

Our Projects

To see projects in progress, [click here](#).

GISCorps volunteer conducted GIS Needs Assessment in Costa Rica

Costa Rica's National Forestry Financing Fund (FONAFIFO in Spanish) requested a GISCorps volunteer with expertise in conducting GIS Needs Assessments and providing recommendations for upgrading FONAFIFO's geospatial information management system. Dick Kotapish, a seasoned GISCorps volunteer from Ohio was recruited for this project and spent a week in Costa Rica in April 2017. [Read more here](#).

Volunteers developed a Story Map for Worldwide Fund for Nature - South Africa (WWF-SA)

Worldwide Fund (WWF) for Nature is one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organisations, with almost 6 million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries. WWF - South Africa requested assistance from GISCorps volunteers in developing an interactive ArcGIS Online based story map. Shruthi Srinivasan (TX), was recruited for the project, and along with Leslie Zolman, a GISCorps Core Committee member and GISCorps volunteer, developed a detailed and informative Story Map using ArcGIS Online (AGO). [Read more here](#).

GISCorps & DHN collaboration for the 2016 Refugee & Migrant Crisis

With millions of people fleeing hardship and violence in Syria as well as many other countries, the humanitarian community is facing significant challenges. Coordinating the response to such a massive, long-term humanitarian situation across the many national, international, and local response actors requires collaboration and partnership. It also requires interoperable data so that everyone can have a common understanding of the crisis. In response to this need, the Digital Humanitarian Network (DHN) and GISCorps collaborated with the UN and NGO organizations to map Communications infrastructure and to create and share Common Operational Datasets (CODs) for the European response. [Read more here](#).

GISCorps mission for DHN – Filtering Data for Hurricane Matthew

Assistance from GISCorps was requested to respond to Hurricane Matthew to help document crisis maps to be accessed by key decision makers during the emergency response. This project was in collaboration with the Digital Humanitarian Network (DHN). Eleven volunteers were recruited for this project. [Read more here](#).

Developing story maps for Green World Campaign

In September 2016, the nonprofit organization, Green World Campaign - GWC, requested the assistance of GISCorps volunteers with ArcGIS Online (AGO) expertise. GWC has a bold mission: ReGreen the World in One Generation—for All the Generations to Come. It practices scalable holistic methods of reforestation, afforestation, and eco-agriculture to restore degraded land and help struggling rural communities attain self-sufficiency through low-carbon development pathways. The recruitment resulted in selection of Drew Ortego, a volunteer from Redlands, California. He started working on the project, however, GWC representative asked us to postpone the project indefinitely. Therefore, no report was generated.

Automatic digitization for tree cover in tropical landscapes - Panama

In landscapes worldwide, agricultural trees provide valuable ecosystem services. These trees store a significant amount of carbon and could mitigate global climate change. Agricultural trees also have tremendous value for biodiversity, providing refuges and stepping-stones for forest-dwelling animals in fragmented habitat. The ecosystem services can improve human livelihoods, for example, adding a few trees and shrubs to otherwise bare cattle pasture can increase

milk and meat production. Due to their ecological and economic value, agricultural trees play an increasingly important role in land management plans, such as forest landscape restoration. A first step towards implementing these plans is measuring the amount of tree cover in agricultural landscapes. [Read more here.](#)

Volunteers assisted in testing an application

In late 2016, Zizmos, a California based company, requested assistance from our volunteers in testing an application that detects earthquakes and provides seconds to minutes of warning before the onset of ground shaking. Tens of GISCorps volunteers downloaded the application and joined the network of smartphones and are now permanent, custom seismometers with the aim of detecting earthquakes and providing seconds to minutes of warning before the onset of ground shaking. [Read more here.](#)

Volunteers helped test geoform for a nonprofit organization

The request for volunteers came from [UN]cultivated in late 2016. Their mission is to preserve indigenous knowledge while cultivating food systems in harmony with nature. They believe that collaboration between indigenous knowledge holders and mainstream scientific research can generate new co-produced knowledge that will enable effective action to cope with climate change while meeting current and future food demands. [Read more here.](#)

Remote sensing specialists recruited for a project In Gaza

This request for volunteers came from Forensic Architecture, an innovative research agency undertaking spatial and media analysis for the investigations of human and environmental rights violations. They were looking to develop annual land-cover/land-use maps of Gaza from 2000-2016 that include urban, agricultural, forested, and natural vegetation categories. Two volunteers, Jim Norton (Canada) and Michele Kniecik (CA), were recruited for this project. After research on available imagery for the region, they concluded that high resolution satellite imagery did not exist for the region and due to that, the project was closed without a report.

GISCorps Volunteers Respond to Crisis in Haiti from Hurricane Matthew

On 4 October 2016, Hurricane Matthew, a Category 4 hurricane, came ashore on the western half of Haiti, causing extensive flooding and mudslides, and damage to roads, houses, and water and electricity infrastructure. Over 500 people died, and 2.1 million people are affected. Beginning the day before the hurricane arrived, GISCorps volunteers began assisting the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT) by mapping buildings and roads in the affected areas. [Read more](#)

Burundi GIS/Mapping/OSM project – Digital Humanitarian Network (DHN)

The request for volunteers came from DHN. This project was originally intended to improve the quality of hospital and school data within the country of Burundi to support the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). The goal was to download the existing data in OpenStreetMap (OSM), improve it, and re-upload it back into OSM to be shared within the Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX) to support UNOCHA and other humanitarian response organizations. Volunteers from The Humanitarian OpenStreetmap Team (HOT), GISCorps, StandbyTaskForce (SBTF) and Humanity Road were initially tasked to help meet this goal. [Read more.](#)

Ten volunteers recruited for data collection for Burundi

The Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), a United Nations agency coordinating humanitarian action, requested the assistance of GISCorps volunteers with data identification and data cleaning experience. Ten volunteers were selected and after searching for data, they were unable to find actionable/viable data for the region.

Volunteer assisting with a project in Laos

Lone Buffalo, a Laos based nonprofit organization requested the remote assistance of a GISCorps volunteer. They required a volunteer to provide the technical expertise to work with the Map Your World platform to develop an effective and powerful map to present data on UXO Clearance. Rhys Donoghue a GIS professional from Brisbane, Australia was selected for this project and worked with the organization for a while, however, at the end, the project was not completed.

Mission with iMMAP/WFP - North Korea

This project was completed in early 2016. The original request for volunteers came from the World Food Program (WFP) and Information Management and Mining Action Program (iMMAP). Volunteers were charged with the task of digitizing 400 map sheets and will create several data layers such as: settlement points, transportation (roads, foot path, and railroads), rivers and lakes. To see a chronological report on this project, [click here](#).

Volunteer assisting in data conversion and interactive map development

MIA Recovery Network, a 501-c-3 organization, requested the assistance of GISCorps volunteers with Esri (ArcGIS Online & ArcGIS Desktop) expertise in the development of an interactive map product linked to a WWII database which would display geographic positions of the recovery of unknown remains from WWII. Renato Salvaleon, a Senior GIS Specialist with Georgia Power Company, was recruited for this project. [Read more here](#).

GISCorps volunteer conducts spatial analysis post Sri Lanka floods (second Sri Lanka flood project)

On 15 May 2016 Sri Lanka was hit by a severe tropical storm that caused widespread flooding and landslides in 22 districts out of 25 districts in the country, destroying homes and submerging entire villages. Shortly, after the floods started, GISCorps was contacted by HOTOSM to assist with analyzing the spatial data. [Read more here](#).

Volunteers digitizing in OSM for flood in Sri Lanka (first Sri Lanka flood project)

Since the beginning of the week of May 15th, large areas of Sri Lanka have been deluged by torrential rains caused by a slow moving tropical depression in the bay of Bengal which has brought flash flood and land slides to 22 of country's 26 districts. GISCorps volunteers joined many other volunteers in Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT) digitizing buildings and roads in the affected areas. [Read more here](#).

Three volunteers selected for an Engineers without Borders project

The Engineers Without Borders USA (EWB) requested the assistance of GIS professionals for GIS data mining, conversion, analysis, and interactive mapping. Three volunteers: Eric Grimison (Florida), Josh Shelton (Idaho), and Adam Radel (Utah) were recruited for this project and recently completed their tasks. [Read more here](#).

Volunteers geocoded +/- 3,300 locations in Niger

In support of the UNOCHA initiative to upgrade Common Operational Datasets, The University of Georgia/ITOS requested support from the GISCorps to geocode 3,300+ locations in Niger. Ten volunteers were selected for this project and recently completed the task. [Read more here](#).

GISCorps volunteers assist in Ecuador & Fiji relief activities

In April 2016, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake claimed the lives of over 650 people in north western Ecuador. Shortly after the quake, GISCorps was contacted by the Digital Humanitarian Network (DHN) to assist with delivering maps to meet key information needs of field-based decision makers. Five volunteers were deployed to the project. The project ended

up using both Ecuador earthquake as well as the cyclone in Fiji as test cases. [Read more here.](#)

Geocoding Policy Holders Locations in Guatemala – MiCRO's Initiative

MiCRO is a specialty re-insurance company, a social enterprise focused on the consequences of natural disasters, bridging the divide between the world's insurance markets. It seeks to improve the livelihoods of the most vulnerable against natural hazards like hurricanes, earthquakes, droughts, and floods. In 2015, Micro needed the assistance of a GISCorps volunteer in geocoding the locations of small-holder farmers and micro-entrepreneurs across Guatemala. Sami Snunu, a GIS professional from Calgary, Alberta, Canada was then selected and began by helping accurately, consistently, and easily assigning geospatial coordinates to its individual policyholders. [Read more here.](#)

Volunteers digitized features after Hurricane Patricia

Hurricane Patricia was the most intense hurricane ever recorded in the Western Hemisphere in terms of barometric pressure and sustained winds. Patricia also grew faster than any Western Hemisphere storm on record, growing from a tropical storm to a Category 5 hurricane in just 24 hours. Once Patricia grew from a tropical storm into a Category 5 hurricane a team of 10 GISCorps volunteers led by Leslie Zolman, a GIS professional from Montana, worked with HOT, Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team, to map the area where Patricia was predicted to make landfall. [Read more here.](#)

Mapping Tool Showcases Research on Incidents in the Uyghur Homeland

The Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP) has released an online webmap highlighting research from "Legitimizing Repression: China's "War on Terror" Under Xi Jinping and State Policy in East Turkestan." Based on an analysis of overseas media reports, the March 2015 investigation into incidents of violence and unrest from 2013-2014 counted a total death toll of 656 to 715 lives. The number of fatalities in 2014 is approximately double that of 2013, with a spike from April to July of 2014. Data in the report should not be considered definitive, as the Chinese government tightly controls information in East Turkestan. The numbers nevertheless indicate a deterioration in security conditions since Xi Jinping became Chinese president in early 2013. [Read more here.](#)

Afghanistan Earthquake GISCorps Response

A magnitude 7.5 earthquake struck Afghanistan on October 26, 2015. Within hours the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT) activated an online work project to support the local OpenStreetMap (OSM) community by digitizing features from existing imagery. In the following three weeks approximately 400 volunteers around the world contributed over 1 million features to OSM. [Read more here.](#)

Crowdsourced project documents coastal changes due to Hurricane Joaquin

Nine GISCorps volunteers assisted with the USGS iCoast project after Hurricane Joaquin and a related Nor'easter caused extensive damage along the US east coast from South Carolina to New York in October 2015. This project was similar to the work done by our volunteers post Hurricane Sandy on the coasts of New Jersey and New York. The iCoast web application asks volunteers to identify changes to the coast by comparing and tagging aerial photographs taken before and after storms. This data will help USGS scientists improve the accuracy of USGS coastal change prediction models and vulnerability assessments that support pre-storm planning and post-storm rescue, recovery, and mitigation efforts. [Read more here](#)

Advanced Spatial Analysis and Remote Sensing Training for Faculty at Kabul Polytechnic University - Afghanistan

In August 2015 two GIS professionals headed to Kabul, Afghanistan to teach advanced GIS/Remote Sensing at Kabul Polytechnic University (KPU). This request served to support a multi-year initiative managed by Dr. Hussein Abaza at Kennesaw State University, Georgia and supported by a U.S. State Department grant. The goal was to offer professional development and capacity building amongst the KPU faculty to help support their interest in offering an undergraduate degree or certificate in GIS; the first academic program of its kind in Afghanistan. Each of the two volunteers wrote their accounts of the mission. [Dr. John Van Hoesen report](#) & [Dr. Gary Hunter's report](#).
Mission Completed.

GISCorps volunteer assisted with downloading and parsing data from OpenStreetMap – Syria

The humanitarian and human rights communities are increasingly interested in the effects of conflicts and natural

disasters on cultural heritage. Though not as pressing a concern as the immediate provision of food, water, medicine, shelter, and other humanitarian necessities, the preservation and restoration of cultural heritage sites is a key component in the recovery of communities following traumatic events. In 2014, the Geospatial Technologies Project of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) received a grant from the NSF to study the effects of the Ayrian Civil War on cultural heritage. Read more here.
Mission Completed.

GISCorps volunteer develops Vulnerability Indices Web Map - Nepal

In the aftermath of the Nepal Earthquake, getting access to information relevant to humanitarian programming has been a big problem. With devastation having occurred over vast expanses of the entire region, assessing the range of destruction in rural regions was a problem. Yet, with limited resources coming in, questions were raised as to where and how to prioritize aid and development projects. One organization working on the ground in Nepal to assist with the recovery is ACAPS. ACAPS is a consortium of NGO's that was created in 2009 with the aim of supporting the humanitarian community with needs assessments. Read more here.

Mission Completed. GISCorps Assists with GSDI Research in Latin America

Efforts to assist in the development of spatial data infrastructure are ongoing worldwide. Some national programs are well developed, but others are in their initial development phases. The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI) promotes development of standards and practices worldwide, and also uses its Small Grants Program to stimulate such efforts in areas and nations struggling to establish sustainable programs. Its objective is to "...promote international cooperation and collaboration in support of local, national and international spatial data infrastructure developments that will allow nations to better address social, economic, and environmental issues of pressing importance." GISCorps has been a partner since 2005 in providing volunteers to assist with several such efforts. Last year, a consortium of universities in Latin America applied to the GSDI Association requesting assistance from GISCorps in documenting progress and trends and identifying challenges in developing GSDI in Latin America. The consortium members include; the University of Cuenca (Ecuador), University of Azuay (Ecuador), University of Republic (Uruguay) and Bogotá Spatial Data Infrastructure (IDECA) (Colombia), and was supported by the PanAmerican Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH). Assisted by GISCorps volunteer Daniel Mihalov, the group completed a project titled "Studying the implementation of the new SDI trends in Latin America Region through use cases focused on the Latin American needs and context". Its aim was to "contribute with the identification of indicators, specifications and best practices that allow assessing the impact of the new SDI trends in the Latin American Society". The work entailed the following tasks: 1) identify indicators to assess the impact of SDI trends in the region's society; 2) document new SDI trends, taking into account whether new specifications should be developed; 3) describe best practices related to new SDI trends in the Latin American region. Daniel, working remotely, assisted with the research and drafting of the report.
Mission Completed.

GSDI projects in South Africa and Nigeria

The request for volunteers came from South Africa (Endangered Wildlife Trust) and Nigeria (Geographical Resources for Development Centre). These are both GSDI projects and are either interested in developing a metadata Geo Portal (South Africa) or, already have one and would like to enhance it further (Nigeria). Two volunteers were selected, Karl Tiller, a Technical Advisor in the GIS Centre of Makerere University, funded by Horizont3000 as the Project Manager who is working on South Africa project and Brylie Oxley from US who is working on Nigerian project. Both projects have taken much longer than anticipated and therefore, are moved out of active project page.
Missions Incomplete.

GISCorps volunteers supporting Search & Rescue team in Alaska

The Alaska Incident Management Team Search and Rescue (AIMT-SAR) requested the assistance of Alaska based GIS Specialists who are interested and willing to provide their services to the AIMT. Two volunteer responded to the call. They are: Tricia Littlejohn and Robert Mikol. They are in contact with AIMT representatives and are called any time that their technical services are needed.
Mission is ongoing

GISCorps assists on United Nations GeoTag-X project

The United Nations imagery analysis program (UNITAR-UNOSAT) is developing a new crowdsourcing platform called GeoTag-X for analyzing photos and videos. In June and July of 2015, GISCorps, along with the non-profit organization HumanityRoad participated in a 'data sprint' to test this platform in two real-world situations: identifying livestock and crop conditions resulting from a drought in Somalia; and geotagging emergency shelters in the Middle East, and evaluating their readiness for winter. During the sprint, a total of 84 volunteers evaluated more than 7,000 photos. In addition to providing this humanitarian response data, volunteers made suggestions on improving the GeoTag-X application which have already been implemented. [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed.

Crowdsourcing project examines damage to archeological sites

TerraWatchers, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing web-based, crowdsourced satellite image monitoring, asked GISCorps to assist in testing their prototype application which examines the impact of military activity and looting on archeological sites in Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq. There are thousands of archeological sites in this area, and it is not well documented how many have been looted or commandeered for military purposes. During June and July of 2015, sixty-six GISCorps volunteers used the TerraWatcher website to examine over 2,500 archeological sites for disturbances. Volunteers also commented on website design and offered suggestions for improving it. [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed.

Nepal Earthquake Assistance (two projects)

Over 50 of our volunteers have responded to two projects related to the devastating earthquake in Nepal. In one of the projects, they digitized various features on OpenStreetMap and in the other they cleansed village based datasets to create a match to country's rich Census dataset. [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed.

Two GISCorps volunteers will be teaching GIS & Remote Sensing in Uganda

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources at Kabale University (KAB) in south western Uganda requested GISCorps volunteer(s) to teach GIS/Remote Sensing to their faculty members. KAB intends to establish a GIS centre including training departmental staff in aspects of GIS/Remote sensing with specific focus on: Database management systems, ArcGIS, open source GIS such as QGIS, ENVI and any other programs that may be relevant to successful implementation of the GIS centre. Two volunteers, Joey Abrams, a Senior Systems Analyst with Vencore, Inc in Virginia and Adam McKay, a Data Analyst with Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care in Toronto, Canada were recruited for this project. [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed.

GISCorps Team assisted NetHope with their West Africa Ebola Outbreak Mission

NetHope requested the assistance of GISCorps to support their West Africa Ebola Response activities. Volunteers assisted with locating information and communication technology needs in Ebola affected regions of West Africa, currently Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone. The data and derivatives were created for internal use as well as to share back to their participating NGOs and the greater humanitarian community. Nine volunteers were recruited for the project. They were: German Whitley, DeAnna Hohnhosrt, Elizabeth Dow, Katie Mayr, Melodie Grubbs, Alice Pence, Nathan Shemella, Grace Lee, and Carol Kraemer, the project coordinator. [Read more.](#)

Mission Completed.

A team of 15 volunteers digitized features in Malawi

The Southern parts of Malawi along the Lower Shire river (that connects Lake Malawi and Zambezi River in Mozambique) are frequently flooded and affects the villages of farmers around. The national Department of Disaster Management Affairs in Malawi - DoDMA and GFDRR agreed about the necessity to have detailed data of the region,

through a community mapping in the field that could be used to build hazard impact scenarios with tools like InaSafe in order to improve the planning, preparedness and response activities. Therefore, 15 GISCorps volunteers joined the project and started digitizing and cleansing the mapping already done in the region. The project was in partnership with Humanitarian OpenStreetMap (HOT), and Department of Disaster Management Affairs in Malawi - DoDMA , GFDRR. Read more.

Mission Completed.

Volunteer developing map products for NACCHO

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) – naccho.org –was in need of GIS services related to the 2014 Ebola outbreak. The outbreak has implications for local health departments and the communities they serve throughout the continental U.S. As part of NACCHO's support for local health departments, they requested several related mapping products. Ian Dunn, a Software Specialist with the City of Perrysburg in Ohio was recruited for this project. Read more here.

Mission Completed. Volunteers assisted the World Health Organization (WHO) with Ebola analysis

In December 2014, The World Health Organization (WHO) requested the assistance of GISCorps to support their West Africa Ebola response activities. Following recruitment, four volunteers were selected for onsite assistance in Geneva, Sierra Leone, Ghana, and Liberia. After an exhaustive round of international paperwork, they traveled and worked in their destinations during the period January to April, 2015. Read more.

Mission Completed.

22 Volunteers responded to the call for Typhoon Pam

Twenty-two GISCorps volunteers responded to the call for Typhoon Pam, which devastated the island nation of Vanuatu on March 13, 2015. The Digital Humanitarian Network was activated by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and member organizations formed interdisciplinary teams to quickly monitor, process, and analyze incoming information from social media. GISCorps partnered with Humanity Road and PeaceGeeks to provide spatial context to social media input, resulting in data and maps to share with the humanitarian community. Read more.

Mission Completed.

Remote Sensing Specialist worked on Mimika Land Rights Project in West Papua

Mimika Land Rights is a project of Forensic Architecture and Goldsmiths University. They requested the assistance of a Remote Sensing Specialist for selecting, processing, and analyzing remotely sensed data. The recruitment resulted in selecting Mike Alonzo, a PhD student at University of Santa Barbara. The results of his analytic work is posted in here. Mission Completed.

GISCorps volunteers provided assistance to Humanity Road

In December 2014, Humanity Road, a US based nonprofit organization, requested the assistance of GISCorps to support their Typhoon Hagupit response activities. Following the recruitment, two GIS professionals Leonard Olyott (Australia) and Keeve Brine (Maryland) were selected and put in contact with Humanity road representatives. They recently submitted a report. Read more.

Mission Completed.

Typhoon Hagupit – Assisted Stand By Task Force (SBTF)

As Typhoon Hagupit/Ruby threatened the Philippines, the Digital Humanitarian Network was activated to assist with response. Stand By Task Force (SBTF) took the lead in organizing volunteers to classify social media posts and images, and GISCorps assistance was requested for geo-location of the information so that it could be mapped. Over 40 GISCorps volunteers answered the call to assist and spent the next 4 days working to create mapping coordinates from the information, resulting in maps of damage reports and requests for assistance. Information and maps can be found here <http://www.micromappers.com/>. Read more.

Mission Completed.

GISCorps Crowdsourcing Project Documents Coastal Changes Due To Hurricane Sandy

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) asked GISCorps for a group of volunteers to take part in a pilot study for the crowdsourcing project called "iCoast - Did the Coast Change?" This web application asks volunteers to identify changes to the coast by comparing and tagging aerial photographs taken before and after storms. This data will help USGS scientists improve the accuracy of USGS coastal change prediction models and vulnerability assessments that support pre-storm planning and post-storm rescue, recovery, and mitigation efforts. During three weeks in the fall of 2014, 111 GISCorps Volunteers classified 7,634 photos taken before and after Hurricane Sandy using the tools built into the iCoast website. [Read more.](#)

Mission Completed.

GISCorps Volunteers taught GIS at Kabul Polytechnic University

The project was commissioned by Southern Polytechnic State University (SPSU) in Marietta, GA. SPSU was awarded a grant to establish a GIS program that includes furnishing two GIS labs and training the faculty at Kabul Polytechnic University (KPU) in Afghanistan. They asked the assistance of seasoned GIS educators to travel to Kabul for two weeks. Recruitment resulted in selection of two volunteers: Heath Robinson, an Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and Stéphane Henriod, the head of GEOSTAT, Swiss Federal Statistical Office in Neuchâtel, Switzerland. The following report was submitted by the volunteers and Dr. Hussein Abaza of SPSU. [Read More.](#)

Mission Completed.

Volunteers assisting the International Rescue Committee in DRC

The International Rescue Commission (IRC) requested the assistance of GISCorps volunteers for digitizing the boundaries of health districts in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Two volunteers from California were recruited for this project. They are: Barry Gauthier and Dimo Diakov and they both work for the City of Beverly Hills, CA. They prepared the following report. [Read More.](#)

Mission Completed.

GISCorps volunteer teaches at a Search & Rescue workshop in W. Virginia

November 7-9, GISCorps volunteer, Don Ferguson, with donated computer laboratory space from the West Virginia GIS Technology Center provided training on the use of GIS in Wilderness Search and Rescue. Of the fourteen (14) classroom participants eight (8) were from volunteer search and rescue teams, three were from the Maryland State Police, two participants from the National Park Service and one from the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA). Over the three day class 24 hours worth of instruction were provided at no cost (aside for donations for coffee and bagels). The training included lecture as well as lots of hands-on time with GIS (ArcGIS). Participants ranged from veteran Search Managers with little or no GIS experience to seasoned GIS practitioners wanting to better understand how GIS could be applied to Wilderness Search and Rescue. While the focus of the class was wilderness SAR, the underlying theme for the class was Critical "Spatial" Thinking. The ability to be Critical Thinkers is crucial in many applications that have need for GIS. We are taught to be Critical Thinkers as we go through school but unless practiced on a regular basis we allow our thought process to be more automatic as opposed to deliberate and we soon shy away from always questioning the information we are given or create and we fail to "hunt the assumptions". In Search and Rescue the situation demands that we not only be critical thinkers but critical "spatial" thinkers as we consider the influence of location on lost subject behavior and on how search is conducted. Through a GIS we can have a better understanding on the unknowns as GIS provides the ability to discover and explore spatial relationships within the available data and information. Practice of Critical Spatial Thinking forces us to consider assumptions and unknowns in our conclusions as well as ensure we better understand the data and information being used to formulate those assumptions and conclusions. Another class is being planned for Spring 2015 at the WVGIS Technology Center in Morgantown, WV (<http://wvgis.wvu.edu/>).

Mission Completed. Volunteer assisted a project in Uganda

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Makerere University in Uganda requested the assistance of a GISCorps volunteer. CDC in Uganda is funding a survey, called the Crane Survey. It mainly focuses on

bio-behavioral surveys among high risk groups. GIS datasets of those who have been surveyed are created and they are interested in exploiting these data points by producing parish level maps of Kampala showing likely geographical concentrations of high risk individuals and use the outcome for outreach services. The interest was in both dynamic and static map products. Following recruitment, Steve Borders, an associate professor at Grand Valley State University in Michigan was selected and worked on the project. The project was recently closed. Mission incomplete, no report submitted.

Volunteer Customizes a webmap for 1947 Indian Partition Archive Project

The 1947 Partition Archive Project, a US based nonprofit organization requested the assistance of a volunteer with expertise in creating a map of their Partition stories. Jason Lampel was recruited for this project and assisted in enhancing the story map. The following summary was submitted by the 1947 Partition Archive Project representative. [Read more here.](#)
Mission Completed.

Creating Interactive map for World Humanitarian Summit (WHS)

The WHS requested the assistance of a GISCorps volunteer to create several interactive maps for this event. Katie Mayr, a GIS Specialist with City of Charlotte, NC was recruited for this project and will be working with WHS representatives in coming months. [Read more here.](#)
Mission Ongoing.

A Story Map for Young Voices on Climate Change

Young Voices on Climate Change (YVCC), a US based non-profit organization requested the assistance of a GISCorps volunteer for developing a Story Map. The Story Map was developed in ArcGIS Online and is an interactive map of youth worldwide reducing CO2 emissions and taking action on climate change. [Read more here.](#)
Mission Ongoing.

GISCorps volunteer assists a US based nonprofit organization

In 2013, the Institute for Conscious Global Change or ICGC, a US based nonprofit organization requested the assistance of an experienced GIS professional. The volunteer was asked to provide a variety of GIS services from data collection, to web application design and research. The recruitment resulted in deploying Kenny Lohr, a GIS professional from Florida. [Read more here.](#)
Mission Ongoing.
GIS Specialist assisting a nonprofit charity in Missouri

A non profit organization, the Catholic Charities of Missouri (CCM), requested assistance to map its assets and other critical facilities statewide, with higher priority given to areas in the New Madrid fault zone. Following the recruitment, Buster Schrage a GIS professional from Missouri was selected and was put in contact with CCM representatives. Later on CCM informed us that they are unable to work with the volunteer at this time due to other activities.
Mission incomplete, no report submitted.

Two rounds of digitizing in OSM completed - South Sudan

GISCorps partnered with the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT) to map the city of Malakal, South Sudan to provide baseline data for the humanitarian response to the ongoing conflicts between government and rebel forces in South Sudan. Recruitment resulted in deploying 18 GISCorps volunteers from 8 countries to the first phase of this project. [Read more here.](#)
Mission Completed.

Volunteer assists the World Federation for Coral Reef Conservation

The World Federation for Coral Reef Conservation (WFCRC), a US non-profit organization requested the assistance of a database and geo-portal design specialist to develop a geo-portal using ArcGIS Online for Organization (AGOL).

WFCRC plans to use the platform for education, for citizen scientists and researchers alike to view and publish the most recent data on a particular reef, coastal/marine events, and management of disaster relief coordination services. James Osundwa was selected for this project and has been in contact with WFCRF team for the past several months. Read more here.

Mission Ongoing.

Volunteers Assisted in post Typhoon disaster - Philippines

A request for volunteers came from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) to the Digital Humanitarian Network (DHNetwork). Several members of the DHNetwork including GISCorps, StandByTaskForce, Humanity Road, and Esri responded to the call. GISCorps volunteers lead by Dave Litke, developed several web maps that were powered by MicroMappers. Some of the maps are posted in here.

Mission Completed.

Remote Sensing Specialist Assisted a project in Chile

Atacama Desert Project (ADP) of Forensic Architecture and Goldsmiths University requested the assistance of a remote sensing specialist. ADP asked the advice of the volunteer in the selection of appropriate satellite data-sets/imagery to analyze vegetation health and vegetation decrease in several areas along the Loa River in Chile. Jim Norton, a remote sensing specialist from Canada was recruited for this project and recently finalized the analysis and submitted the following report. Read more here.

Mission Completed

A Cadastral mapping project (GSDI) in Uzbekistan

The National Centre of Geodesy and Cartography (NCGC) in Uzbekistan requested the assistance of a GIS professional via the GSDI Small Grant Program. NCGC is in the process of designing and implementing activities related to GIS strategic planning and capacity development. As part of this project, a number of land record management related papers/studies have been developed and the GISCorps volunteer's task included reviewing these documents and making recommendations. The search for a volunteer with expertise in cadastral mapping resulted in recruiting Dr. Nancy Von Meyer, the vice president of Fairview Industries.

Mission incomplete, no report submitted.

Volunteers recruited for AllHands

In late 2012, we recruited Max Silin, a GISCorps volunteer from Toronto, Canada to assist AllHands, a US based non profit organization with their database design needs. AllHands provides hands-on assistance to survivors of natural disasters around the world, with maximum impact and minimum bureaucracy. Max worked with AllHands team for several months and after conducting a needs assessment, it was determined that the assistance of another volunteer with expertise in PHP and MySQL was needed. The second recruitment resulted in deploying Takeo Shibata, a GIS specialist was put in contact with Max and the AllHands team.

Mission incomplete, no report submitted

Modeling Change Patterns in Nguru Forest - Tanzania

This project was initiated as a small grant request from the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) by the University of Kwazulu-Natal and the Wami Ruvu Basin Water Office in Tanzania. The first volunteer conducted the analysis using the TM imagery and now the consortium has acquired new and higher resolution imagery (Rapid Eye) and the second volunteer Linda DeLay, GISP, a GIS Specialist from New Mexico, conducted similar analysis on the Rapid Eye. The intention of the project was to assess the effects of fragmentation on the landscape using high resolution imagery. Read more here.

Mission Completed

GlobalWA Interactive Web Mapping with ArcGIS Online

Global Washington (www.globalwa.org) a not for profit organisation based in Seattle, WA requested the assistance of a volunteer with expertise in developing a web based interactive map. Len Olyott of Brisbane, Australia was recruited and created several web maps for GlobalWA. Read more here.

Mission Completed

The National Map Corps Project - Volunteer Website

In April 2013, GISCorps began a National Map Corps Project Phase 2 in response to a request from the U.S. Geological Survey to create a website where National Map Corps volunteers can get involved, ask questions, organize, and interact with each other. Lauren Heller, a GISCorps volunteer and Google employee was recruited to head the project; GISCorps volunteers David Litke, Carol Kraemer, Karen Chadwick, and David Lok assisted Lauren, and the website was opened to the public in January 2014. Read more here.

Mission Completed

Volunteer returns from Kabul, Afghanistan

The Afghanistan Environmental Data Centre (AEDC), a co-operative venture between UNEP and the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), funded by UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the government of Estonia, requested the assistance of a seasoned GIS volunteer to advise and support national and international team in Kabul and Bamyán to set up the AEDC and start work on the key priorities list identified in year one. Following the recruitment, Sara Hodges, a GIS professional from Brooklyn, New York was selected. Sara arrived in Kabul on September 6th and stayed there for a month. Read about the accounts of her visit in here.

Mission Completed

Volunteers assisted in a project in Indonesia

A dataset of Indonesia's capital cities was constructed by GISCorps volunteers in partnership with the University of Georgia, Information Technology Outreach Services (ITOS). The motivation for this project came from users of the GIST data repository at ITOS, who contacted the repository administrator and asked if they were aware of a dataset showing the capital cities of Indonesia. Volunteers were: Paula Dillon (Idaho), Daisy Harsa (Texas) and Gary Hunter (Australia). Read more here.

Mission Completed

K-12 project in California

Javier Aguilar, a GISCorps volunteer from southern California has been teaching a group of 2nd thru 5th grade students at Hodge elementary school in the Azusa Unified School District (AUSD). The City of Azusa is located in the County of Los Angeles, approximately 27 miles northeast of the City of Los Angeles, and adjacent to the San Gabriel Mountain foothills. Read more here.

Mission Completed

Four volunteers worked on third phase of Watch The Med mission

The Forensic Oceanography (FO) research project requested the assistance GISCorps volunteers. FO's research contributes to the advocacy of a wide network of NGOs whose goal is to bring attention and accountability for the death of migrants at sea. This was the third GISCorps project with FO. Following the recruitment, four volunteers were put in contact with FO's team: Donald Ferguson (WV), Jasmine Du (NY), David Metzler (CO), and Said Abou Kharroub (Lebanon). Read more here.

Mission Completed

Volunteer from California teaching ArcGIS in Zambia

We have been assisting the South Luangwa Conservation Society (SLCS), a nonprofit organization based in Zambia, for the past few years with their GIS needs. They asked that we send one of our volunteer's onsite to teach ArcGIS desktop and Online to their team. The recruitment resulted in selecting Michelle Kinzel, a GIS professional from California who

went to Zambia for 3 weeks. [Read more here.](#)
Mission Completed

A Remote sensing specialist deployed to an Amnesty International mission in SE Asia

Amnesty International (AI) USA's Science for Human Rights Program requested the assistance of a remote sensing/GIS specialist. The volunteer was asked to provide guidance on selecting the most appropriate type of imagery for conducting change detection analysis and performing the analysis itself. Zack Bortolot, and Associate Professor of Remote Sensing at James Madison University in Virginia was selected and worked on the project for several month. [Read more here.](#)
Mission Completed

Volunteer assists in building a GIS portal

This project was brought to us by the International Cancer Alternative Network (I-CAN). The objective of the project is to create a web-based portal where cancer patients can find alternative cancer treatment research, clinics, doctors, cost and persons who have successfully beaten cancer without surgery or chemo. Tarig Ahmed is a GIS professional from Texas and developed several mapping options for the project that identified a variety of features including the locations of patients, hospitals, clinics, and physicians on the ArcGIS Online platform.
Mission Incomplete

GISCorps volunteer assisted a non-profit organization in Bellevue, Washington

HopeLink is a Washington based non-profit organization that offers an integrated array of programs that enable families in crisis to make progress toward and achieve self-sufficiency. They asked the assistance of a volunteer to update their current GIS datasets and related maps in King County. The search for volunteer resulted in recruiting Dan Christiansen, a GIS professional from Seattle, WA who will be able to assist HopeLink both on-site and remotely. [Read more here.](#)
Mission Completed

Two volunteers assisting UNOSAT in a remote sensing project

UNOSAT requested the assistance of GISCorps volunteers for creating Digital Elevation Models (DEM) from stereo imagery pairs. Two remote sensing specialists were deployed to this project and performed some analysis; they were Jim Norton from Canada and Simon Jackson from Australia. The project was placed on hold by UNOSAT.
Mission Incomplete

Remote sensing specialist deployed to a project with UNOSAT

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)'s Satellite Operational Applications Program or UNOSAT requested the assistance of a remote sensing specialist for a pilot project in Somalia. The objective of this project was to implement methods for using free and low resolution imagery to identify the locations of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps. The volunteer was asked to assist in developing the most appropriate methodology for identifying the camps and then manage additional volunteers who will be responsible for reviewing tens of thousands sq km of imagery. The recruitment resulted in selection of Barry Bitters, a senior research scientist with the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), in Virginia. He provided some information to UNOSAT representatives, however, the project was eventually halted by them.
Mission Completed

Mission with South Luangwa Conservation Society First Phase - Zambia

GISCorps volunteer, Lisa Matthies, a GIS and Geography Instructor at Erie Community College in Williamsville, NY has been supporting SLCS' GIS needs since spring of 2009. Recently, SLCS inquired about the possibility of being trained in GIS. After contacting Lisa, she indicated that she would be willing to provide GIS training to SLCS. More detail about the training (possibly onsite) will be posted later, for more details about Lisa's support for this project, [click here.](#)
Mission Completed

The National Map Corps Colorado Pilot Project

In November 2012, GISCorps received a request from the U.S. Geological Survey for assistance in creating and editing data for The National Map. The goals of the project were to: 1) Work towards completion of The National Structures Dataset for Colorado; and 2) Develop a framework for self-organizing of volunteers to promote efficiency and accuracy of crowd-sourced data. Seventeen volunteers were recruited for the project which started in December 2012 and was

completed in February 2013. [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed

Satellite Radar and GIS Volunteers Detect Hurricane Sandy Damage

In response to Hurricane Sandy's devastation on the East Coast of the United States, a group of volunteers and professionals produced a damage proxy map of New York City, the place with the highest casualty, using X-band radar data from COSMO-SkyMed satellites and implemented visual inspection on each pixel of the damage proxy map for accuracy. [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed

GISCorps volunteers assist in Search and Rescue pilot project in California

In late 2012, GISCorps received a request for volunteers from a consortium of GIS and Search and Rescue (SAR) professionals from Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team, Esri, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park, Yosemite National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, and Mountaineer Rescue Group who have developed a Search and Rescue application called MapSAR. Following a state wide recruitment, eight volunteers responded to the call and five of them headed to an onsite training shortly after. [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed

GSDI project in Russia

In November 2011, South Ural State University in Chelyabinsk (SUSU), Russia, applied to the GSDI, seeking the assistance of a seasoned GIS expert to lead a discussion of GIS practices in the United States. The goal was to have the volunteer participate in a two-to-three day international seminar, presenting an overview of how GIS is practiced in the U.S. in regard to major application areas, particularly in land management, cadastral data, surveying, and geodesy. William Huxhold, GISP, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Department of Urban Planning, responded affirmatively and headed to Russia in November 2012. [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed

GSDI project in Tanzania

This project was initiated as a small grant request from the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) by the University of Kwazulu-Natal and the Wami Ruvu Basin Water Office in Tanzania. The application requested a Remote Sensing Specialist who works for the United Nations to provide technical assistance in assessing land use change. As a partner of GSDI in its small grant program, GISCorps recruited and deployed Mr. Imroz Raihan, a Remote Sensing Specialist, to conduct image processing and analysis. [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed

Conducting GIS Databank Design, Needs Assessment, and Training in Mozambique

The Niassa National Reserve, a non-profit organization located in northern Mozambique requested the assistance from in two capacities: 1) conducting a GIS Needs Assessment of their existing GIS (remotely), and 2) training their local staff on the use of ArcGIS software. The recruitment resulted in selecting Marci Meixler, a visiting professor at Rutgers University and two of her students: Carly Aulicky and Mike Tanis and the second phase brought in Dave Smith, a former Rutgers graduate student who recently completed a training manual for the Reserve staff. [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed

Expert Crowd helped in the SuperStorm Sandy Mission

We received a request from Humanitarian OpenStreetMap (HOT) shortly after super storm Sandy hit the northeastern US in October/November 2012. They were interested in deploying the "expert" crowd (GISCorps volunteers) on a crowd sourcing project that they launched shortly after the storm. They asked that the GISCorps volunteers help evaluate the crowd's overall accuracy, by rating a sample of the site's images using the same interface. Volunteers came from seven countries: Amelia Ley (US), Naiara Fernandez (Spain), Roxroy Bollers (Guyana), Giedrius Kaveckis, (Italy), Jeffrey Pires, (US), David Anderson (US), Meliv Purzuelo (Philippines), Kevin Pomaski (US), and Eyob Teshome (Ethiopia). [Read More here.](#)

Mission Completed

GISCorps Volunteer returns from a World Vision mission in Sierra Leone

Jim Tobias, a Senior GIS Developer with Northrop Grumman in Atlanta GA, was deployed to an onsite mission in Sierra Leone. The request for volunteer came from World Vision and was for a GIS/GPS Specialist to undertake mapping of health and education facilities in Area Development Programs (ADP)s in several districts of Sierra Leone. Jim returned from Sierra Leone after three weeks. [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed

Second mission with Forensic Oceanography in Central Mediterranean

GISCorps' 100th mission was with Forensic Oceanography (FO) research project and was recently concluded. They had requested the assistance of three volunteers to conduct remote sensing, data mining and data conversion/creation. These volunteers were needed for a project concerning the death of migrants at sea (related to our first project with FO). Volunteers were: Rossana Padeletti from Italy, Keith McCrary from US, and Steve Etherington from Canada. [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed

A remote sensing scientist recruited for a project in Sudan

We are providing volunteers to several GSDI projects this year (2012). One of those requests came from Grant Gordon, a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Political Science at Columbia University. The project that Grant was seeking a volunteer for intended to advance a series of estimation procedures derived from satellite imagery analysis to

determine the physical and human impact of atrocities committed in Sudan. Barry Bitters, a remote sensing scientist from Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), in Virginia was selected for this project and made initial contacts but the Partner agency did not follow up. The project was stopped as a result.

Recruitment Conducted, no results reported

Volunteers assisted in a disaster preparedness project in Indonesia

Earlier this year, eleven GISCorps volunteers were deployed to a project with Humanitarian OpenStreetMap (HOT). This was our second collaborative project with HOT (first one in Samoa) and this time the work was conducted in Padang, Indonesia. Padang has been identified as one of Indonesia's most vulnerable cities as a large portion of the population lives within the Tsunami Zones. [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed

Supporting a set of humanitarian field experiments in Camp Roberts

GISCorps volunteer, Yamini Manickam, supported a set of humanitarian field experiments in Camp Roberts, California on August 15th, 2012. Yamini is a GIS professional from California and has expertise in remote sensing. Her main tasks consisted of processing the imagery generated from several planes on the same day as those images were captured. The process included: geo rectification, edge matching and mosaicking those imagery. [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed

Two GISCorps volunteers assisted the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma

The Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge was established in 1901 to protect wildlife species in danger of extinction and to restore native species. The goal of their Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) Invasive program is to find high risk invasive species on the Refuge and eradicate them before they become established. In order to achieve that goal, they needed additional GIS assistance. Two volunteers were recruited for this project: Gericke Cook who works as a GIS Specialist for the USDA in Colorado and Lacey Mason also a GIS Specialist who works for the University of Michigan. [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed

GISCorps volunteers assisted in 3 phases of USAID's first crowd sourcing project

The USAID requested the assistance of GISCorps volunteers for a 3 phased project in spring of 2012. The organization wanted to geo-code non-standard location information of loan records from USAID's Development Credit Authority (DCA). Proper geo-visualization can signal new areas for potential collaboration with host countries, researchers, other development organizations, and the public. [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed

Conducting change detection in Chimanimani National Preserve, Mozambique

This project was commissioned by the Transfrontier Conservation Areas Unit of Ministry of Tourism in Mozambique. The Ministry asked for short term assistance of a remote sensing specialist. The specialist's task consisted of processing and analyzing Quick Bird Imagery of Chimanimani National Reserve (approximately 600 sq Km) from 2005 and 2008. Kerry Brooks, a professor at Washington State University was recruited for this project and he recently concluded the analysis. [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed

GISCorps volunteer taught GIS to K-12 students in Albania

The Urban and Regional Planning department at the University of Florida (UF), in partnership with the Albanian-American foundation Martin and Mirash Ivanaj (whose mission is to promote science and education amongst the Albanian youth), developed a prototype course that uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to teach middle school children about environmental and sustainability subjects. Students from the middle school "Dëshmorët e Lirisë" in Tirana were taught this course on site during the last week of June 2012. Dr. Jennifer Rechel, joined the UF team as a GISCorps volunteer in Tirana to teach the course. [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed

SAR analysis of vessel presence in the central Mediterranean

Forensic Oceanography (FO) is a project led by Charles Heller, Lorenzo Pezzani and Situ Studio as part of the European Research Council project "Forensic Architecture" directed by Centre for Research Architecture, Goldsmiths, University of London (www.forensic-architecture.org). Drawing upon a diverse range of geospatial and remote sensing technology, the project investigates the conditions that have led to the death of more than 1500 persons fleeing Libya across the Central Mediterranean in the Spring of 2011, while the area was populated by a high number of military vessels. While working on the report, FO reached out to GISCorps for the network's expertise. GISCorps recruited Lawrence Fox III, Humboldt State University Emeritus Professor of Remote Sensing and consultant to provide SAR imagery analysis. [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed

Geo-coding locations of NGOs in Sierra Leone

In early 2012, GISCorps was asked to assist the Craig Bellamy Foundation in creating an interactive map that showed the locations of international and national NGO offices and their programs across Sierra Leone. Michael Knapp, a GIS specialist from Anchorage was recruited for this project and delivered an easy-to-use application using a combination of Esri ArcGIS (v10), Google Fusion Tables, and the Google Maps JavaScript API (v3). [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed

GISCorps volunteers tested an application for a non profit organization

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) requested the assistance of GISCorps volunteers for testing an application. GICHD, an international expert organization legally based in Switzerland as a non-profit foundation, works for the elimination of mines, explosive remnants of war and other explosive hazards, such as unsafe munitions stockpiles. Three volunteers: Benjamin Koziol from Michigan, Curtis Day from Oregon, and Robert Cheetham from Pennsylvania were deployed to the mission and they became involved in the beta-testing of the Multicriteria Analytical Scoring Tool (MASCOT) developed by the University of Geneva on the demand of the GICHD. [Read More here.](#)

Mission Completed

Volunteers assisted in three phases of a disaster simulation in Samoa
The United Nations Platform for Space-Based information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response or UN-Spider held a one day event in Geneva in mid November 2011. During the event, running a disaster simulation in Samoa was proposed and December 3rd, 2011 was selected as the simulation date. Several participants including GISCorps expressed interest in participating and making their volunteers available to the exercise. The initial involvement resulted in a three phased project. [Read more here.](#)

Mission Completed

Volunteers assist in a pilot project in Haiti

The Institute for Conscious Global Change, Inc. (ICGC) requested the assistance of two volunteers to perform several GIS related tasks for a pilot project. ICGC is a US based non- profit organization dedicated to the goal of assisting in eradicating physical, emotional, and mental poverty from the planet through educational and economic means. Two volunteers (both GIS Specialists) were recruited for this project: Dan Christiansen from Seattle, WA and Robert Page from Connecticut. They worked with ICGC representatives for several weeks and assisted them in understanding the capabilities that GIS can provide to their operation.

Mission Completed, no report prepared

Volunteers assisted in data cleansing of health facilities in Libya
At the request of the World Health Organization (WHO), GISCorps volunteers were deployed to a data cleansing project in Libya. The dataset included the locations of health facilities around the country. The information was collected from various resources and by volunteers from two other partner organizations: the Stand By Task Force (SBTF) and the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap (HOT). GISCorps volunteers working on this project were: Abdel-Rahman Muhsen from Calgary and Case Robertson from Georgia. [Read more by clicking here.](#)

Mission completed

GISCorps watershed specialist worked on a project in Malawi

Christiana Pollack, a GIS specialist with Princeton Hydro in New Jersey was recruited for a project in Malawi. The project is commissioned by WALA, a five year livelihoods program beginning in 2009 to improve food security for chronically food insecure households in Malawi, Africa. The WALA program was looking for a volunteer to assist them in using GIS applications to map seven (7) micro-watersheds in sufficient detail to allow for creation of a GIS database. The first phase of the project, running a pilot project on one of the watersheds was completed.

Mission completed

GISCorps volunteers was asked to help in GIS database organization

The American Red Cross (ARC) requested the assistance of a GIS volunteer to help organize the information for their Haiti Assistance Program (HAP) into an Access database and link it with relevant administrative shape files in one or many separate Geodatabases. The recruitment resulted in selection and deployment of Saskia Cohick, a GIS professional from Pennsylvania. She started working on the project but the project was stopped without producing much results.

Recruitment Conducted, no results reported

Volunteers worked on a project with MapAction - Caribbean

Seven GISCorps volunteers were deployed to a remote mission in the Caribbean. The request for volunteers was made by MapAction, a UK based non profit volunteer organization with whom we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in January 2011. The volunteers were involved in data mining, cleansing and standardization of several GIS datasets related to Saint Lucia, Belize, and Bermuda. They worked directly with the MapAction teams in the UK and Caribbean. The GISCorps volunteers involved in this phase were: Anneka Imkamp, California, Kyung Kim, Virginia, Kevin Mayall, Bermuda, Tia Morita, California, Keith Olson, Colorado, Nathan Pugh, Utah, and Jacob Spuck, Florida.

Mission completed, no report prepared

Volunteer assisting the American Red Cross of Central Oklahoma

American Red Cross of Central Oklahoma requested the assistance of one GIS Specialist in conducting a needs assessment and deploying a solution to fulfill their short term GIS needs. Matthew Moore, a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma's Center for Spatial Analysis was recruited for this project and recently concluded his services.

Mission completed, no report prepared

Assisting a Micro Loan organization in Haiti

Fonkoze, a US based non profit organization, requested the assistance of a GISCorps volunteer in implementing a complete GPS data collection and web mapping of all of their "credit centers"; the 2000 locations that their clients meet at to repay loans, receive health and education services. Fonkoze is the largest micro-finance institution in Haiti offering a full range of financial services to the rural-based poor in Haiti. Following a search, Joe Dickinson, a GISCorps volunteer from Seattle, WA was recruited for this project and worked on the first phase of the project with Fonkoze representatives. [Read more here.](#)

Mission completed

Volunteering with a non profit organization in Montgomery County, MD

GISCorps recruited Robert George, a GISCorps volunteer from Pennsylvania, for a project in Montgomery County, MD. The project was in partnership with Identity, Inc. a US based nonprofit organization. Rob assisted the Identity Inc. team with analyzing and mapping a variety of demographic and financial data of both upper and lower income school communities in Montgomery County. A report of this project is posted in [here.](#)

Mission completed

Digitizing detailed hydrology layer completed - Panama
Azuro Earth Project, a US based non profit organization requested the assistance of two GIS Specialists in developing a comprehensive hydrology dataset. Two GIS Specialists: Josh Garver of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District (FSWCD) in Ohio, and Emily Cheadle of the town of Babylon Department of Planning and Development in New York were selected for this mission. They recently completed their tasks and the accounts of their effort is posted in [here.](#)

Mission completed

Volunteers assisted in the aftermath of tornados - Alabama

A violent tornado outbreak from April 25 – 28, 2011, affected the Southern Midwestern, and Eastern United States, leaving catastrophic destruction in its wake, especially across the state of Alabama. Shortly thereafter, we received a request for volunteers from CrisisCommons. The request was on behalf of the American Red Cross and Alabama Emergency Operation Center (EOC). They were looking for volunteers to assist in several areas. A few hours after the request came in, two volunteers; Shondra Hogan, GISP from Georgia and Jason San Souci, GISP from Colorado were recruited for the mission. They looked for multiple GIS datasets including Red Cross Shelters, schools, police stations, and disaster response centers. These datasets were loaded onto Ushahidi's Crowd Map. Another GISCorps volunteer, Yoh Kawano - who lead a team of volunteers for one of our Japan missions - along with his colleagues Christina Patterson and Grant Young provided technical support and server space (from UCLA's Office of Information Technology) for this application. The application is still up and running at [Recovery Alabama](#). Other contributing organizations include: CrisisCommons, Alabama EOC/Red Cross, Humanity Road, University of AL, UCLA, and SBTF.

Mission completed

Four volunteers helped in post tornado damage assessment - St Louis County, MO

Two tornadic supercells crossed the greater St. Louis Metropolitan Area during the evening hours of Good Friday, April 22, 2011. Shortly after that Brett Costillo from the Office of Emergency Management requested the assistance of 2-4 volunteers. Within a few hours, a job description was developed and two volunteers Heather Milton (also a Core Committee member), and Paul Trudt were on-site. Later on, two more volunteers, Scott Ferguson and Katie Spurr both from St Louis joined the team. They updated maps as damage reports were called in - damaged parcels layer, closed roads, areas of reported rotation from NWS, and cartography. Also, current maps were projected on EOC wall for responders' convenience; other maps made as requested (street map for animal shelter volunteers searching for pets).

Mission completed, no report prepared

Earthquake/Tsunami relief mission with Crisis Commons - Japan

Between March 12 and 15, 2011, seven GISCorps volunteers were recruited to assist in mining various datasets in earthquake stricken areas of Japan. This mission was in collaboration with CrisisCommons. Volunteers worked on a variety of tasks for over one week. Volunteers came from: Australia, Canada, Switzerland, and USA. [Read more here.](#)

Mission completed

Remote Sensing Specialist assisted with a project in Japan

GISCorps was contacted by the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) shortly after a massive earthquake hit the northeast region of Japan. The request was on behalf of a fellow member of the International Charter Space and Major Disasters (Charter), the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). They requested experienced remote sensing specialists who could quickly access, process, and publish high resolution imageries from various resources (all disseminated by the Charter). The goal of the project was to analyze satellite imagery to help guide the emergency response efforts for the coastal communities that were either directly impacted by the tsunami inundation or, at the time, had not reported their

condition. A call for qualified volunteers was sent out and in less than 24 hours, Terry Winemiller, an associate professor from Auburn University at Montgomery, Alabama and his team of students were recruited for the project. [Read more here.](#)
 Mission completed GISCorps volunteer assisted in geolocating child-mother clinics in Chiapas - Mexico
 In late 2010, Juan Del Toro, a GIS professional with Instituto de Información Territorial del Estado de Jalisco, was selected for a project in Chiapas, Mexico. The project was brought to us by Maternova, a US based organization who is implementing a web-based portal focused on empowering frontline health workers and saving lives around the time of childbirth. Juan assisted Maternova in geo locating hospitals and clinics in the region. [Read more here.](#)
 Mission completed

Three GISCorps volunteers finalized a pilot project for the Red Cross in Brisbane - Australia
 The Australian Red Cross – Emergency Services (QLD), based in Brisbane requested the assistance of GIS volunteers with experience in disaster response. The aim of the project is to have mapping tools that would improve the ability of the Red Cross team to document resource capacity and market this capacity to partner agencies. The recruitment resulted in selection of two volunteers in Brisbane (and vicinity) and one volunteer in the US. The volunteers were: Ori Gudes and Daniel Coogan from Australia and Scott Madry from North Carolina. The project was completed in early 2011. [Read more here.](#)
 Mission completed

Mission with GRDC (first phase) - Nigeria
 The Geographical Resources for Development Centre (GRDC), a non profit organization in Nigeria, requested one volunteer to assist in setting up a metadata clearinghouse. The project was a result of a partnership between GISCorps and the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI). Alison Fischer of British Columbia was recruited for this mission and the website was launched in January 2011. [Read more here.](#)
 Mission completed

Providing ArcGIS Server support to a non profit organization - New Orleans
 In October 2009, Dr. Michelle Thompson, an Assistant Professor at the University of New Orleans – Department of Planning & Urban Studies (UNO-PLUS) contacted GISCorps and sought the assistance of an ArcGIS Server Programmer to develop a community-university pilot project to develop a community data information system using internet mapping services. Following a thorough search Rafael Ferraro, a GIS Programmer with Science Application International Corporation (SAIC) in Virginia was selected for the project. The team recently reported the completion of the first phase of this mission. [Read more here.](#)
 Mission Completed

Mission with FLOSSK - Albania
 Nine of our volunteers have concluded their tasks for a project in Shkodra region of Albania. The project was commissioned by Free Libre Open Source Software Kosovo (FLOSSK), a non-profit organization in Kosovo. FLOSSK requested the assistance of GISCorps volunteers in creating an accurate base map for a region in northwest of Albania known as Shkodra. This region was struck by flood in January 2010. At completion, they helped develop several data layers including a detailed road network (on Open Street Map – OSM interface), damaged buildings, and various Points of Interests. [Read more here.](#)
 Mission completed

Assisting an NGO (ICOMOS) to preserve historic structures - Haiti
 International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is an international non-governmental organization of professionals, dedicated to the conservation of the world's historic monuments and sites. They were interested in identifying historic structures in Haiti and also assessing damages to those structures in hopes of helping the Haitians and Haitian government to preserve the important structures. They worked with Pictometry's donated imagery using their Pictometry OnLine (POL) application. The oblique data was of particular value for this particular disaster because of difficult situation on the ground, and the lack of prior inventories and identification of resources. [Read more here.](#)
 Mission completed

GISCorps volunteer deployed to UN-SPIDER/UNOOSA project - Haiti
 In January 2010, a request for ArcGIS Server specialists came to GISCorps from the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), as implementing Office for the UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER). The search resulted in the selection of Chris Markuson from Pueblo, Colorado. He worked with UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER representatives for several weeks.
 Mission completed, no report prepared

Geo- Referencing & Cleansing Election Database - Chad
 Information Management and Mine Action Program (iMMAP) is assisting the Chadian Independent Electoral Commission (CENA) in Chad. The goals of this project are to geo-reference +/-10,000 polling stations for the entire country and then add attribute data such as type of polling station, mobile network operator available, accessibility, and time to reach from the sub-district center to that dataset. This dataset will be used for the preparation of the upcoming legislative elections due in September 2010. They need a GISCorps volunteer with expertise in ArcGIS Desktop and

Excel spreadsheets to assist them with this project. The search resulted in selection of Guy Maurice from Belgium who was put in direct contact with iMMAP representatives. So far, he has been able to identify the location of several polling places. However, in order to finalize the project more detailed information is needed. This project is currently on hold until further information from CENA becomes available.

Recruitment Conducted, no results reported

Mission with CartONG - Vietnam

In December 2009, CartONG; a French based non profit organization requested the assistance of a GISCorps volunteer with expertise in remote sensing. The overall goal of the project was to support the Vietnamese government to find a mechanism to improve the livelihood of the poor by increasing the value of their forests through a pilot study in two regions in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. Shortly after the request came in an email broadcast was sent to the volunteer database and 15 individuals from 10 countries applied for the project. The review of the resumes and interviews resulted in selecting Jason San Souci, GISP from AFE Advisors LLC. in Colorado and he began working with the CartONG team shortly there after. [Read more here.](#)

Mission completed

Mission with Fuquay-Varina Rotary Club - Panama

The Fuquay-Varina Rotary (FVR) Club sought GISCorps volunteers' assistance to develop an online questionnaire to conduct a survey in poor neighborhoods of Panama. The objective was to locate and collect detailed information about the staggering number of orphans in Panama City and beyond. The online questionnaire will eventually enable FVR to geo-locate those who will be surveyed. In April 2009, two GISCorps volunteers were deployed to this mission. Jill Hume, a GIS Analyst for the Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board and Steve Tsuida, a graphic designer and web developer with Kyros both in Calgary, Canada. [Read more here.](#)

Mission completed

K-12 Project - Hamilton County, TN

In February 2009, the UT-TSU Extension office in hamilton County - Chattanooga, TN requested a GISCorps volunteer to help them install the ArcView software onto their new computers and facilitate group sessions on registering waypoints, downloading it into the computers, and creating printable maps for display. Andrew Carroll, the GIS Manager at ARCS, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, was selected for this project and assisted the 4-H club in several projects. [Read more here.](#)

Mission completed

K-12 Mission - Grant County, Washington

In late May 2009, we received a request for GISCorps volunteers to assist a 4-H club in Grant County, WA. They conducted a variety of tasks including: teaching introductory GIS material to the youth, collecting information by digitizing and also GPSing various facilities and much more... Volunteers recruited for this mission were: Kelly Stancel, J.J. Bach, Crystal Murphy and Beth Carpenter. [Read more about the project in here.](#)

Mission completed

K-12 Mission with 4-H Club - Ames, IA

On June 1st 2009, we were asked to provide a GISCorps volunteer to assist a 4-H club in Ames, IA. The assistance was needed for critiquing various maps created by the youth. GISCorps volunteer, Brenda Swaim was recruited for this mission. [Read more about the project in here.](#)

Mission completed Mission with HumaniNet – Oregon, USA

In March 2009, HumaniNet, a non-profit organization located in Portland, Oregon, requested the assistance of GISCorps volunteers with expertise and interest in disaster preparedness. HumaniNet was asked by the Director of Emergency Management of Multnomah County, in Portland, Oregon, to support an upcoming disaster response exercise, Cascadia Peril, with an online map-based information capability. Following recruitment, three volunteers were identified. They were: Michael Price, from Mount Vernon, WA, Mary Meade, from Milton, FL, and Paul Trudt, from Fairview Heights, IL. The HumaniNet – GISCorps team developed a new workflow and mapping process using Google Earth, building on the results of a simulation exercise in Thailand in 2008.

Mission Completed, no report prepared

Mission with the Peace Corps

GISCorps has been in contact with the Peace Corps for the last few months and as a result, they requested one volunteer to provide GIS training and advisement to their staff. Tom Conry, the GIS Manager of Fairfax County, was recruited for this project and has been working with Peace Corps team members. Peace Corps has initiated a pilot project and will contact GISCorps for additional volunteers in the near future. In March 2009, Shoreh Elhami, GISCorps Co-founder, gave a brief presentation to PC's Country Managers on GISCorps volunteers' capabilities.

Mission Completed, no report prepared

Mission with (PRAD) and (FBR) - Thailand

This mission is in partnership with Partners Relief Development (PRAD) and Free Burma Rangers (FBR). The request was for one GIS instructor to teach an introductory ArcGIS course and also assist PRAD/FBR with database design and application development for two weeks. Joe Forrest from North Carolina was selected for this project and went to Mae Sot, Thailand in February 2009. Read more about the project in [here](#).

Mission completed

Mission with Engineers without Borders: NYU:Poly - Dominican Republic

In February 2009, we received a request for volunteers from Lonna Gordon, a Project Manager at Polytechnic Institute of NYU (NYU: Poly). She asked if our volunteers could teach at their upcoming workshop to cover the basics of Google Earth to 15-25 of their students. The objective was to teach them how to plot NGO water projects' locations in the Dominican Republic and then further populating them with associated information. Read more about the project in [here](#).

Mission completed

Mission with Broadmoor Improvement Association (BIA) - New Orleans

In November 2008, GISCorps received a request for a GIS instructor from Broadmoor Improvement Association (BIA). They asked that the volunteer would go on-site (in New Orleans) and train three of their employees on the use of the advanced use of ArcGIS software. Kathleen Coverick, Urban Planning Fellow at BIA, noted that though the BIA had purchased the software, the staff had only very basic knowledge of its usage and the training was intended to make GIS a much more powerful tool for helping the organization meet the needs of a community hard hit by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Read more about the project in [here](#).

Mission completed

Mission with EnterpriseWorks VITA (EWV) - Kenya and Ethiopia

In late 2008, GISCorps volunteer Melinda Laituri, a Colorado State University professor, and one of her students, Joel Murray, started working on a GISCorps mission. The new mission was commissioned by EnterpriseWorks/VITA (EWV), an international not-for-profit organization based in Washington DC working to combat poverty through economic development programs based on sustainable, enterprise-oriented solutions. Read more about the project in [here](#).

Mission completed

Mission with COPAE - Guatemala

On October 20, 2008, GISCorps received a request from a group of volunteers who were assisting a Guatemalan NGO, Pastoral Commission Peace and Ecology (COPAE) to monitor and diagnose damage to indigenous people's homes near the Marlin Mine in the vicinity of Sipacapa, Guatemala. They were interested in obtaining hard copy maps from high resolution imagery and base data. They also wanted the imagery to become accessible to them in Google Earth (GE) environment. GISCorps volunteer, Lars Bromley of Washington D.C. was contacted for this project. He was able to geo-reference and overlay a high resolution imagery which was provided by Digital Globe in GE interface. The image can be viewed [here](#) (you have to have GE installed on your pc to view this map). Read more about this project in [here](#).

Mission Completed

Mission with AAAS - Guatemala

The Science and Human Rights Program of American Association for Advancement of Science (AAAS) requested one volunteer with expertise in cadastral mapping and also fluency in Spanish to assist an ongoing legal case that seeks to protect property rights of an indigenous group in Guatemala. Odra Cardenas of Washington State was recruited for this mission and collected all relevant documents pertaining to the property holdings, as well as a satellite image for reference. At this point, due to details of the ongoing court case in Guatemala, a local surveying firm has been hired to serve the court and provide expertise. Should the Guatemalan case fail, plaintiffs are ready to bring the case to the Organization of American States (OAS). In that case, AAAS and Odra will review the materials and provide advice on possible alternatives for presenting evidence to OAS.

Mission Completed, no report prepared

Mission with iMMAP - Iraq

This mission was in partnership with Information Management & Mine Action Programs (iMMAP) and was completed in October 08. Four GISCorps volunteers; Shane Bergman from Colorado, Clio Andris from South Carolina, Chris Van Nice from Texas, and Matthew Redmond from England worked on this project. The project involved reading various narratives from Iraq security reports dating from June 2003 and entering those events into spreadsheets to be eventually mapped.

iMMAP formerly part of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, became an independent NGO in June 2007. They are the leading information management service provider in the humanitarian aid community. Previously GISCorps partnered with iMMAP to send five volunteers to Post Tsunami efforts in Indonesia.

Mission Completed, no report prepared

Mission with HealthCare Volunteers (HCV)

HealthCare Volunteers is a non-profit organization headquartered in California with the main goal of connecting any

volunteers with a health-related volunteering opportunity. They asked if our volunteers could help them geo-code their existing database and then publish it in an online application such as Google Earth. GISCorps volunteer Tara Athan, from Alternative to Invasive Species Inc. in California, volunteered for this project. [Read more about this mission here.](#)

Mission Completed

Mission with Kabul Polytechnic University (KPU) - Afghanistan

In Spring of 2008, KPU requested an instructor to teach two ArcGIS courses (introductory and advanced) to their faculty. An email broadcast went out earlier this month and 11 volunteers expressed interest in the mission. Carl Kinkade of BearingPoint of Atlanta, GA was selected for the project. Carl arrived in Kabul on July 3rd and returned on July 16th. [Read more about the project in here.](#)

Mission completed

GISCorps Volunteers Provide Assistance to Myanmar (Burma) Cyclone's Mission

In May and June of 2008, 31 volunteers were deployed for two missions at the request of United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). [Read more about the project in here.](#)

Missions completed

GISCorps Volunteer Assists in the Aftermath of the Missouri Flood

In March 2008, GISCorps volunteer Heather Milton of URS Corp in St Louis provided GIS technical assistance to St Louis County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). [Read more about the project in here.](#)

Mission completed

Five GISCorps Volunteers Geo-Coded Events in Darfur and East Chad

In July of 2007, GISCorps received a request from Lars Bromley a Project Manager with AAAS to provide five volunteers to help them in geocoding events in Darfur and East Chad. Five volunteers from US and Canada were recruited for this project. They were: Nicholas Hauk from Calgary, Peggy Wu from Pennsylvania, Brian Mladenich from Oregon, Megan Winnenberg from Ohio, and Ryan Kemna from Washington DC. [Read more about the project in here.](#)

Mission completed

GISCorps Volunteer assists Local 4-H'ers in using GPS/GIS to map Barn Quilts of Sac County, Iowa

GISCorps volunteer Brandon Haas of NewCom Technologies, Inc. was recruited for a K-12 project in Sac County, Iowa in September 2007. Brandon provided GIS assistance for a project called Barn Quilts. [Read more about the project in here.](#)

Mission completed

GISCorps Volunteer Conducts GIS Needs Assessment in Mozambique

In early November 2007, GISCorps volunteer Fernando Sedano of Berkeley, California headed to Mozambique to conduct a GIS Needs Assessment. This project is in partnership with Agriculture Development International and Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA). Fernando's mission concluded at the end of November. [To learn more about his mission click here.](#)

Mission completed

GISCorps Volunteers Assist a K-12 Project in Ohio

Four GISCorps volunteers: Tara Havens, Lucia Barbato, Megan Winnenberg, and Patricia Moehring assisted Caching Our World, a K-12 non profit organization, in conducting several events during the Geography Awareness Week. The event was held on November 13-15, 2007 at the campus of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. [Read more about the project in here.](#)

Mission completed

GISCorps Volunteer provides GIS assistance to Collier County 4-H in Florida

GISCorps Volunteer Darryl Clare, in November 2007, concluded a K-12/4-H project in Collier County, Florida. The Collier County GIS Community Development Project is a collaborative project of 4-H of Collier County University of Florida IFAS Extension Services, Collier County School Board, the City of Naples City Council. [Read more about the project in here.](#)

Mission completed

Teaching at Kabul Polytechnic University (KPU) via Engineers without Borders - International

Juna Papajorgji, Ph.D., taught a GIS course to faculty and students of the Kabul Polytechnic University and of the Kabul University. The course took place at the KPU, during the week of September 1-6, 2007.

Mission completed, no report prepared

GISCorps Volunteer teaches at Gulf Coast Community Design Studio in Biloxi, MS

David W. Allen, GIS Manager of City of Euless, TX was recruited for teaching an ArcGIS course to Gulf Coast Community Design Studio (GCCDS) team in August 2007. GCCDS is a non profit organization in Biloxi, MS. [Read more about the project in here.](#)

Mission completed

Mentoring/Advising Project for Pakistan is Completed

Miguel Garriga of Geographic Systems, LLC was recruited for mentoring/advising Bernadette Baird-Zars in May of 2007. The project involved providing technical support in building a geodatabase for historical sites in the Hunza Valley in Northern Pakistan. [Read Miguel's personal accounts of the project in here.](#)

Mission completed

Second Afghanistan Mission is completed

On April 5th, 2007, the second Afghanistan volunteer mission was launched. This mission is also in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Afghanistan Information Management Services (AIMS) and our volunteer, Chen Li, will spend one month of his vacation in Kabul. Chen Li is a GIS Specialist with the ESRI Northwest Office and his areas of specialization are with ArcSDE, ArcIMS, and ArcGIS Server applications. He will train AIMS staff on the use of these applications and will also help in geospatially enabling one of AIMS' current databases...more
Mission completed

GISCorps Volunteer Helps United Nations High Commission for Refugees Map Resources for Refugees in Cairo, Egypt
This past fall, Lori Quinn, from North Carolina, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission, was deployed to a (UNHCR) project that involved digitizing and geo-referencing resources in Cairo, Egypt, to support the protection and assistance activities of UNHCR for refugees in that city. The UNHCR reported last fall that Egypt had approximately 88,000 refugees, about 17,500 of whom were receiving assistance from UNHCR. Approximately 70,000 were Palestinian refugees, though few of these were registered with the UNHCR. Among the UNHCR assisted refugees, the majority were from Sudan, followed by Somalia. With continued conflict and political uncertainty in these areas, including Darfur, and the additional inflow from Iraq, these numbers were on the rise. Cairo, particularly the poor quarters of the city, has been the primary destination for these refugees and the need to provide services there has put the UNHCR's assistance program under tremendous pressure...more
Mission completed

Six New GISCorps Missions Started in March 2006 in Africa, Eastern Europe, and Pacific Islands

This year as a result of our partnership with the Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) association, spearheaded by Juna Papajorgji, Ph.D., the Co-chair and Co-founder of the GISCorps, our volunteers will be contributing to the global effort for building a Common National Spatial Data Infrastructure. These six new GISCorps projects will make use of Open Source development environments and of products built with OpenGIS specifications. All of the projects will be conducted remotely in support of major research and academic institutions in these countries. Following is a list of projects and assigned GISCorps volunteers.

1. Armenia: Institute of Geological Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences.

Project: Collecting and web publishing known volcanoes as they relate to geo-referenced topographic maps and DEM.

Volunteer: Ramasawamy Hariharan, University of California, Irvine, PhD, Candidate.

2. Hungary: Institute of Ecology and Botany, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Project: Develop a spatial web portal to serve natural vegetation and landscape ecological maps.

Volunteer: Philippe Duchesne, Ionic Software, Belgium, GIS Programmer.

3. Kenya: Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI)

Project: Web publishing of Kenya's Oil Spill Contingency sensitivity atlas.

Volunteer: Dan Carey, Kentucky Geological Survey, University of Kentucky, Hydrologist.

4. Mali: World Food Program

Project: Technical and policy support for the National Committee of Geographical Information (CNIG), in their effort to strengthen the country's SDI.

Volunteer: Sarah Williams, Columbia University, Director of Geospatial Analysis and Remote Sensing.

5. Marshall Islands: Environmental Protection Authority

Project: Develop a geospatial web application for GIS data/metadata clearinghouse.

Volunteer: Yasser Ayad, Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Associate Professor.

6. Namibia: National Botanical Research Institute

Project: Server side programming to enhance Namibia's Biodiversity Database (NADIB)

Volunteer: Sean Montague, ATS-Denver, Inc, Lead GIS/Web Programmer.

Support for Medical Missionaries in Haiti, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Guatemala

We have engaged in two missions in support of the Medical Mission Exchange (MMEX), a non-profit organization, headquartered in the US, which facilitates referrals of underserved patients to appropriate medical specialists. Read article from the GovernmentHealthIT Magazine and a fascinating report from the volunteers on their experiences.

First Mission

The first mission engaged five GISCorps volunteers. Each volunteer contributed 40-50 hours and worked remotely from their home/office. See list of team members below:

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Clare Brown, GIS Manager at KHAFRA Eng.Co. - team leader

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Lucia Lovison Golob, Associate & GIS Advisor for IT Master Students, Harvard University

Alfred de Jager, GIS Expert, European Commission, Italy

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Danielle Ayan, Research Scientist, Georgia Tech Center for GIS

-

Claudia Caceres, GIS Specialist, Forests and Rural Productivity Project, Honduras

Second mission

Building upon the success of the first mission, GISCorps has just set up a second mission with the MMEX. This mission will tie the four geo-libraries, created for each country by the volunteers of the first mission, to the organization's existing tabular databases. It will also integrate these geo-libraries into the overall operational model of the MMEX. The second mission has engaged one GISCorps volunteer, who is conducting the mission on site.

-

Diana Sinton, Chief Program Officer, Latitude GIS Initiative National Institute for Technology & Liberal Education (NITL), Vermont.

Mission completed

Four missions in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts

We have implemented four missions in Mississippi and Louisiana, engaging 33 volunteers. Three missions have been on site at the Jackson, Mississippi's Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and other EOCs in Hancock, Harrison, Pearl River, Stone, and Jackson Counties. One mission is working remotely for the Washington Parish in Louisiana. Read article from the GIS Monitor... more

Mission completed

UNDP/Afghanistan Information Management Services (AIMS)

Shoreh Elhami, one of the co-founders of the GISCorps was in Kabul, Afghanistan in early May 2005 to visit with several governmental and non governmental entities. The main purpose of the visit was to establish a program for an ongoing deployment of GISCorps volunteers to that country. During her stay, she conducted several lectures and mini workshops... more

Mission completed

SeedsIndia & MapAction

The seven member team has been busy creating various datasets for the Little Andaman Islands of India which was severely affected by the tsunami. Members of this team all reside in the US and are working on this project from their homes and places of employment. They started working on this project in mid February 2005. This team is being lead by one of the volunteers, Beni Patel. The other six volunteers are: Peter Price and his students (Sue Burley, Douglas Mangum, and Randy Andrews), Marlen Kokaz, Chandreyee Lahiri, Meredith Williams, Dyhan Appachu, and Anand Trivedi. The team has been working on gathering data (scanning, digitizing, classifying satellite imageries, etc.) and creating spatial and non spatial datasets... more

Mission completed

Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAFF) & UN Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC)

Five of our volunteers arrived in Indonesia on the 4th week of March 2005 for a one month assignment. Those are: Paul McKnight, Jay Meehl, Ray DeLeon, Heather Milton from US, and Dylan Shaw from Australia. Three of the volunteers are stationed in Jakarta and two are working in Banda Ache, Meulaboh, and Nias. The team is performing a variety of GIS tasks for the UNJLC under VVAFF's direction. So far, those tasks include: image processing, data collection using GPS, field check, data model development, and more...

Mission completed

Global MapAid

Frank Chang, returned from a one month assignment in Indonesia on March 14th, 2005. His role as a GISCorps volunteer for the Tsunami relief efforts was to serve as an expert advisor to the Global MapAid, a non governmental organization. The field evaluation conducted by the team would evolve to a one-year project partnered with a local NGO or education institute... more

Mission completed

Sacred Valley of Incas in Peru

Our first project was in April of 2004. Martha Lombard, assisted the World Bank in planning for sustainable development studies in the Sacred Valley of Incas in Peru.

Mission completed

[Click here for more details on January to June 2005 projects.](#)