The Power of Digital Volunteers

Introducing the Standby Task Force

Svend-Jonas Schelhorn
svendjonas@standbytaskforce.com
@shornjonas
Geographer, Crisis Mapper
SBTF Data/Mapping-Team Coordinator
SBTF – Who we are

• Launched at ICCM 2010 in Boston
• Online Community for Live Crisis Mapping and crowdsourced data preparedness
• 902 volunteers from all over the world
• Decentralized, modular network of volunteers acting on the base of a code of conduct
• Working with open and volunteered data
• Acting as an Open Source model for digital volunteering
Standby Volunteer Task Force

- following specific activation criteria
- provide dedicated crowdsourcing, mapping, data scrambling and technology testing
- support to organizations in the humanitarian, human rights, environment, election monitoring and media space
**Standby Volunteer Task Force**

- Volunteer-based
- 902 volunteers from all over the world
- Diverse backgrounds
- Trained in the use of crowdmapping applications
Standby Volunteer Task Force

- Crowdmapping
- Data Scrambling
- Technology Testing

See what's happening right now, anywhere
Introducing the Standby Task Force

Crisis Mapping:
Collect Information
Analyze Information
Categorize Information
Visualize Information
Response

SBTF - Teams und Workflows
Examples of past Deployments
Libya Crisis Map
Social Media Mapping for Common Operational Datasets

The CrisisMappers Standby Task Force has been undertaking a mapping of social media, news reports and official situation reports from within Libya and along the borders at the request of OCHA. The Task Force is also aiding in the collection and mapping of 3W information for the response. UNOSAT is kindly hosting the Common Operational Datasets to be used during the emergency. Interaction with these groups is being coordinated by OCHA's Information Services Section.

The public version of this map does not include personal identifiers and does not include descriptions for the reports mapped. This restriction is for security reasons. All information included on this map is derived from information that is already publicly available online (see Sources tab).

Focal Points & Media Relations:
- UN/OCHA: Brendan McDonald [mcdonaldib@un.org]
- CrisisMappers/TaskForce: Patrick Meier [patrick@crisismappers.net]

Note: For security reasons, reports are placed on a 24 hour embargo before being made public.

Click on map icons to see local reports
Dear Standby TaskForce Members;

I just wanted to send a brief note of thanks to all members of the CrisisMappers Standby Task Force.

The Libya Crisis Map and related efforts have come a long way since our initial discussions on the 1st of March. The dedication and professionalism of the Task Force is commendable. Your efforts at tackling a difficult problem have definitely reduced the information overload; sorting through the multitude of signals on the crisis is no easy task. The Task Force has given us an output that is manageable and digestible, which in turn contributes to better situational awareness and decision making.

I look forward to further developing our collaboration in this emergency and beyond.

Best regards,
Brendan

Brendan McDonald
Chief, Information Services Section
Communications and Information Services Branch (CISB)/OCHA
***Official: Immediate UN Activation of SBTF for South Sudan!***

03.07.2012

Need of data

- To make informed decisions during their field mission
- To analyze the impact of emergencies on the population of South Sudan
The Task

Svend-Jonas Schelhorn @shornjonas

Introducing the Standby Task Force

GeOnG Forum || 06-10-2012

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**Fundamental Operational Datasets**

**Damage Assessments**
No dataset has been identified for this theme. [Submit a dataset.]

**Education**
No dataset has been identified for this theme. [Submit a dataset.]

**Elections**
No dataset has been identified for this theme. [Submit a dataset.]

**Food Security**
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**Nutrition**
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**Health**
No dataset has been identified for this theme. [Submit a dataset.]

**Affected Persons Locations (Refugee, IDP, etc)**
No dataset has been identified for this theme. [Submit a dataset.]

**Logistics**
No dataset has been identified for this theme. [Submit a dataset.]

**Protection**
No dataset has been identified for this theme. [Submit a dataset.]

**Security**
No dataset has been identified for this theme. [Submit a dataset.]

**Other**
No dataset has been identified for this theme. [Submit a dataset.]

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Submit another dataset for this theme.
SBTF was activated within 48 hours through the Digital Humanitarian Network

3 days

1767 rows of data

15,271 pieces of information records
„We continue to be blown away by how much information you are gathering—and the detail of it!—and want to again extend our thanks and sincere appreciation for your hard work.”
The Power of Digital Volunteers

- People will use any available channel of communication to share and communicate their situation during crisis.

- The online crisis mapping community can help to turn these communications into data that are actionable for the humanitarian responders, both local and international.

- The volunteer crisis mapping community can respond to the demand of the traditional humanitarian responders who seek the ways to more effectively incorporate the community generated data into their standard operation procedures.
Introducing the Standby Task Force
Searching for *Digital Volunteers*?

Our answer?

**STANDBY TASK FORCE**

To become a member apply at

[http://blog.standbytaskforce.com](http://blog.standbytaskforce.com)

or contact [join@standbytaskforce.com](mailto:join@standbytaskforce.com)

And follow us on Twitter: @SBTaskForce
SBTF - Teams und Workflows

CROWDSOURCED INFORMATION

INFORMATION OVERLOAD

Introducing the Standby Task Force
Part of the Digital Humanitarian Network

Standby Volunteer Task Force

UNV Online Volunteering service

Geeks Without Bounds

Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team

Statistics Without Borders

DataKind

Esri

URISA's GISCorps
THE 2011 LIBYAN UPRISING BEGAN AS A SERIES OF PROTESTS AND CONFRONTATIONS OCCURRING IN THE NORTH AFRICAN STATE OF LIBYA AGAINST MUAMMAR GADDAFI’S 42-YEAR RULE. THE PROTESTS BEGAN ON 15 FEBRUARY 2011 AND ESCALATED INTO A WIDESPREAD UPRISING BY THE END OF FEBRUARY.

ON THE 15TH OF MARCH, THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ALLOWED THE USE OF FORCE TO ENFORCE THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IN THE COUNTRY. BY THE END OF FEBRUARY, GADDAFI HAD LOST CONTROL OF MOST OF HIS COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE MAJOR CITIES OF MISURATA AND BENGHAZI. THE LIBYAN OPPOSITION HAS FORMED A NATIONAL TRANSITIONAL COUNCIL AND FREE PRESS HAS BEGUN TO OPERATE IN CYRENAICA. SOCIAL MEDIA HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ORGANIZING THE OPPOSITION.

FOR THE FIRST TIME OCHA REACHED OUT TO THE VTC

- On Tuesday 1st March, OCHA reaches out to Standby Task Force, CrisisMappers, CrisisCommons, ICT4Peace, Open Street Map and MapAction.
- A couple of hours later, OCHA activated the Standby Volunteer Task Force (SBTF) which quickly launched a Crisis Map of Libya to support humanitarian preparedness operations.
- The first mandate of the SBTF was to support OCHA to understand what was going on inside the country.

DAY 2 - 3

- Media Monitoring team starts doing media monitoring according to 62 different categories
- Verification team start verifying reports based on Twitter, Facebook and Media reports
- Analysis team start producing daily sit reports and cross-referencing data with other databases
- Geo-location team starts locating hospitals, refugee camps, attacked zones and 3W

DAY 5

- The UN formally ask for the Map to become public
- WFP, UNHCR, IRC express their interests in participating in the project
- Google Humanitarian Team ask to be able to share data with the SBTF
The Story of Crowd Mapping

Patrick Meier
- Co-Founder of Ushahidi
- Co-Founder of SBTF

„Let's change the world, one map at a time!“
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1) Media Monitoring Team</th>
<th>2) Geo-Location Team</th>
<th>3) Translation Team</th>
<th>4) SMS Team</th>
<th>5) Report Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Identify mainstream &amp; social media websites/feeds</td>
<td>- Find GPS coordinates of Media reports</td>
<td>- Check the automatical translation done by the translation plugin for SMS, e-mail and web-submission. Translate media monitoring reports.</td>
<td>- Look for actionable SMS messages and create a reports</td>
<td>- Check reports that have been submitted via web and via Media monitoring and send them to the Geo-Location and translation</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Monitor these feeds on an ongoing basis</td>
<td>- Find GPS coordinates of SMS</td>
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<td>- If the message is urgent send requests immediately for geo-location and translation to</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Enter actionable info</td>
<td>- Find GPS coordinates for other info requested by Humanitarian Team</td>
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<td>6) Responders Liaison Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Liaise between TF and humanitarian responders.</td>
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<td>- Fast track urgent reports to humanitarian responders</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Send site reports to humanitarian responders</td>
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<th>7) Verification team</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Verify urgent reports and actionable reports using original sources or triangulation</td>
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<th>8) Analysis Team</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Produce printable maps</td>
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<td>- Find patterns in the reports submitted to the platform</td>
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<td>- Produce a regular Taskforce Report</td>
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| GPS and Translation Team and fast tracks the info to Humanitarian Team and Ushahidi Map |
| team before uploading on the public map |
Teams & Workflows

- Volunteers get trained
- Each volunteer is member of at least one team
- Coordination during deployments via email, googledocs, skype and TF-website

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