

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 16 February 2015

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo volcanoes – GLIDE number: TBD

The NASA Earth Observatory recently detected activity in two volcanoes located near the equator in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The volcanoes are called Nyamuragira and Nyiragongo. Nyamuragira is the most active volcano in Africa and Nyiragongo contains the largest known lava lake on Earth. The two volcanoes are situated 15 kilometers apart from one another, north of the Congolese city of Goma. Satellite imagery acquired 09 February 2015 shows plumes of steam and volcanic gases billowing out of both volcanoes and moving in a southwest direction. This map product is available for online viewing and download in GeoTIFF and JPEG formats on the NASA Earth Observatory website.

Source: NASA Earth Observatory

Link: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=85273&eocn=home&eoci=nh>

Mozambique and Malawi floods – GLIDE number: FL20150112MOZ

Heavy rainfall has affected Mozambique and Malawi since late December 2014. The International Charter for Space and Major Disasters was activated by the Malawi Department of Disaster Management Affairs on 08 January 2015. UNITAR-UNOSAT and the Dartmouth Flood Observatory continue to monitor the situation and recently released maps of the latest flooding. UNITAR-UNOSAT analysis of satellite imagery acquired 03, 07, and 13 February 2015 revealed ongoing flooding in the Maganja Da Costa, Namacura, Caia, Chemba, Mopeia, Mutarara and Morrumbala Districts of Mozambique, as well as the Chikwawa and Nsanje Districts of Malawi. Flood waters in Maganja Da Costa and Namacura decreased moderately between 18 January 2015 and 03 February 2015. As of early February 2015, flooding had impacted approximately 52,700 hectares of land in these regions. Between 04 and 13 February 2015, flood waters in the Districts of Caia, Chemba, Mopeia, Mutarara, Morrumbala, and Nsanje receded by roughly eight percent. The Dartmouth Flood Observatory's analysis of recent satellite imagery confirms that flooding has decreased in these areas within the past 14 days. UNITAR-UNOSAT map products are available for download as PDFs on its website. Accompanying data in shapefile and ESRI geodatabase format are also accessible through UNITAR-UNOSAT product links. 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.

Sources: UNITAR-UNOSAT, Dartmouth Flood Observatory

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

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<http://floodobservatory.colorado.edu/Version3/2015Malawi4219.html>

Europe

Southwest Europe snow storm – GLIDE number: TBD

In early February 2015, southwest Europe experienced a record-breaking winter snow storm. The NASA Earth Observatory acquired satellite imagery of the storm's snowy remnants on 09 February 2015 and subsequently produced a map. In the map, snow visibly blankets the Cantabrian Mountains, the Pyrenees, the Alps, and the Massif Central. This product is available for online viewing and download in JPEG format on the NASA Earth Observatory website.

Source: NASA Earth Observatory

Link: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=85283&eocn=home&eoci=nh>

Middle East

Iraq complex emergency – GLIDE number: CE20140613IRQ

Violence in Iraq has caused a significant movement of IDPs within the country. REACH, a joint initiative of ACTED, IMPACT Initiative, and UNITAR-UNOSAT recently released updated general infrastructure maps for four IDP camps located in the Ninewa, Anbar, and Duhok Governorates. Satellite imagery was incorporated into these maps of the Essian, Mamilian, Al Obaidi, and Moquble IDP camps. General infrastructure depicted in the maps includes offices, schools, health facilities, kitchens, distribution points, storage units, registration and community areas, shops, mosques, boreholes, fuel depots, electrical poles, generators, roads, and areas under construction. Map products in English and Arabic are available for online viewing and download as PDFs on the REACH website.

Source: REACH

Link: http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/advanced-search?name_list%5B%5D=IQ&field_document_type_tid%5B%5D=4

Syria complex emergency – GLIDE number: CE20130604SYR

As a result of ongoing conflict in Syria, the city of Kobane in Aleppo Governorate recently experienced substantial damage and destruction. Syrian citizens continue to flee the country in search of refuge. Using satellite imagery acquired 22 January 2015 and 06 September 2014, UNITAR-UNOSAT identified a total of 3,247 affected structures in a city-wide damage assessment of Kobane. Approximately 1,206 of these structures were destroyed, 1,169 severely damaged, and 872 moderately damaged. A total of 979 impact craters were also detected within Kobane and its immediate surroundings. The UNHCR and REACH incorporated satellite imagery from 11 November

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2014 into a map of emergency shelter locations for refugees within Jordan’s Al Za’atari camp. More than 40 emergency shelters are visible within five of the camp’s districts. The UNITAR-UNOSAT damage assessment is available for download as a PDF on the UNITAR-UNOSAT website. Accompanying data in shapefile and ESRI geodatabase format are also accessible through UNITAR-UNOSAT product links. The UNHCR and REACH map is available for online viewing and download as a PDF.

Sources: UNITAR-UNOSAT, UNHCR, REACH

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

<http://reliefweb.int/map/jordan/jordan-al-zaatari-refugee-camp-emergency-shelter-locations-8-february-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:

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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.*