

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 15 June 2015

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo wildfires – GLIDE number: TBD

The Democratic Republic of the Congo experienced multiple wildfires in June 2015. The NASA Earth Observatory acquired satellite imagery of these fires on 10 June 2015 and created a situational overview map. As of this date, dozens of wildfires were visible burning near Lake Mweru and the Luvua River. Due to their location and the time of year, it appears that the fires were intentionally set for agricultural purposes. Such fires may adversely affect human health, natural resources, weather, and the climate. 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=86048&eocn=home&eoci=nh>

Middle East

Oman tropical cyclone – GLIDE number: TBD

Tropical cyclone Ashobaa made landfall over Oman on 11 June 2015 and caused flooding in the eastern part of the country. More than ten times the average amount of rainfall for the month of June occurred in 24 hours over Masirah Island, located off the eastern coast of Oman. The NASA Earth Observatory acquired satellite imagery of Ashobaa on 09 June 2015 and produced a situational overview map. At this time, Ashobaa was visible hovering over the Arabian Sea and had maximum sustained winds of 92 kilometers per hour. As of 13 June 2015, Asobaa had weakened into a tropical storm and moved westward over Oman with continuing rain and floods. This map product is available for online viewing and download in GeoTIFF and JPEG format on the NASA Earth Observatory website.

Source: NASA Earth Observatory

Link: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=86006&eocn=home&eoci=nh>

Syria complex emergency – GLIDE number: CE20130604SYR

As a result of ongoing conflict in Syria, citizens continue to flee the violence in search of refuge. UNITAR-UNOSAT recently published maps of individuals at the Syria-Jordan Hadalat border crossing and shelters at the Bab Al Salame IDP Camp in the A'Zaz District of Syria. Using satellite imagery acquired 21 April 2015, UNITAR-UNOSAT located 70 probable shelters in the open desert and along

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the Syrian side of the Hadalat border crossing, located roughly 107 kilometers southwest of the Iraq border. UNITAR-UNOSAT analysis of satellite imagery from 05 June 2015 revealed a total of 1,612 shelters, as well as 222 infrastructure and support buildings within the 23 hectares of the Bab Al Salame IDP Camp. These map products are available for download as PDFs on the UNITAR-UNOSAT website. An accompanying shapefile and geodatabase in ESRI format are also accessible for the Bab Al Salame IDP Camp analysis.

Source: UNITAR-UNOSAT

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

North America

Canada wildfires – GLIDE number: TBD

The smoke from continuous wildfires in northern Canada spread to the mid-western and eastern United States, as well as the Atlantic Ocean in early June 2015. The NASA Earth Observatory acquired 09 and 10 June 2015 satellite imagery of the smoke and produced two overview maps. In these maps, the smoke visibly extends through parts of Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware. The smoke reached an altitude of two to five kilometers and caused a haze to occur over the atmosphere. Map products are available for online viewing and download in GeoTIFF and JPEG format on the NASA Earth Observatory website.

Source: NASA Earth Observatory

Links: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=86011&eocn=home&eoci=nh>
<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=86024&eocn=home&eoci=nh>

Mexico hurricane – GLIDE number: TBD

In early June 2015, hurricane Blanca developed off the coast of Mexico and was classified as a Category Four storm on the Saffir-Simpson scale. Blanca was categorized as the earliest second hurricane on record for the eastern Pacific Ocean. The NASA Earth Observatory acquired new satellite imagery of Blanca on 07 June 2015 and created an overview map. At this time, Blanca had been downgraded to a Category One hurricane and was visible approaching the southern Baja California Peninsula. Blanca dissipated into a depression on 08 June 2015 and on 09 June 2015 the final advisory was issued for the storm. 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=86000&eocn=home&eoci=nh>

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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.*