

## **Mapping in support to Camp Coordination and Management**

### **Mapping what and what for?**

Camp related information is associated to its inhabitants and to the different services or facilities present. Daily coordination and long-term management and planning are facilitated by knowing:

- Who is living in the camp? [This refers to registration of persons of concern]; and
- Where are the services/facilities? [Geospatial or geographical reference].

Information compiled through the registration procedure supports decision-making for a wide range of activities. The same set of core data is needed in the management of different events associated to persons of concern. More specific data is also collected to fully inform or assist in the:

- Issuance of identity documents;
- Planning and targeting of assistance (food, shelter) and services (health, water);
- Issuance of documents providing access to services (ration cards, health cards);
- Identification of beneficiaries with special needs; and for
- All events from the registration to local integration or repatriation.

The creation of a spatial database of camps shows the relative location of its infrastructure and assists in site planning. In super-imposing population distribution and characteristics, the possibilities for integrated analysis and planning become more interesting. To do that, individuals, families or households must have a known location. Actions to alleviate the problems of persons with special needs and to increase their protection and access to community facilities can be better planned and implemented. In addition, the monitoring of indicators of quality of life, such as the population density, access to water or to health services is more efficient as the relation between the individuals and those services is better known.

UNHCR has demonstrated with a few cases that camp mapping is a feasible exercise and that the benefits directly support the operations in the field. A strategy to develop spatial database of a large number of refugee camps and IDPs' location is being developed in partnerships with specialized agencies where standards, guidelines and procedures are defined. These tools are important to:

- Prepare a schedule of refugee/IDPs camps and locations to be mapped;
- Improve the various standards, guidelines and procedures to provide for different camp structures and different levels of complexity, for different and changing environmental conditions, and according to existing information and socio-political contexts (including for specific approaches relevant to IDPs and urban situations);
- Support the development and use of the Camp Coordination Software that will guide the work done by UNHCR and its partners.