GDACS
Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System

GDACS is a cooperation framework between the United Nations, the European Commission and disaster managers worldwide to improve alerts, information exchange and coordination in the first phase after major sudden-onset disasters.

United Nations and the European Commission

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 20 April 2015

Africa

Burundi landslide – GLIDE number: LS20150409BDI

On 29 March 2015 heavy rainfall caused flash floods and landslides south of the capital Bujumbura in Burundi. Using satellite imagery acquired 03 April 2014 and 27 December 2014, UNITAR-UNOSAT delineated the main landslide area and identified damage in the village of Rutunga, located 25 kilometers south of Bujumbura. More than two kilometers of the third National Highway were significantly impacted and over 60 structures were found to be severely damaged or destroyed. A missing area of shoreline terrain that possibly collapsed as a result of the storm was also identified by UNITAR-UNOSAT. This map product is available for download as a PDF on the UNITAR-UNOSAT website.

Source: UNITAR-UNOSAT

Link: http://www.unitar.org/unosat/maps/BDI

Asia

Siberia wildfires – GLIDE number: TBD

Annual agricultural fires set by farmers in southern Siberia were exacerbated in April 2015 due to atypical warm temperatures and strong winds. Several fires became widespread and uncontrollable, devastating villages and leaving thousands of residents homeless. The NASA Earth Observatory acquired satellite imagery of the wildfires on 14 April 2015 and produced a situational overview map. Numerous wildfires were detected in the Zabaikalsky Territory of Siberia. Subsequent smoke plumes and burn scars were also visible in the region. This map 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=85707&eocn=home&eoci=nh

Middle East

Yemen complex emergency – GLIDE number: CE20150402YEM

As a result of the conflict in Yemen, parts of the country have been left without electricity. UNITAR-UNOSAT recently published a map which illustrates satellite-detected areas of visible light at night

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time in western Yemen. Satellite imagery acquired 13 April 2015 and 20 March 2015 was used to decipher between areas illuminated prior to and following the conflict. Areas likely to have experienced recent electrical blackout conditions were marked as illuminated on 20 March 2015, but were no longer detected as of 13 April 2015. According to this analysis, large parts of northern Aden as well as portions of Sana'a and other areas were without electricity in mid-April 2015. This map product is available for download as a PDF on the UNITAR-UNOSAT website.

Source: UNITAR-UNOSAT

Link: http://www.unitar.org/unosat/maps/YEM

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 the storm, the International Charter for Space and Major Disasters was activated on 12 March 2015 by UNITAR-UNOSAT on behalf of UNOCHA. The Copernicus Emergency Management Service recently published new maps of damage in Tanna Island. Analysis of satellite imagery acquired 22 and 28 March 2015 as well as 29 September 2013 revealed 1,277 affected settlements in southern Tanna Island and 2,590 in northern Tanna Island. These 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/EMSR123

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.