

Geospatial technologies and humanitarian planning in complex emergencies: the example of REACH

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Summary

1. What is REACH?
2. Examples of application of geospatial:
 1. Population and access to services in IDP camps
 2. Post disaster assessments
3. Lessons learnt



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What is REACH

- REACH is an interagency initiative of ACTED, IMPACT Initiatives and UNOSAT. It was firstly piloted in 2010 and became operational in 2012
- REACH aims at filling humanitarian information gaps before, during and after emergencies. REACH wants to promote evidence based planning and decision making among humanitarian actors
- REACH systematically partners with key humanitarian coordination platforms (such as clusters and mandated UN agencies) to facilitate interagency data collection and analysis in humanitarian settings.

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REACH's toolbox

REACH combines the utility of modern information technology with tailored assessment methodologies, tools and processes that are adapted to each emergency context and to the requirements of aid actors and coordination mechanisms.



INTER-AGENCY ASSESSMENTS

REACH conducts and facilitates field-based inter-agency assessments through dedicated teams of assessment and GIS personnel.



REMOTE SENSING

REACH uses remote-sensing and satellite imagery analysis as complementary tools for rapid primary data collection.



SECONDARY DATA REVIEWS

REACH reviews secondary data in order to inform primary data collection methodology and context analysis.



REACH's toolbox



RESEARCH & REPORTS

REACH teams analyse and disseminate information to aid actors through a range of tailor-made products such as rapid situation reports, fact sheets, community and vulnerability profiles, thematic assessments and research reports.



MAPS

REACH produces and disseminates maps to display information in a user-friendly format, and where relevant, REACH sets up field-based mapping centres to facilitate access to its mapping resources.



WEB-MAPPING

REACH develops interactive online mapping platforms with a custom access to key information. Open and transparent, the information can be used by all aid actors to support their programming.

REACH maintains a Resource Centre as a platform for publishing and sharing REACH maps, reports and tools. The resource centre can be accessed at <http://resource.reach-initiative.org/>.

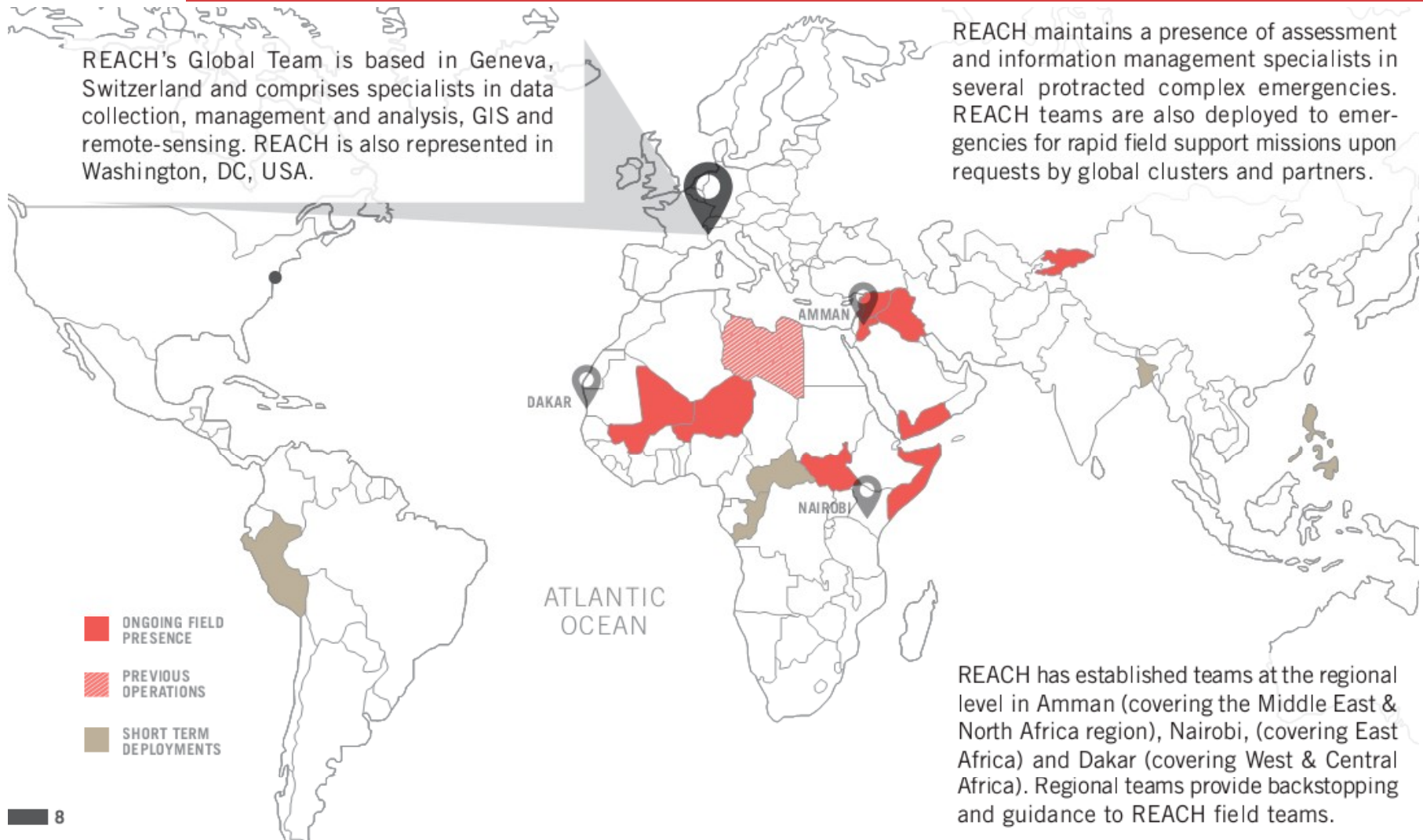


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REACH's deployments

REACH's Global Team is based in Geneva, Switzerland and comprises specialists in data collection, management and analysis, GIS and remote-sensing. REACH is also represented in Washington, DC, USA.

REACH maintains a presence of assessment and information management specialists in several protracted complex emergencies. REACH teams are also deployed to emergencies for rapid field support missions upon requests by global clusters and partners.



REACH has established teams at the regional level in Amman (covering the Middle East & North Africa region), Nairobi, (covering East Africa) and Dakar (covering West & Central Africa). Regional teams provide backstopping and guidance to REACH field teams.

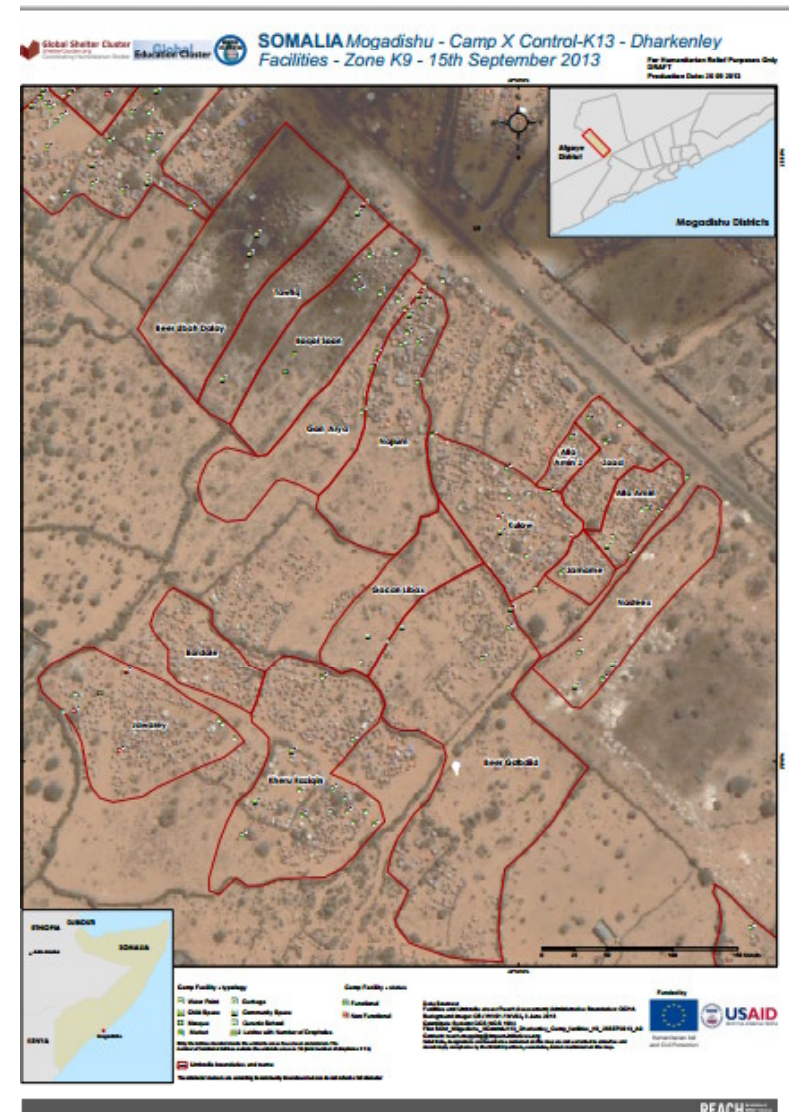
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Use of geospatial technologies by REACH

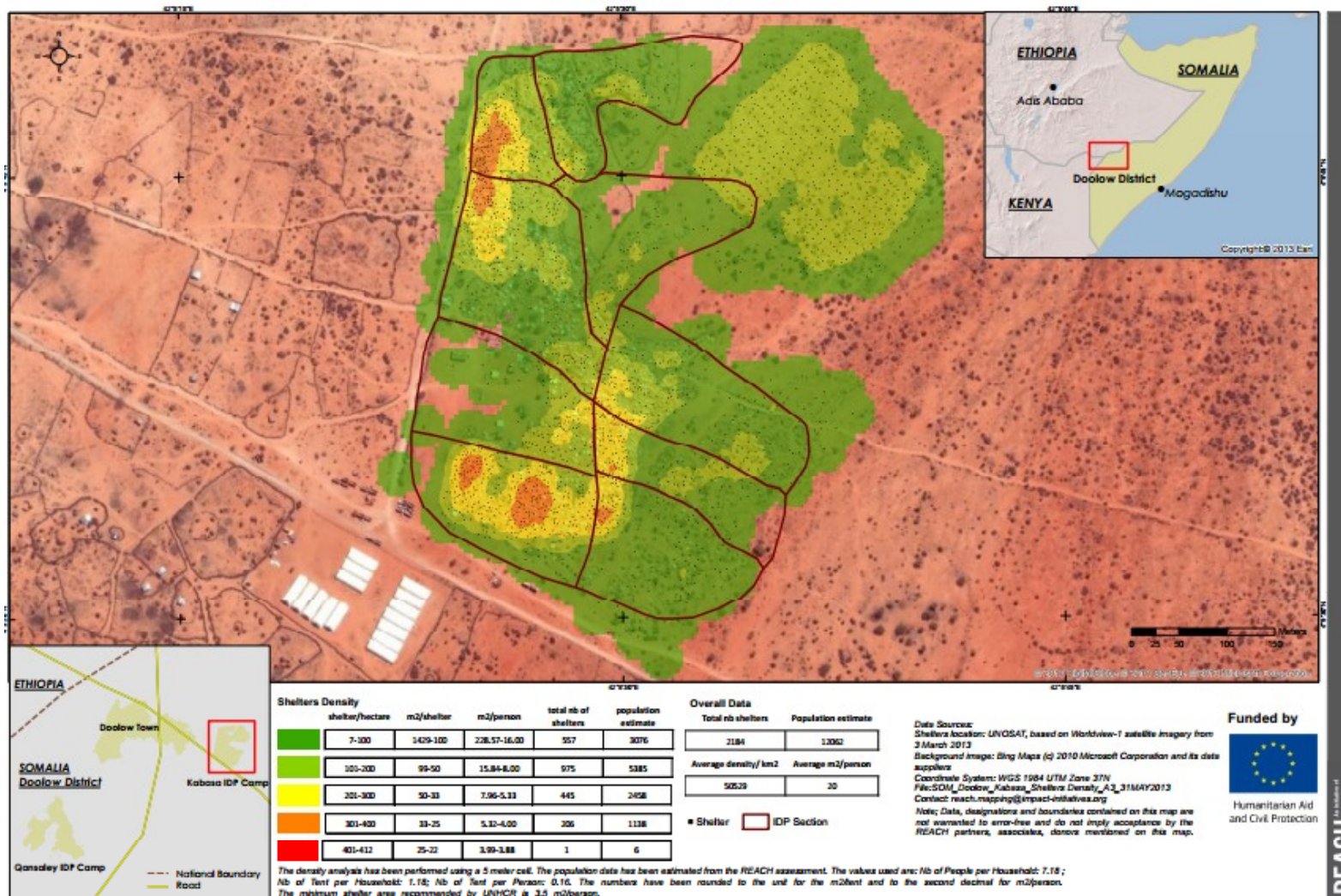
- In its deployments, REACH uses remote sensing as a central data collection tool. Geospatial data is analysed by UNOSAT, with REACH assessment teams ground-truthing them in the field and promoting their use by humanitarian actors
- Following examples show use of geospatial technology in REACH assessments to support humanitarian planning in the following contexts:
 - IDP camps of Somalia
 - Post disaster assessments in South Sudan, the Philippines and Mali

Example 1: Population and access to services in Somalia IDP camps

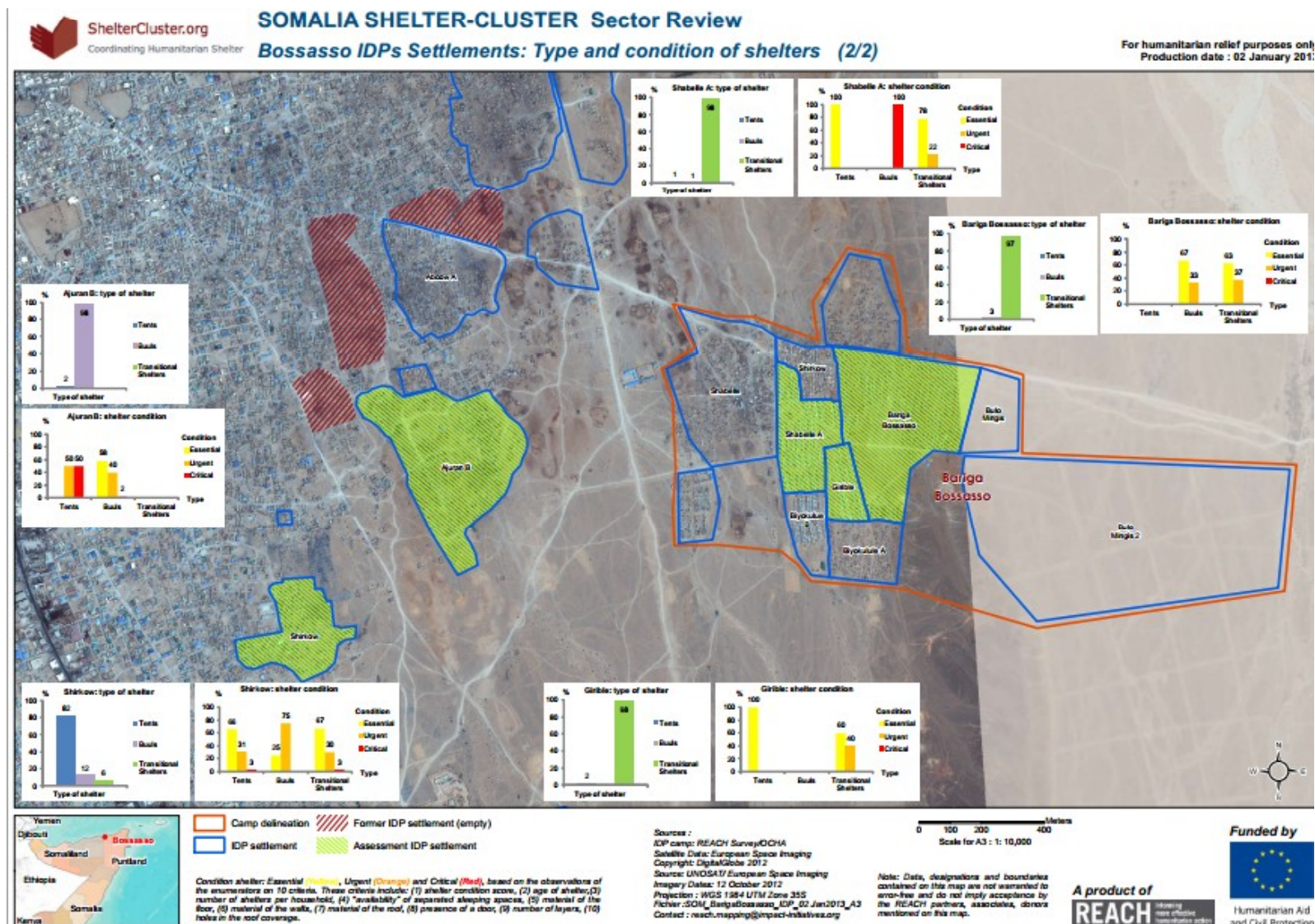
- REACH deployed in support of Shelter, WASH, Education and Health clusters
- Focus on facilitating humanitarian planning in IDP camps
- Difficult access require significant use of remote sensing, coupled with rapid field assessments



Example 1: Shelter count and population density

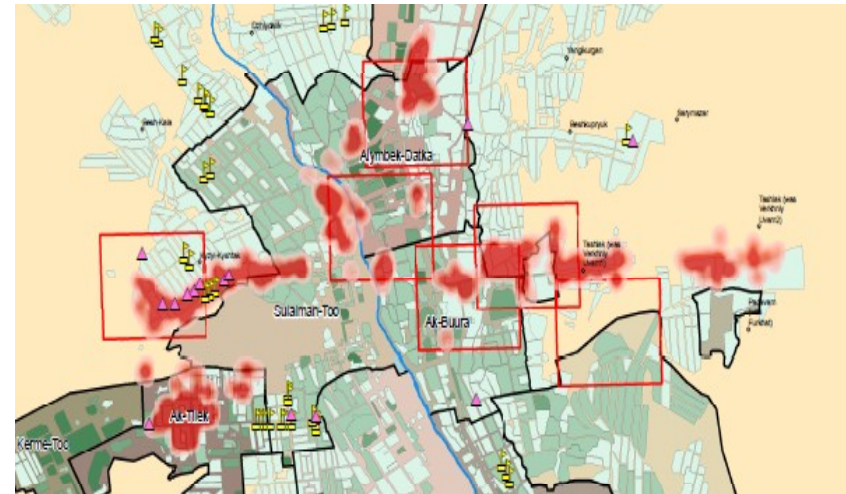


Example 1: Analysis and planning

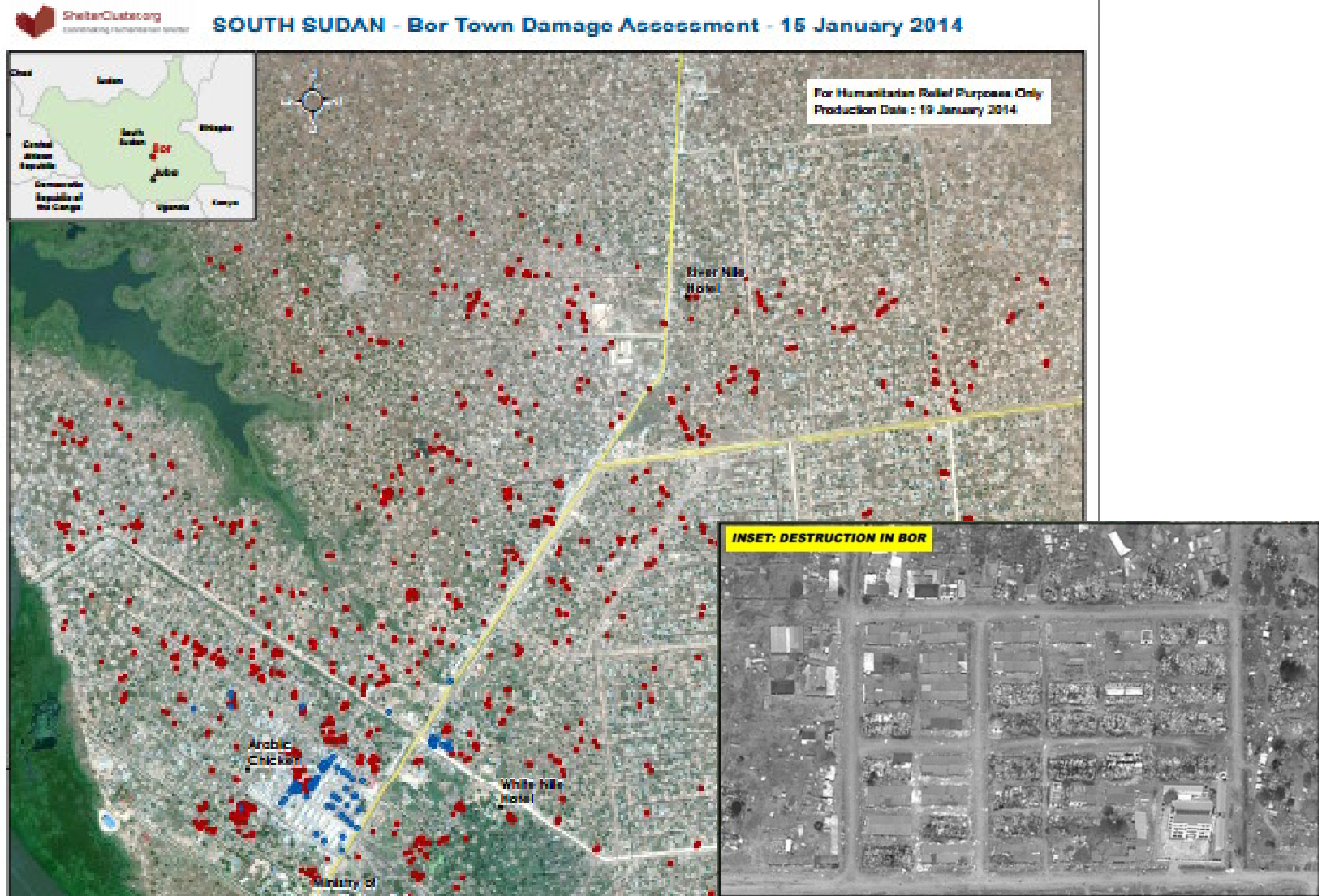


Example 2: Post disaster assessments

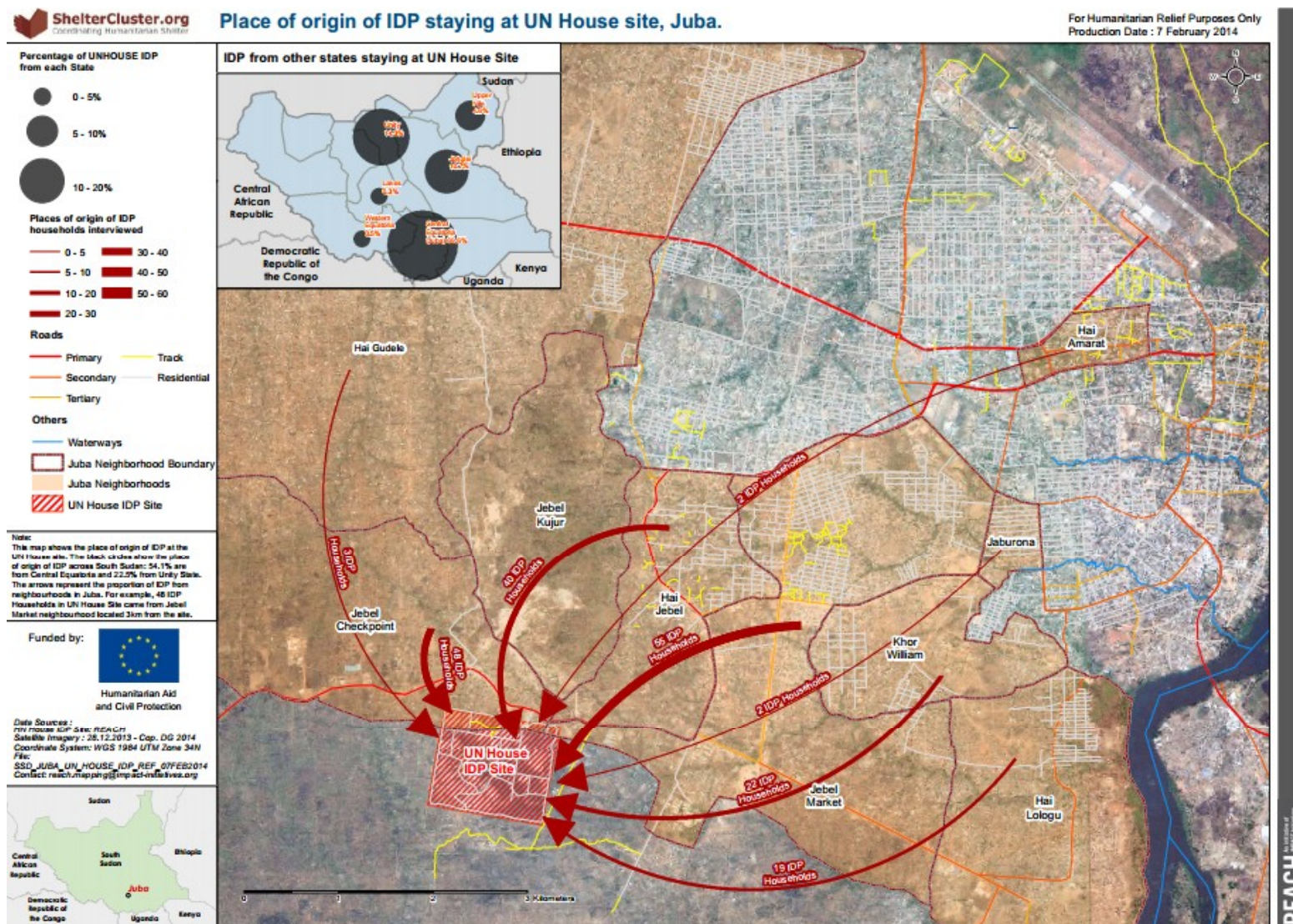
- In contexts of urban violence, damage a good proxy to understand affected areas and populations
- Geospatial technologies also provide opportunities for rapid evaluation of damage and affected areas in the aftermath of natural disasters



Example 2: Bor, South Sudan 2014



Example 2: Juba, South Sudan 2014



Example 2: Tacloban, Philippines 2013

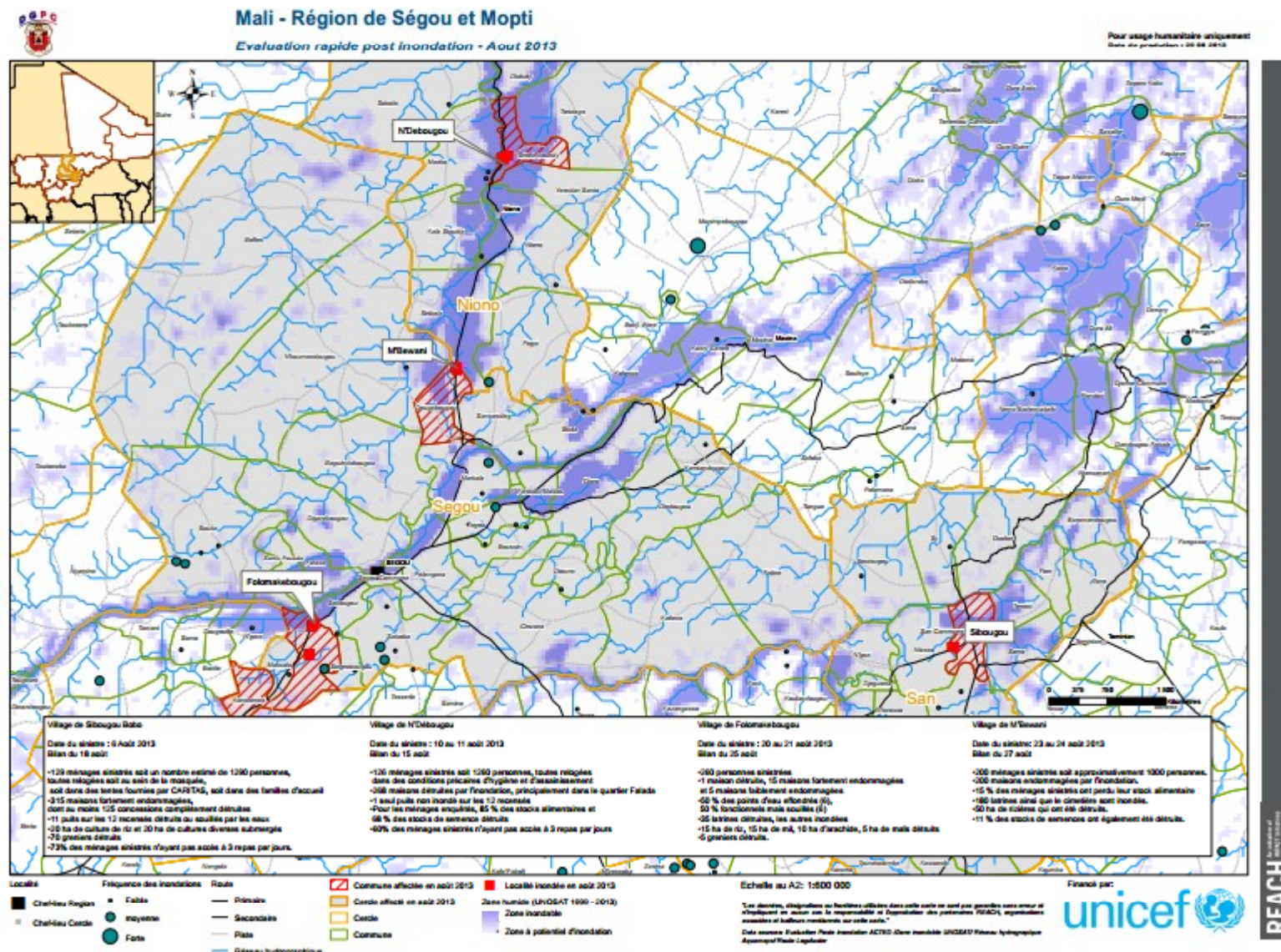


Shelter Cluster Philippines
ShelterCluster.org
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

Philippines - Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) *Tacloban - Informal Area 1 - Damages*



Example 2: Flood mapping in Mali 2013



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Lessons learnt

- The use of remote sensing provides significant value-added for humanitarian planning, in particular in contexts of:
 - Man-made crises characterized by limited humanitarian access
 - Natural disasters requiring rapid information

- Despite significant improvement in geospatial technology and in its availability and affordability, it is still insufficiently used in humanitarian planning. Need to continue reinforcing links between agencies specialising in geospatial analysis and field-based humanitarian actors

Thank you

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