



Acronym: DEPHA
Full Name: Data Exchange Platform for the Horn of Africa
Website: www.depha.org
Established: 2002
Location: Nairobi, Kenya

Areas of expertise: Acquisition, development and dissemination of geographic information system (GIS) products and services.

Main Partners and collaborations: Kenya's Electoral Commission, National Environmental Mapping Agency (NEMA) and the Sudanese National Survey Department, RCMRD (Regional Center for Mapping of Resources for Development) and DMC (Drought Monitoring Center).

Short Description:

The Data Exchange Platform for the Horn of Africa is an inter-agency initiative of the UN and other humanitarian organizations operating in the Horn of Africa. It was launched in 2002 to meet mission-critical data and services and increase information base for humanitarian, emergency and development communities in the seven countries of the Horn, namely - Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, and Uganda.

The goal of DEPHA is to promote the awareness, application and availability of geographic information with the aim of improving access to accurate, timely and reliable data to assist in the prevention, mitigation and preparation for disasters as they occur in the Horn of Africa. Therefore, the main objectives of DEPHA are the increase of exchange of data and access to international data and resources but also the improvement of data management and data management capacity.

Main activities:

The main activities of DEPHA are acquisition, development and dissemination of geographic information system (GIS) products and services including: Data Archival, Documentation, Editing and Distribution, GIS Analysis and Map Production, WEB Hosting and Services. Some tools offered at the Website of DEPHA are the data dictionary, which provides listings of the GIS data that is available from DEPHA with summary information describing source and projection. Also, DEPHA maintains an archive of GIS data for public distribution. This information has been compiled from a wide variety of sources. In addition, DEPHA Disaster Desk provides background or context for important events within the region that prompt humanitarian/development response and consequently mapping products. Finally, DEPHA owns a map library, that includes general base maps suitable for general cartographic reference as well as specialized map products depicting specific information.

Coming projects of DEPHA between 2010 and 2011 are the flood assessment of the Region and the vulnerability mapping for food security.

Contact:

Address: UNITED NATIONS COMPLEX
United Nations Avenue, Gigiri Block X, Grid-Lab
P.O Box 30552-(00100)

Telephone: 254-20 7624186/95/3384

Email: info.depha@unep.org

Source: Data Exchange Platform for the Horn of Africa (DEPHA) and UNEP