

**Chengdu Forum on UN-GGIM
Global Map for Sustainable Development:
Development and Applications in Urban Hazard Mapping
Chengdu, China, 15 – 17 October 2013**

Session 4: Geospatial Challenges in Responding to Urban Disasters (cont)

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**On the ground rapid response geographic support for disaster and humanitarian
decision making**

Abstract

This presentation describes the British charity MapAction and its work in providing rapid response geospatial support to decision making and information management in disaster and humanitarian situations.

The charity has been operational for over 10 years and has deployed its teams of highly trained and self-sufficient professional volunteers to over 40 emergencies covering both sudden onset natural disasters and complex crises. These deployments are usually but not exclusively in support of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The presentation covers the methods used by MapAction with examples from its deployments to illustrate its extensive field experience in urban areas and other situations. The value to the direction of relief work of having a robust and adaptable geospatial team on the ground in the often chaotic conditions in the immediate aftermath of a disaster is highlighted.

The presentation also includes details of MapAction's regular participation in disaster preparation exercises, its many deployments to train staff in vulnerable countries in geospatial aspects of disaster risk reduction and its programme of data preparedness. The challenges of funding the MapAction operation are also included.