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 27 July 2015

Asia

Indonesia volcano – GLIDE number: FL20150703MMR

Another burst of volcanic activity from Mount Raung on the Indonesian island of Java prompted authorities to temporarily close airports in Bali due to concerns about volcanic ash. Volcanic ash can cause extensive damage and failures in jet engines. This is the third time this month that Bali's airport has been forced to close due to volcanic activity, according to news reports. On July 21, 2015, the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) on NASA's Terra satellite captured a natural-color view of a plume of ash and volcanic gases trailing away from Raung. MODIS acquired images of the eruption on July 20 and July 19 as well. Mount Raung has erupted at least 13 times in the past 25 years. The map 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=86283

Myanmar floods – GLIDE number: FL20150703MMR

Heavy rains at the onset of the monsoon season have caused flooding in Central Sagaing State, Myanmar. Using satellite imagery from 18 July 2015, compared with an image from 29 April 2015, UNITAR-UNOSAT released a flood map for the Kawlin, Kanbalu, Taze and Kyunhla townships of Myanmar. Flooding and an expansion of the dam reservoir close to Kanbalu town are evident. Waters extended to about 80% in the area covered by the map and this includes the expansion of the dam reservoir. However, the dam reservoir does not seem to be overflowing as of the 18 July 2015. Note also that many of the inundated areas are swamps which are regularly flooded in the rainy season as the river expands. This map product is available for download as a PDF on the UNITAR-UNOSAT website. Accompanying data in ESRI shapefile and geodatabase formats are also provided.

Source: UNITAR-UNOSAT

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

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Europe

Georgia landslide – GLIDE number: LS20150630GEO

Following flash floods in Georgia on 14 June 2014, a landslide on the Vere River near the village of Akhaldaba damaged several road sections in the area. Using a satellite image acquired 24 June 2015 by the GeoEye-1 satellite, UNOSAT delineated the primary landslide areas stretching southeast of the Vere River, between Akhaldaba and Tskneti. The area directly affected by the landslide measures about 537,065 square meters, while 1,110 meters of roadway were buried or damaged by the landslide. No structures were detected within the landslide area, and no water bodies caused by a landslide dam were visible as of 24 June. This map product is available for download as a PDF on the UNITAR-UNOSAT website. Accompanying data in ESRI shapefile and geodatabase formats are also provided.

Source: UNITAR-UNOSAT

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

Middle East

Syria complex emergency – GLIDE number: CE20130604SYR

As part of the REACH Initiative for the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, UNITAR-UNOSAT has released several damage assessments as well as a damage density map for the Syrian cities of Aleppo, Homs, Daraa, Deir Ez Zor, Idlib, Hama, and Ar Raqqa. A total of 39,028 structures have been affected since the beginning of the conflict. Individual damage assessments for Idlib, Deir Ez Zor, Daraa, Ar Raqqa, and Aleppo as well as the damage density map are available for download as PDFs on the UNITAR-UNOSAT website. Accompanying data in ESRI shapefile and geodatabase formats are also provided.

Source: UNITAR-UNOSAT

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

Yemen complex emergency – GLIDE number: CE20150402YEM

Ongoing conflict in Yemen has caused areas of the country to suffer significant damage, destruction and possible electrical blackout conditions. UNITAR-UNOSAT has released a new map illustrating satellite-detected areas of visible light at night in western Yemen. The red areas illustrate the areas which were lit at night during 21 July 2015 and best indicate nighttime lights during widespread violent conflict. Conversely, the yellow areas illustrate lighted areas as seen in 20 March 2015, prior to conflict. Areas currently likely to be experiencing electrical blackout conditions at the present time are therefore indicated in yellow. Overall, blackout areas have reduced in size since the previous UNOSAT analysis done using an image from 12 May 2015. Specifically, areas in northern Aden, the city of Sana'a, and some coastal areas do not seem to experiencing blackout conditions as

of 21 July 2015. This damage assessment is available for download as a PDF on the UNITAR-UNOSAT website. Accompanying data in ESRI shapefile and geodatabase formats are also provided.

Source: UNITAR-UNOSAT

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

North America

United States wildfires – GLIDE number: TBD

In July 2015, hundreds of visitors to Montana's Glacier National Park were forced to flee their campgrounds and cabins as a large wildfire in the eastern edge of the park raged near Saint Mary Lake. The Operational Land Imager (OLI) on Landsat 8 captured this false-color image of the Reynolds Creek fire on July 23, 2015. With this band combination, burned forest appears brown; unaffected forests are green; active fires are orange; and snow is blue. The aerial photograph, provided by InciWeb, shows the fire burning on July 21. The blaze, first reported on July 21, had charred approximately 4,000 acres by the afternoon of July 24. More than 200 firefighters backed by helicopters and fire engines were battling the blaze, according to news reports. The map 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=86289