MOBILE CONNECTIVITY REFERENCE SET

HARVARD HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE

MERCY CORPS

CONTENTS

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HUMANITARIAN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES & ETHICS

Digital information ecosystems have experienced waves of standardization and ethical contextualization over the past decades, with increasing numbers of humanitarian organizations dedicating resources to the digitization of their work and/or the utilization of data as a key component of their activities and interventions. No single set of standards has been designed, agreed or maintained on par with the Sphere System for operational guidance, expectation setting, and implementation guidelines. This collection includes critical commentaries of humanitarian information activities, often with an emphasis on beneficiary re-identification, vulnerability to state actors, and practitioner consistency with international humanitarian and human rights laws.

As defined in the Signal Code, **humanitarian information activities (HIAs)** are activities and programs that may include the collection, storage, processing, analysis, further use, transmission, and public release of data and other forms of information. HIAs also include the establishment and development of communications capacity and infrastructure by responders and/or populations. These activities occur as part of humanitarian action throughout the response cycle and include, but are not limited to: improving situational awareness; disaster preparedness and mitigation; intervention design and evaluation; connecting populations to response activities and to each other; and supporting ongoing operations, including the delivery of assistance.

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REFUGEE MOVEMENT, DATA, AND TECHNOLOGIES

Over the past decade, migration and refugee flows have increased at a significantly greater rate than prior years. These dynamics reflect both acute conditions (e.g., the Syrian Civil War) and the effects of long-term crises (e.g., climate change). To better understand the near-term future of global migration and refugee needs, practitioners may find this literature a helpful starting point complete with benchmark reports, key indicators, and insights into both remote and ground-level ongoing assessments of migration and refugee movement. This landscape also helps illustrate the types of activities designed for refugee populations, as well as how refugees are often missing from the design and implementation processes. With ongoing research in refugee digital information ecosystems, these resources may offer value to refugee and diaspora communities, practitioners seeking resources, and funders interested in the success or failure of past digital aid interventions.

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PSYCHOSOCIAL WELLBEING & TECH AMONG REFUGEES

Refugees face unique challenges to their health and wellbeing: trauma that may force a person or family to seek asylum; exploitation and deprivation of resources along the journey; even the indeterminate status of waiting for legal action and formal access to everyday life activities once at a point of arrival. All of these conditions and many more carry psychosocial effects highlighted in the works below. Rigorous study of the effects information communication technologies can have on refugees' psychosocial wellbeing remain limited.

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DATA AND INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

To understand how information communication technologies operate in humanitarian contexts like the refugee camp, it is critical to understand how ICTs operate in non-crisis contexts. This collection offers overviews of Internet architecture and infrastructure, information flows through digital networks, economic factors and cost considerations, and data collection, mediation and sharing studies.

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