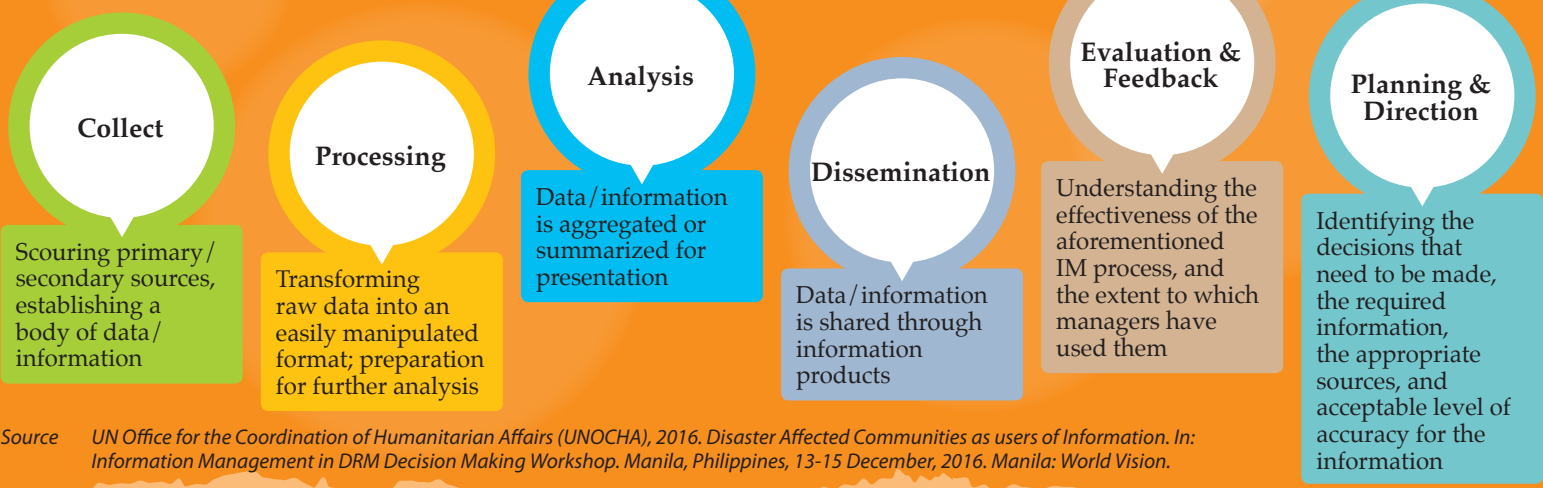In other words, they need information management (IM).

What is Information Management?

Definition:
According to UNOCHA, information management refers to "the stages of information processing from production to storage and retrieval to dissemination towards the better working of an organisation. Information can be from an internal and external source in any format." In the context of emergency preparedness / response, the information can come in various forms including satellite imagery, GIS and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS).

Stages of Information Management

Collect
Scouring primary / secondary sources, establishing a body of data / information

Processing
Transforming raw data into an easily manipulated format; preparation for further analysis

Analysis
Data / information is aggregated or summarized for presentation

Dissemination
Data / information is shared through information products

Evaluation & Feedback
Understanding the effectiveness of the aforementioned IM process, and the extent to which managers have used them

Planning & Direction
Identifying the decisions that need to be made, the required information, the appropriate sources, and acceptable level of accuracy for the information

Source   UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), 2016. Disaster Affected Communities as users of Information. In: Information Management in DRM Decision Making Workshop. Manila, Philippines, 13-15 December, 2016. Manila: World Vision.

Technical: To find a mechanism that ensures data interact with each other and form an overall picture. Moreover, existing systems need to be inter-operable.
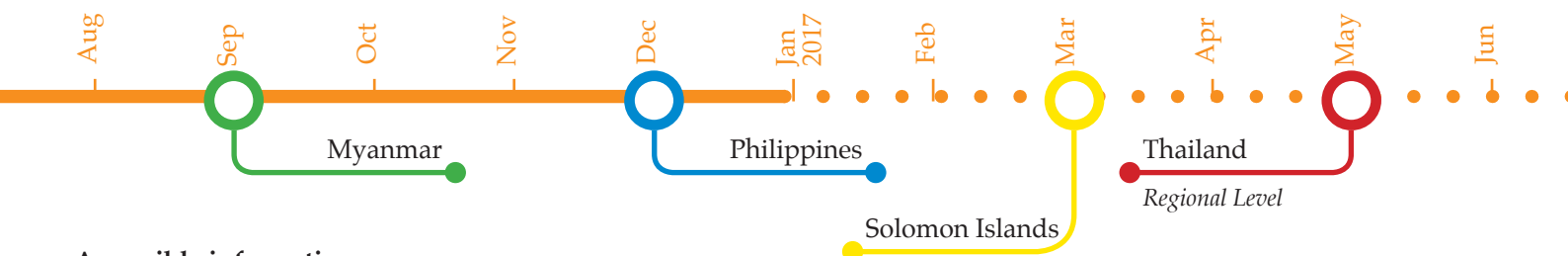
Gaps

Human capacity: Response Managers have yet to integrate effectively IM tools into their response processes and preparedness planning.

World Vision's **contribution** to information management in Asia-Pacific

A series of information management workshops

Workshops provide a learning environment for national disaster management offices, CSOs, NGOs, the private sector, local government units and vulnerable communities. Participants can network to learn from experts about available platforms/databases/technologies/ initiatives to improve their information management in disasters.

| Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan 2017 | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun |

Myanmar

Philippines

Solomon Islands

Thailand
Regional Level

Accessible information

Aggregated statistics, map, and learning report are available at the organisation's webpage, specifically at: *http://wvi.org/asiapacifc/emergencies* and *http://wvi.org/asiapacifc/disaster-risk-reduction-climate-change-adaptation*. Together, they help share World Vision's experience and perspectives with disaster management practitioners.

Last Mile Mobile Solution

It is essential to have a digital system that enables beneficiary registration, distribution planning and management, monitoring and reporting. It improves remote data collection and enables faster and fairer aid distributions.

Guidebook "Information Management in Preparedness and Response"

Your essential guide on: sources of available data (for example maps, reports, satellite-derived information, CRVS), approaches and tools, applications of data analysis in decision making.

Going Forward

Timely accurate information is essential to respond adequately and efficiently. World Vision is working with humanitarian partners to promote/guide good practices in information management by using all sources of information available, including the use of new technologies.

World Vision's key objectives and priorities in information management are:

1 Further enhance the World Vision external website [www.wvi.org] and its internal disaster information management portal [wvrelief.net]. The end product will incorporate the status and locations of World Vision emergency responses, key disaster preparedness documents, a disaster management toolkit to be used by staff and shared with key Disaster Management stakeholders.

2 Continue building capacity in information management. At the Bangkok regional level workshop (May 2017), national experts and response managers will exchange views on the challenges of managing information in the context of disasters, and best practices on resolving these challenges.

3 Integration of information management as part of the response management framework. This positioning of information management functions will improve access and information sharing related to disaster preparedness and response. It will also enable decision making based on sound data management policies and protocol.

4 Provide support to key disaster management actors and contextualise information management for better preparedness and response in affected countries.