VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY
MISSING MAPS - MAPATHON

An innovative, interactive and entertaining volunteering event to raise awareness on Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) and medical humanitarian relief works

EVENT DETAILS

Objectives
1. Demonstrate how global volunteers can participate in humanitarian work
2. Enable local HK people to get involved and be connected to one of the biggest project in the world
3. Raise awareness on current global & humanitarian issues
4. Enhance understanding of MSF's medical humanitarian actions, its work and its principles

Programme Rundown
The duration of the event could last from 110 to 150 minutes.

Equipment and Knowledge Required
No experience necessary, each participant just need to bring a laptop, a mouse and your enthusiasm.

Venue Requirement
A venue with proper tables and chairs, a good Wi-Fi connection and plenty of electricity sockets.

CONTEXT

What is a Mapathon?
A Mapathon is an amazing opportunity for volunteers to digitally connect and map the most vulnerable places in the developing world so that locals and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) can use these maps and data to better respond to crises affecting these areas. Mapathon volunteers have a real impact on the delivery of healthcare in the field.

Global Mapathon Action
MSF, in partnership with Red Cross and Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team, organizes Mapathons in many places around the world to raise awareness and give the public an opportunity to participate in digital humanitarian action for operational needs.
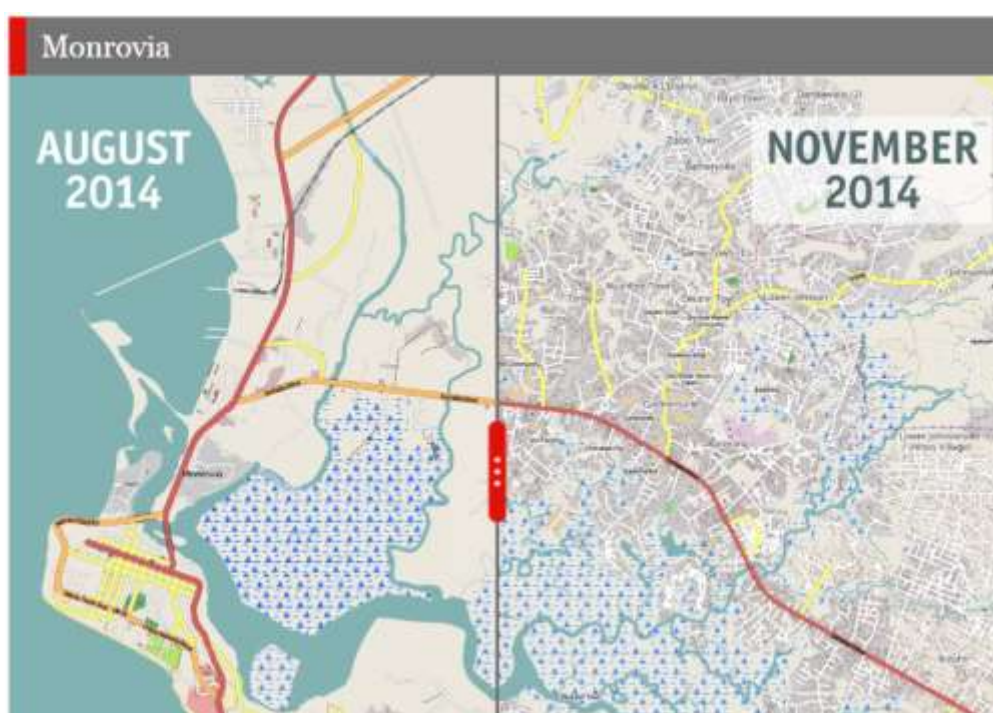
What is it?

The idea is simple: you will be comparing satellite images and adding buildings and/or roads to a shared online map. This map then be made available for all humanitarian organisations worldwide.

How mapping can help to save lives?

The lack of reliable data in poor countries thwarts both development and disaster-relief. When MSF moved into Liberia to combat Ebola in 2014, maps of the capital, Monrovia, fell far short of what was needed to provide aid or track the disease's spread. Grateful for the effort of the volunteer mappers from around the world, most of the city's roads and many buildings had been filled in within a few months.

What exactly do I need to do?

[For example, if the task requires us to map all the buildings in that area]

Zoom in the satellite image and find the brick houses and circular or squared mud huts, with either straw roofs or tin roofs. Outline every single building with a few clicks and your sharp eyes. After you outline all the buildings in that particular satellite imagery, save your work and upload it. That's it.
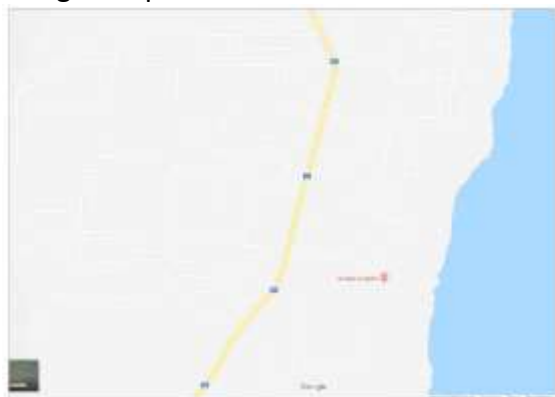

Want to see the impact?

[Example]
Baraka, Democratic Republic of Congo - a thriving trading city of 120,000 people, but not on any maps! MSF has been working for many years in the area responding to many crises like cholera outbreaks, refugees, violence from rebel groups and malaria. These responses were very difficult without maps!
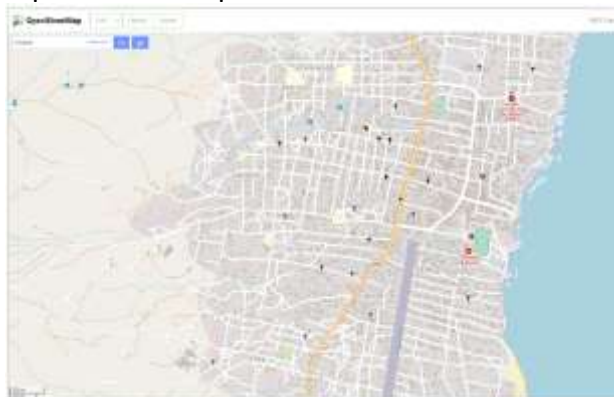
After Missing Maps volunteers (remote and local) started mapping the area, Open Street Map has thousands of buildings, local names, and roads on the map whereas Google Map still (to this date) shows just the main roads in the area.

1)   Open your web browser
2)   Go to Google Map (https://www.google.com/maps), open another tab and go to
        Open Street Map (https://www.openstreetmap.org)
3)   Search for a place "Baraka hospital" in Democratic Republic of Congo and see the difference.

Google Map

Open Street Map

Join us and be part of the mapping community now!