



ISCRAM2009
**The 6th International Conference on Information Systems for
Crisis Response and Management**

Gothenburg, Sweden
May 10-13, 2009
<http://www.iscram.org>

TRACK: Humanitarian Actions and Operations

CALL FOR PAPERS

FOR A SPECIAL SESSION ON

**Information inclusivity in humanitarian relief
operations - for quality collection, dissemination and
use**

Session ID: Humanitarian1

Motivation

The aim of this session is twofold: First, to gather an overview of the state of the art of information collection and dissemination methods in humanitarian relief and recovery operations (traditional verbal communication, mobile phones, radio, TV, internet based mechanisms from email to Web 2.0). Second to critically analyze, based on experiences in the field and while taking into account the prevailing lack of standards, the abilities of each of those systems to guarantee accessibility and inclusiveness as endorsed at the Global Symposium+5 in Geneva in 2007.

Research Area

The timely collection and dissemination of information in humanitarian operations is critical. While over the past decades much progress has been made regarding technical devices it is often not considered that those means of communication still exclude relevant stakeholders as well as affected communities in the field for four reasons:

- Technical limitations: Devices are too expensive, thus not available on the field level.
- Lack of standards: Data standards are often poorly defined for the stakeholders.
- Insufficient understanding of the complexities in data collection: The ability of individuals and target groups to collect information according to standards, in other words the scarcity of professional information managers, is neglected.
- Cultural reservations: Moreover, individuals and target groups might have reservations or might need time to use a rather alien means of communication.

It should be considered an essential part of contingency and disaster preparedness plans to analyze not only the local state of the art of information systems, but also local communication customs, data requirements as well repeatable standards for data



collection and dissemination and develop a communication strategy based on a menu of tools, approaches and methods in order not to exclude individuals or target groups based on technical or educational limitations or on local communication traditions.

Topics

- *Information collection and dissemination in humanitarian operations*
- *Data standards*
- *Accessibility and inclusiveness*
- *Professionalization of information management*
- *Cultural reservations towards information systems*

Type of contribution:

Each session should allow academic and practitioner contributions

- **Academic contribution:** we invite researchers from academia or research labs to present their research or research-in-progress papers. Prospective presenters submit a regular research (or research-in-progress) paper.
- **Practitioner contribution:** we invite practitioners to present their practice or experiences in information systems development, use or needs. Prospective presenters submit a short practitioner paper or a Powerpoint presentation along with an abstract.

Important Notice:

- All submissions must be formatted according to the ISCRAM 2009 formatting guidelines. Templates and instructions are published on www.iscram.org.
- All submissions must be submitted through the ISCRAM 2009 conference paper submission web page at www.conftool.com/iscram2009. Instructions for the ConfTool system can be found on www.iscram.org.
- All papers and presentations will go through a double-blind review process, leading to a decision of (conditional) acceptance or rejection.
- Accepted papers will be included in the ISCRAM 2009 program and published in the official proceedings if and only if
 - (1) the paper is formatted according to the instructions,
 - (2) the authors sign the copyright transfer form and
 - (3) one of the authors registers for the conference and pays the registration fee before the cut-off date for early registration.
- Authors who have multiple papers accepted can only register for and present one paper at the conference; co-authors need to register separately.



Session Chairs:



David Saunders, saunders1@un.org

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Important ISCRAM 2009 Dates:

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| • Submission deadline: | January 11, 2009 |
| • Notification of conditional accept: | February 16, 2009 |
| • Final submission revised paper: | March 1, 2009 |
| • Final author notification: | March 9, 2009 |
| • Early registration deadline: | March 22, 2009 |
| • Conference: | May 10-13 2009 |

About ISCRAM:

The ISCRAM Community is a worldwide community of researchers, scholars, teachers, students, practitioners and policy makers interested or actively involved in the subject of Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management. At its annual international conference alternating between the US and Europe, the ISCRAM Community gathers to present and discuss the latest research and developments in this growing area during an interactive and stimulating 3 day program. The ISCRAM Community also organizes an International Summer School for PhD students and ISCRAM-CHINA, an annual conference for ISCRAM research in China. All information on ISCRAM can be found at <http://www.iscram.org>

This year the conference will be held from 10-13 May at the Göteborg University located in Gothenburg, Sweden. The conference will be hosted by the Viktoria Institute and the IT-university of Gothenburg. All details on this conference will be made available via the ISCRAM website mentioned above.