

From the director's desk

Dear CE-DAT friends,

There's a spring in the CE-DAT team's step as we've worked hard over the last few months to provide you with new and better tools for viewing and analyzing epidemiological data from complex emergency situations. In January 2008, we organised a successful Technical Advisory Group meeting that saw the launch of a new database interface and website with new research tools. We hope to use this newsletter to introduce you to the new powerful research applications of the CE-DAT website and, as always, solicit your input as to how we can improve the information we provide to you.

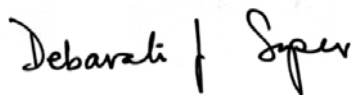
This month CE-DAT published a report on the Democratic Republic of Congo report and has continued to provide technical assistance to our NGO partners.

This coming April, CE-DAT will be holding its Expert Group Meeting to discuss emerging issues in survey quality and completeness evaluation, filling gaps in survey data through surveillance information, and techniques for surveying urban refugees.

This February, UNICEF's representative to Somalia declared it "the forgotten crisis" and stated that emergency feeding programs could be shut down in the month of March without an appropriate donor response. Somalia has been area of concern to CE-DAT team and was highlighted as an emergency at risk of being forgotten in the September 2007 edition of the CE-DAT Scene newsletter. Once again, we would appreciate your feedback to understand how we can better highlight emergencies in our work, so that they do not become forgotten.

As always, we welcome your feedback. Please let us know whether the information we provide is helpful, and do not hesitate to make requests for analysis if there are areas being overlooked.

Thank you for your continued support!



Debby Sapir, director

CE-DAT on your desktop

CE-DAT has created a [Google Gadget](#) for receiving current reports on the latest CE-DAT entered epidemiological surveys right on your [iGoogle Desktop](#). This gadget has customizable user settings that you can adjust by clicking on the arrow button in the top right hand corner. To add this gadget click [here](#).



For more new CE-DAT research and policy tools please see page 2.

CE-DAT Geographic Information System



CE-DAT now allows users to view CE-DAT data in space through the use of [Google Maps](#) and KML files designed for use in [Google Earth](#).

In the image at left, crude mortality rate data from the complex emergency database is portrayed on satellite and map images using a [Google Maps](#) application located on the [CE-DAT website homepage](#).

CE-DAT is a global database on the human impact of conflicts and other complex humanitarian emergencies and serves as a unique source of health indicators for monitoring conflict-affected populations and for the production of trend analyses, impact briefings and policy recommendations

To subscribe to *CE-DAT Scene* click [here](#). To unsubscribe click [here](#).

Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters

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CE-DAT Geographic Information System (Cont'd)

The different coloured icons represent differing degrees of survey indicator (e.g. crude mortality) severity. Using your mouse and the zoom buttons, you can zoom into different areas of the map and follow survey data down to the camp, town, and regional level.

By clicking on points, you reveal the details of the survey and can follow a link to read the full survey entry in CE-DAT online.

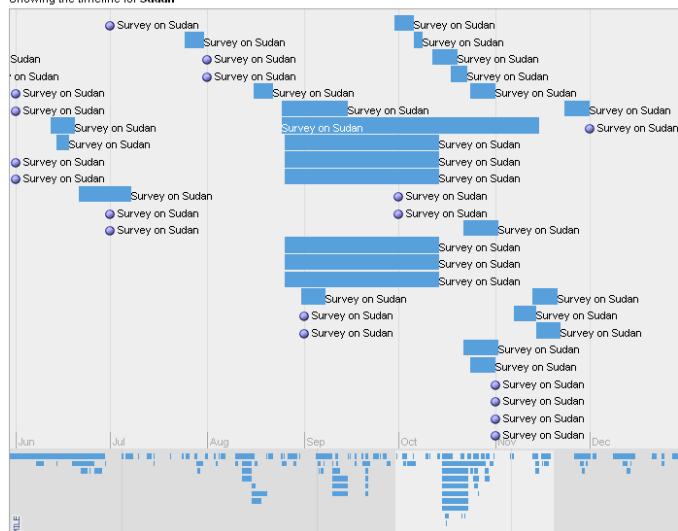
Spatial survey data is also available off the web, by downloading KML files that can be opened with the free software [Google Earth](#). This format allows users greater freedom in viewing and manipulating the data for research purposes. Click here for the [web](#) and [KML](#).

CE-DAT chronological data

CE-DAT now allows users to visualize data by country across time in a timeline application. The application lists indicators as bars for data that represent time averages and points for data that represent point estimates. You can choose the country you wish to see from the menu and scroll through the country timeline using the scrollbar at the bottom of the page. The picture at left shows a timeline for epidemiological survey data from Sudan. The section of the timeline being viewed is highlighted in the scrollbar at the bottom of the page.

To obtain the values listed in surveys, clicking on a bar or point will take you to the entry for that survey in the online complex emergency database.

Showing the timeline for Sudan



Should you wish to provide CE-DAT with your feedback on this or other visualisation tools, please feel free to contact us at contact@cedat.be. To try out the timeline tool, please click [here](#).

**Assessing Public Health
in Emergency Situations**
July 7-18th, 2008



Network Zone

CE-DAT has incorporated a network zone in its website that allows network members to participate in a forum and discuss the latest issues in complex emergency research and policy with a health focus.

It also provides members with the ability to have CE-DAT content catered to their needs through a personal homepage that currently includes RSS feeds and an RSS aggregator. RSS is an online standard for syndicating content, like newsfeeds. Currently, CE-DAT has set up an RSS feed with up to the minute information on recent surveys entered into the complex emergency online database, posts to the network zone discussion forum, and humanitarian news. The network zone also allows members to message one another through the use of web forms. You can subscribe to (e.g. add) the CE-DAT RSS in your web browser or email client by clicking on an RSS icon (like the one below).

For more information about RSS, click [here](#).

Recent CE-DAT surveys

Rapport preliminaire. Enquete nutritionnelle et mortalite retrospective. Province de Ngozi, Burundi
November 23, 2007

Nutritional Anthropometric and Retrospective Mortality Surveys: Bentiou and Rob Kona Town.
November 4, 2007

Nutrition survey report. Dessie Zuria woreda, South Wollo Zone, Amhara Region.
October 3, 2007

Findings of a Nutrition Assessment of Umshaleya, West Darfur.
October 2, 2007

Nutrition survey report. Kalu woreda, South Wollo Zone, Amhara Region.
September 5, 2007,

NICS 14, September 2007-
July 31, 2007

CE-DAT and CRED News

Upcoming Event

2nd CE-DAT Expert Group Meeting April 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Coming soon...

Comprehensive conflict profiles for all complex emergencies in CE-DAT www.cedat.be

Recently published

Guha-Sapir, DG et al. 2008 DR Congo report.

TAG January 2008 [Meeting proceedings](#).

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