

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 May 2016

Middle East

Syria complex emergency – GLIDE number: CE20130604SYR

As a result of continuous violence in Syria, the country's population has experienced significant upheaval. UNITAR-UNOSAT recently released a map of the al-Kamoune IDP site near the town of Sarmada in Idlib Governorate. On 05 May 2016, an airstrike hit the site and killed at least 30 civilians. UNITAR-UNOSAT detected a total of 1,242 structures at the site as of 16 April 2016. Analysis of 12 May 2016 satellite imagery revealed that 1,182 of these structures were intact and 60 were destroyed. According to media reports, it is estimated that each tent in al-Kamoune has an average of six or seven people. At least two different areas were affected at the site, one of which was covered by sand or gravel on 12 May 2016. Reconstruction efforts appear to have started a few days prior to this. Due to the lower resolution of the 12 May 2016 image there is a higher than usual level of uncertainty in the analysis. This map product is available for download as a PDF 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>

North America

Canada wildfire – GLIDE number: WF-2016-000043-CAN

In early May 2016, a massive wildfire broke out in the Northern Alberta region of Canada and necessitated the evacuation of an entire city. The International Charter on Space and Major Disasters was activated on 04 May 2016 by GOC Public Safety Canada, and project management was assumed by the Canadian Space Agency (CSA). ROSCOSMOS and the NASA Earth Observatory published new maps of the fire and its aftermath. Using satellite imagery acquired 06 May 2016, ROSCOSMOS produced a monitoring map which shows vast amounts of smoke and burned areas in the affected region. As of 06 May 2016, a total of 21 active fires were also identified including one just south of Fort McMurray International Airport. The NASA Earth Observatory created an overview map with 08 May 2016 satellite imagery which shows smoke from the fire drifting over North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota in the United States. Warnings concerning unhealthy air quality were issued in these states as a result of the smoke. Map products are available for online viewing and download in JPEG format on their respective websites.

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Sources: International Charter on Space and Major Disasters, NASA Earth Observatory

Links: <https://www.disasterscharter.org/web/guest/-/fire-in-canada>

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=88009&eocn=home&eoci=nh>

South America

Ecuador earthquake – GLIDE number: EQ-2016-000035-ECU

On 16 April 2016, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck near the town of Muisne on the western coast of Ecuador. The International Charter on Space and Major Disasters was activated on 17 April 2016 by UNITAR-UNOSAT on behalf of UN OCHA. The Copernicus Emergency Management Service produced a new damage assessment for the Roccafuerte area, located northwest of Quito along the coast of the North Pacific Ocean. Analysis of 02 May 2016 satellite imagery revealed no visible affected areas or damage. As of 27 April 2016, at least 655 people were reportedly killed, 4,605 injured, and 29,067 resided in temporary shelters as a result of the earthquake. Torrential downpours from a subsequent storm which hit a town 120 kilometers west of Quito added to the adversity, leaving 300 people affected by flooding. The map product is available for download in TIFF, PDF, and JPEG formats on the Copernicus Emergency Management website. Accompanying zipped vector packages are also provided on the website.

Sources: UNITAR-UNOSAT, Copernicus Emergency Management Service

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

<http://emergency.copernicus.eu/mapping/list-of-components/EMSR159>

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.*