



OCTOBER 2007

SPACE BASED SOLUTIONS FOR EARLY WARNING, CRISIS RESPONSE, SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY, VULNERABILITY REDUCTION AND LOCAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR UN AGENCIES AND MEMBER STATE

## UNOSAT's mission statement

Having delivered operational satellite services to the United Nations, its partners and Member States since 2001, UNOSAT recently conducted an internal retreat looking back at six years of operational experience and lessons learned, as well as looking forward towards a future where such services are even more in demand and diversified. Based on this exercise, the UNOSAT mission statement was revised to reflect recent and future developments. This was recently presented at a conference in Vienna, and we are happy to inform all in our humanitarian and development community of UNOSAT's mission statement:

***UNOSAT is a people-centred organisation integrating satellite solutions for human security, peace and development applications.***

This statement reflects our focus on pragmatic solutions and a highly service-minded approach to the people making up the various UN organizations, their partners and representatives from Member States as well as our support to the core mandate of the UN. UNOSAT has also now included satellite telecommunication and satellite navigation in our services – in addition to the well established domain of satellite imagery.

## Unprecedented near real time data access

UNOSAT recently signed a collaboration agreement with the Norwegian satellite reception station operator Kongsberg Satellite Services (KSAT). This agreement will ensure an important step forward for the humanitarian community in terms of timely delivery of satellite image derived emergency information.

Due to the geographic placement of its reception antennas, all located at very high latitudes, KSAT is capable of downloading data from every single orbit from more than 30 imagery satellites, with more to come. A significant investment in infrastructure at the island of Svalbard (79 degrees North), the mainland city of Tromso and most recently on the Antarctic continent now makes it possible to have satellite imagery downloaded from space and pre-processed by KSAT in less than one hour.



UNOSAT is working hard to ensure satellite solutions for emergency operations are timely delivered and this agreement is an important element of this service. Once UNOSAT's operational services are implemented based on KSAT's infrastructure, the humanitarian community will be able to receive satellite image derived information within hours after the satellite has acquired an image of for example an earthquake hit area.

With the support from the Norwegian Space Centre, KSAT and UNOSAT have

UNOSAT

UNITAR

Palais des Nations

CH-1211 Geneva

Switzerland

Telephones:

+41 22 767 4020  
(Operations)

+41 22 917 8650  
(External relations)

Fax: +41 22 917 8062

E-mail: [info@unosat.org](mailto:info@unosat.org)

Web: [www.unosat.org](http://www.unosat.org)

**24/7 hotline:**

**+41 76 487 4998**





Alain Retiere, UNOSAT Director (left) and Rolf Skatteboe, KSAT President (right) during signing ceremony.

previously demonstrated during the TRIPLEX exercises in 2004 and 2006 that imagery-derived

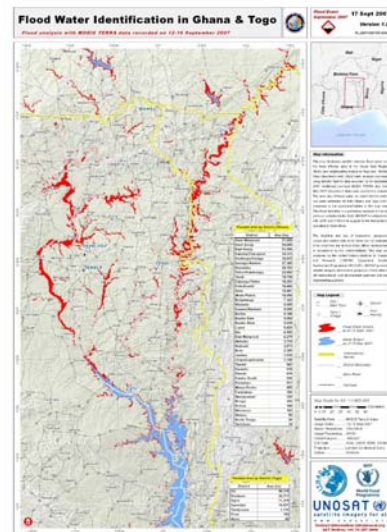
information can be received by field actors in less than four hours after image acquisition. Now, the UN, its implementing partners and Member States the infrastructure available to make this happen during operations as well.

Image source: UNOSAT, KSAT

## Humanitarian rapid mapping support, September 2007

During last month, UNOSAT's satellite rapid mapping service was activated 10 times. All flood mapping received support from International Charter "Space and Major Disasters", with UN OOSA as collaborative body.

- Paraguay, fires
- DPR Korea, flood
- Gambia, flood
- Ghana, flood
- Kenya, flood
- Mali, flood
- Mauritania, flood
- Senegal, flood
- Sudan, flood
- Uganda, flood



West Africa saw severe flooding, with practically every country in the region affected. UNOSAT worked both in-house and in collaboration with WFP/ITHACA to ensure satellite imagery derived flood information was timely available to the field actors. Such information is more than pure satellite maps, it also includes sharing GIS-ready data with UN agencies and NGOs working in the field, as well as providing statistical information derived from imagery and combined with administrative data, such as area covered by floods per district.

Map source: UNOSAT

## Early Recovery Inter Agency mission, Uganda

At the invitation of the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery, UNOSAT joined the Inter Agency mission to Uganda from 5-11 September 2007. The mission's key objectives were to develop and draft the Early Recovery Strategic Framework for Uganda and to identify relevant early recovery components to be included within the second pillar of the Uganda Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) 2008. Following heavy rainfall in Eastern Uganda (Teso Region), during the mission, UNOSAT also delivered timely flood identification maps to the local OCHA office for field assessment. A wide range of Early Recovery relevant satellite-derived maps and data were also delivered to local actors and Government representatives.

## The constant progress of the GLIDE identification number

GLIDE has become the de facto disaster identification standard. Based on the long debated need to create a unique identification code for each disaster event at global scale, GLIDE is a standard system using alphanumeric identification codes issued by a number of certified organizations within and outside the UN system. GLIDE numbers allow the immediate identification of a disaster and the use and storage of data regarding that event.

The components of a GLIDE number consist of two letters to identify the disaster type (e.g. EQ - earthquake); the year of the disaster; a six-digit, sequential disaster number; and the three-letter ISO code for country of occurrence. UNOSAT has been the first to introduce the use of GLIDE numbers on satellite-derived maps. Currently, UNOSAT, OCHA and the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC) use a system allowing humanitarian operators to access satellite maps automatically correlated to the databases on a certain emergency via the GLIDE identification code. This is now a standard procedure in Virtual OSOCC (On-Site Operations Coordination Centre) and the related Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS).

UNOSAT is today a cooperative body of GLIDE, in the framework of a new initiative to improve the GLIDE system and expand its use even further. GLIDE is an initiative spearheaded by ADRC (the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre based in Kobe, Japan), CRED (of the University of Louvain, Belgium) and OCHA/ReliefWeb, among others. GLIDE offers also a searchable database of most disasters worldwide (learn more at: [www.glidenumbers.net](http://www.glidenumbers.net)).



## Telecommunications Advanced Networks for GMES Operations - TANGO

TANGO aims at providing the Global Monitoring for Environment & Security (GMES) community with access to satellite telecommunications solutions in order to meet future operational needs.

The three year TANGO project, a 24 member consortium funded by the European Commission and launched on 1 November 2006, will define, adapt, integrate, and initiate services of satellite telecommunications adapted to GMES requirements. With the involvement of actors from the whole value chain, upgrades of the most recent satellite telecommunication techniques will be researched, proposed and developed for final integration with on-going developments in the framework of security and emergency management, fisheries management, maritime surveillance and humanitarian aid.



UNOSAT, as one of the key providers of solutions and services to the humanitarian aid community is participating in the project, providing information on requirements from the United Nations family, bringing by this mean a global dimension to TANGO and helping to disseminate, train and demonstrate the capabilities of the proposed services so as to favor their usage on wide scale basis. UNOSAT is the lead of the Humanitarian Aid thematic of TANGO.

For more information, please see [www.teladnetgo.eu](http://www.teladnetgo.eu)