

## Use of DEEP for Analysis of Focus Group Discussions

Information Management Specialist, Iñigo Ballester, describes how the Data Entry and Exploratory Platform (DEEP) was used in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique to facilitate rapid collaborative analysis of information from multi-sectoral focus group discussions.

Due to the ongoing conflict and insecurity in Cabo Delgado province in northern Mozambique, thousands of people have been fleeing from their homes to safer areas, sometimes staying in schools or churches, with family members or with friends. There are now efforts by the authorities to relocate the internally displaced people (IDPs) arriving in Pemba and other towns to in new locations identified by the Government, where they are asked to remain.

In mid 2020, the humanitarian community held multi-sectoral focus group discussions (FGDs) with both internally displaced people and host communities to inform government and humanitarian actors about their needs, future intentions, perceptions on issues that affect them and concerns of their community members. Iñigo Ballester has been involved in this process as Information Management Officer with the sub-national Cabo Delgado protection cluster.



*A Focus Group Discussion with women in Cabo Delgado Province, Mozambique*

## Need for a rapid analysis of needs

Because displaced people may suddenly need to move from different places where they are seeking refuge to another, Iñigo explained that he and his team had a very short timeframe to carry out the assessments, from the start of the focus group discussions to the provision of the analysis:

*The focus group discussions were done with a group of IDPs who were about to be relocated, but also with groups of host population from the potential relocation areas. We wanted to share with government what people think about this and their needs and perceptions. This assessment had to happen in just under three days after which these families would be moved. So...we needed something to quickly get the most important information out of the FGDs.*

## Use of DEEP

Through UNHCR's Southern Africa regional data analysis team (DIMA), Iñigo learnt about DEEP, being piloted in Tanzania. DEEP is an online platform developed by and for the humanitarian sector to facilitate collaborative data collection and sharing, and secondary data analysis from a qualitative research perspective.

After discussions with colleagues in Tanzania, Iñigo decided to pilot DEEP in Cabo Delgado. Traditional ways of analysing FGD materials can be time-consuming but, despite some challenges with the platform, DEEP made it possible to extract meaningful information much more quickly, easily and accurately than would otherwise have been the case.

## Development and use of analytical framework

DEEP has a customizable analytical framework tool and so the Cabo Delgado response team were able to develop an analysis framework ahead of time, in line with the objectives of the exercise.

Sectoral staff involved in data collection uploaded their notes or transcripts from the focus group discussions directly to DEEP. Access was granted to these staff who then classified or 'tagged' chunks of information from their FGDs according to the analytical framework. Metadata and target information were added to the excerpts (gender, type of population - IDP/host, location, etc). These staff also evaluated these excerpts from the FGDs against a severity or perception rating.

The collaborative nature of the DEEP tools allows for several people to be working on the classification of FGD materials at the same time, and this resulted in a quick process.

## IM and Sectoral Collaboration in Analysis

One of the advantages of using DEEP in the Cabo Delgado context was its support for collaboration in analysis between sectoral and IM specialists. This improved the quality of the processing and analysis possible in the time available. As Iñigo explains:

*The best people to do the tagging are the people who were in that focus group discussion and have the contextual information from the groups and the knowledge of the language... In Cabo Delgado, the people involved in data collection were working through the information they gathered in DEEP, highlighting the information they thought was important from that discussion and then in the same tool, they can highlight if they think that chunk of information was critical or if people had very strong feelings on that question. All that work is done by non-IM people.*

*This tool helped to narrow the bridge between IM and sectoral specialists... It feels collaborative in the sense that everyone feels part of the analysis; it is not something that is very separate, so it helps narrow that gap and helps people feel more involved in the process...*

As an IM specialist, Iñigo explained that his role in analysis and reporting came at the very end:

*The DEEP tool generated an output...a spreadsheet dataset with all FGD excerpts, disaggregated by keywords, tags, severity/perception ranking and other metadata (gender, type of population/host, location, etc)... that I could use to produce diagrams and facilitate the reporting.*

### **PIM Highlights**

- Supported collaboration between sectoral and information management specialists, who were able to conduct faster and more accurate joint analysis and reporting to inform humanitarian action (PIM Principle – coordination and collaboration)
- Controlled workflow and restricted access support data protection and security (PIM Principle – data responsibility, protection and security)
- Pre-defined analytical framework elaborates the defined purpose of the initiative (PIM Principle – defined purpose)
- More accurate analysis strengthened the ‘voice’ of affected communities.

### **More Information**

More information on DEEP can be found on the DEEP website, [here](#).