



APRIL 2008

UNOSAT IS A PEOPLE-CENTRED PROGRAMME INTEGRATING SATELLITE SOLUTIONS FOR HUMAN SECURITY, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS.

Polio eradication initiative - India

The World Health Organization (WHO) is managing a large programme to combat polio globally. In planning for the ongoing polio eradication campaign in the state of Bihar, India, UNOSAT was called upon to facilitate satellite maps of the area targeted for the vaccination – an environment with few roads and densely populated



agricultural zones along the Kosi river.

Local health authorities and WHO collaborate to ensure children in all villages receive the vaccination, which yields a need for updated and detailed maps to plan the actual campaign. A recent planning meeting drew a large number of medical doctors and WHO staff together and the breakdown on who would visit which areas was discussed using detailed satellite

imagery acquired by NSPO specifically for this assessment. A total of 24 satellite scenes were provided, which UNOSAT processed and printed on eleven poster size paper maps for the collaborative planning effort that took place. WHO and the local actors together made a large mosaic (see photos) of the satellite maps, and were very satisfied with having access to such key baseline information. The exercise also spurred the need for further awareness raising and capacity building in using space-based tools for health applications.

"I have just returned from the area of most recent poliovirus circulation and see that we are in dire need of detailed maps to assist with planning of manpower vaccine distribution."

"If we can obtain high resolution satellite photos of the entire area of interest (clearly showing roads, paths, clustering of households), we would like to create a large image of the area."

WHO official

Photo source: WHO



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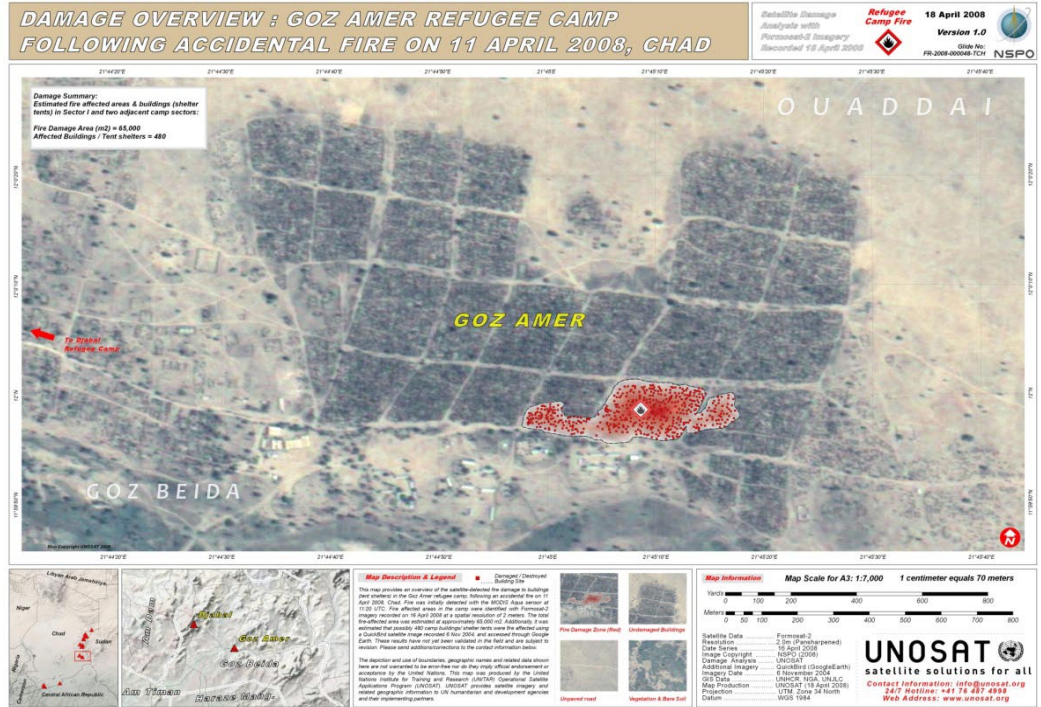
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Humanitarian rapid mapping support, April 2008

A total of three rapid mapping activations were carried out during April:

- [Chad](#) fire in refugee camp
- East-Timor telecommunication support
- [Somalia](#) security map, piracy



In the Goz Amer refugee camp, Chad, unintended cooking fire is believed to have caused a fire that quickly spread due to high winds. UNHCR reported the fire to have injured ten people and left approximately 3,000 refugees homeless. Many of the refugees from Sudan's Darfur region lost their belongings and food rations. The newly displaced refugees were housed at three camp schools, while waiting for additional tents and supplies. UNOSAT activated its Humanitarian Rapid Mapping Service and received quickly very high resolution imagery from NSPO, facilitating a fire damage assessment, as seen above. This was provided to UNHCR as part of its response to this event.

National disaster management field support – Namibia

As a follow up to flood response in northern Namibia last month, UNOSAT was requested by the Namibian Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF) to assist in a ground verification and overall evaluation assessment of satellite image derived maps and analyses produced during February-April 2008 floods in Cuvelai area and in an improved approach for future use of such images. UNOSAT's Ivan Baehr visited MAWF and the Department of Water Affairs (DWA). The mission was supported by GTZ of Germany.



On a field visit to Oshakati, a transect of the flooded area and ground verification was performed in collaboration with staff from DWA. Inundated areas on the transect were recorded by GPS and compared with UNOSAT flood detection maps. Director of Department for Water Affairs (DWA), Guido Van Langenhove, accompanied the field visit and expressed the importance of the UNOSAT flood detection maps

produced in the context of the Space Charter giving an overview for monitoring the floods and coordination of the response. UNOSAT met with representatives of Ministries, the Emergency Management Unit and Namibia Red Cross. Mr. Van Langenhove emphasized the importance of continued collaboration with UNOSAT to improve mapping methods for future flood situations in the Cuvelai area and in the Caprivi where floods are an almost annually repeated event.

Photo sources: Jakob Doetsch (flooded area from airplane -beginning of April), UNOSAT (satellite map assessment with national disaster managers)

User Talk –Security assessment, NATO

In April we were contacted by the NATO Headquarters' Situation Centre, which requested from UNOSAT an update of the situation map on Pirates activity along the Somali coastline. This map has been of use in all aspects linked to humanitarian security and safety in the region, but it has also been commended by authorities in charge of maritime traffic and monitoring. In the case of NATO, the value of the information resides in its ready to use overview of attacks perpetrated along the coastline until very recently, which is important information for "key decision makers in the house". NATO Situation Centre called the UNOSAT map "very good".