

Conducting field survey using MerginMaps

A field survey using MerginMaps requires extensive training to enumerators on how to use MerginMaps and conduct data collection accurately and efficiently. Besides training to enumerators, a curtailed training to a person with GIS knowledge to act as a survey coordinator who will setup/modify forms in MerginMaps and performs/monitors the synchronization of collected data with the use of QGIS software is required. The IMIS Field Data Collection User Manual for Coordinator and IMIS Field Data Collection User Manual for Enumerators are attached with this report. An elaborate training shall be provided for both Coordinator and Enumerators before the commencement of survey. A general workflow for conducting a field survey using MerginMaps is as follows:

- Designing the Survey Form in QGIS that includes the required data fields to capture information during the field survey. The form needs to be tailored to specific data collection needs.
 - Configuring the GIS data and survey form in QGIS before conducting the survey in the field such that there is direct linkage between survey form with the relevant data layers with needed styling, field validation rules and skip logics. It is essential to incorporate data validation rules with the survey form to minimize errors during the field data collection.
 - Acquiring necessary space privilege on MerginMaps for data storage by purchasing a suitable plan that is most appropriate as the requirement of the project and transferring the QGIS project in MerginMaps.
 - Providing elaborate training to both coordinator and enumerators about the use of MerginMaps applications (web and mobile apps). Enumerators are given training related to mobile application only whereas coordinators are given training related to both mobile and web applications. Mobile application is primarily used during the field survey whereas web application is meant both for configuring the survey as well as monitoring and synchronization of collected field data.
 - Collection of data in the field by enumerators with a mobile device loaded with MerginMaps application. Enumerators can collect data and input the information directly into the digital form.
 - Synchronizing data collected in the field with the central database using MerginMaps cloud. The step ensure that all data is consolidated and updated in the main GIS database of the project. Enumerator performs the synchronization of data once the surveyors have a strong internet connection. Synchronizing data using mobile data connection is not recommended.
 - Regular monitoring of collected data by coordinators to ensure that any inconsistencies or inaccuracies are identified and addressed properly by conveying the information to field enumerators through supervisors.
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Revision #1

Created 20 May 2024 10:06:46

Updated 28 January 2025 05:17:37