Lesson 1: Planning Your Map

What are your mapping goals?
Examples

• Situational Awareness
• Project planning
• Storytelling
• Project documentation
• Fundraising
Situational Awareness

Situational Awareness

Situation in Georgia (as of 14 Aug 2008)

**GEORGIA:**
- Approx. 23,000 IDPs registered
- IDPs in 310 different locations, most of them public schools and kindergartens in Tbilisi.

**South Ossetia:**
- Approx. 1,500–1,600 killed
- 5,000 housed in 51 temporary facilities
- 13,238 (inc. 4,962 [HBI]) staying with relatives
- Due to lack of humanitarian access, UN agencies, international organizations, and NGOs unable to resume operations

**North Ossetia:**
- 13,375 new arrivals from South Ossetia officially registered
- 5,700 located in temporary settlements
- Approx. 270 wounded and being treated
- 400 from South Ossetia applied for health care since 14 Aug

- 700 people in schools in' around Vladikavkaz
- All sites well maintained, with good access to health, medical services, but needs provided 3 times a day

**Total:** 100,000 displaced (est.)

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**SITUATION**
- Since 9 Aug humanitarian agencies provided food assistance to some 25,000 beneficiaries.
- UN Resident Coordinator appealed to all sides to establish necessary security and administrative conditions to allow set-up of humanitarian corridors.

**LINKS**
- Latest updates for Georgia
- Related maps

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Disclaimer:
The locations and names shown and the designations used on all maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
The data and information represented originate from public sources as indicated. The Federation states every effort to use the latest available information, but it cannot guarantee that the data, maps, and information are accurate, complete and timely. No warranties are made to their efficacy. Comments are welcome to mapmaker@reliefweb.org.

Creation Date: 14 Aug 2008
Base map sources: UNCRS, ESRI, CIA, ICG, Tsing, D'Appolonia
Narrative and statistical sources: OSCE, Georgian Ministry of the Interior in Georgia, No 5 (12 Aug) No 1498 (14 Aug)

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Tuesday, October 14, 2008
"I was living with my family in Tawila and going to school when one day the Janjawid entered the town and attacked the school. We tried to leave the school but we heard noises of bombing in the town and started running in all directions. All the girls were scared. The Janjawid entered the school and caught some girls and raped them in the class rooms. I was raped by four men inside the school. When they left, they told us they would take care of all of us black people and clean Darfur for good." — one of the survivors of the Tawila attack

Read the Amnesty International Report [here](https://www.ushmm.org)
Consider Your Audience

- Technical experience
- Familiarity with your project
- Interested in the details?
- Is the map operationally critical?
- Will they view the map on their own, or is it part of a guided presentation?
Target Output Formats
Paper/PDF

• Simplicity
• Titles must be clear, because viewers can't expand balloons
• Limited scope (decide zoom-level)
• Limited number of geographic features
• Color or black and white?
Static Images

- Examples: GIF, JPEG, PNG, TIFF
- Large file size, especially for highly detailed maps
- Best option for: image overlays
- Not the best option for printing in the field

Tuesday, October 14, 2008
Embedded in a Web Page

- Interactive
- Viewer has limited control
- Smaller displays requires smaller balloons
- May be slow in austere conditions, especially if you want to view underlying satellite imagery
KML

- Small file size for transfer
- Easy to attach to an email
- Easy to combine multiple data files
- “Re-usable” and editable format
- Requires installed software (Google Earth, Microsoft Virtual Earth, etc.)
- Can be viewed locally/offline (if needed)
Skills and Tasks
Data Design

• Deciding what data to collect
• Define categories of placemarks
• Choose symbols that clearly depict these categories
• Design data flow: from data collection to mapping and processing to audience
Data Collection

• Must be detail-oriented
• Collect minimal critical data for each feature
• Must process the data (or transmit for processing) on a regular basis
Data Entry/Management

- Attention to detail (again!)
- Understand turnaround time
- Keep track of new and expiring data
- Avoid duplications
Verifying Your Map

• Compare results to expectations

• Understand mapping basics e.g. +/- = North/South, East/West
Web Integration (optional)

- Fit within existing layout
- Integrate embed tag and surrounding styles
- If you can blog about a YouTube video, you can insert a map in your web site!
More about Maps 2.0

http://maps2.humaninet.org