



eWORKING WEEK 2021 20-25 JUNE
SMART SURVEYORS FOR LAND
AND WATER MANAGEMENT
CHALLENGES IN A NEW REALITY

**Workshop on e-Volunteering to Address Environmental
Challenges -
A Real-life Example with a Real-time Project
Followed by 24hr Mapathon**

June 24, 2021

EVENT REPORT

A Collaboration of

**Volunteer Community Surveyor Program (VCSP)
And
WG 3.6 Geospatial Next**

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Digital Flyer of the Workshop designed by the organizing committee

1. Plot

The mapathon was designed to engage surveyors across generations, independently from their location, to e-Volunteer as a way to undertake humanitarian surveying under challenging times (even during a global pandemic!). The workshop and mapathon were organized by the e-volunteering team of the Volunteer Community Surveyor Program (VCSP) and Working Group 6 Geospatial Next of the FIG Commission 3, in partnership with Crowd2Map Tanzania and supported by Humanitarian OpenStreetMap (HOT).

The workshop was held on June 24, 2021, from 10.30 am - 12.00 pm CEST, followed by 24-hours of mapathon as an online all around the world event. This report presents the organizational concepts and initiatives of the event.

2. Introduction

VCSP and WG3.6 are working collaboratively to promote e-Volunteering to young and seasoned surveyors worldwide, as e-Volunteering allows people from all over the world to come together, using their computers and internet connections, to converge in humanitarian surveying digitally. This workshop presented lessons from previous e-Volunteering events and discussed the potential value for e-Volunteering to bring surveyors into the realm of high-value, high-impact change projects and intent to give significant roles of surveyors in similar causes as well as VGI based data acquisition projects.

3. General Organization and Partnership

We were grateful to have the chance to partner with Crowd2Map Tanzania, which does extensive work using humanitarian surveying and HOT OSM mapping to help fight Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) to help girls to escape cuttings in Tanzania. In the dawn of such illegal occurring, the rescue teams and civic services have been challenged with the unknown territories, which are regions that lack basic maps of buildings and roads. The main idea of this contribution is to provide contributions for mapping towns and villages in the region to provide geospatial information and guidance to the ground teams.

The mapping occurred via the Humanitarian OpenStreet Maps platform. We made use of Sli.Do to undertake surveys before the mapping to make the workshop interactive while also gathering feedback from the audience to tailor our material to be relevant to them. We were also grateful to be given access to the Crowd2Map Tanzania Slack channel for the mapathon to help create a sense of online community and respond to queries from mappers

during the mapathon. The mapathon was supported with a YouTube playlist containing relevant themed music to keep the mapping team's energy sustained.



Logos of the organizers and facilitators

4. Program of the Workshop & Mapathon

The workshop commenced with a brief introduction on the vision of the VCSP, WG3.6 of the FIG Commission 3, and how e-Volunteering can help realize these visions. This introduction was followed with presentations about who Crowd2Map is and what they do, especially a background to why Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a problematic issue in Tanzania and how mapping is being used to provide solutions to empower women and help them avoid cuttings. Participants were then provided with two sessions they could attend to map using OSM - (a) a beginner session and (b) a Validators session. Finally, videos of the SSSI FireWater mapathon e-volunteering event (to which VCSP was involved as a partner) were shown to participants, as well as videos showcasing Crowd2Map's VGI work with Tanzanian communities.

The workshop had 18 participants in active participation across its sessions. In addition, a 24-hr Mapathon followed the workshop and training session with participation from 51 mappers worldwide.

Below is a breakdown of the workshop events:

Brief intro: The Vision of the VCSP and WG3.6 and how e-Volunteering can help make it happen

Claire Buxton (VCSP) & Cemal Özgür Kivılcım (WG3.6)

Geospatial perspective on Crowd2Map's mission

Tom Kitto (VCSP) and Janet Chapman (Crowd2Map)

The story behind the project and an introduction to how to map on OSM

Tom Kitto (VCSP) and Janet Chapman (Crowd2Map)

Q&A as we set ourselves up to start mapping

While you familiarise yourself with OSM, we will show you videos of what we did in the SSSI FireWater Mapathon, and explain the humanitarian impact that Crowd2Map's work has on communities in Tanzania to help you see what the mapping you do leads to.

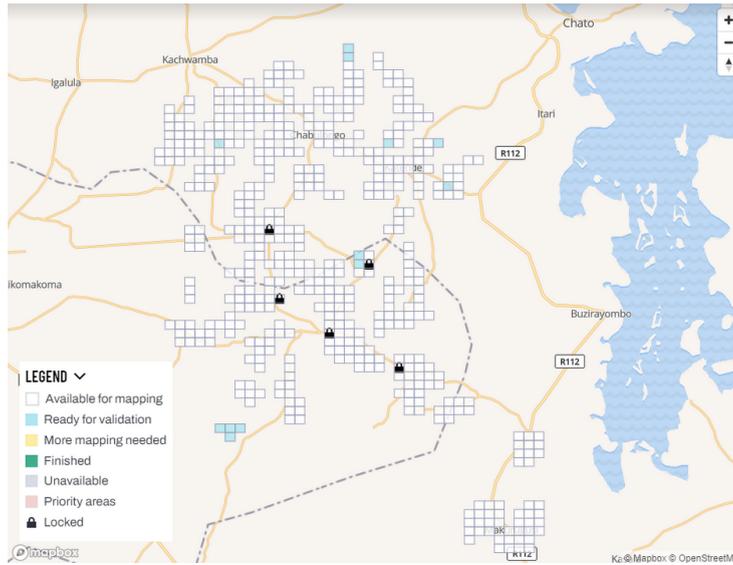
Hands-on virtual mapathon (everyone online still)

Together, we'll demonstrate using OSM for humanitarian mapping, accompanied by an international playlist and further provision of information by our moderators.

Mapping continues – the 24hrs of Mapathon

5. Activities and Event Results

We had 21 mappers involved, who comprised approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ beginner mappers and $\frac{1}{3}$ more experienced OSM mappers. Together, we mapped over 20 tiles, digitizing almost 2,000 buildings over the 24-hours of the mapathon. Three screenshots are presented for an overview of the event sections.



Distribution of Map Tiles used during the event

Map-a-thon Begins!

- Join us on Slack - See chat bar for link to join.
 - Introduce yourself on #introductions
 - Take part in the conversation at #vcsp
 - Ask questions on #hotmappings
- Check out our map-a-thon playlist!
- Watch thought-provoking videos about VCSP, our partners, and our previous initiatives posted regularly on #vcsp
- Join the VCSP Mailing List

Logos at the bottom include: Volunteer Community Surveyor Program, HOT (Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team), and CROWD2MAP TANZANIA (Putting maps. Tanzania on the map).

From the workshop and mapathon presentations

From OSM Tasking Manager

6. Accomplishments and Lessons Learnt

The workshop as part of the official e-WW program, followed by a 24hrs mapathon, was overall well received by the engagement and enjoyment of making such contributions. The VCSP e-Volunteering Path has received useful validation by running this workshop and mapathon, which provided insights into the design of other events that are part of the path's work plan over the coming three years.

In particular, the organizing committee learned more about how to market and promote e-Volunteering events, the different levels to pitch event involvement (beginner OSM mappers and OSM Validators), and how to frame the e-Volunteering event in order to bring a strong sense of purpose to the mapping.

The two levels of workshop feedback (HOT OSM beginners and HOT OSM Validators) showed both garnered strong interest and made a difference to those who attended, who felt more confident in their mapping afterward.

The information provided on the background of Crowd2Map and the work it is doing using mapping to combat FGM was also received well, adding a 'why' that made the mapping more meaningful to those involved in the mapathon.

7. Outlook & Conclusion

Organization of this e-volunteering workshop and mapathon provided many experiences and outputs. The organizers have some recommendations presented below.

Organizational Level

Even though only some of the collaborating team members had online working experience together, all the preparation meetings were held online. Although each individual's contribution was not equal, the diverse skills of each team member and mutual understanding provided a well-balanced event.

The workshop and humanitarian mapathon are based on volunteered geographic information (VGI) data collection. The organizing team gained a skill set, and participants got extensive hands-on experience during the event. These are essential outputs of the events for different organizations, whether for humanitarian or other geospatial projects.

FIG Level

The two representatives of nonprofit NGOs have provided insights for branding FIG among other NGOs for future connections. This initiative was also supported by the FIG Office, which the organizers appreciate the support.

Based on the regional and global issues, the organization of Humanitarian VGI events at FIG events can be part of the official programs to contribute to FIG's mission for the wellness of humanity and our planet.

VCSP and WG 3.6

The organizers are grateful to participants and supporters for the organization, the Com 3 Chair, Professor Hartmut Müller, FIG Office Director Louise Friis-Hansen, and the LoC of the eWW 2021. We hope the experiences and skills gained through this training will encourage the participants for further engagement in humanitarian purposed VGI implementations.

The WG 3.6 and VCSP are hoping to collaborate for future projects for multipurpose outputs built on top of these experiences.

Report prepared by
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