cartONG

Mapping and information management for humanitarian organizations

ANNUAL REPORT
2012
APPEAL
2013

Association CartONG

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INTRODUCTION

During the last 12 Months CartONG has created maps, mapped infrastructure, collected data with smartphones, compiled geodatabases, developed webportals, trained local and international staff, produced videos and e-learning content, attended solidarity and GIS events, organized the GeOnG 2012 forum... and provided many more services for our partners and beneficiaries, all around the world.

2012 was a year of gradual growth for CartONG, with numerous projects with our partners, around mobile technologies, mapping, data management, webportals or capacity building.

The 2012 edition of GeOnG, now inscribed in the agenda of numerous NGOs and international organizations as a landmark in terms of GIS and humanitarian event, was a huge success: more than 130 participants from 50 organizations were present- however, CartONG is conscious that some of the lessons of the past which we try to push forward for in the humanitarian field are still far from being implemented even with the very positive feedback from different organizations that this type of event brings to the fore.

Hopefully, 2013 will be a year to continue implementing some of the lessons of this GeOnG! The list of projects that we have concerning some of the aspects dealt with during the event definitely seems to confirm this. On top of that, we have managed to implement one of our key aims of 2012, the creation of a permanent post at the head office for administrative purposes. The next step is to be able to have someone at the head office permanently at the interface of all the professional projects. This will help us continue to bring appropriate answers to your projects worldwide.

Many thanks for supporting us as partners, members and subscribers!

Maeve de France, President
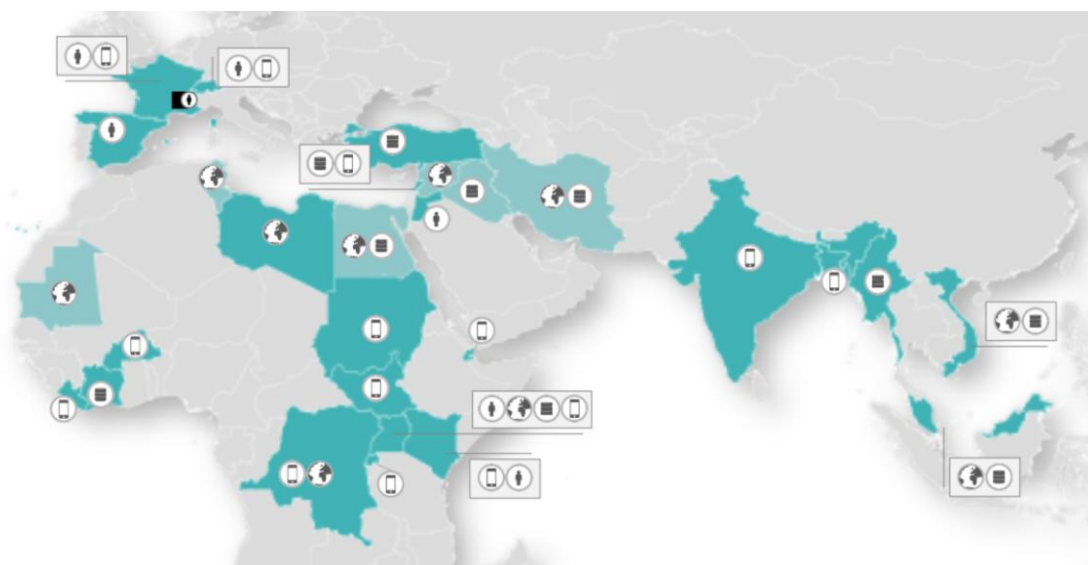
OUR ACTIVITIES/OUR ACTIONS

CartONG offers services of geographic data management, of cartography and GIS, of expertise in data management related to population displacement, of training sessions and of awareness concerning the uses of geographic data management. In 2010, CartONG started to work on mobile applications to collect information which remained a focus topic in 2012.

Our activities:

- Editing and Production of maps
- Providing geographic information
- Digitizing and Analyzing Spatial Data
- Smart Phone based Mobile Data Collection and Mapping
- Mapping of structures in the field inclusive of surveys to collect relevant indicators
- Webmapping, Google Map applications, Creation of KML Google Earth files, installation of Geoserver
- Analysis of Satellite images
- Capacity Building: training in GIS, GPS, Android Mobile Data collection, Databases, Data analysis
- Creation of E-Learning Modules and Self study material like Screencasts
- Visualizing data for Communication material, Donor reports
- Managing information to support decision-making processes;
- Creation of workflow: Establish routines for getting data from the field to the desk/server in Headquarters

Where CartONG works

In 2012, CartONG employees, consultants and volunteers, whose headquarters are in Chambéry, worked in France, Rwanda, Kenya, Sudan, Djibouti, Lebanon, Uganda, Vietnam, Switzerland and Germany.

Please note: all budget figures are rounded for better readability.

2012 PROJECTS

I. Mobile technologies

A.   Mobile data collection with the NOMAD consortium

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="6">OVERVIEW</td><td>Staff involved</td><td>1 employee (manager/coordinator), 3 consultants (social media, media specialist, designer) & 1 research assistant/intern</td></tr>
<tr><td>Contractor</td><td>NOMAD consortium, funded by CNES (until August 2012), then by Humanitarian Innovation Fund (December 2012-March 2013)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Budget</td><td>9,000€[1]</td></tr>
<tr><td>Beneficiaries</td><td>Any humanitarian actor interested in mobile data collection</td></tr>
<tr><td>Location</td><td>Global</td></tr>
<tr><td>Content</td><td>NOMAD project is aimed to demonstrate the technological, operational and economic feasibility of implementing integrated digital data collection and communication systems for rapid (real-time or near real-time) humanitarian assessment and monitoring.</td></tr>
</table>

The **NOMAD consortium** is a joint effort that has brought together over the year various NGOs and private sector companies (iMMAP, WFP, MEDES, AUVEA and CartONG). In 2012 the project has lead to the finalization of the **Nomad Online Selection tool**, and a **user workshop** to gather the feedback of the interested humanitarian community was held in March 2012 in Geneva. The **media strategy** including aspects of dissemination and social media tools was completed in July, together with the Nomad brochure. On initiative of Groupe URD, the project was represented during the Salon des Solidarités in Paris in June.

In August the consortium actively sought additional funding to implement the media strategy, **increase the outreach of the project** and to implement some of the suggested webpage changes. An application was submitted to the HIF fund for a small grant and was approved and put in place in December 2012.

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[1] The HIF component only comprises the costs which were occurred in December 2012. The funding for HIF runs until May 2013. These are the project costs for 2012 only.

B.   Android surveys for UNHCR

OVERVIEW		
	Staff involved	2 employees (developers), 1 research assistant
	Contractor	United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees (PHHIVS, SSS and FICSS sections[2])
	Budget	89,000€[3]
	Beneficiaries	UNHCR
	Location	Rwanda, Kenya, Sudan, Lebanon, Djibouti
	Content	Building survey forms for rapid data gathering in the field with Android mobile technologies.

The UNHCR Android project is one of CartONG's key projects. It started in 2010 with two pilots and two different technologies, of which one (ODK) was retained for surveys in 2011. **Field projects** were directly supported in country in 2012 in Rwanda, Kenya (Dadaab, next to the Somali border), Sudan, Lebanon and Djibouti. **Remote support** was also provided to operations in Liberia and Kenya (Kakuma).

Android phones – which like other smartphones have a GPS, camera, sound and a touch pad, basically function like a mini-computer – are extremely useful tools to **collect information and help gain time and money during humanitarian crisis**. The 2012 surveys covered topics such as **nutrition surveys**, **shelter assessments** and **evaluation of workshop events**. Shelter assessments were implemented in Lebanon with Shelter Actors during the emergency information management mission. More training with shelter actors was conducted on global level, but did not result in a deployment.

Additionally, the annual UNHCR NGO Consultation event in July was supported by CartONG; and a quick survey with visitors for evaluation purposes was conducted. It was also to demonstrate how fast results can be obtained and processed: from finishing the data collection, the team had 45 min to conduct a fast analysis and show the results to the visitors of the events on a screen.

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[2] Public Health and HIVS, Shelter, Field Information and Coordination Support
[3] Estimated, since the full project with the respective UNHCR sections contained more elements than Android surveys. The budget for Android surveys also includes any training activities related to the topic.

II. Database & emergency mapping
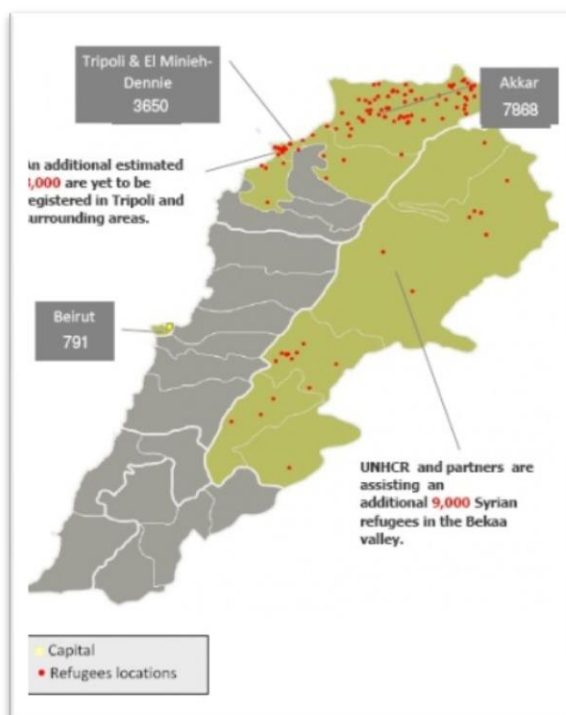
A. UNHCR (Lebanon for Syria Crisis)

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="6">OVERVIEW</td><td>Staff involved</td><td>1 employee (emergency information manager)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Contractor</td><td>UNHCR FICSS</td></tr>
<tr><td>Budget</td><td>14,000€</td></tr>
<tr><td>Beneficiaries</td><td>UNHCR & public</td></tr>
<tr><td>Location</td><td>Beirut, Lebanon</td></tr>
<tr><td>Content</td><td>Coordination and consolidation of all information management products for countries affected by the Syria situation: Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq[4].</td></tr>
</table>

A CartONG regional information manager was deployed to Beirut, to participate in an emergency mission to Lebanon for the UNHCR **coordinating and streamlining information products for the** Syria Regional Refugee Response – as refugees are arriving in the neighboring countries Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey.

CartONG, through a **regional WebPortal displaying figures and statistics for the public**, helped share reliable, up-to-date information, streamlining the information products from the different operations and their partners, while at the same time finding the **best solutions on reporting and information gathering suitable for the mixed settings**.

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[4] At the time, Egypt was not covered yet.

B.   Infrastructure mapping for UNHCR (Uganda)

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="6">OVERVIEW</td><td>Staff involved</td><td>1 employee (GIS officer)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Contractor</td><td>UNHCR</td></tr>
<tr><td>Budget</td><td>4,000€</td></tr>
<tr><td>Beneficiaries</td><td>UNHCR</td></tr>
<tr><td>Location</td><td>Adjumani, Uganda</td></tr>
<tr><td>Content</td><td>Capacity building, trainers' training for using OSM Tracker, Google Earth and Google Fusion to map infrastructure, as well as optimizing the database storage on Fusion and the dissemination of the non-classified data.</td></tr>
</table>

CartONG completed a follow-up mission on OSM Tracker based infrastructure mapping which was implemented for UNHCR in Uganda in 2011. This time the focus was on reinforcing the training, rolling it out to other offices and improving the data storage, symbology usage as well as the dissemination of the information hosted in Google Fusion tables. The operation requested further training and rollout because the system had proven to be very efficient and easy to manage by the local staff members.

III. Development and Landscape Planning

GiZ Buffer Zone Management and Development Project (Vietnam)

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="6">OVERVIEW</td><td>Staff involved</td><td>1 employee (landscape planner)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Contractor</td><td>GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Budget</td><td>13,500€</td></tr>
<tr><td>Beneficiaries</td><td>Buffer Zone Development Actors, Province Quang Binh</td></tr>
<tr><td>Location</td><td>Dong Hoi and Hanoi, Vietnam</td></tr>
<tr><td>Content</td><td>Documentation of the Elaboration of the Bufferzone development plan and its related products, analysis of the process and kick-starting associated REDD+[5] activities.</td></tr>
</table>

After being responsible for the **thematic and spatial component of the buffer zone development plan** for buffer zone communities of the Phon Kha Khe Bang national park in 2011, CartONG was requested in 2012 to **document the whole process, analyze it and elaborate a step by step guideline**. A side aspect was also to describe potential REDD+ activities and assist in kick-starting the process.

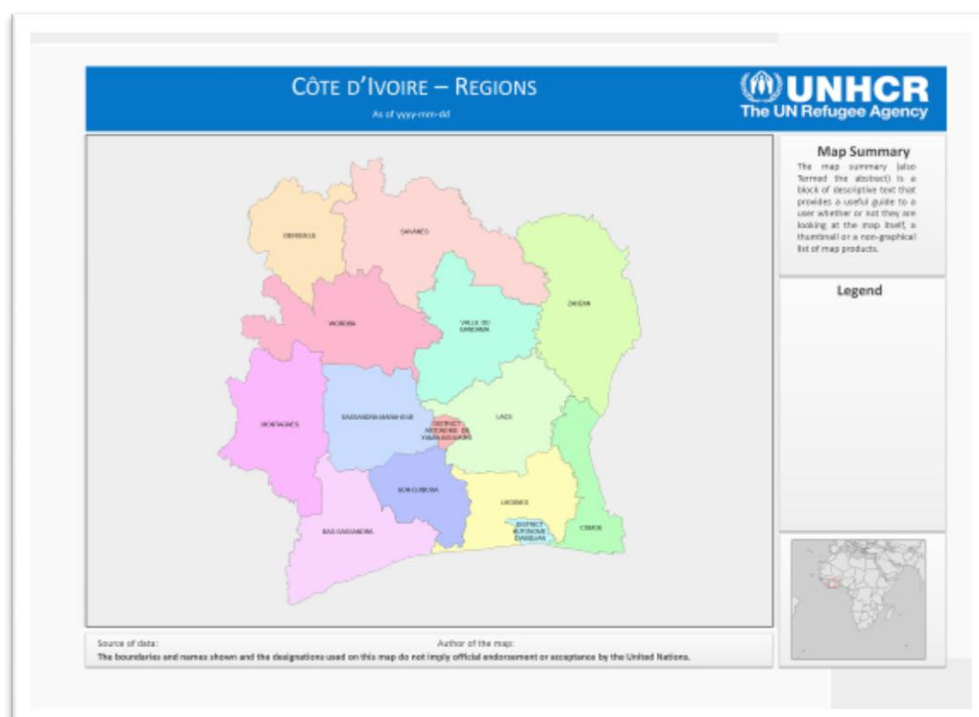[5] United Nations "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation program.

IV. Other GIS and information management products for emergency operations[6]

Geotagging guidelines & map packs for UNHCR

OVERVIEW		
	Staff involved	2 employees
	Contractor	UNHCR FICSS
	Budget	13,000€
	Beneficiaries	UNHCR staff members, Emergency Information Managers and Coordinators, GIS staff
	Location	Geneva
	Content	Elaborating a Geotagging guideline as well as Powerpoint Map packs for 20 Emergency operations including review of admin levels.

While in Lebanon, the CartONG Information Manager started working on elaborating a guideline for using smartphones to take GPS coordinates and geotagged pictures. On request of UNHCR, this product was turned into a **White Paper on Geotagging and Picture services** which can easily read coordinates embedded in a camera picture.

Additionally, CartONG worked on the creation of **20 Powerpoint Map Packs** for Emergency Coordinators and Emergency Information Managers without any GIS background. Template maps are pre-created for Emergency operations and can be used to visualize new figures or the WWW ("Who What Where"). Part of this exercise was also the **review of all admin level boundaries utilized for the countries**. The admin levels were cleaned and **integrated into a PostGreSQL database** for UNHCR to consume for their global dataset.

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[6] Other smaller Emergency mapping projects have contributed to 1400€ of the budget in 2012.
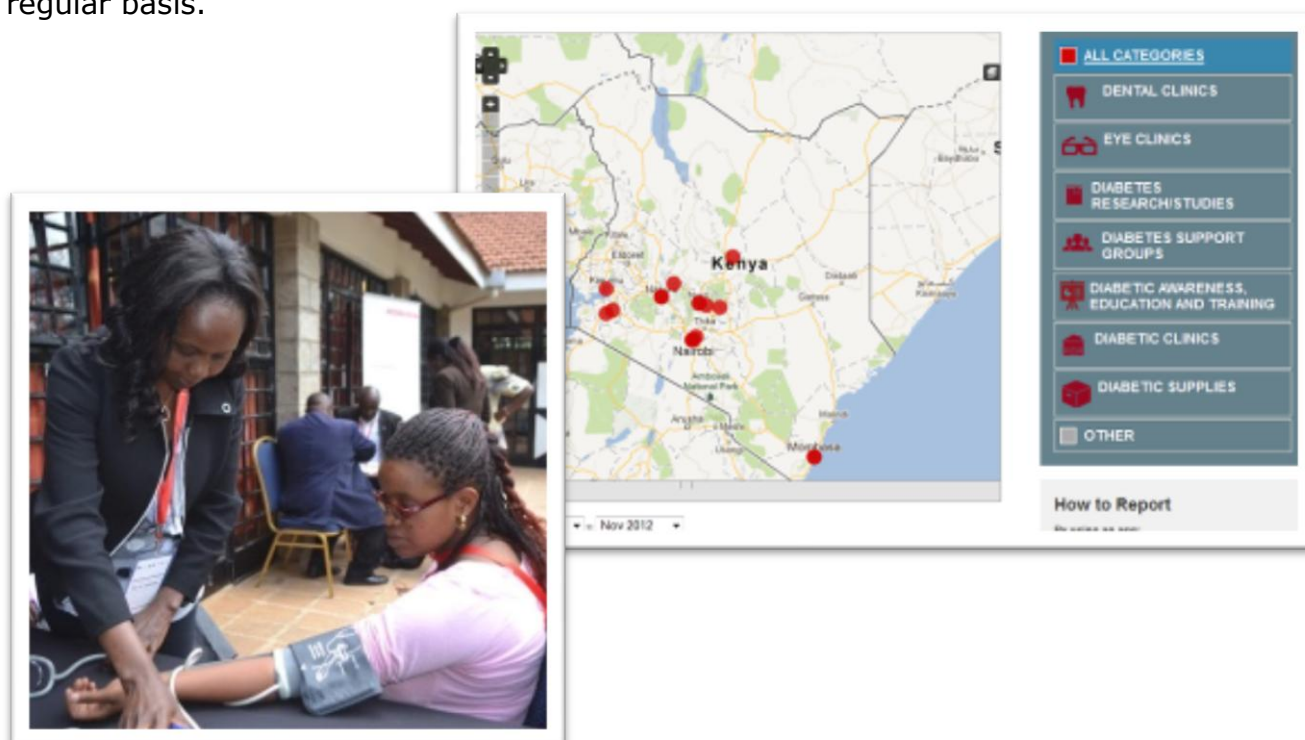
V.   Communication and GIS webportals

International Media Support for diabetes patients

OVERVIEW		
	Staff involved	4 employees (information manager, WordPress web developer, web designer & Ushahidi developer)
	Contractor	International Media Support (IMS), funded through World Diabetes Foundation
	Budget	20,709 US$
	Beneficiaries	Diabetes patients, their supporters as well as researchers
	Location	Nairobi, Kenya
	Content	Creation of a collaborative information webportal to help diabetes patient.

CartONG provided support for the Danish organization **International Media Support** through a double mission to Kenya. Its aim was to create a collaborative portal (with a Ushahidi platform) **to increase knowledge on diabetes problems and the services associated**, with a linked SMS system (Frontline) used for improving the communication between patients and health professionals. The project was locally implemented through the Kenya Diabetes Information and Management Center (DMI) and supported by the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation in Nairobi.

Users subscribe to the SMS service and **receive messages related to Diabetes management, self-care, prevention** (For Diabetes Type II) and questions they sent in by SMS were answered in the next dissemination cycle. The project also focused on getting **journalists** on board, get them educated on Diabetes through a workshop event and encourage them to establish links to specialists and report on diabetes on a regular basis.
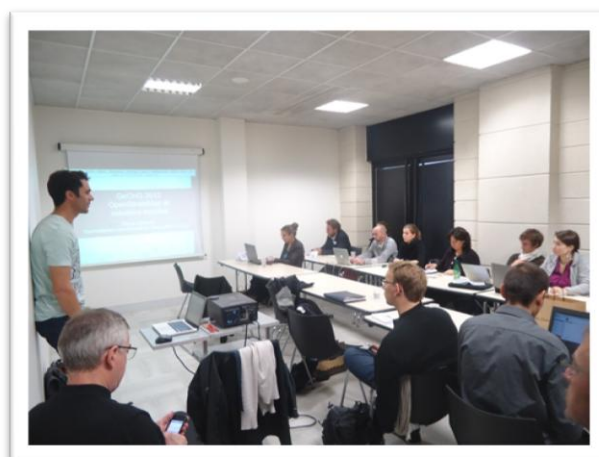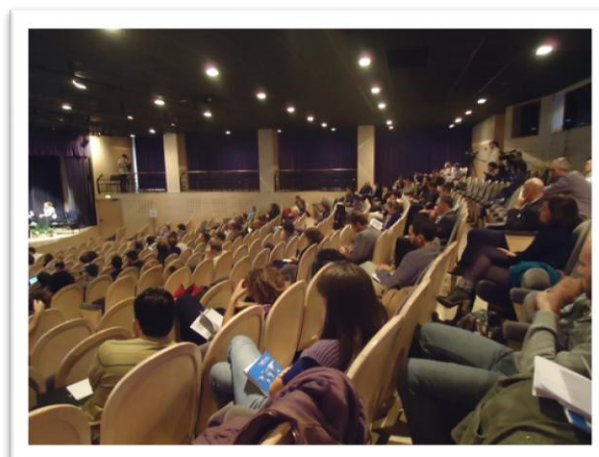
VI. Capacity building

A. GeOnG 2012

GeOnG 2012

OVERVIEW	Staff involved	1 intern + volunteer & staff additional support
	Contractor	Partners + participants
	Budget	9,000 €
	Beneficiaries	All of the organizations that came to the event
	Location	Chambéry
	Content	Two days of conferences and workshops.

The **GeOnG 2012** was a huge success: **130 attendees, 50 organizations, 11 different nationalities** were gathered in Chambéry to share and learn on the use of mapping and information management for humanitarian action.

This edition has reached a new level in terms of visibility and size thanks to the use of conference center Le Manège – many thanks to the **Chambéry city council** that lend it to us pro bono - and to the support of our main partners **ESRI, MAIF, WebGeoServices, GeoVantage and SenseFly**.

B.   Google ReDD+ E-Learning Project

OVERVIEW		
	Staff involved	2 employees (coordinator & tester), 4 consultants (developers and implementation of training modules)
	Contractor	TIDES
	Budget	38,200 US$ [7]
	Beneficiaries	Online course attendees
	Location	Global (online)
	Content	Supplying E-learning module to map deforestation.

In the continuity of the Google REDD+ project of publication and mapping of deforestation and forest degradation, CartONG finished the e-learning module on Moodle platform on these questions to facilitate the training of actors and potential actors on similar projects worldwide and allow them to plan and conduct a REDD+ project with local communities. The E-learning platform contains four modules: Forest Inventory, Carbon Model, GIS and Remote Sensing. All modules are based on Open Source Tools to make them easily usable by grassroot level organizations. All modules can now be tested.

The next step is to disseminate the module as a free resource but funding will need to be found.

C.   International Committee of the Red Cross

OVERVIEW		
	Staff involved	2 employees
	Contractor	ICRC
	Budget	2,700€
	Beneficiaries	ICRC
	Location	France & Geneva
	Content	Production of six additional screencast videos for ICRC internal GeoPortal Learning Corner.

CartONG started to create screencast videos explaining the functions of the GeoPortal Learning Corner in easy terms and with illustration material and suitable examples already in 2011. Six videos could not be completed at the time since the functions they were meant to explain were being modified. Therefore ICRC commissioned CartONG in 2012 to produce the missing screencasts, providing a generic storyline and examples which was filled with narration and integrated into the existing web browser.

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[7] 2012 only

D. Bioforce: Training of WASH and Logistics Experts

OVERVIEW		
	Staff involved	1 employee & 1 consultant
	Contractor	Bioforce
	Budget	2,100€
	Beneficiaries	Course participants
	Location	Lyon, France
	Content	GIS trainings

CartONG started to deliver Google Earth as well as Quantum GIS trainings on a regular basis since 2010. There are normally three series of trainings throughout the year, lasting from 1-3 days; covering Google Earth functionalities and Quantum GIS for WASH and Logistic Experts. They are directed towards water specialist and logistic specialist.

VII. Outreach & advocacy

One of CartONG's main aims is to transfer its skills and knowledge towards other actors of the relief work field, we therefore use specific training sessions to achieve this aim.

In addition to the trainings and events mentioned above, in 2012 CartONG staff and volunteers also participated in:

- Cash Learning Program Event organized by ODI and Concern (London, March 2012)
- Roundtable on humanitarian mapping held by Médecins du Monde (Paris)
- Intervention at GIS specialized Carthagéo Professional Master (Paris)
- GIS for the United Nations and the international community (Geneva)
- Humanitarian Jobs Exhibition (Annemasse, France, November 2012)
- Salon des Solidarités (Paris, June 2012)
- UNHCR NGO Consultation (Geneva, July 2012)
- Marché des continents (Chambéry)
- UN-SPIDER Expert Meeting Crowdsource Mapping (Vienna, December 2012)

Members of the association also wrote different articles to communicate on the need of more organized geographic information in the humanitarian world (Youphil.com, *La Revue Humanitaire*).

FINANCIAL REPORT

CartONG has finished the year with a **positive balance of 8729.57€**, an amount we have managed to save by reducing our costs wherever it was possible[8]. This amount will be added to our security savings, used for unexpected expenses and to develop the association.

CartONG had a **budget of 193,274€** in 2012, funded mostly (93.6%) by the partners organizations we are working for, UNHCR for the two-thirds. The rest came from the GeOnG organization (5.5%) and trainings (0.5%). CartONG **only received 500€ of public subventions in 2012** (0.26% of our budget).

The budget is inferior to last year's (259.916€) due to the departure of several employees who directly joined the organizations they were working for seconded by CartONG.

Our **expenses** amount to **185,423€** (also decreasing from last year's 233,872€). They were split between material expenses, transports & general fees (52%), salaries & social charges (46%) and taxes & other expenses (2%).

The objective for the coming years will be to **develop our own projects & activities**, starting by new trainings, in order to stabilize the association's finances. This will allow us to recruit a **permanent administrator based in Chambéry**, who will relieve our technicians from some of their administrative tasks, hence leaving them more time to concentrate on their core tasks.

PERSPECTIVES FOR 2013

I. Professional projects

Several projects have already been planned or envisaged for 2013, most of them being the continuation of ongoing projects:

- Continuation of **UNHCR Android Project** with FICSS and PHHIVS
- **Global Shelter Advisor** with UNHCR Shelter Section (SSS)
- Continuation of GIS activities with UNHCR FICSS
- Continuation of Landscape Planning and Bufferzone as well as REDD+ Activities with **GIZ in Vietnam**
- Continuation of **NOMAD project** through HIF funding
- Closer collaboration with **IMS** on similar projects as the one conducted in Kenya
- ODK Mobile Data Collection with **REACH** in South Sudan

Besides these projects, CartONG intends to develop its **training** activities (online and classroom) in 2013, in order to fulfill our mission of capacity building but also to stabilize our activities. And we will of course continue offering to NGOs and international organizations a **whole range of mapping and information management services** to improve their actions!

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[8] Note: not all projects and financing structures allow for savings, which is why the yearly amount qualifying for saving is limited.

II. Volunteers' projects

CartONG's volunteers activities will get an important push-up in 2013 with the recruitment of a **volunteer's project coordinator** (for 6 months first). His objectives will be to advance on the existing projects, identify new projects, research funding for volunteer's activities, induce partnerships with other NGOs, increase CartONG's outreach in France, and generally speaking to help the volunteers' work.

Two important volunteers' projects will be developed this year:

- The project of participatory mapping, in partnership with **native communities' organizations in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, should enter in its operational phase with the creation of a pilot website and web GIS. Volunteers are actively searching funds in order to finance the training field mission and the material needed, please get in touch with us if you have ideas or want to contribute!
- The project of emergency mapping in collaboration with the NGO **GIS74** (Groupe d'Intervention et de Secours de Haute-Savoie) will start this year with the creation of a roster of volunteers and mapping procedures. The aim of this project is to provide context maps for the firemen when they deploy for their rescue missions after disasters.
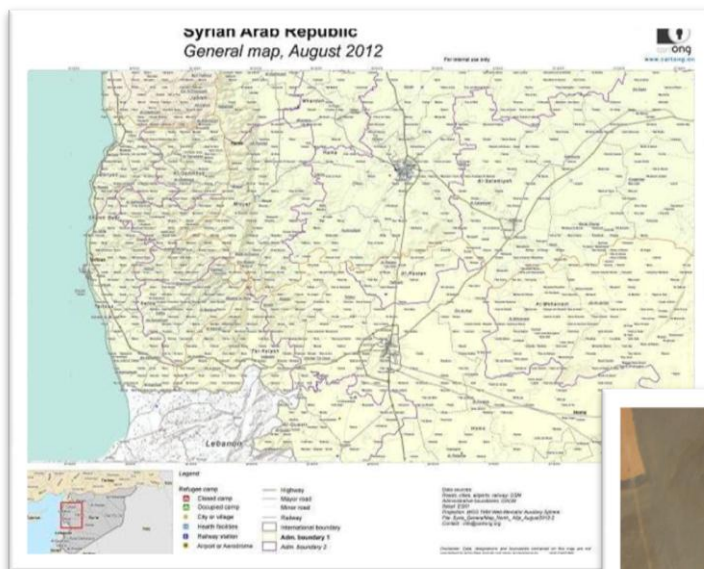
CartONG also intends to **develop its relations with small NGOs**, locally, nationally and internationally. The vocation of our volunteers is to provide pro bono services to small NGOs who don't have resources to finance professional resources in mapping and information management.

We will also **search for funds** in order to continue the growth of the association. All our resources are currently **directly affected to professional projects implementation** and HQ support for them, leaving us almost nothing for volunteers and their projects. In order to fulfill our mission of supporting small NGOs and citizen's initiatives, we will need some funding to organize and implement our activities – **even volunteer's activities have a (small) cost**: trainings, material, transports, coordination, etc. If you have ideas of foundations or donors that could support us, or want to help us in this effort, please contact us!

One of our objectives for next year is to adopt project management procedures for volunteers, in order to improve their action and to assess the time spent. We will then be able to **measure the contribution of our volunteers more precisely**.
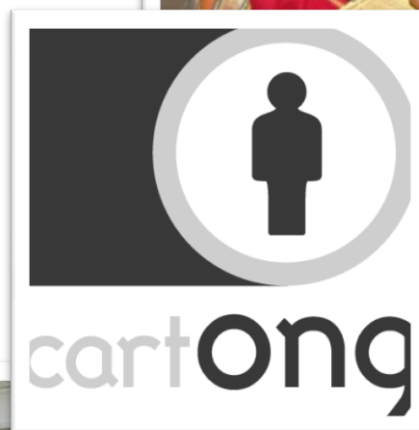
Volunteers will also continue to give **interventions** in universities and attend **events** (SIG la Lettre, OpenStreetMap's State of the Map France, UNSPIDER, etc.). And, last but not least, we will start the preparation of our flagship event, GeOnG 2014!
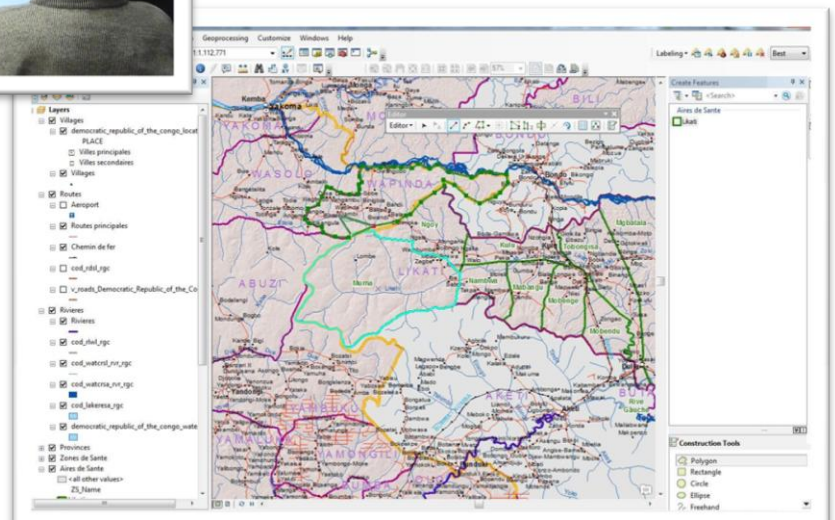
Mapping remote & in the field

Mobile data collection

Capacity building

Information Management

cartONG