



Acronym: GDACS

Full Name: The Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System

Website: <http://www.gdacs.org/>

Established: n/a

Location: n/a

Areas of expertise: Real time disaster alerts

Main Partners and Collaborations: European Commission Office for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), EC Joint Research Centre, UNITAR Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT), The Virtual Operations Coordination Centre (Virtual OSOCC), ReliefWeb.

Short Description:

The Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System provides near real-time alerts about natural disasters around the world and tools to facilitate response coordination, including media monitoring, map catalogues and Virtual On-Site Operations Coordination Centre. GDACS is a web-based platform that combines existing web-based disaster information management systems with the aim to alert the international community in case of major sudden-onset disasters and to facilitate the coordination of international response during the relief phase of the disaster. The access to GDACS alert-notification and interactive components (e.g. Virtual OSOCC) are restricted (password protected) to disaster managers in donor countries, response organisations and disaster-prone countries. In addition, GDACS will be accessible to the research community who analyse disaster impact and response activities in order to improve international disaster management concepts. Disaster-prone countries should be the primary stakeholders of GDACS. This requires that dedicated focal points be established and trained in these countries to ensure that in case of major disasters, relevant information is reliably and timely provided to the international community according to defined GDACS standards and methodology.

Main activities:

Initial disaster alert and impact/loss estimation;

Alert of the international disaster response community;

Coordination of relief activities;

Provision of satellite images and maps;

Integration of related information management systems;

In addition to alert notifications and moderated disaster information management, GDACS integrates other related disaster information systems to allow a “one-stop shopping” for users. These systems include:

ReliefWeb report and map repository, News feeds (e.g. AlertNet, EMM, Yahoo), Disaster early warning sites (HEWSWeb)

Contact:

<http://www.gdacs.org/about/contact.asp>