iMMAP has been coordinating the Humanitarian Operations Mobile Acquisition of Data (NOMAD) Project. The Project is funded by the CNES, the French space agency, from July 2010 to July 2012.

Often an unsung hero in a humanitarian response, strong information management helps get more aid to more people in need and more money to aid organizations.

Whether conducting an assessment, evaluating a project or monitoring public health data, real-time (or near real-time) mobile data collection is faster and more efficient than traditional information management methods.

The NOMAD project links aid organizations with the latest information management tools to more easily collect, analyse and manage data. NOMAD has developed an Online Selection Assistant to connect your organization or project with one of 24 mobile data collection solutions.

NOMAD also includes a secondment service comprised of experienced field personnel who are ready to deploy to train your organization how to use mobile data collection technology or to support in the collection of such data.

**CUSTOMIZING MOBILE DATA COLLECTION**

In emergencies, time is of the essence. Shaving hours off response time can save lives. Submitting grant proposals early can mean more secure funding. Mobile data collection tools help aid organizations respond more quickly and efficiently, improving operations overall. With a mobile data solution, you can collect GPS coordinates, upload data in real-time, send SMS texts AND collect the data you need. Choosing the right technology is simple using NOMAD’s Online Selection Assistant (found here: http://humanitarian-nomad.org/?page_id=533).

After 2 years of testing with various partners on the ground, the iMMAP France - Cartong consortium has obtained some funding from the Humanitarian Innovation Funds (HIF), complimenting that of the CNES, to maintain the NOMAD service in particular tool of comparison of the solutions of on-line mobile collection of data on the NOMAD site, going from December 1st, 2012 till May 31st, 2013.
From 24 tried and tested mobile data collection tools with various advantages, price tags and technical specs, the Selection Assistant custom fits to users’ needs by asking a series of questions, e.g. Are you conducting a one-off or reoccurring assessment? How technically inclined are the staff using these tools? How do you want to visualise the data? At the end of the survey, the best options are indicated along with a summary report that explains how and why the options provided to you are best.

Since mobile phone technology, apps and geospatial technology evolves quickly, the NOMAD team constantly monitors changes.

Since NOMAD consists of humanitarian aid workers, team members are experts in the technology itself but also how it is implemented in various cultural, security, and emergency contexts around the globe.

GOING BEYOND: HANDS-ON SUPPORT FROM NOMAD

Once you know what mobile data tools to use, NOMAD team members can train your organisation’s staff how to use the tools and analyse the data. If suitable, NOMAD can also join your operation to help with the data collection process.

NOMAD’s experts are not just information management specialists; they’re also humanitarians with real, hands-on experience implementing mobile data solutions in the field.

Several systems such as Imogene, OASIS and satellite communication technologies were tested in two sample operations:

1. WFP monitoring of food delivery in remote locations of Ethiopia.
2. IOM bi-monthly camp site Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) surveys in Haiti.

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