McAID: Information Management System
(Designed, developed and implemented by MIS unit of Nobo Jibon program)

1. Overview

McAID (www.mcaid.info) is a mobile web-based software database system designed for management of operational program data from remote locations through mobile handsets or modems. It was first developed during 2005 during the first phase of USAID funded MYAP Title II program (called *Jibon-O-Jibika*) implemented by Save the Children in Bangladesh. Initially it was a PDA-based system, which was used to gather primary data in an offline mechanism that covered mostly for MCHN beneficiary nutrition status tracking and commodity accounting purposes.

Original functionalities were reviewed during the second phase of USAID funded MYAP Title II program in Bangladesh (called *Nobo Jibon*) to make the modified McAID fast adaptable that can serve cost effective data management objective across multiple program components and can enable MIS operation through partner NGOs having no high end data management IT infrastructures.

2. Objective

- Tracking beneficiary electronically.
- Aggregate performance data centrally.
- Reduce paper-trailed compilation burden.
- Time saving & cost effective data management.
- Accurate, consistent, time sensitive reporting.
- Streamline accountability and internal control

3. Use of Smartphone for remote access

Primary data inputs are made by the frontline staff at partner NGOs through locally available handheld SmartPhones. 500 SmartPhones are deployed. Necessary trainings are provided on how to operate for data gathering. Remote locations are connected via data connectivity services provided by GSM mobile service operators available in country.

4. Monthly operations using McAID platform

Large number of users and beneficiaries served each month. McAID services facilitate fast visibility over micro level performance data and expedite wider access to information at different levels;

- Real time unique ID generation, registration profile management for program participants (MCHN, Livelihoods, DRR etc).
- Service and food recipient record keeping, reconciliation.
- Automation of Food distribution planning, commodity accounting, warehouse inventory tracking; BL-specific stock positions, loss reporting, FFP/QWICR and SCI/GIK reporting, reconciliation.
- Progress monitoring centrally against periodic targets set forth for M&E indicators.
- GIS data management and facilitation of GIS analytics such as -
  o GPS for the discrete location for project and activity.
  o Thematic data for demographic indicators, built infrastructure, environmental feature etc.
  o Plotting of project operational performance data.

5. Features of McAID services

- User-friendly options that allow administrators to modify data validation rules, adding new parameters making the system fast adaptable for new intervention.
- Manages digital signature specimen that reduces cost for logistics and help to publish crucial auditable reports over the internet.
- Flexible feature to setup rules and automate compilation of micro level data.
- Features that allow users to use GIS having no high end exposure to use specialized GIS systems.
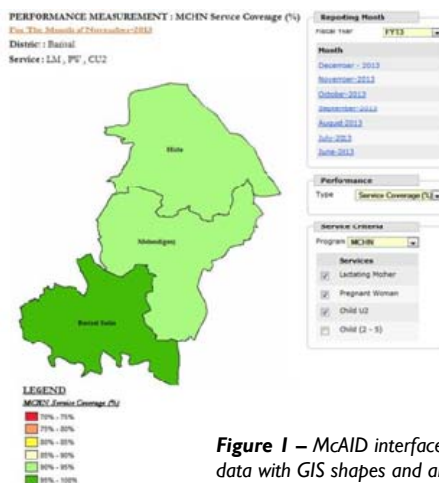

Figure 1 – McAID interfaces program operation data with GIS shapes and allows users to track periodic performances.

6. MIS Data Center

McAID is a centralized database management system; secured with firewall and antivirus, and an independent power source to keep it live and operational for 24 hours in the event of power outage. Data Center is placed at SCI; is maintained by the ICT staff and hosted by NJ/MIS staff.

7. Collaboration across agencies

Dynamic structure of McAID demonstrated versatile capacities to formulate and implement an electronic information management support put in place across SCI for different programs.

In the event it is shared across agencies, then a formal MoU is offered to the interested agencies for cost sharing of recurrent bandwidth, procurement of appliances, server maintenance and associated staff time in order to provide necessary training for the recipient agencies from SCI Nobo Jibon MIS unit.

Agency	Program
Save the Children	Nobo Jibon
ACDI VOCA	PROSHAR
iDE	Agriculture & Nutrition Extension Project (ANEP)
WorldFish CENTER	Feed the Future

Figure 2 – Collaboration through McAID with program interventions across agencies.

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