A Message From Our Founder & Executive Director

"Our specialty is collecting data in very non-permissive, very dangerous
highly inaccessible areas, including police states. It's a niche that no one really fills... We can't solve problems that we don't understand."

- Justin Richmond

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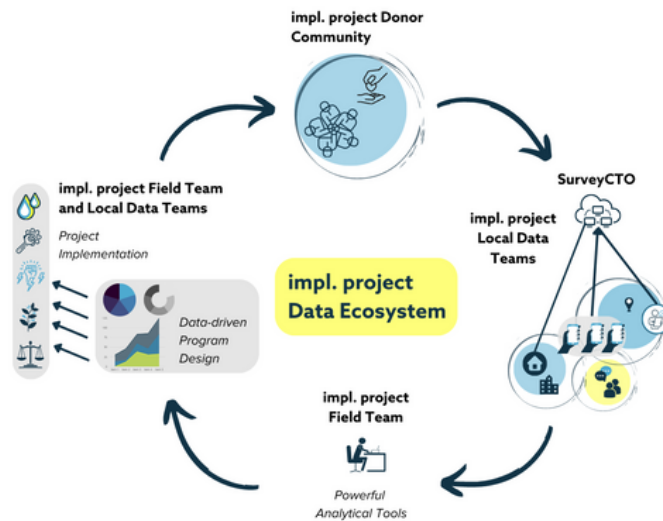in impl. project

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IMPL. PROJECT'S "DATA ECOSYSTEM" METHODOLOGY

The international donor community faces increasingly demanding programmatic environments, coupled with higher levels of scrutiny from oversight authorities. The confluence of these obstacles is found in the lack of quality quantitative and qualitative local data for programming, and the inability to monitor unique communities in ways that both capture the right information, but are also scalable.

IMPL. PROJECT addressed these obstacles through its robust methodology and technology toolkit, creating one-of-a-kind "Data Ecosystems" around the world.

Our Solution

IMPL. PROJECT's unique Data Ecosystem addresses barriers to programmatic success in unstable and fragile areas. First, our Data Ecosystem combines large scale quantitative perception survey collection with qualitative professional validation assessments to create a robust understanding of a focus community. Second, our Data Ecosystem establishes proxy indicators in the target communities to create both a baseline for understanding what stability looks like in the local context, and tracks progress over time with indicators correlated with the issues driving instability.

Datamapping Rationale

IMPL. PROJECT's methodology goes beyond logical frameworks to innovate on dynamic complexity mapping, reinforced by short data feedback loops. We begin with a robust quantitative perception survey data mapping effort for two reasons:

1) We distrust prevailing narratives on unstable communities, often put forth by outsiders with dated qualitative information and poor quality quantitative data.

2) We want to understand how a community frames its problems, its solutions, and who locals view as trusted actors.

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Perception Survey Design

1. Date	01-24-2017
2. Aid Organization	impl. project
3. Lat/Long	
4. Country	
5. Province	
6. Municipality	
7. Barangay	Taguig
8. Number of livestock (cows or horses) stolen from Abubakar this month?	0
9. Number of blood feuds/disputes resolved by the local ulama council this month?	4
10. Average number of boys in school per day?	204
11. Average number of girls in school per day	242
12. Average number of boys in HIGH SCHOOL	42

Community Functionality Indicators

8. Number of livestock (cows or horses) stolen from Abubakar this month?	0
9. Number of blood feuds/disputes resolved by the local ulama council this month?	4
0. Average number of boys in school per day?	204
1. Average number of girls in school per day	242
2. Average number of boys in HIGH SCHOOL per day?	42
3. Average number of girls in HIGH SCHOOL per day?	67
4. Number of businesses in Abubakar this month?	50
5. Average price of M-3 rice in Abubakar this month (in pesos/kg)	43
6. Number of AFP interactions with community this month?	1
7. Number of PNP interactions with the community this month?	0
8. Additional Notes	

This is the six straight month with no farmers removing their boys from school for labor. This trend correlates with the decrease in cattle rustling!

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Our Methodology

Data Mapping
We begin by building large, structured data sets by hiring locals who speak English and the target languages, training them in data literacy and our tech tools, and then tasking these teams on daily data mapping efforts. All of our data can be disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity, location, and numerous other variables. IMPL. PROJECT's turnaround time is fast - really fast. For example, on a data mapping project across five regions in Azerbaijan, IMPL. PROJECT collected more than 3,000 structured, geotagged surveys in just 10 days.

Analyze Data & Vet Systemic Causes
Once we have a broad, cross-sectoral view of local grievances from high-quality quantitative data, our team of experienced Monitoring, Evaluation, Research & Learning (MERL) professionals vet and validate the survey data by conducting qualitative assessments such as site surveys, key informant interviews (KIIs), and focus group discussions (FGDs). This enables IMPL. PROJECT to triangulate data sources to identify the drivers of vulnerability and their systemic causes.

Data Analysis & Establish Baselines
Once instability dynamics are delineated, we work with our local staff to create indicator reports from various sectors where the drivers of instability manifest themselves. These indicators create baselines of the relative health and resiliency of a community. IMPL. PROJECT's field research has led us to identify two fundamental components of resilient communities: positive collective action, and broad, inclusive stakeholdership. Our indicators reflect these dynamics locally.

Implementation
It is only after we have a broad, comprehensive view of a focus community, that we begin our implementation process, which focuses on building positive collective action and inclusive stakeholdership by addressing the validated systemic causes of community instability. Also, our local partners work closely with trusted local actors to build their data and tech capacities.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, & Learning (MERL)
All outputs, outcomes, and impacts are integrated via feedback loops into the Data Ecosystem, allowing IMPL. PROJECT, our donors and clients, and our partner communities to continually update our understanding of fluid programming environments and make critical adjustments.

Outcome & Impact Assessments
By collecting post-implementation surveys and utilizing our data-driven baseline measures, we are able to accurately assess the outputs, outcomes and impacts of our programming. These assessments are shared with donors and stakeholders and are used to inform our future programming.
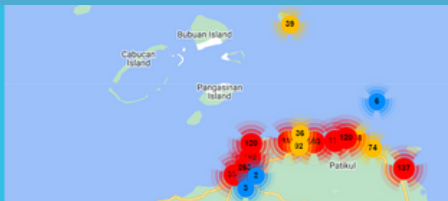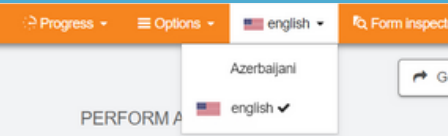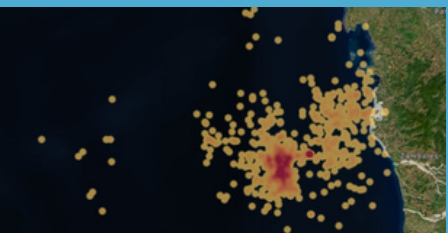
SurveyCTO Functionalities

SurveyCTO's built in capabilities include automatic functionalities like survey translation and survey location mapping.

Data Analysis & Visualization

In order to fully understand our community perception survey data, we visualize survey responses and qualitative data through graphs, charts, heatmaps and other graphic design products.

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Our Technology Toolkit

Robust methodologies are hard to implement due to the difficulty of gathering and analyzing granular data in unstable and often dangerous environments. IMPL. PROJECT's industry-leading technology toolkit overcomes these obstacles. While many organizations have succeeded in either implementing parts of good methodologies or deploying critical technology in the field, IMPL. PROJECT's success is based on combining all critical components together in one holistic, deployable, and effective approach: our comprehensive Data Ecosystem.

Leveraging Off the Shelf Software
A critical feature of IMPL. PROJECT's approach is that we only deploy commercial off the shelf software. Open-source and free software frequently lack the engineering support, positive user interface, and scalability that commercial software provides. Since high-quality, granular data is our starting point, we invest in commercial off the shelf survey software (SurveyCTO) and Apple iPhones and iPads to ensure smooth operation in austere and non-permissive environments.

Internet Free Operations
By using SurveyCTO, coupled with Apple iPhones and iPads, we have a stable, scalable data gathering platform that allows us to collect surveys and conduct assessments without an internet connection, while still obtaining critical GPS coordinates for every data point. All surveys and assessments are cached on the smart device until the collections team reaches an internet connection and uploads the data to our cloud-based servers where expat staff is able to view a backend data dashboard.

Accountability & Transparency
Our donor organizations can view and monitor these collection efforts in near-real time via web-based dashboards. Critically, our tool kit allows for donors to trace the origin of data sources, ensuring the highest quality data through transparency and pedigree.

Powerful Data Analytics
IMPL. PROJECT's field teams exports our data into advanced analytical tools for data integration, visualization, and analysis. We heatmap the data geospatially by a variety of disaggregated factors to understand how issues affect communities and demographic groups differently. These analysis tools also give our local partner NGOs the ability to map the complexity of the data.