Mobile data collection for urban profiling of refugee situations

Ivan Cardona, Data Manager, Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS)

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What is JIPS?

• Humanitarian service established in 2009 to advocate for and support the preparation, implementation and analysis phases of collaborative profiling exercises of IDP situations.

• Interagency nature: DRC, NRC, IDMC, IOM, UNHCR, OCHA, UNFPA and Special Rapporteur for the Human Rights of IDPs

• Range of services:
  ✓ Field support
  ✓ Training & capacity building
  ✓ Methodology & tool development
  ✓ Advocacy
Developing and piloting urban profiling methods

- According to UNHCR estimates, nearly half of the world’s refugees now reside in urban areas. For aid agencies, there is a need:
  - to understand whether refugees and other populations forcibly displaced are worse off than the urban poor and other migrants amongst whom they live
  - to face the limitation in registering urban refugees, which may result in them missing out on assistance.
  - To engage with host government in promoting the rights of refugees and other displaced populations.
The project

- JIPS/UNHCR/Tufts University profiling study of urban refugees in Delhi:
  - Quantitative and qualitative data collection methods
  - Sample-based household survey (N = 1,200)
  - Detailed questionnaire to collect household and individual level data (socio-economic characteristics, migration patterns, social and economic integration, etc.)

*Why mobile data collection?* context

appropriate in terms of capacities/skills of enumerators, security conditions, time saving (data entry) and higher data quality.
Data collection process

- Building-up a working group
- Defining the specific objectives of the profiling
- Identifying and mapping target group localities
- Design of a sampling strategy
- Develop the household questionnaire
- **SET-UP MDC PLATFORM**
- Recruitment of enumerators and supervisors
- Training and pilot
- Data collection
- Cleaning and data analysis
Android/ODK

Technical support from CartONG in:

• Deciding on MDC solution: ODK tools
  • Open Source, tested in similar contexts, can link to other applications
• Selection and procurement of material:
  • Phones vs tablets?, Laptop and router, Power supplies, Pelican case
• Training of JIPS team: Survey manager and IMO (transfer of skills)
• Configuring phones, laptop and server
• Coding the-very long/complex- questionnaires (xml files) and TESTING
• Getting the equipment in country
• Training of enumerators and piloting (incl. PRACTICAL SESSIONS)
• Launching the data collection process
Experience with ODK

- Use of Mobile Phone is source of enthusiasm and motivation for enumerators
- Acceptance from the respondents is good / non related to high refusal rates (in Delhi)
- Use of mobiles in Delhi did not raise security issues
- Good complementarity between MDC/paper
- Improved quality control and data consistency are improved
- Data collection require a high level of organization/coordination
- Experience is easily/quickly replicable
Challenges

• Capturing GPS coordinates in highly densely populated areas/Narrow streets
• Require an external technical support (coding, server set up, etc.)
• Difficult to find enumerators with both good skills in using mobiles and socio-economic studies
• Respondents’s acceptance can be negative in protection-sensitive contexts (Quito)