Collaborations

The Standby Task Force has collaborated with the following organizations to respond to disasters, test technology and develop best practices:

ACAPS
Antwerp Emergency Services
British Red Cross
DFAIT
Digital Humanitarian Network
Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ESRI
Geeks Without Bounds
GISCorps
Google
Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI)
Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT)
Humanity Road
Info4Disasters
Internews
Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)
NetHope
Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI)
Translators Without Borders
UNHCR
UN-SPIDER
USAID
World Vision
WFP
Young Pioneer Disaster Response

Contact Us

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Get in touch to find out how to get involved as a volunteer, donor or partner agency.

Standby Task Force is an international non-profit public charity registered as 501c3 in USA

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Children in Nepal who were assisted after the earthquake in April 2015. 
Photo: Asiri D Vitharana, Sri Lanka
The Standby Task Force was formed in 2010 after a group of dedicated volunteers helped to bring aid to the victims of the Haiti, Peru and Chile earthquakes. This group, led by Patrick Meier, provided information to ground responders by collecting social media situation data and messages of need. The information was presented in annotated map form so responding forces could deliver aid supplies to precise locations. When it became clear that this type of assistance was valuable, Patrick announced our launch with this press statement:

«The humanitarian community openly recognizes the important role that volunteer networks can play in crisis response. What they need now are guarantees that a trained and professionalized volunteer force can be on standby and activated within hours.»

Patrick Meier, 2010

Today we continue to provide volunteer online digital responses to humanitarian crises, local emergencies, and issues of local or global concern. We work to increase the technical ability and practical skills of our volunteers through continuous training, partnership projects and coordinated efforts with other leaders in the field of humanitarian assistance. Our goal is to remain prepared and ready to deploy our diverse international team.

About Us
The Standby Task Force (SBTF) is a global network of volunteers who assists first response agencies that are traveling to the site of a disaster or crisis. We provide vital information at no charge to any agency so responders can render aid faster and more effectively. Working remotely from over 100 countries, we monitor the web and social media in order to create multiple datasets that we then weave into a single interactive map. We are able to represent complex scenarios in visually compelling, yet easily read formats that can be crucial for responders to understand the situation and plan their response strategy.

Our mission is to provide online digital responses by:

- Deploying a flexible, trained and prepared network of digital volunteers, who provide 24-hour continual service, to assist crisis-affected communities through cooperation with local and international responders, including real-time crisis mapping support.
- Maintaining awareness of developing crises, connections with responder organizations and potential deployment partners.
- Testing and refining crisis data processes and technologies.
- Supporting and advising crisis mapping groups that are independent or affiliated with the SBTF.

Guest Speaking Opportunities
Please contact us if you are interested in having an SBTF representative speak at your facility.

Contact us to deploy our teams, test new technology or conduct simulations to develop your emergency services.

Our Services
The Standby Task Force responds to emergency situations worldwide.

Most recent examples:
- Refugee Crisis in the Balkans/Europe
- Nepal Earthquake
- West Africa Ebola Outbreak
- Cyclone Pam - Vanuatu
- Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda - Philippines
- Typhoon Hagupit/Ruby - Philippines

Achievements
The Standby Task Force has over 1800 members representing over 100 different nations. Our members are comprised of professionals, academics and practitioners in the emergency and humanitarian fields as well as experienced digital crisis-responders. Our collective skill sets and cultural knowledge uniquely qualifies us to support first responders in all regions of the world.

Our products:
- Big crisis data collection, processing and analysis using artificial intelligence.
- Creation and implementation of datasets focusing on urgent needs and damage assessment.
- UAV images analysis for response and recovery.
- Annotated maps with locations of urgent needs, damage and essential services.
- 3W (who, what, where) identifying humanitarian actors responding at a scene to organize the best response.
- Photo tour maps to illustrate a situation using social media images.
- Data illustrated with designated visualization tools.
- Aggregated data from social media monitoring using digital forensic analysis for quality control.