Hands-On Mapathon for Urban Resilience: Cotopaxi Volcano and Latacunga, Ecuador

Mapping Event: October 17 - 21, 2016

In August 2015, Ecuador declared a state of emergency after the Cotopaxi volcano shot ash seven miles into the air. Located approximately 30 miles south of the capital city of Quito, Cotopaxi is one of South America's most dangerous volcanoes. Unfortunately since mid – April 2015, eruptive activity at Cotopaxi volcano has increased, including volcano-related earthquakes and gas emissions causing continued concern for those living in the vulnerable areas nearby. A significant eruption could affect tens of thousands of people living near the volcano and inundate nearby areas.

Unfortunately, there is only a small amount of open geospatial data for Latacunga, the capital of the Cotopaxi Region. Habitat III offers a unique opportunity to mobilize conference-goers in Quito and mappers around the world to aid the efforts of USAID/OFDA supported Volcano Disaster Assistance Program (VDAP) in Latacunga for data-informed disaster risk reduction.

Opportunities for engagement:

1. **Virtual**: Learn more about the task and contribute to the map on OpenStreetMap:
   - **Website**: http://tasks.hotosm.org/project/2233
2. **In Quito**: Join participants at the United States booth and the U.S Department of State data booths for mapping workshops. Bring your laptop!
3. **Regional Mapathon:** YouthMappers chapters in Medellín, Colombia will host two mapathons on October 20 and 21, 2016. The mapathons will occur at Universidad de Antioquia and Universidad de San Buenaventura.

Help: Map data is key to humanitarian and development missions. MapGive helps new volunteers learn to map and get involved in online tasks. **Website**: http://mapgive.state.gov/learn-to-map/

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Volcano Disaster Assistance Program

In 2015, when Cotopaxi showed increased activities, the Ecuadorian government asked the USAID/OFDA supported Volcano Disaster Assistance Program (VDAP) to work with local scientists at the Instituto Geofísico (IG). VDAP provided the IG with volcano monitoring equipment, data analysis, and a volcanic mudflow detection system. As of June 2016, VDAP continues to remotely analyze eruption data and remained ready to respond should Cotopaxi's activity increase.