



HIU Highlights Report No.11 **October 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005**

The Humanitarian Information Unit serves as a USG interagency center to identify, collect, analyze, and disseminate unclassified information critical to USG decision makers and partners in preparation for and response to humanitarian emergencies worldwide, and to promote best practices for humanitarian information management

This report describes select initiatives underway, recent collaborations, key meetings, and upcoming items of interest. All products mentioned in this report are available on the HIU website. See page 5 for log-on information.

Status of Select Initiatives:

Field Support in Pakistan

As part of the South Asia Earthquake relief efforts, HIU's Kathleen Miner joined the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) in Pakistan in November and December, where she



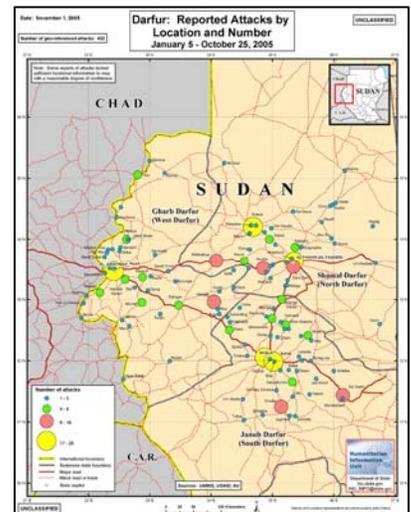
worked to streamline information management and apply geographic information system (GIS) best practices to operational field support. She also served in a coordinative capacity, liaising with Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) grantees as well as OCHA's Humanitarian Information Center (HIC), the UN Joint Logistics Center (JLC), the government of Pakistan, and other donors and humanitarian organizations. Kathleen's work on mapping the program locations of USAID-funded NGOs provided decision-makers with a more accurate understanding of realities on the ground and enabled them to use such geospatial

representations to review and deconflict NGO proposals. The UK's Department of International Development (DFID) requested that Kathleen apply the same techniques to help them review British-funded NGOs. Pictured above is Kathleen with USAID's Administrator Andrew Natsios and the rest of the DART in Pakistan (POC: Kathleen Miner, MinerKA@state.gov).

In addition to information management support in the field, at the request of the USAID South Asia Earthquake Task Force the HIU produced several GIS maps (available on <http://hiu.state.gov>) that combined data from various USG and non-USG sources and reporting streams. Two maps created and released in mid-October displayed remotely sensed earthquake damage in regions of Pakistan and India that were affected. These maps served to identify and share information on damaged areas before many aid teams could get to them. They were also used by senior USAID personnel in testimony before Congress and in briefings with the press. Another map, distributed in early November, combined information on winter conditions, elevation, and key crossings along the Line of Control. Each of these products was distributed directly to USG partners and made available on the HIU website. They were also posted on ReliefWeb, the UN's internet hub for time-critical humanitarian information on complex emergencies and natural disasters.

Sudan Activities Update

With the help of State/AF/SPG and USAID/DCHA/OFDA, the HIU compiled a database of reported attacks in Sudan's Darfur region during 2005. This information was mapped to reflect the location, date of incident, target and perpetrator, number killed, and type of incident. With these deconflicted data, the HIU created a product for Deputy Secretary Zoellick for his mission to Sudan in early November. The product consisted of a GIS map displaying the location and number of reported attacks since the beginning of 2005 (see map to the right), and a bar graph indicating the number of attacks by month and target between January and late October 2005. The product was also shared with the U.S. House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Congressional Delegation to Sudan and published on the HIU and ReliefWeb websites.



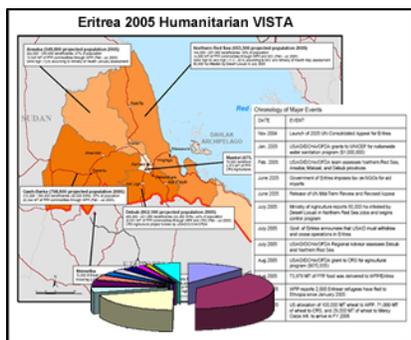
The HIU continues to track and report incidents occurring in the Darfur region. The next incidents report will be available in early February (POC: Dennis King, KingDJ2@state.gov or Chris Ard, ArdCM@state.gov).

Progress on the Populations at Risk Information Project

The National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academy of Sciences held an inaugural meeting on November 14 for their study associated with the HIU-led interagency Populations at Risk Information (P@RI) Project. NASA, U.S. Census Bureau, USAID/DCHA, State/OES, CDC, and intelligence agencies contributed funds for the study. The NRC has drawn together 12 experts from academic institutions, the World Bank, and the UN to form *The Committee on the Effective Use of Data, Methodologies and Technologies to Estimate Sub-National Populations at Risk*. This study is expected to run from November 2005 through August 2006. On March 13-14, the NRC will hold an open workshop to draw on the expertise of relevant experts prior to crafting a report containing the recommendations of the Committee. (continued on next page...)

The P@RI Project is aimed at exploring ways to improve the estimation and management of sub-national demographic information on vulnerable populations in crisis-prone countries with poor or unavailable data. The project also seeks to elevate USG interagency awareness of this critical information need and the applicability of better sub-national population estimates to the implementation of USG foreign policy. (POC: Noam Unger, UngerNC@state.gov)

Visualized Information Synthesized Temporal Analysis (VISTA) Initiative



The HIU has begun a new initiative known as the Visualized Information Synthesized Temporal Analysis (VISTA) that will provide situational awareness related to humanitarian emergencies. As a prototype static product, HIU in October created a VISTA on the humanitarian situation in Eritrea (see inset to the left). The VISTA is divided into three components: 1) a map displaying affected provinces and populations and food aid deliveries; 2) a pie chart indicating the amounts and percentages of donor humanitarian assistance to Eritrea; and 3) a chronological table highlighting important events in 2005 related to the humanitarian situation (POC: Dennis King, KingDJ2@state.gov).

Collaboration Efforts:

Avian Influenza Tabletop Exercise

On December 9, Nathan Heard collaborated in an interagency tabletop exercise entitled “An Avian Influenza Pandemic: Implications for U.S. National Security.” The exercise was organized by the State Department’s Intelligence and Research Bureau, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and the National Intelligence Council, and involved the review of three hypothetical outbreak scenarios. The HIU lent its expertise to a review of the political and diplomatic implications of an outbreak of avian influenza.

NGA Analysts Weekly Visit

The HIU hosted a total of seven National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) analysts to work on a Remote Sensing Pilot Project focusing on Lake Balkhash, Kazakhstan from November 21 to December 16. The project included commercial imagery data sets from DigitalGlobe, Quickbird, Space Imaging, IKONOS, and Earthsat (NaturalVue 2000). The NGA analysts used ERDAS Imagine software and other various tools. The analysts also used ArcGIS to create a 3D terrain hill shade over the region. The results will be provided to the Environmental Officer in the Tashkent Embassy (POC: David Springer, SpringerDT@state.gov).

Participation in USACAPOC-S/CRS Exercise

On 1 December, Colonel Doug Nash participated in a roundtable exercise hosted by the Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization (S/CRS), the US Army Civil Affairs and

PSYOP Command (USACAPOC) at the Army-Navy Club in Washington, DC. It was conducted in order to formulate a memorandum of agreement that will delineate duties and responsibilities of civil affairs forces and deployable assets of S/CRS and to agree on common terminology. One of the areas of interest during the roundtable exercise was civil information management, use of GIS, and how to create and share an interagency common operating picture during stabilization and reconstruction operations.

Participation in GMU/POPP Gaming and Simulation Workshop

On 16 December, Colonel Doug Nash and Victoria Jabara participated in a workshop hosted by the George Mason University's Program on Peacekeeping Policy (GMU/POPP) and the Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Research and Development (R&D) for Regional Stability that focused on models, simulations, games, and tools for stabilization and reconstruction planning, concepts, and operations. The IWG has been developing a national R&D strategy for over a year and used the workshop to further the process of finalizing the first submission draft of that strategy. The workshop centered on the Working Group's strategy for five operational focus areas: Regional Stability Security, Governance and Participation, Justice and Reconciliation, Economic and Social Development, and Intelligence and Planning.

NGO-sponsored Conference on Humanitarian Information and Communications

On October 17, the HIU participated in a conference titled "Answering the Call: Katrina, the Tsunami, Darfur, and Afghanistan – Lessons Learned from the Global ICT Response." Noam Unger presented on two panels related to information management (IM) and information and communications technology (ICT) support for interagency coordination. This meeting presented a prime opportunity for HIU outreach to our broad spectrum of partners, since it drew over 150 NGO managers, technology experts, and representatives from the business and academic communities to discuss a wide variety of humanitarian ICT issues. A salient feature of the presentations at the conference was that there is no "silver bullet" technology and that the key to effective ICT is to integrate useful technologies with appropriate information management systems. This requires a focus on information management policies, processes, training, and experts. This conference also included other USG partners, with significant participation from USAID's Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance and the National Defense University Center for Technology and National Security Policy. It was co-sponsored by the Nonprofit Technology Enterprise Network, a national organization for individuals, charities, and businesses that provide technology assistance to nonprofit groups, and HumaniNet, a charity that provides technology assistance to aid organizations.

International Conference on Humanitarian Security Information

The HIU on December 11-14 in France participated in the "Conference on Crisis Management and Information Technology," sponsored by the US Institute of Peace and the Crisis Management Initiative. Approximately 60 participants from NGOs, the UN, and various donors attended the conference, which focused on collecting and providing security and safety information for humanitarian aid workers. Dennis King gave a presentation on HIU analysis and products related to security information and attacks on aid workers.

Other Items of Interest

HIU welcomes Nathan Heard, who joins the office from the Department of Population and International Health at the Harvard School of Public Health, where he used GIS to identify gaps in reproductive health service coverage in sub-Saharan Africa. His primary focus at the HIU is to enhance the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief activities in focus countries through GIS and information management.

Attachments:

- a) Map: Pakistan/India Earthquake Remotely Sensed Damage Assessment: Information as of October 16, 2005, distributed on October 17, 2005

- b) Map: Darfur: Reported Attacks by Location and Number, January 5 – October 25, 2005, distributed on November 1, 2005

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To visit our website, please log on to <http://hiu.state.gov> and use the following case-sensitive username and password.

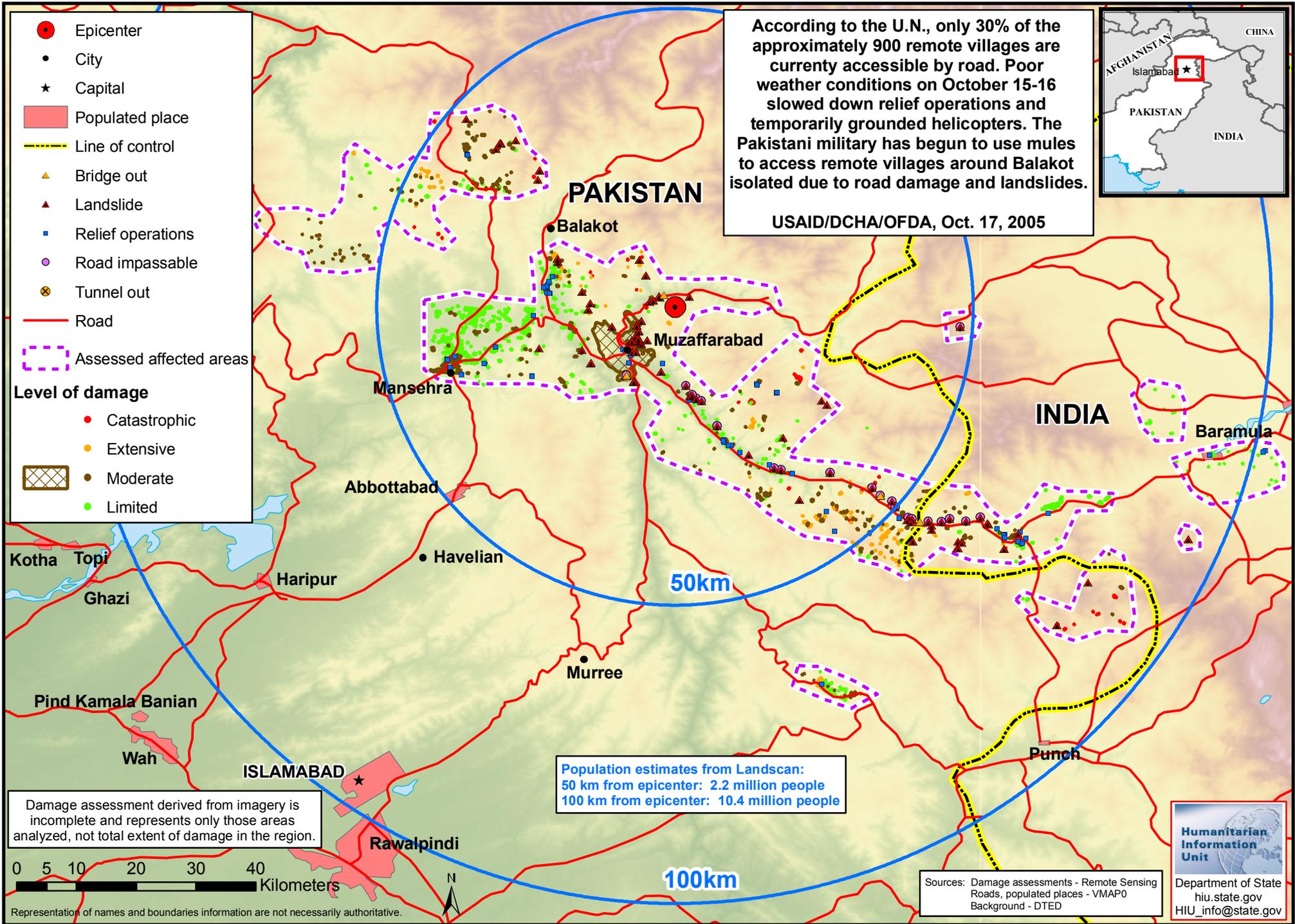
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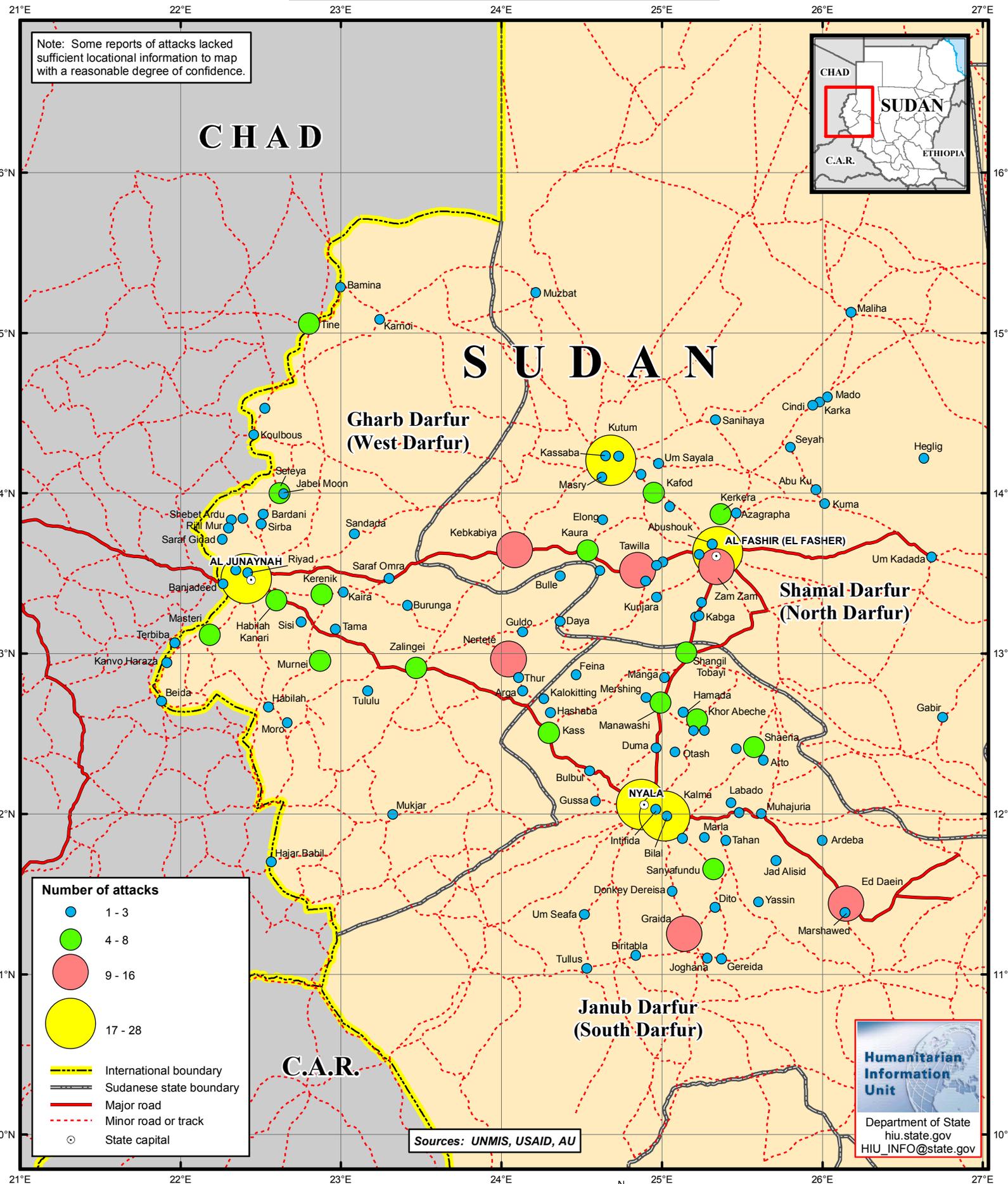
Pakistan/India Earthquake Remotely Sensed Damage Assessment Information as of October 16, 2005



Darfur: Reported Attacks by Location and Number January 5 - October 25, 2005

UNCLASSIFIED

Number of geo-referenced attacks: 432



Note: Some reports of attacks lacked sufficient locational information to map with a reasonable degree of confidence.



Number of attacks

- 1 - 3
- 4 - 8
- 9 - 16
- 17 - 28

- International boundary
- Sudanese state boundary
- Major road
- Minor road or track
- State capital

Sources: UNMIS, USAID, AU

Humanitarian Information Unit

Department of State
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UNCLASSIFIED

0 25 50 100 Kilometers

Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative.