Haiti
And Beyond
On 12 January 2010, infrastructure in Haiti disappeared
Lots of strangers arrived quickly. None spoke Creole.
Surgery was done in the open air, on strangers.
The Health Information System was English words on bandages.
Frustration ran high - but people were generally calm
We met anywhere we could all reach.
Everybody followed the entrapment reports
Fragile architectures connected victims to the world.
Water increased in cost 5-fold the first week.
$0.02 \rightarrow $0.10
Charcoal again became the dominant cooking fuel.
Water in an IDP camp.
Remittance payment office, most from the US.
Don’t leave home without it.
Honda 1kw multi-fuel generator
Hamish Pritchard
MapAction and the
British Antarctic Survey Team
132 entrapment rescues. This is one.
At one point, 48 hours without a break.
Serious weirdness showed up about day ten...
New orphans, a week out.
IDP Camp. The rains are now making it a lake.
Emergency information architecture as of 04 Feb.
Project 4636

How a simple SMS, sent from a Haitian in need, can be transformed into a powerful resource that fuels the crisis response and recovery effort.

1. A Haitian with a need sends an SMS to the 4636 shortcode.
2. The SMS is then forwarded onto the crowdflower.com website.
3. A Haitian volunteer or staff member logs onto the website and translates the SMS, adding meta and geospatial information.
4. After translation, the SMS is turned into a Report that goes out to multiple organizations involved in the crisis response and recovery effort.

A product of Ushahidi Labs
Gratitude. A partial list.

1. Anna Schultz – Tufts in Boston
2. Ushahidi team – Nairobi, Tufts, elsewhere
3. Luke Beckman - DC
4. Mary Jane Marcus – San Francisco
5. Crowdflower
6. OpenStreetMaps
7. CrisisMappers.org
8. Digicel and Voila (fragile, but willing)
9. AlertNet at Thomson-Reuters
10. GoogleEarth and Google.org
11. Haitian diaspora
Quick thoughts:

1. Policies around cloud computing
2. Technical education for response professionals
3. Transparency vs Privacy: *weighting*
4. Interoperability
   - Maps to spreadsheets to medical records
   - Coordinate systems
5. Outside influences and the national desires
6. Code-escrows for dependencies
7. No-cost humanitarian telco agreements
8. Capacity building and exit strategies
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