

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 11 April 2016

Asia

Russia volcanic eruption – GLIDE number: TBD

Located in the Kuril Islands of Russia, the Chikurachki volcano erupted on 29 March 2016 for the first time since one year of inactivity. Chikurachki is 1,816 meters above the western Pacific Ocean on Paramushir Island, south of the Kamchatka peninsula. The NASA Earth Observatory collected satellite imagery of the volcano on 1 April 2016 and produced an overview map. At this time, substantial amounts of brown ash were visible on top of an otherwise snow covered terrain. These remnants fell after the 29 March 2016 eruption spewed ash up to heights of roughly 3 to 4 kilometers. Additional satellite imagery captured by the NASA Earth Observatory also shows ash plumes emanating from the volcano on 30 and 31 March 2016. Given that Chikurachki is one of the more active volcanoes in this geographic region, it is possible that ash explosions of up to 10 kilometers can occur at any time. Therefore, a code orange aviation alert was established by volcano monitoring agencies during the eruption period. This map product is available for online viewing or 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=87810&eocn=home&eoci=nh>

Europe

Greece refugee camp – GLIDE number: OT-2015-000050-GRC

Since February 2016, more than 10,000 migrants and refugees have been stranded at Idomeni refugee camp following the closing of borders throughout the Balkans. UNITAR-UNOSAT produced a map of shelters and other buildings at the Idomeni informal site on the Greece-Macedonia border. Using satellite imagery acquired 21 March 2016, a total of 2,707 shelters were detected, including 2,536 tent shelters and 171 administrative buildings. The majority of tent shelters were small camping-style tents, and the satellite image quality was somewhat degraded due to environmental conditions. Therefore, it is likely that some tent shelters were missed in the analysis. In addition to depicting the location of individual tent shelters and administrative buildings, the UNITAR-UNOSAT map includes two UN-ASIGN photographs which illustrate the situation on the ground. As of 26 March 2016, Greece had started to evacuate people from the main Idomeni camp and officials indicated a decrease in the flow of asylum seekers to the Aegean islands. This map product is available for download as a PDF on the UNITAR-UNOSAT website.

Source: UNITAR-UNOSAT

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Link: <http://www.unitar.org/unosat/maps/115>

Middle East

Syria complex emergency – GLIDE number: CE20130604SYR

As a result of continuous violence in Syria, the country has experienced significant damage and destruction. UNITAR-UNOSAT recently published damage assessments for Palmyra, Tadmur, and Al-Amiriyah, located in Homs Governorate. Analysis of satellite imagery acquired 30 March 2016 revealed a total of 37 damaged structures within the ancient city of Palmyra and 611 damaged structures in the cities of Tadmur and Al-Amiriyah. In Palmyra, 14 structures were destroyed, 8 severely damaged, and 15 moderately damaged. The majority of damaged structures were situated in the vicinity of the Valley of Tombs and the Necropolis, west and southwest of Palmyra. A total of 59 craters were also identified in the same area, indicating the level of fighting there. In Tadmur and Al-Amiriyah, 29 structures were destroyed, 103 severely damaged, and 479 moderately damaged. Additionally, 66 craters were found in the same areas. Due to the nature of the combat and image quality, it is likely that some minor and moderate damage was not detected. Map products are available for download as PDFs on the UNITAR-UNOSAT website. Accompanying data in ESRI shapefile and geodatabase format is also accessible on this website.

Source: UNITAR-UNOSAT

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

South America

Argentina floods – GLIDE number: TBD

In early April 2016, four provinces in Argentina experienced flooding after a week of torrential rainfall. It is estimated that 10,000 people were evacuated from the floods in the provinces of Corrientes, Formosa, Entre Rios, and Santa Fe. In response to this event, the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters was activated on 7 April 2016 by DNPC SIFEM and project management was assumed by CONAE. Two flood maps have since been produced by CONAE using 9 April 2016 satellite imagery. The maps illustrate flooding in the city of Esquina, located in Corrientes province. It has been reported that 80% of Esquina was inundated by 350 millimeters of water. Other cities and towns have been affected by the floods in a similar way and there are additional concerns about the rainfall's impact on agriculture. Map products are available for online viewing or download in JPEG format on the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters website.

Source: International Charter on Space and Major Disasters

Link: <https://www.disasterscharter.org/web/guest/-/flood-in-argenti-4>

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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).

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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.*