1. **Objective**
   To provide the necessary and appropriate information to support the relief and reconstruction requirements for Afghanistan. Information management will be central to all aspects of the reconstruction effort. To accomplish this requires that all organizations supporting relief and reconstruction effort in Afghanistan fully adopt and incorporate the elements of this strategy into the daily work processes.

2. **Purpose**
   Currently information is fragmented, faulty, incomplete, unreliable and incompatible. Organizations are not able to cooperate within a sector framework. Lead agencies are unable to separate their sector management responsibilities from their own project implementation efforts. This is due to organizational inability to think beyond the narrow confines of the project cycle and the competition therein. The strategy hopes to address the following regarding information:
   - Improve Quality
   - Improve coverage
   - Ensure ease of interoperability and sharing
   - Reduce duplication of reporting
   - Ensure access and availability
   - Avoid duplication and achieve economies of scale

3. **Approach**
   Achieving the objectives of the strategy will be accomplished through the following:
   - **Common standards**
     - Centrally managed
     - Sector based definitions based on unique technical requirements
     - Standardized data formats
   - **Information collection systems**
     - Feasible within constraints of available human and technical resources
     - Inclusive of all partners
     - Designed to meet needs at implementation level
     - Data is aggregatable to meet needs of higher level users
     - Responsive to all users
   - **Quality control**
     - Establish data collection/survey methodology standards appropriate to each sector.
     - Sectors clear/approve/record all formal surveys to ensure appropriate coverage and avoidance of duplication
• Dissemination
  o Detail appropriate to level of user
  o Timely

• Resources
  o Deliberate accounting for human resource requirements and development
  o Technical resources appropriate to needs and feasibility

KEY INFORMATION NEEDS

4. Common Questions for all Managers

Concepts of Information Management and Geographic Information Systems
Regardless of level of user or type of program management questions remain the same.
The table below matches these questions with data management functions available
through geographic information systems (GIS) and database management systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTIONS</th>
<th>FUNCTION</th>
<th>APPROACH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can you map that?</td>
<td>Mapping</td>
<td>INVENTORY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where is what?</td>
<td>Management</td>
<td>DATA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where has it changed?</td>
<td>Temporal</td>
<td>INFORMATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What relationships exist?</td>
<td>Spatial</td>
<td>ANALYSIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where is it best?</td>
<td>Suitability</td>
<td>UNDERSTANDING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What affects what?</td>
<td>System</td>
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<td>What if ...?</td>
<td>Simulation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
5. **Common information requirements**
While every technical specialty requires unique information relevant to its own concerns, it also depends heavily on common or shared information requirements. These shared elements allow various users of information to place their own information in context and reach greater levels of understanding, coordination and integration. Central to all information elements are the following.

5.1 **Documentation of information (metadata):** the who, what, when, why, where and how of the data so that potential users can assess the value of the information for their purposes.

5.2 **Geographic information:** All aid programs deliver supplies and services to populations in a specific location. The ability to seamlessly communicate this information is essential to all levels of management.

5.3 **Who is Doing What Where (WDWW):** We Need to Know

5.4 **Demographics:** For the most part, agencies have been unable to cooperate in collecting demographic data. This is due in part to the perceived restrictions of survey instruments and organizational program interests. The shaded portions of the table below indicate age ranges of interest for the survey tools. The shadings were chosen for contrast purpose and carry no other significance. The age breakdowns and additional classes represent ranges that permit a minimum level of comparison. The major area of contention is the range for ages 6-19 that is the primary focus for education services yet of marginal use for health and nutrition organizations. On top of these variations are requirements for food aid that try to target socio-economic groupings defined to be vulnerable.

### Conflicting primary ranges of demographic data collection by major survey standard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranges/ Survey Tool</th>
<th>&lt;1</th>
<th>1 - 4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6 - 9</th>
<th>10 - 14</th>
<th>15 - 19</th>
<th>20 - 44</th>
<th>45 - 59</th>
<th>&gt;60</th>
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<th>Lactating</th>
<th>Female</th>
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<th>M/F</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hasty Health</td>
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<td>Demographic Profile</td>
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</table>

In estimating populations a demographic profile can be used to extrapolate from a known subset of the population. The standard profile (Sphere) is:

- Age 0-4/12.37%,
- 5-9/11.69%
10-14/10.53%
15-19/9.54%
20-59/48.63%
60+/7.24%
pregnant/2.4%
lactating/2.6%
male/female 50.84%/49.16%.

Such profiles do not always fit populations that have come through prolonged crises.

- Interagency efforts should focus on common elements of collection and of demographic profiling as part of a shared information collection effort.
- Sampling at the settlement level should be part of an ongoing process.

6. **Sector information requirements**

Key person interviews have been conducted with sector lead organizations and other concerned parties. Overall key impressions are that information and information management is fragmented, faulty, incomplete, unreliable and incompatible. Organizations are not able to cooperate within a sector framework. This is due to organizational inability to think beyond the narrow confines of the project cycle and the competition therein. Lead agencies are have conflicting interests between sector management responsibilities and implementation of their own programs.

6.1 **Education:** Key aspects of support to the education system are the issues of quantity and quality.
- Quantity means answering the questions of “is there access”, and “are there sufficient resources”.
- Quality refers to issues of curriculum, teacher training, and learning environment and performance.
- Most education programs deal with: build/renovate, text book delivery, teacher training, and expanding opportunities for education for boys and girls.
- All data should recorded at the individual school name/settlement level to facilitate varying levels of aggregation (i.e. service area, district, province).

- Demographic data
- Geographic data
- WDWW
- **Links:** School feeding (food aid), Governance (teacher stipends), infrastructure (reconstruction), water/sanitation/health, mine action

6.2 **Water and Sanitation:**
- Location of all Water sources
- Location of Watersheds
- Location of all water access points (safe/unsafe)
- Location and date of health/sanitation education
- Excreta disposal
• Solid Waste disposal
  o Rural solid waste disposal
  o Urban solid waste disposal
• Demographic data
• Geographic Data
• WDWW
• **Links: Health surveillance/OPD reporting of sanitation related diseases, urban infrastructure, water safety/accessibility, demining, agriculture (water source/quality/supply)**

6.3 Governance:
• Common, agreed, functionally and geographically defined administrative structure
• Geographically defined local administrative management units (shura, canal/karez maintenance districts, school districts, health service areas, watershed management.
• Government employee register and locations
• Internal security/police management
• Judicial system coverage
• Property rights
• Demographic data
• Geographic data
• WDWW
• **Links: all sectors**

6.4 Agriculture:
• Agricultural land use
• Land cover (biomass, water sources) carrying capacity
• Crop types, planting, production (surplus/deficit, processing, pest threat
• Meteorological monitoring
• Livestock health, historical herd size
• Market systems, availability and price analysis
• Infrastructure: Silos, Roads
• Irrigation systems
• Demographic data
• Geographic data
• WDWW
• **Links: water and sanitation, demining, and food security, returnees, health (nutrition), disaster mitigation and governance.**

6.5 Returnees:
• Source and destination (geographic data)
• Demographic data
• WDWW
• Infrastructure: Roads, services (schools, clinics, water, shelter)
• Mine Action
• Links: water and sanitation, health, agriculture, employment, security, education,

6.6 Urban Reconstruction
• Housing (status, availability)
• Municipal management and services
• Electrical generation/distribution
• Water supply and sewerage systems
• Solid waste disposal
• Road and transport systems
• Property rights
• Demographic data
• Geographic data
• WDWW
• Links: mine action, health, education, commerce/industry, financial systems

6.7 Health
• Locations of all health facilities
• Inventory, by health facility of all resources available/needs (staff, services, equipment, facilities repair)
• Standards for facility based care (staff, equipment, services, facilities)
• Periodic reporting by facility of patients, diagnosis, treatment, pharmaceutical/medical supply usage
• Epidemiological surveillance on specific diseases and generally for areas not covered by facility network
• Integrated system for communicating and using information between care delivery and surveillance systems
• Demographic data
• Geographic data
• WDWW
• Links: Water and sanitation, returnees (capacity), agriculture (food security), food aid, mine action

6.8 Food Aid
• Socio-economic classes of vulnerability by location.
• Economic basis
• Agricultural production
• Market analysis
• Infrastructure (transport, storage)
• Demographic data
• Geographic data
• WDWW
• **Links**: Health (nutrition), education, public works, labor/employment, weather, mine action

### 6.9 Infrastructure

- Public works resources (asphalt, cement, gravel, heavy equipment, etc) by location
- Road network (status and condition of road surface, tunnels, bridges, culverts)
- Canals (status and condition)
- Water systems (dams/reservoirs, water distribution/sewerage networks, water/sewerage treatment)
- Electrical generation and distribution
- Demographic data
- Geographic data
- WDWW
- **Links**: Mine action, health, education, agriculture, urban planning and reconstruction