

This service summarizes current satellite mapping activities of interest to GDACS stakeholders. It is issued weekly and based on contributions from map-producing entities and GDACS partners.

Satellite mapping overview

As of 7 April 2015

Africa

Cameroon complex emergency – GLIDE number: CE-2014-0617-NGA

As a result of escalating violence related to Boko Haram terrorism thousands of Nigerian civilians sought refuge in the Minawao camp located into the Mayo-Tsanaga District, Far North Province of Cameroon. UNITAR-UNOSAT recently published a map of satellite-detected shelters and other buildings at the Minawao refugee settlement. Analysis of WorldView-2 satellite imagery acquired on 10 March 2015 revealed a total of 5,220 structures within the 261 hectares of the settlement area. Approximately 4027 of these are tent shelters, 903 are improvised shelters and 290 are administrative buildings. This map product is available for download as a PDF on the UNITAR-UNOSAT website. Accompanying data in shapefile and ESRI geodatabase format can also be accessed through UNITAR-UNOSAT's product link.

Source: UNITAR-UNOSAT

Link: <http://www.unitar.org/unosat/maps/NGA>

Asia

India Flood– GLIDE number: TBD

Heavy and incessant rains over the last week of March resulted into flash floods and landslides flash floods in the Jammu and Kashmir State in India. Different areas of the Jhelum river basin including the summer capital Srinagar have been affected by flooding. A landslide event caused the death of 16 people in Chadoora. The International Charter for Space and Major Disasters was activated on 30 of March by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) released a satellite-based flood map of the Kashmir valley along the Jhelum River based on TerraSAR-X and RISAT-1 satellite images acquired on 02 April 2015. NRSC's map is available for online viewing and download in JPEG format on the International Charter for Space and Major Disasters website.

Sources: International Charter for Space and Major Disasters

Links: <https://www.disasterscharter.org/web/guest/-/flood-in-india>

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Europe

Greece flood – GLIDE number: EMSR122*

Several days of heavy rainfall resulted in flooding over the Strymonas River basin in the northern Greece. On 31 of March local authorities declared a state of emergency for the area of Serres in the Eastern Macedonia and Thrace region. Due to the magnitude of this event the Strymonas River burst its banks and flood waters affected thousands of hectares of farmland including local infrastructures. In an effort to aid Disaster Response Authorities, the Copernicus Emergency Management Service produced reference and delineation maps for floods in the areas of Valtotopi, Mavrothalassa and Achinos. As of 07 of April, Copernicus released 3 flood delineation maps over the area using COSMO-SkyMed satellite imagery of 01, 02 and 03 April. Satellite based analysis of 02 April identified 7,337 hectares of flooded area with approximately 1600 potential affected inhabitants. Map products are available in JPEG, PDF and TIFF formats as well as a downloadable zipped vector package on the Copernicus Emergency Management Service website. Data can also be accessed in GeoTIFF, GeoPDF, GeoJPEG and vector (shapefile and KML) formats.

Source: Copernicus Emergency Management Service

Link: <http://emergency.copernicus.eu/mapping/list-of-components/EMSR122>

North America

United States flood – GLIDE number: TBD

Due to the combined effects of snow melting and heavy rains of the first weeks of March 2015, the United States has experienced an atypical flooding on the Ohio and Lower Mississippi Rivers. On 17 March, the NASA Earth Observatory acquired satellite imagery of this event and produced one map. Satellite detected waters are The Dartmouth Flood Observatory's analysis of recent satellite imagery within the past 14 days indicates flooding in Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. In particular flood waters have been identified along the Ohio and lower Mississippi rivers near Evansville, Owensboro, Paducah and Cairo areas. The Dartmouth Flood Observatory website provides for online viewing of its map product as well as download in GeoTIFF, JPEG, PDF, and KMZ file formats. NASA Earth Observatory's map products are available for online viewing and download in JPEG format on its website.

Source: Dartmouth Flood Observatory, NASA Earth Observatory

Links: <http://floodobservatory.colorado.edu/Version3/2015USA4230.html>

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=85539>

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Oceania

Vanuatu tropical cyclone – GLIDE number: TC-2015-000023-VUT

On 14 March 2015 tropical cyclone Pam made landfall over the island nation of Vanuatu. Classified as a Category Five storm at the time, winds reached up to 300 kilometers per hour and caused widespread damage and destruction. In anticipation of storm, the International Charter for Space and Major Disasters was activated on 12 March 2015 by UNITAR-UNOSAT on behalf of UNOCHA. UNITAR/UNOSAT recently published a report of estimated damage statistics produced for parts of Vanuatu. Damage estimates are based upon UNITAR/UNOSAT analysis of satellite imagery acquired 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 March 2015. This report is part of an on-going satellite monitoring program of UNITAR/UNOSAT for the Vanuatu cyclone in support of international humanitarian assistance and created to respond to the needs of UN agencies and their partners. UNITAR-UNOSAT's report is available for download as a PDF on its website.

Sources: UNITAR-UNOSAT

Links: <http://www.unitar.org/unosat/maps/VUT>

<https://www.disasterscharter.org/web/guest/-/cyclone-in-vanuatu>

South America

Chile flood– GLIDE number: FL-2015-000027-CHL

As a result of exceptional storms that began on 24 of March, disastrous flash flooding hit the Atacama and Antofagasta regions in northern Chile. According to last official reports, 29,741 people have been affected by the disaster with a death toll of 24 victims. On 25 March the government declared a state of emergency for the Atacama region. In the Copiapo River basin, as a result of an abnormal torrential runoff the river overflowed its banks resulting into a muddy waters flooding in the city. The International Charter for Space and Major Disasters was activated on 25 of March by Chile's National Emergency Office of the Interior Minister (ONEMI). Using RapidEye satellite imagery acquired on 27 March 2015, the Information Centre of Natural Resources (CIREN) recently published a map product that shows flooded areas at Copiapó, in the Atacama Region of Chile. MapAction with the support of UNITAR-UNOSAT released 4 maps showing satellite images before and after the flash flood event that affected El Salado and Chañaral in the Chañaral province of Atacama. CIREN's map is available for online viewing and download in JPEG format on the International Charter for Space and Major Disasters website. Map Actions's map products are available for online viewing and download as PDF on the reliefweb website.

Sources: International Charter for Space and Major Disasters, reliefweb

Links: <https://www.disasterscharter.org/web/guest/-/flood-in-chile>

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<http://reliefweb.int/map/chile/chile-floods-el-salado-east-4-april-2015>

<http://reliefweb.int/map/chile/chile-floods-east-chanaral-3-april-2015>

<http://reliefweb.int/map/chile/chile-floods-west-chanaral-4-april-2015>

<http://reliefweb.int/map/chile/chile-floods-el-salado-4-april-2015>

This summary is compiled by the GDACS mapping & satellite imagery coordination mechanism, operated by the UNITAR Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT).

When referring to this summary, please credit: GDACS, UNITAR-UNOSAT.

For comments, questions and to submit information on satellite image derived products, please contact:
maps@gdacs.org

Sources indicate satellite analysis production entities and imagery providers. The products referenced in this summary are based on remote satellite imagery and may not be validated in the field prior to release, in which case findings are based only on what is observed in the satellite imagery.

**Not an official GLIDE number, as event has no entry in GLIDE database, but used by GDACS for seamless information integration.*