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European Commission

Development of a Mobile Application for Disaster Information and Response

iGDACS

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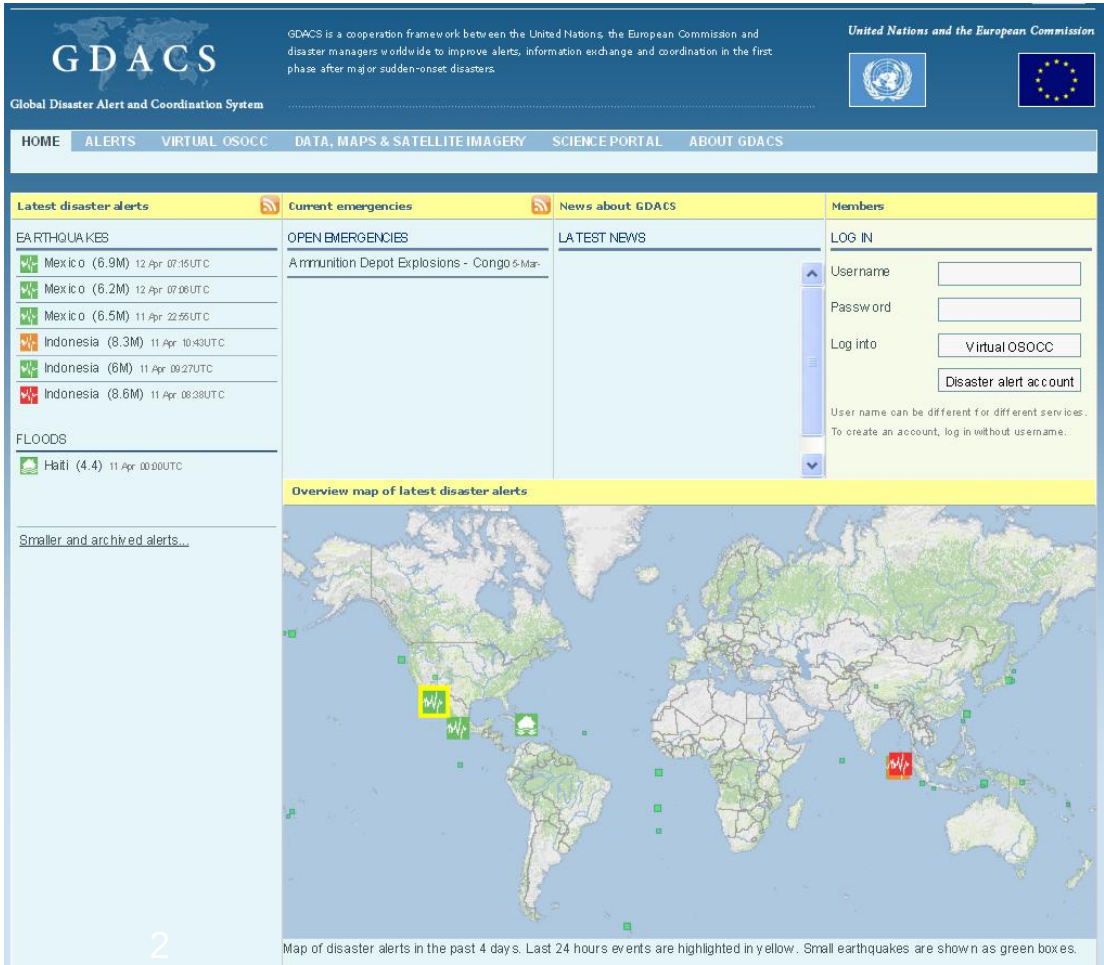
Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS)

- Monitoring and alerting of natural disasters
- International disaster response community
- Alert subscription (SMS, email, fax)



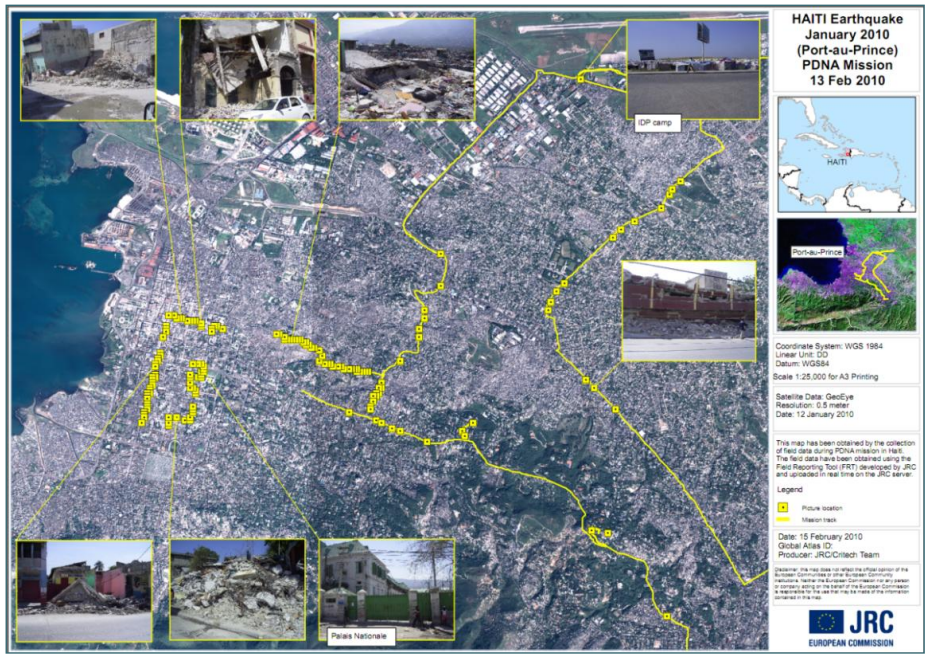
Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS)

- >18,000 subscribers, mainly disaster managers in governments and disaster response organisations
- Number increases by 20% every year

→ Could we get useful information from the users in return?

Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)

- Field data collection
- Map production



Could we get a first situation overview faster?

Can we improve post-disaster situation awareness by community involvement?

- App for disaster information (GDACS alerts)
- Possibility to send information back
- Designed for the non-expert
- Targeted users: general public and professional emergency responders

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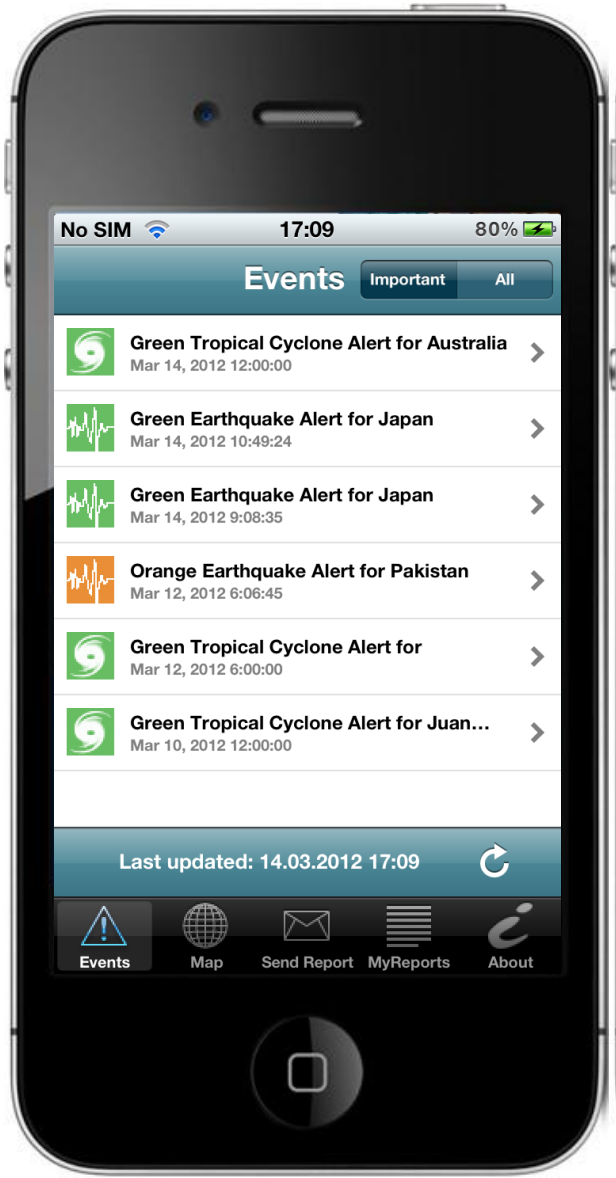

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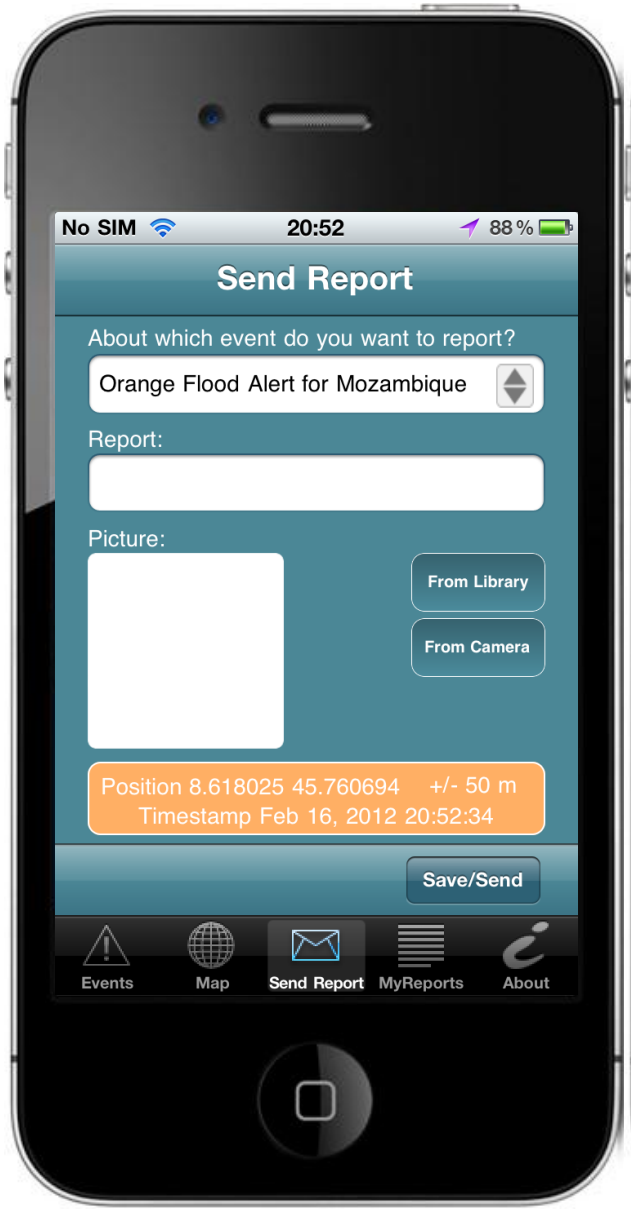

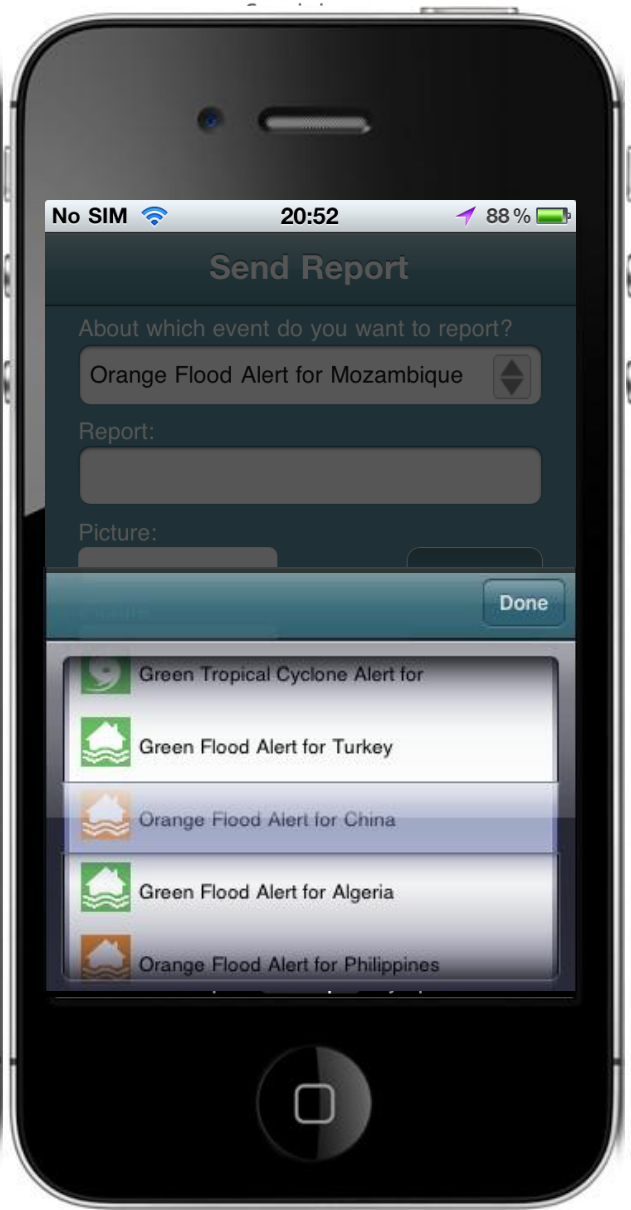

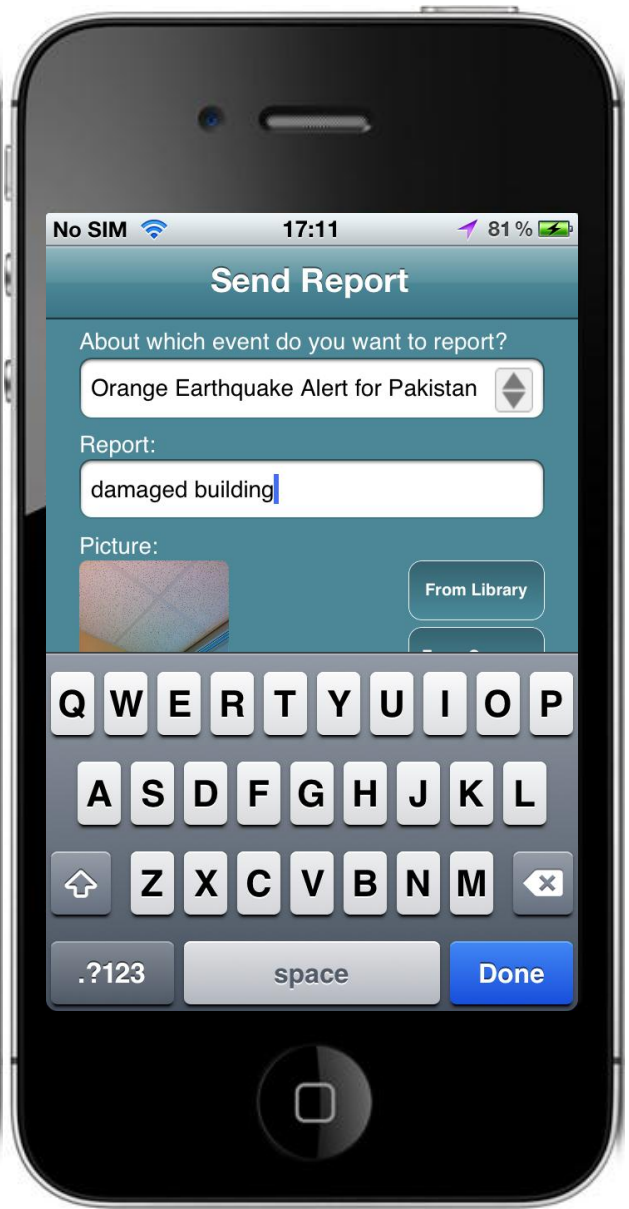

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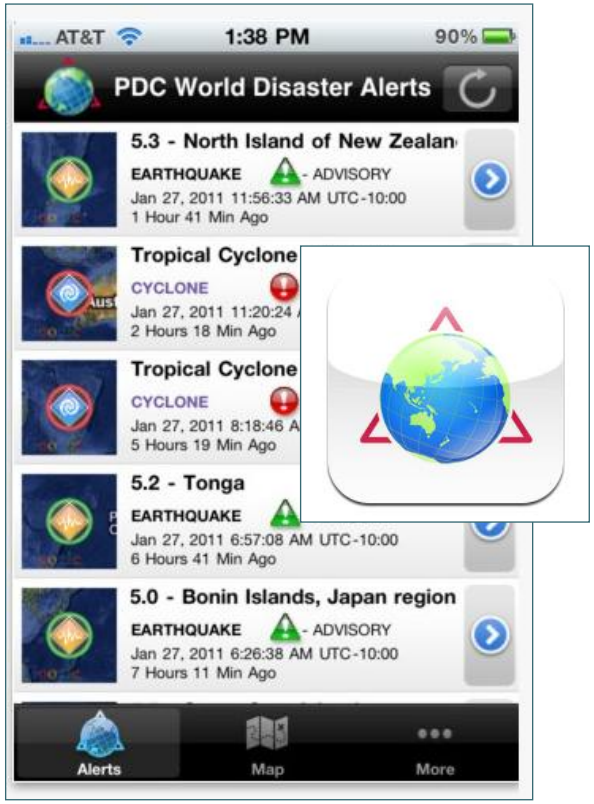
Goal: Extract useful information from the community reports for improving the overall situational picture

But: We neither know if people will participate, nor if the provided information will be useful for us…

Additional goal:

- Development of standards and reference implementations of a mobile information platform >> Interoperability of field reporting software



Future Work

Available on the App Store

Since 3. April

- Promotion of the App
- Support of other platforms

- Comparison of volunteer information with other streams from the media and official sources
- Development of techniques for automatic extraction of relevant information (depending on data volume)

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i.gdacs.org

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