Crowdsourcing in Conflict Settings

Helena Puig Larrauri
Standby Task Force
Conflict is the perceived incompatibility of thinking, imagining, feeling, wanting and acting of two or more parties, that at least one party experiences as such, and that results in a limitation in realising the aims, interests and imaginations of others.
Success, Failure

Two stories of success:
• Libya contextual information
• Somalia shelter tagging

Two stories of failure:
• Sudan conflict early warning
• Syria health service location
Somalia shelter tagging
Somalia shelter tagging

- 5 days
- 168 volunteers
- 3909 satellite images
- 253711 tags
Social media is critical for humanitarian work & now you can see why. Crisis Map of Libya is now public: http://bit.ly/g8xCtm UN OCHA

© 2011 Twitter About Us Contact Blog Status Resources API Business Help Jobs Terms Privacy
Sudan conflict early warning
Sudan conflict early warning
A question of ethics

Why success or failure?

- Not about complexity
- Key differences are in ethical questions
“Safety: I will use as guideline principle for all my activities in the TF the Do No Harm principle. I will place the highest priority on the safety of the general public. I will not engage in any activity that could potentially endanger the affected populations that are source and target of reports and information during specific disaster response operation I am involved in.”
• Build on what connects groups: support local capacities for peace by working to support connectors

• Don’t do anything that increases divisions: avoid any activity that exacerbates intergroup dividers
Neutrality and Political Space

“Neutrality: The TF assistance is given regardless of the race, creed or nationality of the recipients and without adverse distinction of any kind. I shall endeavor not to act as instruments of government foreign policy. I must not take sides in hostilities or engage in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.”