

# Grocery Facilities Survey and GIS Mapping Abu Dhabi, UAE

In February 2011, EDESSA was retained by **SOLVING EFESO** to conduct a **field survey** and **data collection campaign** for groceries located within Metropolitan Abu Dhabi and to develop a **GIS database** of the collected information.

The objective of the field survey and GIS database was to **collect real and up to date information** in order to develop a new strategy for the construction and operation of new grocery facilities within the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. This data was compiled, validated and uploaded onto a GIS database to **provide spatial distribution** of the groceries across the project area.

The collected information and data entry fell under one of the following four categories:



**1. General Information** related to ownership, trade license, employment, nationalities, languages spoken by employees, date of establishment, etc.

**2. External and Internal Physical Conditions** of the grocery such as façade, shutters, signage, appearance, selling area, counters, equipment, type of merchandize, site layout, shelves, partition, etc.

**3. Financial Information** related to rent, profit, salaries, etc.

**4. Staff Data** such as number of employees, nationalities, education, etc.

A team of 18 trained engineers conducted the field survey over a period of 2 months, surveying over 1,350 facilities. The information was documented using handheld Personal Digital Assistance (PDAs), photographs and sketches. Data and information were collected through interviews, actual observations and real measurements.

After all data had been collected on the ground and verified, EDESSA developed fact sheets summarizing data for individual groceries compiling the information, photos, sketches and collected documents. Consequently, a GIS database was created integrating incorporating all of the collected data. At the end of the project, EDESSA implemented a training program to demonstrate and train client employees on the use and manipulation of the database

