

IASCI staff collecting data on vulnerability profiles in an IDP Camp in the earthquake-affected area of Pakistan. Between 2006 and 2008, IASCI implemented the Information Clearinghouse of the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Agency (ERRA) of the Pakistan Government.



Summary

The International Agency for Source Country Information (IASCI) is a specialised non-governmental organization recognized for delivering field-based information management (IM) consultancy and research solutions to a diverse range of international institutions, state, public and private clients.

IASCI specialises in:

- Supporting evidence-based decision making processes,
- Operating in challenging field locations.

Our mission is to promote continuous efficiency gains within our client and partner organizations by providing direct access to high-value, relevant, factual data.

In instances where the round-tripping of the standard, generic and second-hand information is not an option, we work with the mission-specific requirements of our clients and sponsors to design (and when necessary, implement) relevant field-based IM systems. IASCI is unique in emphasising the use of primary-source data/information; obtained

specifically in response to real day-to-day demand, and gained by means of trained “boots on the ground”.

12 years of practical results from every continent shows that this approach addresses mission-critical, yet often under-estimated, elements in many decision-making processes; namely, **direct access to accurate, unbiased, focused and trusted field-based data/information.**

IASCI methods have shown to be particularly applicable to large-scale emergency response and migration management processes and related challenges. Other areas of expertise include: displacements and complex humanitarian interventions; facilitating freedom of movement; and managing return and repatriation processes.

Quantifiable determinants of IASCI’s impact are based on the direct support we provide to our clients and partners in addressing their information management and decision-making needs.

What is IASCI?



Wolfgang Gressmann, IASCI’s Head of Operations, in a IDP Camp in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo. In February 2008, IASCI systematically analysed the information management requirements for camp coordination and camp management

IASCI is a specialised Non-Governmental Organization under the laws of the Republic of Austria. Established in May 2004, it is politically independent, non-partisan and wholly impartial. Its activities are exclusively non-profit in nature.

IASCI engages with our partners and clients to tailor-make practical ‘tool kits’ of data-gathering and information solutions for their specific needs.

In doing so we naturally take into account: client requirements; place-specific conditions; and, data-confidentiality requirements.

Proven modular approaches ensure a rapid-response capacity and unparalleled reliability. At the same time the systems can efficiently respond to fluctuating demand.

These unique capacities provide IASCI’s clients with capacities that are uniquely flexible and cost-effective,

while remaining focussed on 'the real issues' - even within the most fluid of environments.

Strict maintenance of methodological processes ensures that data collection occurs in a consistent, transparent and wholly neutral fashion.

As a result, IASCI's clients are secure in receiving a consistently high standard quality of the information support - irrespective of the challenges posed by the field location.

In short, all solutions put forward by IASCI incorporate two critical determinants of success:

- meeting the specific technical, legal and other needs of the client or sector, and, crucially,
- respecting, reflecting and responding in due time to the rapidly changing circumstances on the ground.

Simultaneously, quantifiable economies of scale ensure that the data-gathering process is both reliable and cost-effective.

The result is the consistent promotion of continuous efficiency gains within our partner organizations.

Acting in line with the internationally accepted "Best Practices in Humanitarian Information Management and Exchange" we specialize in the following areas:

Areas of Activity



A sick woman is hand-carried from her village for three days to receive medical assistance in Northwestern Frontier Province of Pakistan. During its assessment on basic health facilities, IASCI discovered that, contrary to the 'official records' on which interventions were based, many health units recorded as functional were not operating, sometimes already for years. This is a classic example of "round-tripping" of the same errors in fact.

- ✓ **Field-based Information Management: Designing, operating, and where necessary handing-over, purpose-specific information management systems.**

IASCI builds and operates information management systems capable of responding to information requirements as they occur.

Responding to specific information requests, our systems obtain relevant data/information from primary sources. The data is delivered in formats that decision-makers trust, can quickly validate, and therefore actually use.

Our systematic methodologies have a proven history of enabling decision-makers to confidently carry out evidence-based critical decisions in a markedly more confident and efficient basis.

12 years of practical experience in a wide variety of challenging field operations has shown that inter-agency IM systems offer practical partnership opportunities in areas such as emergency response, humanitarian intervention and migration management.

Key benefits include:

- direct access to trusted case-specific field-based data/information
- quantifiably improved administrative and decision-making processes
- significant cost-control and efficiency gains.

- ✓ **Management Services: Providing support on key aspects of project and program cycle management - design, implementation, monitoring systems, external evaluation and impact assessments**

Building on our core competencies IASCI can provide senior-level independent consultancy and project development/ implementation services. This service area is primarily related to emergency response, humanitarian intervention, migration management, and economic development sectors.

To ensure that a project or initiative has as wide a buy-in as possible from the outset, our assignments

are predicated on substantive involvement from all key stakeholders. Within a shared vision, IASCI can provide its clients a combination of objective-specific consultancy and implementation services.

Assessments, monitoring, evaluation and analyses are core competencies. Objectives include: the reassessment of the rationale for the intervention; options appraisal; feedback to facilitate learning about "what works", and, introducing mid-course corrections where necessary. IASCI Management Services typically inform senior-level management decision-making over the term of an intervention - not an evaluation process that is "bolted on" as an afterthought.



In the recent crisis in South Ossetia, Georgia, a IASCI expert provided emergency response advisory services to a leading international NGO and assisted in the Integrated Rapid Assessment in the Conflict Zone in close collaboration with UN OCHA and the IASC Cluster System.

✓ **Research: Designing and implementing public and private sector surveys, sub-sector analyses, market studies, needs assessments, and program evaluations**

Based on our field-based Information Management core-competencies, IASCI can provide independent, objective, client-orientated surveys, assessments and research activities, including: rapid needs assessments, programme/project evaluations, public opinion and private sector surveys, sectoral and sub-sector analyses, or market studies.

As can be gained from the below IASCI has delivered an expanding portfolio of studies, surveys and rapid assessments. Recent countries of intervention include:

- Moldova (2009)
- Bosnia – Herzegovina (2009)
- Kosovo (2009)
- Nigeria (2009)
- Albania (2009)
- Republic of Georgia (2008)
- Pakistan (2008)
- Armenia (2006)
- Ukraine (2006)

Clients include: UNDP, IFAD, UNHCR, CIDA, EC, CARE, Austrian Government, Pakistan Government, and others.

**“There is no substitute
for field-based data gathering”**

Project Overview

IASCI has broad experience implementing projects across continents and cultures. An overview of its expertise in executing international projects/programmes can be gained from these recently conducted projects:

Field-based Information Management

Country	Programme	Client
Pakistan	Chairing the Inter-cluster Information Management Working Group (ICIM), Designing and managing the Pakistan Flood Information Centre (PFIC)	UNDP, Gov. of Pakistan (NDMA)
Pakistan	Designing, operating, and handing over the Information Clearinghouse and Verification Resource (ERRA-INFOCH)	UNHCR/Prime Minister’s Office (ERRA)
Albania	Facilitating family reunification between Albania and Italy (IOM/IASCI SCI Albania)	Government of Italy
Kosovo	Supporting managed and orderly return processes (IOM/IASCI KOSIP Kosovo)	UNMIK

Management Services (Consultancy and Implementation)

Country	Project	Client
Kenya	Management Support for CARE WatESan Team in The Refugee and Emergency Operation in Dadaab at the Somali border	CARE Int. in Kenya
Zimbabwe	ECHO Project Development for the Cholera Crisis in Zimbabwe	CARE Int. in Zimbabwe
Republic of Georgia	Providing emergency response advisory services; designing and operating Integrated Rapid Assessment (IRA) in Ossetia, programme design, proposals	CARE Int. in the Caucasus
Finland	Delivering specifications, operational requirements and business model of a multi-agency crisis response information management capacity (SHIFT)	Crisis Management Initiative
DR Congo	Establishing requirements for camp information management in North Kivu	UNHCR
Pakistan	Providing technical support and training to ERRA-INFOCH	CIDA
Sri Lanka/ Austria	Designing and supporting an exchange programme of medical personnel and expertise	Austrian Medical Chamber
Sri Lanka/ Austria	Designing and supporting a mother and child care programme in disadvantaged regions; upgrade of Base Hospital Embilipitiya	Caritas Austria

Research

Country	Project	Client
Moldova	Strengthening the link between migration and development through developing and testing replicable products for migrants	Migration for Development Initiative of the EC and UNDP
Bosnia - Herzegovina	Maximizing the Development-Impact of Migration-related Financial Flows and Investment from Austria to BiH (in cooperation with IOM)	Development Bank of Austria
Kosovo/ Nigeria	Utilizing Private Sector Partnerships to Motivate Durable Returns to Nigeria and Kosovo – a Brain Gain Pilot Project	Ministry of Interior, Austria
Kosovo/ Albania	DEVINPRO - Strengthening the link between migration and development through developing and testing replicable migration-related products and services for migrants and their communities	IFAD, Raiffeisen Bank
Kosovo	Establishing the Office of the Kosovo Rapporteur in Trafficking	OSCE
Pakistan	Surveys and Assessments on various subjects; incl.: Gender Equality Survey, Camp Vulnerability, Women Services, Basic Health Facilities, Return Areas	Pakistan Prime Minister's Office (ERRA)
Armenia	Study on Migration, Remittance and Savings Behaviours; Study on Regulatory Framework for a Migrant Savings and Investment Trust	UN IFAD
Armenia/ Moldova	Study on Out/Migration, Trafficking and AIDS	UN IFAD
Albania	Competing for Remittances – as a component of the Albanian National Action Plan on Migration	IOM
Ukraine	Sectoral Analysis on Investment Opportunities	Austrian Economic Chamber
Kosovo	Rapid Assessment on Municipal Return Management	UNMIK and IOM

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