

## HIU Highlights Report No.2: March 24 – April 23, 2004

The HIU serves as an interagency center to identify, collect, analyze, and disseminate unclassified information critical to USG preparation for and responses to humanitarian emergencies worldwide. The unit promotes best practices in information management regarding complex emergencies and

post-conflict response. This report describes select initiatives underway, recent collaborations, key meetings, and upcoming items of interest. Your feedback is appreciated!

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

#### **Civil Affairs Information Management Transformation Workshop:**

The HIU hosted a workshop on 14 April 2004 in Rosslyn, Virginia devoted to developing an information management (IM) strategy for the DoD Civil Affairs (CA) community. This workshop, sponsored by OSD SOLIC Stability Operations, was attended by 60 members of the CA community and other USG agency representatives, as well as by members of several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the UN. Workshop goals include:

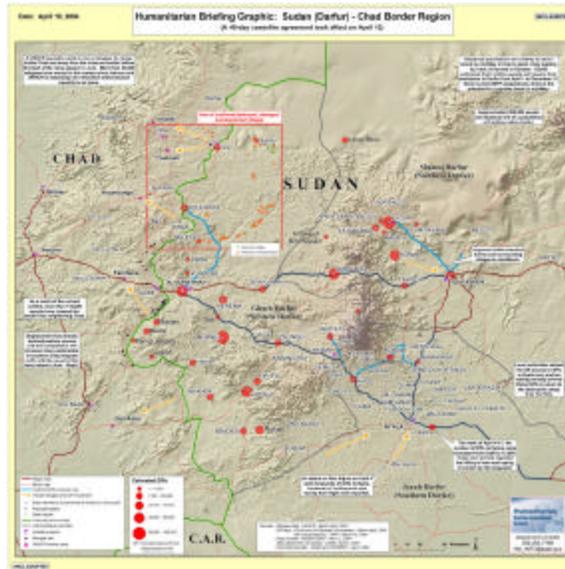
- brief attendees on the status of previous and ongoing attempts to develop a CA IM architecture;
- clarify the need for agreement on data standards;
- establish goals that would transform the CA community's ability to manage humanitarian-related data and information; and
- develop a strategy to achieve these goals.

This workshop resulted in the recommendation of a two-track strategy to support CA IM transformation – one track would support ongoing efforts to develop systems in the field and the other track would focus on DoD policy to mandate that the CA force institute needed changes to better carry out its information management responsibilities. Additionally, workshop attendees agreed to the establishment of a CA IM Working Group tasked with the responsibility of drawing up concrete goals and a timeline for implementing recommendations. (POC: Col. Doug Nash)

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

The HIU continues work on the humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan and the neighboring areas across the border in Chad. The HIU produced visual analytical briefing products for senior decision-makers at the Department of State and USAID. The following product depicts concentrations and movements of displaced persons, roads and sites cleared for

U.N. humanitarian access, and certain destroyed or damaged villages in the Darfur Sudan – Chad border region. Additionally, the HIU played a critical role in facilitating interagency requests for imagery collection and analysis on Sudan as well as the development of releasable imagery-derived products and the purchase of commercial imagery. The HIU also produced a series of GIS graphic products for the 2004 Sudan Peace Act Report that has been provided to Congress. (POC: Noam Unger)



Thumbnail version of HIU poster-size April 19th product on the Darfur Sudan – Chad border region.

### **HIU ArcIMS Iraq Reconstruction Website:**

The development and rollout of the HIU interactive Arc/IMS GIS prototype website continues to progress. HIU performed live demonstrations of the website for a number of interagency partners in recent weeks. To assist the HIU, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) has agreed to support improvements that make the website more user friendly. Coordination meetings on improvements needed were held between NGA, its GIS contractor (ESRI), and the HIU. (POC: Tiffany Hill)

### **HIU Countries of Humanitarian Interest Study :**

The HIU developed a concept/strategy paper for the its 20 Countries of Humanitarian Interest Study, which is intended to provide critical data, information and knowledge about crisis- prone countries to USG decision makers. The paper outlines the user information requirements, country selection process, first phase focus, possible collaboration partners, quantitative and qualitative indicators, and potential activity products and services. The paper will be shared with internal and external partners for comment during the week of May 10<sup>th</sup>. The activity will identify the critical country-specific information needed by USG decision makers and then develop products and services that will provide or display this data, information and knowledge derived from databases, websites and country experts and specialists. (POC: Dennis King)

## **B. Collaboration Efforts Initiated:**

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

At the request of S/GAC and invitation of USAID's Global Health Bureau, Kathleen Miner attended a two-day UNAIDS workshop in Geneva on monitoring and evaluation and UNAIDS' Country Reporting Information System database. Following the workshop, Ms. Miner met with the World Health Organization staff to discuss Health Mapper, their tool for displaying and manipulating spatial data. S/GAC requested HIU technical assistance to assess select databases to determine their adequacy to report on the performance of USG-financed HIV/AIDS activities worldwide. (POC: Kathleen Miner)

### **Collaboration with USAID Conflict Management and Mitigation Office:**

The HIU continues to work on projects with the Conflict Management and Mitigation Office of USAID/DCHA. Current collaboration is geared toward mapping conflict indicators using GIS. Research is underway for data to support graphic visualizations of land holdings, disbursement of internally displaced persons, recent incidents of violence, ethno-linguistic territories, etc. Initial focus countries are Nigeria and Burundi. (POC: Victoria Jabara)

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

Alan Davis and Noam Unger met with USAID Administrator Natsios and John Tzagronis on 8 April to brief them on imagery related to the Darfur humanitarian crisis in Sudan. The Administrator expressed interest in visiting the HIU in the coming weeks.

Dennis King presented "New Ways of Visualizing Humanitarian Information for Decision Makers" at the annual Global Disaster Information Network Conference in Alexandria, Virginia.

Doug Nash participated as a panelist at the Brookings Institute on 26 March. The topic of the discussion was insights and lessons learned from working with NGOs. The session was held for the US Army's Medical Strategic Leadership Program and for military fellows at Brookings.

Victoria Jabara participated in the training of civilian and military personnel in a post-conflict and reconstruction simulation known as Synthetic Environments for National Security Estimates. In cooperation with the Institute for Defense Analysis and The School of Public Policy at George Mason University, the U.S. Institute of Peace hosted this training for ministerial-level government officials from Iraq.

<b>Other HIU Meetings:</b>		
<b>ENTITY/OFFICER</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPICS</b>
Regional Studies Course students from the US Army Special Warfare Center	Mar 29	HIU general briefing
Center of Excellence/Disaster Management Humanitarian Assistance (Hawaii)	Mar 30	Discussed the upcoming Civil Military Information Sharing Workshop and a prototype humanitarian information website COE-DMHA is developing
USAID/ Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) and State/Political Military Bureau (PM)	Apr 2	Representatives from each of the Bureau offices gave 5 - 10 minute presentations on the work of their office.
John Kautz, Chief of the Operational Environment Analysis Division (OEAD), Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA)	Apr 6	OEAD provided a briefing on their information initiatives relevant to the HIU mandate at their office in Bolling AFB. HIU will host DIA staff next.
State/Political Military/Office of Plans. Policy and Analysis	Apr 8	Discussed creation of a database to support future peace support operations. The Peace Keeping Stability Operations Institute (PKSOI) in Carlisle, PA has been designated as the lead on this initiative.
Paulette Martin, National Geospatial Intelligence Agency	Apr 12	Provided a HIU briefing for Ms. Martin soon traveling to Baghdad on how we relate to the CPA/IMU.
Lauren Landis, Director of the Office of Food for Peace USAID/DCHA	Apr 13	HIU briefing
Rob Chamberlain, DoS Afghanistan Interagency Operations Group	Apr 13	HIU briefing and discussed information management needs of AIOG
Robert Turner, UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Field Information Support unit	Apr 15	HIU briefing and common interests with UN OCHA
CIA/Office of Transnational Issues	Apr 19	Discussion of Political Instability Task Force Country analysis modeling projects

## **D. Other Items of Interest**

### **HIV/AIDS GIS analysis:**

By collaborating on a project with State/PRM, the HIU has established a foundation for further in-depth analysis using geographic information system mapping. At present, the project is able to make use of layers of data for Sub-Saharan Africa relating to the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, national HIV prevalence, HIV/AIDS program funding for refugees, sub-national HIV concentrations, and road networks. One map series focuses on specific refugee camps in Tanzania and Kenya and their relationship to surrounding HIV concentrations. (POC: Noam Unger)

## **E. Upcoming Items:**

### **Workshop on Systematic Population Estimation – May 13-14 (by invitation only):**

This workshop will convene geographers, demographers and other experts from the USG, academia, and the private sector to discuss issues for data-poor regions of the world with USG analysts and other users of population estimates. The goal of this workshop is to explore the potential for developing and promoting a more systematic USG approach to population estimation in data-poor and crisis-prone countries. (POC: Noam Unger)

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