

## OPENDRI NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

At the start of every engagement, the Open Data for Resilience Initiative (OpenDRI) team works with counterparts in the client government, colleagues in other areas of the World Bank, and institutions to assess needs related to disaster risk information. Though OpenDRI is often brought into projects to assist with a particular issue, taking the time to understand the broader priorities and concerns of important stakeholders can help improve project design, identify new partnerships and synergies, and increase the effectiveness of implementation. This assessment is conducted through a series of interviews with policy and technical staff of organizations. Some organizations to consider meeting with might include:

- Disaster management agencies
  - Urban planning departments
  - National mapping agencies
  - Other line ministries involved in production or use of spatial data
  - Key development partners
  - Local universities
  - Local NGOs with strong scientific or technical capacity related to disaster risk management
- Whereas the second part of this methodology seeks to develop a detailed understanding of the data and technology situation, OpenDRI Needs Assessments look more broadly at the spatial data ecosystem that World Bank projects related to disaster resilience operate within. The assessments identify legal frameworks governing spatial data creation and management, important ongoing or active projects, important sources of human and technical capacity for data analysis and use, and high-impact opportunities for improving the use of risk information for decision-making. Some of the partner needs identified through past OpenDRI assessments have been:

- Developing open data strategies in order to make data more accessible to other groups and the public
- Developing spatial data management policies across government to increase coordination and efficiency
- Accessing and consolidating necessary data for conducting risk assessment
- Partnering with universities and community groups to create new information through community mapping practices
- Working with open source software to develop new tools in support of disaster risk financing programs

## GEODATA AND IT ASSESSMENT

Following the needs assessment, an essential requirement for implementing any OpenDRI project is to assess the client's Information Technology (IT) capacity to host the data sharing platform and support efficient data exchange. In addition to evaluating physical assets, computing hardware, and technological know-how, this assessment also investigates all existing geodata within government line ministries and local partners that are relevant to disaster management activities. These datasets are organized in a matrix table to allow a comparative review of core metadata elements (e.g their format, last update date, owner, use license, etc). The information gathered helps to highlight what information is available, where it is situated and whether further data collection might be needed to fill in critical gaps.

The geodata and IT assessment is conducted through on-site visits and interviews with key technical staff and managers. Government offices and partner organizations who may be holding relevant DRM information and potentially willing to contributing to the data sharing platform are also visited and their IT capacity and data availability assessed. Standard questionnaires have been developed by the OpenDRI team to aid with interviews. These include structured checklists to understand availability of common datasets, as well as more open questions (see sample surveys used for projects in Vietnam, Serbia [add link], and Uganda). The main output of this assessment is a report that covers the following:

- List, description and role of stakeholders (government offices, universities and research centers, private businesses, non government and humanitarian organizations, community groups, local technology hubs);
- IT capacity assessment of the main organization who will host and manage the data sharing platform;
- Assessment of other stakeholders and data providers, including their predisposition to sharing data, existing Web services, policies for implementing interoperable data formats and metadata standards;
- Summary matrix tables for data availability, including their coverage, and potential gaps;
- Identification of existing (if any) open data and open source software “champions” who may be capable to assist with training and building sustainable local technology capacity.

The geodata and IT assessment report is provided to the government counterpart for review and comments. The OpenDRI team then meets with the client to discuss options for implementation of the data sharing platform, a proposed timeline, and the required investments. ToR documents are drafted to support staff hiring and the creation of dedicated working groups in support of the data sharing platform and its management.

