



## HIU Highlights Report No.4: June 15 – July 30, 2004

### HIU Mission Statement:

*The Humanitarian Information Unit (HIU) 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. Your feedback is appreciated!

### **A. Status of Select Initiatives:**

#### **Efforts Relating to Sudan:**

The HIU team working on Darfur issues facilitated the sharing of data on damage and destruction of villages throughout Darfur. Additionally, the HIU used that data and combined it with information from multiple other sources, incorporating commercial imagery and data on displaced populations, to produce a series of updated maps and graphics. USAID Administrator Natsios and other representatives of the USG used these products in briefings to Secretary General Annan and the U.N. Security Council as part of a widespread diplomatic push to reveal the gravity of the situation and to focus international attention on the crisis. In a technological first for the Department of State, a cable to multiple embassies referred addressees to a website so that they could download unclassified maps and graphics with detailed images of villages destroyed. The cable called for a demarche to elicit response to the Darfur crisis. In addition to their use for diplomatic purposes, these same products were used in the press and on the Senate floor, as well as by USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and by human rights and relief organizations responding directly to the crisis. (POC: Noam Unger)

The HIU also assisted the Darfur Atrocities Documentation Team, a group of experts from the State Department, USAID, and non-governmental organizations sent to eastern Chad to conduct interviews with Sudanese refugees. The HIU aided the team with regard to data collection, compilation, and analysis efforts, and by creating an atlas for use as a field tool (see the thumbnail of the atlas cover to the right).



### **Populations at Risk Information Project:**

The Populations at Risk Information Working Group has continued its efforts to explore ways of improving and managing sub-national demographic information for crisis-prone countries. At a general meeting on July 8, the group decided that as part of this forward-looking project, it will enable a committee of the National Research Council to engage the science community in benchmarking the use of science and technology for identifying populations at risk. The project also entails the development of prototype country packages for Mozambique, Mali, and Haiti that will explore the use of various types of information to demonstrate vulnerability to factors in the areas of climate, conflict, and infectious diseases. The interagency group includes representatives from: NRC, NASA, Census Bureau, CDC, State/INR, State/OES, State/PRM, USAID/DCHA, USAID/GH, USGS, NGA, NOAA, CIA, DIA and non-USG partners. (POC: Noam Unger)

### **HIU Iraq Reconstruction WebGIS:**

HIU team members have been involved in assessing the hardware, software and personnel in Baghdad that can support GIS efforts in the future. Such efforts include working closely with DoS IRM personnel that are helping HIU members determine the best applications for the WebGIS site in support of the new offices in Iraq. Specific attention has been focused on determining the best course of action for Embassy Baghdad and their use of existing database efforts and future use of the Iraq Reconstruction WebGIS. The HIU staff have also recently completed the evaluation of new tools that were designed to assist them with improving the WebGIS site content. This evaluation has given HIU personnel a new approach to the WebGIS design that will begin in Mid-August. (POC: Tiffany Hill)

### **HIU Countries of Humanitarian Interest and Concern (CHIC):**

The CHIC eRoom now has 45 collaborating members, representing the US Government, the UN, NGOs and academia. The selection of five initial countries has begun. A ballot has been posted on the CHIC eRoom to enable members to vote for initial case study countries. Documents, website links, country expert contact information, and maps are being added to individual Country Folders found in the eRoom. (POC: Dennis King)

## **B. Collaboration Efforts:**

### **Collaboration with USAID to produce maps of Afghanistan road construction phases:**

In preparation for an Afghanistan Interagency Operations Group (AIOG) briefing to the NSC deputies, the HIU has created maps showing consecutive phases of road construction in Afghanistan. The overall theme of the map set is regional trade linkages. Since regional links and USAID roadwork are best shown by maps, the HIU is producing a series of maps ranging from a regional view to the very specific (construction of secondary roads in Afghanistan). The series includes new maps as well as updates of last year's maps showing the intersection of the Afghanistan ring road with population centers and agricultural land. (POC: Kathleen Miner)

### **Collaboration with National Defense University's ITEA Program:**

On 29 June, HIU representatives met with Eric Kjonnerod and his staff from the Interagency Transformation, Education, and After Action Review (ITEA) Program to discuss collaborative efforts and to plant the seeds of future cooperation. Meeting participants discussed how best to incorporate the HIU into various ITEA plans, as well as complex humanitarian emergency exercises and simulations. ITEA proposed that it develop the design, structure and methodologies for future scenario gaming. ITEA has also been posting the HIU highlights reports to its website (<http://www.theinteragency.org/>).

### **Collaboration with the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (S/GAC):**

The HIU continues to meet with the President's Emergency Plan database group to help develop training materials for the geographic data collection portion of the database. In addition, the HIU worked with Leo Dillon of INR's Office of the Geographer and Global Issues to identify and prepare lists of administrative levels for the fifteen focus countries, including most recently, first level administrative data for Vietnam. When data is collected from the field, the HIU will assist S/GAC in creating an overall "Who is doing What Where" map. (POC: Kathleen Miner)

### **Participation in Strong Angel II Demonstration:**

During the week of July 16-22, two HIU representatives participated in the DARPA sponsored Strong Angel II demonstration in Kona, Hawaii. This exercise concentrated on exploring the reliability of technology hardware and software in an austere environment and was attended by personnel from various USG and non-USG agencies that are involved with international response efforts. Participants worked from tents on a lava field testing wireless information exchange, geospatial analysis, language translation programs, and medical information exchanges. The HIU representatives gained specific knowledge on the use of geospatial analysis, language translation, and interagency collaboration in a field operation.

## **C. Selected Meetings and Presentations**

### **Annual Worldwide Civil Affairs Conference:**

Colonel Doug Nash and Cadet Scott Bostic attended the annual Worldwide Civil Affairs Conference in Raleigh, NC hosted by ASD/SOLIC Stability Operations. This event was attended by the senior leaders and staff of all US Army and US Marine Corps Civil Affairs units, as well as by allied military representatives, other USG agencies, and NGOs. Colonel Nash gave a presentation to the assembled group on the HIU and the importance of interagency information management, and he also gave a briefing on the status of the Civil Affairs Information Management Transformation initiative.

### **JFCOM/Interagency Pre-Conflict Management Tool Exercise:**

Walter Adcock attended the Pre-Conflict Management Tool (PCMT) exercise with representatives from CIA, DoD-JFCOM, State (PRM), and USAID. Academics and contractors

with years of prior government experience gave background assessments of Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, whose news coverage was analyzed through the PCMT. The tool filters news information based on key word searches related to conflict. Its intention is to be a timesaving mechanism for analysts to gather information.

**Meeting with the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization (S/CRS):**

Ambassador Carlos Pascual visited the HIU along with a team of advisors on July 13 to discuss the work of the unit and the ways in which it can assist the new Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization. In the documentation from the Secretary authorizing the creation of S/CRS, the HIU is listed among groups that are to collaborate with the new office.

**D. Other Items of Interest:**

**HIU Page on State Website:**

The HIU has been working on a robust website that is still under development, but we do now have a page on the State Department’s website. We are evaluating the content and looking to add more links. The page can be viewed at: <http://www.state.gov/s/inr/hiu/> (POC: Tiffany Hill)

**HIU staff:**

Cadet Scott Bostic of the US Military Academy at West Point, NY, interned at the HIU, the first intern to INR in over ten years from that academic institution. Based on the success of this program, the HIU is recommending that INR and West Point continue such collaboration.

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