

Lessons Learned

Final Technical Report: Lessons Learned from a Social Perspective

Report Summary Findings

1. Maps are universally considered to be an effective tool by users in the field. Almost 80% of map user respondents stated that maps were very effective or somewhat effective in decision-making. (Page 19)
2. Survey results show that both user and producer respondents feel that roads, emergency services, supplies (food, water, ice), hospitals and telecommunications were the most critical layers for most map product during response and recovery efforts. (Page 19)
3. From the survey responses, more than 50% of map producer respondents stated that data availability or data access issues were very often or often the reason preventing the production of a map product intend for users in the field. (Page 19)
4. Standardization of map products is a highly desirable benefit to disaster response and recovery activities. (Page 20)
5. The prevalent opinion among map users is that there should be equal production of both standardized and customized map products, while producers tend to believe that a more standardized approach may yield more beneficial results. (Page 20)
6. The fifth and last major finding was the overall belief that local EOCs outperformed other agencies in response to the needs brought about by the storm. (Page 20)

Applications of Geospatial Technology in International Disasters and During Hurricane Katrina

Report Summary Findings

1. Have GIS resources and technology at hand and organized before a disaster occurs. (Page 12)
2. Standards need to be developed by all key players in the emergency and disaster management community. (Page 14)
3. Geospatial information from international institutions and open-source web sources are valuable to know prior to a disaster and an important component to successful relief. (Page 21)
4. The International Charter should be utilized during a large-scale disaster because it provides satellite-imagery that is a) free and b) can give quick insight on the extent of the disaster. (Page 23)
5. In order to foster better communication and coordination during an emergency, data from local governments should be integrated into one centralized geospatial database. (Page 24)
6. Existing tools, such as Sahana, should be used to develop a central, scalable, dynamic and interoperable system that operate in an open-source environment. (Page 30)
7. Disaster management is not just response. Preparedness is crucial. (Page 31)
8. Prepare geospatial databases and communication structures before a threat is imminent. (Page 32)
9. Incorporate existing lessons learned into a preparedness plan. (Page 35)