

Project information on OSCAR

Towards a common decision support system for health emergencies

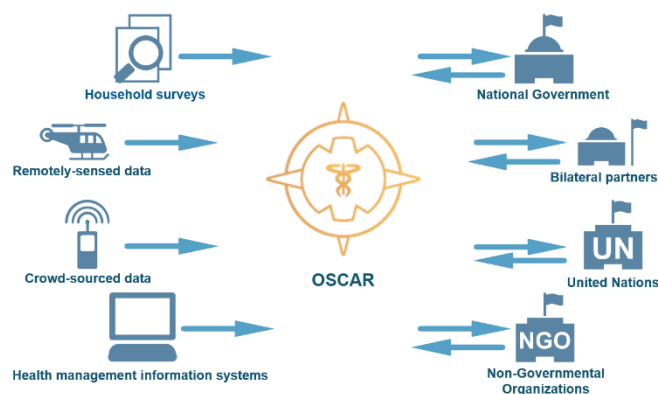
OSCAR

The adequate use of information is essential in health crises to react quickly and appropriately and to use limited resources efficiently and effectively. Nevertheless, this task often falls short. OSCAR as an innovative platform for digital decision support allows for the analysis of large datasets for emergency preparedness and response. OSCAR adds value by better coordinated and more effective support when faced with emergencies. In addition, it offers large potentials for routine health planning processes.

The Solution

In humanitarian crises, we often know too little and too late. Without knowledge on the scope of an emergency and available resources, urgently required response is frequently not allocated to those who need it most. To help to address this challenge, we developed a common digital decision support system for humanitarian operations - OSCAR. The free and open source platform brings together data from various sources to form a common operational picture and enables respective analyses. Thus, enabling the prioritization of scarce human and financial resources. At the same time, OSCAR creates a suitable data basis for decisions on immediate measures, but also with a longer planning horizon. The platform is customized to a country's context and needs, is open source and can easily be scaled geographically and to other sectors.

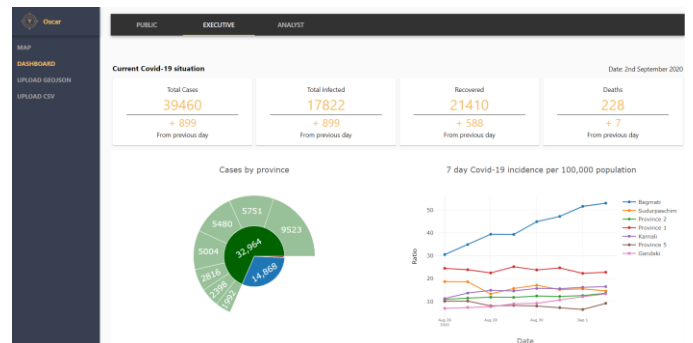
OSCAR is an integrated information platform... containing baseline and situational data from various sources...



OSCAR's modular architecture allows for the inclusion of a broad range of existing tools and applications such as health information systems, surveillance tools or remote sensing applications (incl. outside sources such as from the EU's Copernicus Earth observation project following an earthquake etc.). Source: KfW Group

OSCAR in COVID-19 context - Use Case Nepal

For weeks, Nepal remained largely untouched by COVID-19; however, since mid-May the number of infections has been rising there, too. A crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic hits a country like Nepal, with wide-spread poverty and limited capacities in the health sector, particularly hard. To help the country manage the pandemic better, OSCAR is currently being deployed in Nepal. Propelled by swift cooperation of Nepal's Ministry of Health and Population, WHO Country Office and KfW OSCAR is at an advanced stage of conceptual and data systemic development: the platform provides an up-to-date overview on daily and cumulative case numbers, disease severity, trends and available vs. occupied health care capacity.



Screenshot of OSCAR's COVID-19 Dashboard applied to Nepal. Source: KfW Group

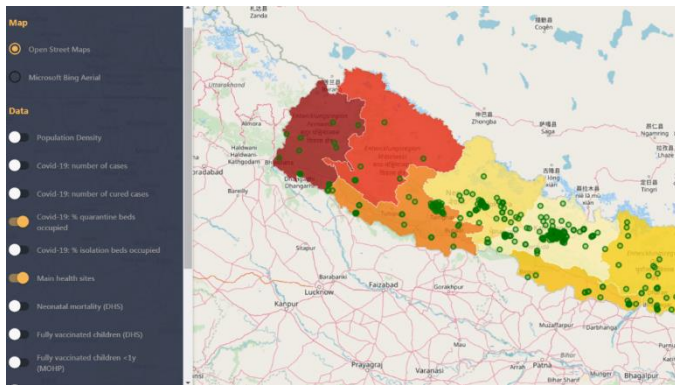
OSCAR will be applied to and coordinated in several countries for strengthening health crises response. Furthermore, an OSCAR open source community will be established to contribute to the success of the platform by continuously improving code and developing further use cases tailored to emerging needs.

Project name	OSCAR
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country/ Region	Partner Countries in Asia, such as Nepal (and worldwide if applicable)
Lead executing agency	Ministries of Health or equivalent

Impact and long-term Vision

The COVID-19 pandemic leads to immense as well as immediate losses of lives and well-being globally, with enormous social and economic costs associated. As we strive to build a global good, OSCAR is fully owned, utilized and advanced by partner countries as well as development partners. In the medium-term, the sustainability of OSCAR is ensured through the engagement with the open-source community.

In the long-term, OSCAR supports the improvement of routine planning processes in health systems and supports countries in their preparation for future pandemics. The application of OSCAR will benefit partnering countries in several ways: 1) monitoring of trends in health data at various levels, 2) rapidly detecting outbreaks and health crises, 3) combining capacity and epidemiological information to determine risks, 4) determining current and future health service demands.



Screenshot of the Demo version of OSCAR applied to Nepal. Source: KfW Group

Open-source community

OSCAR is currently supported by several organizations and institutions who help to develop and expand the platform. The German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is the original funder of the initiative, which is coordinated by KfW. KfW as well as its development partners are supporting an Open Data policy so that all development will be done under an Open Source license. Therefore, the OSCAR platform welcomes development partners as well as developers with global, regional or local reach to combine their efforts to create and maintain a sustainable, open-source tool and community of practice that improves and powers decision-making in health emergencies.

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