New data sources, innovation trends and challenges on information retrieval in UNICEF

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UNICEF is Big

135 countries
15,000+ staff
88% of the in the field
$4.5 billion a year budget

Global & local
Data nightmare
Big, decentralized & incomplete

2-3 year surveys
12,000 HH
100 countries

135 CO
8 RO

News & others
14 Aug 2014
Army rescues hostages, mostly women and children, held by LRA
Ugandan troops have rescued 45 women and children held by fugitive Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) rebels after battles with the rebels, the army said. Army officials said they were freed in two separate batches earlier this month in Djabo in the remote forests of northeastern DR Congo. “We rescued from the LRA 45 people, the latest (batch) being 32 women and children,” Ugandan army spokesperson reported on 13 August. He said another batch of 13 women and children had also been freed.

31 March 2014
Ugandan president dismisses aid cuts at rally against gays
President Yoweri Museveni told a rally of religious leaders, politicians and thousands of supporters on Monday that Uganda could live without aid that Western donors suspended or diverted in protest at an anti-gay bill that became law in February. Western donors have halted or re-directed about $118 million in aid since Museveni signed the law, which toughened existing rules against gays and prescribed life in jail for what it called “aggravated homosexuality”, such as sex with a minor. “When you hear these Europeans saying they are going to cut aid ... we don't need aid in the first place,” Museveni said. “A country like Uganda is one of the richest on earth.”
Reuters - http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL5N0M3S3RF20140331

26 March 2014
Authorities probe alleged atrocities in LRA rebel war
Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has ordered investigations into alleged atrocities committed by the army during 20 years of war against Lords Resistance Army rebels, officials said on Wednesday. "Information has been coming up that some officers may have committed crimes, but these cases were never reported to the government," presidential spokesman Tamale Mirundi said. "But now that they are being reported he [President Museveni] has directed an inquiry." Ugandan military spokesman Paddy Ankunda said the probe was welcome and that the army would co-operate.

Challenge 1
Aggregate and make data “computer readable”
The hardest to reach
How do we generate data about the invisible?
40% Phone
10% Internet
2% Facebook

*Uganda (2013)
Communication
Fast & digital

Child registration
Family reunification
HIV education
Health monitoring
...

Rapid SMS
RAPID FTR
Crowdsourcing
Polling and survey Individuals & Communities

200,000+ U-reporters
90% under age 30

2xweek poll
20-30% response rate

Challenge 2
Extract new knowledge from existing sources

Automatic analysis/clustering? Other knowledge?

unicef IBM
Tower data
Digital exhaust
Challenge 3
Extract fast knowledge from new sources

Demographics

Mobility

Social structure

Economic resilience

Emergencies detection
Thank you

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