Disaster Response Innovation Fund

FLOWMINDER FOUNDATION
Rapid Mobility Estimates from CDR for Efficient Disaster Response

The Flowminder project aims to provide mobile operators and their partners with the open source code needed to set up a system for monitoring population flows before and after a disaster.

A key challenge in humanitarian crises is to obtain timely, accurate, high-resolution, national information about numbers and locations of displaced people. Traditional methods, such as survey-based assessments provide crucial information in this regard, however, they are time-consuming, costly and often biased. De-identified mobile phone call detail records (CDRs) can be used to study human behaviour and mobility patterns at a large scale and in near real-time.

The GSMA grant will enable Flowminder to scale an open source code base developed through collaboration between Flowminder, the World Food Programme, and Digicel Haiti. The source code will be installed at operator data centres in-country, enabling operators or their partners to provide automated analytics to understand where best to target relief efforts immediately after a crisis.

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