Report on the work of the ICT4Peace Foundation in 2010
www.ict4peace.org

ICT4Peace took root with pioneering research on the [role of ICTs in preventing, responding to and recovering from conflict](#) *in 2003 and lead to the adoption of Paragraph 36 by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis in 2005 which recognises "...the potential of ICTs to promote peace and to prevent conflict which, inter alia, negatively affects achieving development goals. ICTs can be used for identifying conflict situations through early-warning systems preventing conflicts, promoting their peaceful resolution, supporting humanitarian action, including protection of civilians in armed conflicts, facilitating peacekeeping missions, and assisting post conflict peace-building and reconstruction".*

The ICT4Peace Foundation (www.ict4peace.org) works to promote the practical realisation of Paragraph 36 and looks at the role of ICT in crisis management, covering aspects of early warning and conflict prevention, peace mediation, peacekeeping, peace-building as well as natural disaster management and humanitarian operations.

1. Summary and highlights

The tragic events in Haiti, Chile, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan etc., the breakthrough and high visibility of new ICTs and social media as tools in crisis management, which the Foundation has predicted and promoted since several years, the Foundations close working relationship with the UN ASG CITO, OCHA, DPKO, WFP, UNFP, UNHCR, etc. regarding the development of the UN Crisis Information Management Strategy (CiMS) through the Crisis Information Management Advisory Group (CiMAG), with Governments and important actors in this new space such as Ushahidi, Crisismappers etc., International Training Institutions and Academia: Harvard, Georgiatech, Lugano, European Joint Research Centre (JRC), have further helped establish the Foundation as a leading independent think tank, advisor and actor in this new field of global Crisis Information Management (CiM) using ICTs.

In particular, the **UN Crisis Information Management Strategy (CiMS)** process launched by the Swiss Government through ICT4Peace has been crowned with success by the adoption of the UN Secretary General's Report on the Status of implementation of the information and communications technology strategy for the United Nations Secretariat by this 65th General Assembly (Sixty-fifth session Agenda item 129 Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 - A/65/491 page 38). Pertaining to this the UN ASG CITO published in November a very readable brochure describing the UN ICT Strategy: Shaping the Future of Information and Communications Technology for the United Nations Secretariat mentioning CiMS and ICT4Peace Foundation (pages 2 and 30).

This is the fruit of the persistent work of the Swiss Government and ICT4Peace since 2008, first with the Stock-taking exercise, the High-level lunches by the Swiss Mission, the organization of CiMAG itself, CiMAG retreats etc. managed and financed by the Swiss Government through the ICT4Peace Foundation including the substantive support to the CITO in every step of this process, writing most of the papers and documents related to the CiMS process, including the Strategy itself. Several activities of the Foundation in 2010 and new partnerships have further helped to achieve this important result.

Of course, the events in Haiti themselves, the management of its crisis through ICTs, crowdsourcing, crisismappers, Ushahidi, Sahana, Instedd etc. and last but not least the ICT4Peace Haiti wiki have helped to further create awareness within Governments, the UN and diplomatic Missions to the UN in New York, of the need to improve crisis information management and use the new tools including ICTs and social media. ICT4Peace was the first organisation to undertake – in spring 2010 - a critical reflection on the way ICTs were used in Haiti etc. and on the challenges and opportunities of crowdsourcing and the work of crisis mappers. Please refer to the report: Haiti and beyond: Getting it

right in Crisis Information Management in April 2010. Two panels and workshops were organized during WSIS 2010 in May 2010 in Geneva in addition to an informal retreat of CiMAG during the same time. An analysis paper based on these deliberations with recommendations were published by ICT4Peace was subsequently published.

One of the most important conclusion of these consultations was, that Governments and the UN, but also some large humanitarian organisations, are not up-to-date anymore, when it comes to the utilization of modern information management tools, including ICTs and social media, in humanitarian operations, and that they risk of being bypassed by "civil society driven" privatized crisis information managements systems and resources.

The ICT4Peace Foundation conducted in summer 2010 a series of consultations, not only with senior staff of the UN organisations, in New York and Geneva, but also with key Government Missions to the UN in New York to muster support for the CiMS as part of the UN SGs ICT Strategy, by proposing a "Friends of CiMS" group with Switzerland, Sweden, Malaysia, Singapore, India, South Africa, Brazil. plus OCHA, DPKO, DFS, UNDP, UNICEF.

In the fall 2010 the Foundation invited the UN CITO, Dr. Choi to participate at the 2010 Crisismappers Meeting in Boston and to thus embrace an increasingly important community of actors in crisis information management. A few days after this conference, the 3rd formal Crisis Information Management Advisory Group (CiMAG) retreat was jointly organized by the office of the CITO and ICT4Peace and financed by the Swiss Government.

The ICT4Peace Foundation subsequently was the first organization to publish a report on the pressing question of how to support cross-fertilization between the UN IASC Core Operational Data Sets (COD) and Information generated by Crisismappers during a given crisis. Consultations between ASG CITO and ICT4Peace respectively with OCHA have then lead to the development of two priority initiatives to implement CiMS. ICT4Peace again assisted the ASG CITO in designing and writing these two initiatives to be implemented in 2011: 1.) Initiative I - Implementing Common Operational Datasets in Crisis Preparedness and Response; 2.) Initiative II – Leveraging social media and cloud computing for improved crisis preparedness and response

The process funded by the Swiss Government to develop, test and deploy (as a stand alone project, but also as part of the UN Crisis Information Management Strategy) modern **Crisis Information Management Training Courses and Modules for Humanitarian and Peace-keeping and Peace-building operations using new ICTs** and social media progressed satisfactorily.

The development of a full-fledged 2-weeks training course for staff members (military, police, civilians) of Joint Mission Analysis Centres (JMAC), which are attached to UN peacekeeping and peace-building Missions was completed with the assistance of Jacques Baud and Alain Modoux.

ICT4Peace, in close cooperation with OCHA carried out a CiM Training course for humanitarian operations managers as part of the Executive Master Programme for Humanitarian Logistics and Management of the University of Lugano, with Sanjana Hattotuwa developing and testing a first of its kind CiM simulation exercise using ICTs based on the events in Haiti and the ICT4Peace Wiki on Haiti. The course in Lugano will be repeated in the future years.

A "teaser course" on JMAC was carried out by Jacques Baud on behalf of ICT4Peace at the Ecole pour le maintien de la Paix in Mali. EMP has indicated that it will submit a request for support to implement a full-fledged JMAC training course in 2011. He also supported, on behalf of the Foundation, the preparations of a JMAC course to be delivered at the Kofi Annan International Peace-keeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Ghana.

At the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) Conference in Dacca, Folke Bernadotte, ZIF Berlin, CMC in Finland, CCCPA (also as chair of ABSTA) and the ICT4Peace Foundation (lead) agreed in principle to jointly develop in 2011 a JMAC training course building on a similar course already carried out by Folke, the JMAC course of ICT4Peace and the two courses carried out by CCCPA/ICT4Peace. CCCPA has invited ICT4Peace to provide a one-week JMAC training course in March 2011 for the heads of training of the 16 Peace-keeping Training Centres in Africa (ABSTA).

Finally ICT4Peace concluded an MOU with the Centro Conjunto para Operaciones de Paz de Chile

(CECOPAC) in Chile to develop and implement a course similar to the JMAC course.

The Matrix plug-in for Ushahidi and ICT4Peace Crisis Information Management Demonstrator (CiMD). In view of the increasing need to qualify and verify crowdsourced information, the Swiss Government and ICT4Peace Foundation helped the development of the Matrix plug-in for the Ushahidi and the CIMD platform. This plugin essentially requires pre-trained reporters in the field tagging reports with the following for reports they enter into the system: 1) Source Reliability and 2) Information Probability. It has been tested during the Tanzania elections.

The ICT4Peace Wikis on Haiti, Chile, Pakistan, Gulf Oil spill and Kyrgyzstan, designed and curated by Sanjana Hattotuwa, have become globally known and are increasingly used by the international humanitarian community. OCHA officially congratulated ICT4Peace for the creation of these wikis as a unique and high-value source of information fort he humanitarian community on the ground, and Google used it as a resource on its Google Response site for Pakistan.

The **ICT4Peace Inventorisation Wiki** started in 2006 continued to be updated in 2010.

ICT4Peace Foundation has been invited by OCHA to be a member of the team **to evaluate their OneResponse humanitarian website**.

The ICT4Peace Foundation was invited to participate at the **early warning for protection** conference in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, organised by Oxfam Australia and supported by Australian Government's AusAID, to explore how private, public and civil society institutions can harness early warning information and communication technologies (ICTs) and mechanisms to contribute to the prevention of mass atrocity crimes. On behalf of the United Nations Francis Deng, Special Advisor of the Secretary General for the Prevention of Genocide and Dr. Edward Luck Special Advisor of the Secretary General for the Responsibility to Protect and leading experts participated. In preparation of this Conference the ICT4Peace Foundation published a report called: ICTs for the prevention of mass atrocity crimes. The report explores what is being done to support the prevention of mass atrocity crimes as well as reconciliation, healing and justice with a particular emphasis on the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) ?

Based on meetings in New York and at the Conference, the Foundation entered into an **informal advisory partnership with the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide to explore the utilization of ICTs for early warning.** Preliminary consultations were also held with the Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect to explore his taking part in the UN Crisis Information Management Strategy (CiMS) along with the Office of Francis Deng.

The Foundation also remains the **lead partner of UN DESA** for the implementation and monitoring of para 36 of The Tunis Commitment of the WSIS.

The work carried out in 2010 would not have been possible without the **strong support, politically and financially, by the Swiss Government**, and generous donations **by Swiss private Foundations**.

For easy reference some selected highlights of the activities and achievements are mentioned below.

2. Activities and results in 2010

a. UN Crisis Information Management Strategy (CiMS)

- In December 2009, the Foundation accompanied the UN Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO/ASG), Dr. Choi, to visit the Peace-Keeping Operations of the UN (MINUSTAH) in Haiti and to discuss with the Special Representative of the UN SG and his principal Deputy of MINUSTAH the UN Crisis Information Management Strategy (CiMS), which the CITO and the Foundation jointly developed together with DPKO, DPA, OCHA, WFP, UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, and tentatively planned for a CiMS Pilot Project to improve information management during crisis in Haiti. On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti during which both the SRSG and his Deputy also lost their lives.

- The earthquakes shocking aftermath once again demonstrated the urgent need for timely, accurate information to strengthen aid, response and recovery after a disaster. On January 13, 2010, the ICT4Peace Foundation created a new page on its ICT4Peace Inventory wiki with curated links to a number of leading international and local sources with vital information on Haiti aid efforts. Please see http://inventory.ict4peace.org/Haiti+Earthquake+-+January+2010. This wiki has come in for praise by OCHA and the aid community as a single and unique repository of vital information on Haiti (www.wiki.ict4peace.org)

- Based on the positive response by the international aid community the following wikis were created during 2010: Chile, Pakistan, Gulf Oil Spill, Kyrgyzstan. Google selected the ICT4Peace Wiki as primary source on the Google Pakistan Response website (www.wiki.ict4peace.org). (see also below)

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- Haiti and Beyond: Getting it Right in Crisis Information Management: A Report by the ICT4Peace Foundation on the lessons learned from the massive utilization of ICTs and social media during the humanitarian operations in Haiti (http://ict4peace.org/updates/haiti-and-beyond-getting-it-right-in-crisis-information-management).

- ICTs for Disaster Management, a high level panel discussion at WSIS 2010 on 12 May 2010 (http://ict4peace.org/updates/recording-of-icts-for-disaster-management-high-level-panel-discussion-at-wsis-2010).

- Getting it Right in Crisis Management: Going beyond the hype on ICTs, a panel discussion held on 13 May 2010, organised by the ICT4Peace Foundation held at the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) 2010. Haiti is seen as a turning point in the use of ICTs in Crisis Management but many lessons remain unheeded from previous disasters such as the 2005 Tsunami. Indeed, there is an expectation that ICTs themselves can revolutionize crisis management and provide a "quick-fix" in solving intractable, complex situations often in politically unstable locations around the globe. However, the framework in which the ICTs operate is often just as critical, if not more so, than the technology itself (http://ict4peace.org/updates/recording-of-getting-it-right-in-crisis-management-going-beyond-the-hype-on-icts-at-wsis-2010).

- The ICT4Peace Foundation organised and facilitated a closed door roundtable (informal CiMAG) meeting in Geneva, on 13 May 2010, to discuss the Crisis Information Management (CiM) strategy in general and how the response to the Haitian earthquake earlier this year informs progress on issues such as the creation and availability of core datasets and interoperability. Participants included experts, academics and leading practitioners from Ushahidi, Microsoft, UN OCHA, UNHCR, WHO, Crisis Management Initiative, Tilburg University in the Netherlands, the University of Lugarno in Switzerland, the key architect of Ericsson Response and Media21, in addition to those from the ICT4Peace Foundation (http://ict4peace.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/WSIS-ICT4Peace-Report.pdf).

- As a very important out come of the above informal CiMAG meeting, the ICT4Peace Foundation produced the first of its kind Matrix with the IASC Operational Core Data sets and Data sets produced by the Crowdsourcing platforms and Crisismappers community, traditional and social media and citizen journalists (http://ict4peace.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/Information-Sources-UN-+-Crowdsourced.pdf).

- The ICT4Peace Foundation conducted in summer 2010 a series of consultations, not only with senior staff of the UN organisations, in New York and Geneva, but also with key Government Missions to the UN in New York to muster support for the CiMS as part of the UN SGs ICT Strategy, by proposing a "Friends of CiMS" group with Switzerland, Sweden, Malaysia, Singapore, India, South Africa, Brazil. plus OCHA, DPKO, DFS, UNDP, UNICEF.

- UN CITO Dr. Choi Soon-hong. upon invitation by the ICT4Peace Foundation, delivered a keynote address at the Crisismappers conference in Boston, held on 1st October. Dr. Choi said he "wished more lives had been saved (in Haiti) because of emergency preparedness and info sharing", said the UN was leveraging technology to help with disaster response, warned about the dangers of point solutions and information silos, and referred to the work with the ICT4Peace Foundation to develop and carry forward the Crisis Information Management Strategy for the UN (CiM). The UN CITO also stressed the need for credible crowdsourced

information. He went on to say that the spirit of community, not competition is vital, and that crisismapping must also include public awareness and generate public support (http://ict4peace.org/updates/un-cito-dr-choi-soon-hong-at-crisismappers-meeting-2010).

- The 3rd UN Crisis Information Management Advisory Group (CiMAG) Retreat convened by the UN's Chief Information Technology Officer Soon-Hong Choi and the ICT4Peace Foundation took place on 4 October 2010 at the IBM Palisades, in New York. Participants included representatives from Global Pulse, GAID, OCHA, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, Ushahidi and OpenGeo (http://ict4peace.org/updates/un-crisis-information-management-advisory-group-meeting).

- Report by the ICT4Peace Foundation on Cross-fertilisation of UN Common Operational Datasets and Crisismapping. At the retreat of the UN Crisis Information Management Advisory Group (CiMAG) on 4 October 2010 at IBM Palisades in New York, the ICT4Peace Foundation underscored the point made in the IASC draft document on the Common Operational Datasets (CODs) that "some of the CODs, such as data on the affected population and damage to infrastructure, will change during the different phases of the response and therefore will need to be frequently updated and maintained." Even without an expansion of the existing CODs, the Foundation's submission was that crisismapping could and should feed into the updating of UN datasets after a crisis occurs, complementing timely efforts by UN agencies and the cluster leads to update this information. This concept note is a first attempt to capture the ways through which crisismapping, using crowdsourced information, can feed into and complement key datasets within the UN system, and flags deep-seated attendant challenges in this regard. See the report by the ICT4Peace Foundation (http://ict4peace.org/updates/connecting-crisismapping-to-the-united-nations).

- The UN General Assembly approves in its Sixty-fifth session (Agenda item 129, Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 - A/65/491) the Report of the Secretary-General: Status of implementation of the information and communications technology strategy for the United Nations Secretariat (page 38):

- „80.   One of the objectives set forth following the establishment of the ICT strategy was to increase system-wide harmonization on ICT matters through various inter-agency mechanisms, including the ICT Network of the High-Level Committee on Management of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. This coordination is intended to promote the development of common ICT approaches and solutions for the benefit of the entire United Nations system. The General Assembly, in its resolution 63/262, also encouraged the Secretary- General, as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to foster deeper coordination and collaboration among United Nations organizations in all ICT-related matters.

- 81.   To achieve these objectives, a significant amount of work has been undertaken and is planned in the realm of promoting knowledge sharing, communication among United Nations agencies and common solutions for the common system. Below are a number of examples of system-wide harmonization initiatives in which the Office of Information and Communications Technology has been engaged:

- (a) Crisis information management strategy. **The Crisis Information Management Strategy** is based on the recognition that the United Nations, its Member States, constituent agencies and non-governmental organizations need to improve such information management capacity in the identification, prevention, mitigation, response and recovery of all types of crises, natural as well as man- made. The strategy will leverage and enhance this capacity and provide mechanisms to integrate and share information across the United Nations system. The Office of Information and Communications Technology, together with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, has worked closely with United Nations organizations such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and WFP and other entities such as the **ICT for Peace Foundation** in developing and implementing this strategy. It is envisaged that membership will be expanded to include other United Nations organizations in the near future;" http://oict-un.org/documents/UN%20ICT%20strategy.pdf

- The ICT4Peace Foundation participated in early December in the by invitation only meetings organized by Dr. Soon-hong Choi of the UN Global Pulse and RhoK in New York to develop ICT solutions for the UN Crisis Information Strategy (CiMS).

- The National Disaster Risk Reduction Centre of the Peoples Republic of China has invited the ICT4Peace Foundation to organize a seminar on CiMS and Crisismappers in Beijing in 2011.

b. CiMS Training and curricula development

This process funded by the Swiss Government aims to develop, test and deploy crisis information management courses and build African self-reliance in modern Crisis Information Management Training Courses and Modules for Humanitarian and Peace-keeping and Peace-building operations using new ICTs and social media.

- The development of a full-fledged 2-weeks training course for staff members (military, police, civilians) of Joint Mission Analysis Centres (JMAC), which are attached to UN peacekeeping and peace-building Missions, including exercises was completed.

- KAIPTC. As in 2009 (then with Alain Modoux), in 2010 the ICT4Peace Foundation, represented by Jacques Baud, assisted in developing a draft programme for a CiM pilot training course. The activities of support by ICT4Peace to KAIPTC have been completed. KAIPTC is planning to carry out a CiM course in the near future.

- The Lugano a new programme aimed at those involved in humanitarian aid and relief delivery and planning. This Masters level programme is the first of its kind and successfully launched in 2009. ICT4Peace, in close cooperation with OCHA carried out a CiM Training course for humanitarian operations managers as part of the Executive Master Programme with Sanjana Hattotuwa developing and testing a first of its kind CiM simulation exercise using ICTs based on the events in Haiti and the ICT4Peace Wiki on Haiti. The course in Lugano will be repeated in the future years (http://ict4peace.org/updates/teaching-masters-level-course-on-crisis-information-management-at-university-of-lugano).

- As agreed in the MOU between the Ecole pour le Maintien pour la Paix in Mali the planned "teaser course" on JMAC was carried out by Jacques Baud on behalf of ICT4Peace. EMP has indicated that it will submit a request for support to implement a full-fledged JMAC training course in 2011.

- At the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) Conference in Dacca, Folke Bernadotte, ZIF Berlin, CMC in Finland, CCCPA (also as chair of ABSTA) and ICT4Peace Foundation (lead) agreed in principle to jointly develop in 2011 a JMAC training course building on a similar course already carried out by Folke, the JMAC course of ICT4Peace and the two courses carried out by CCCPA/ICT4Peace. CCCPA has invited ICT4Peace to provide a one-week JMAC training course in March 2011 for the heads of training of the 16 Peace-keeping Training Centres in Africa (ABSTA).

- Finally ICT4Peace concluded an MOU with the Centro Conjunto para Operaciones de Paz de Chile (CECOPAC) in Chile to develop and implement a course similar to the JMAC course. No date has been set for this course.

c. Crisis Information Management Platform (CiMD)

- ICT4Peace Foundation entered in April 2010 into a second phase agreement with Ushahidi to develop the Crisis Information Management Demonstrator (CIMD) to improve information verification and validation tools http://ict4peace.org/updates/ict4peace-foundation-enters-into-new-agreement-with-ushahidi-to-develop-crisis-information-management-demonstrator-cimd-2).

- The Matrix – An Ushahidi Plug-in developed with the assistance of ICT4Peace. In view of the increasing need to qualify and verify crowdsourced information, the ICT4Peace Foundation helped the development of the Matrix plugin for the Ushahidi platform. Used in the Ushahidi instance set up to monitor the Tanzanian national elections on 31st October 2010, this plugin essentially requires pre-trained reporters in the field tagging reports with the following for reports they enter into the system: 1.)Source Reliability; 2.)Information Probability. When the reports are filtered into the back-end, administrators via the analysis plug-in would then see the attached matrix on tagged reports, which helps with making analyses', finding related reports and/or possibly creating new reports to shield the actors involved in some of these reports. This plug-in was developed with the assistance of and input provided by Jacques Baud (http://ict4peace.org/publications/the-matrix-plugin-for-ushahidi-platform).

d. Crisis Information Management Wikis

- The ICT4Peace Foundation through its ICT4Peace Inventorisation Wiki catalogues existing ICT tools and mechanisms – operational, legal and conceptual – geared towards conflict early warning, mitigation, transformation and post-conflict recovery. The inventorisation includes initiatives identified by the report on ICT4peace by the ICT4Peace Foundation, published in 2005, along with more recent examples from around the world in the use of ICT for conflict mitigation using PC's, mobile phones, the web and the Internet. This wiki is being constantly updated with new information and is maintained (http://wiki.ict4peace.org/w/page/17234280/FrontPage).

- Haiti 2010 Earthquake Wiki. On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti. This wiki now features a curated list of key crisis information resources that contain or point to resources including datasets, emergency numbers, helplines and ground situation updates, vital to aid efforts. In April 2010, the Foundation published *Haiti and Beyond: Getting it Right in Crisis Information Management*, which generated discussion and debate on the use of ICTs in the relief work (http://wiki.ict4peace.org/w/page/17234282/Haiti%20Earthquake%20-%20January%202010).

- The 2010 Chile earthquake occurred off the coast of the Maule Region of Chile, on February 27, 2010, at 03:34 local time (06:34 UTC), rating a magnitude of 8.8 on the moment magnitude scale and lasting about three minutes. On 9 March 2010 the ICRC reported that according to the latest government figures, more than 528 people have died, most of them after a tsunami, caused by the tremor, struck a coastal strip of 500 kilometres. More than 500 people have been injured, two million affected and at least 500,000 houses have been damaged. This wiki now features a curated list of key crisis information resources that contain or point to resources including datasets, emergency numbers, helplines and ground situation updates, vital to aid efforts (http://wiki.ict4peace.org/w/page/24094840/Earthquake%20in%20Chile%20-%20February%202010).

- The 2010 Pakistan floods began in July 2010 after record heavy monsoon rains. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan was worst affected. At least 1600 people were killed, thousands were rendered homeless, and more than fourteen million people were affected. Estimates from rescue-service-officials suggest the death toll may reach 3,000 victims. According to a recent estimate of the United Nations, the number of people suffering from these massive floods in Pakistan exceeds 20 million, which is more than the combined total of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2005 Kashmir earthquake and the 2010 Haiti earthquake. The disaster also did major harm to struggling Pakistani economy due to extensive damage to infrastructure and crops. This wiki now features a curated list of key crisis information resources that contain or point to resources including datasets, emergency numbers, helplines and ground situation updates, vital to aid efforts (http://wiki.ict4peace.org/w/page/28645167/Pakistan-Floods).

- The Deepwater Horizon oil spill, also called the BP Oil Spill, the Gulf of Mexico oil spill or the Macondo blowout, is a massive on-going oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, now considered the largest offshore spill in U.S. history. The spill stems from a sea floor oil gusher that started

with an oil well blowout on April 20, 2010. The blowout caused a catastrophic explosion on the Deepwater Horizon offshore oil drilling platform that was situated about 40 miles (64 km) southeast of the Louisiana coast in the Macondo Prospect oil field. The explosion killed 11 platform workers and injured 17 others; another 98 people survived without serious physical injury. This wiki now features a curated list of key crisis information resources that contain or point to resources including datasets, emergency numbers, helplines and ground situation updates, vital to aid efforts (http://wiki.ict4peace.org/w/page/26682056/Gulf%20of%20Mexico%20Oil%20Spill%20-%20May%202010).

- The 2010 south Kyrgyzstan riots are on-going clashes between ethnic Kyrgyz and Uzbeks in southern Kyrgyzstan, primarily in the cities of Osh and Jalal-Abad, in the aftermath of the ouster of former President Kurmanbek Bakiyev. It is part of the larger 2010 Kyrgyzstan crisis. Violence broke out on 9 June in Osh. By 12 June the violence had spread to Jalal-Abad, requiring the Russian-endorsed interim government led by Roza Otunbayeva to declare a state of emergency in an attempt to take control of the situation. As of 18 June 2010 it is reported that 2,000 ethnic Uzbeks have been killed, and 400,000–550,000 displaced, of which at least 85,000 have fled into the neighbouring Uzbekistan. The eyewitnesses recount horrifying stories of atrocities committed by Kyrgyz's against Uzbeks. Amnesty International, HRW and other human rights and civil society groups have urged for independent investigation. This wiki now features a curated list of key crisis information resources that contain or point to resources including datasets, emergency numbers, helplines and ground situation updates, vital to aid efforts (http://wiki.ict4peace.org/w/page/27217594/Crisis-in-Kyrgyzstan-2010).

- OCHA congratulated ICT4Peace. In a letter dated 11 October 2010 to the Chairman of the ICT4Peace Foundation, Pat Banks, Chief Communication and Services Branch, OCHA congratulated the ICT4Peace Foundation for the creation of the ICT4Peace Crisis Information Management Wikis in support of the crises in Haiti, Chile, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan and the Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico. UN OCHA commended the Wiki's clean and clear format, that allows visitors to quickly find tools, informative websites, and relevant news articles in a given crisis.

- *"Having such a wiki in the very early phases of a given crisis, when chaos on the ground usually prevents compiling such a resource, is a useful resource for humanitarian organisations. By using a human element in the collation of information, and not an anonymous search algorithm driven by pure statistics, the Wiki becomes relevant and tailored to user needs. In that sense, ICT4Peace adds value to the stream of information that every emergency produces, simply by being selective about what information is included".* http://ict4peace.org/updates/united-nations-ocha-congratulates-ict4peace-foundation-for-the-creation-of-the-ict4peace-crisis-information-wikis).

e. PubIications and ICT4Peace Paper Series

- The ICT4Peace Foundation has been publishing an increasing number of publications; some of them are cutting-edge research and analysis papers. An easy overview can been found on the ICT4Peace website under this link: (http://ict4peace.org/publications).

- The ICT4Peace Foundation will be launching in early 2011an ICT4Peace Papers Series in cooperation with Harvard University and Georgiatech University.

f. ICT4Peace outreach activities and events

- For an easy overview of the ICT4Peace outreach activities kindly visit the ICT4Peace website (http://ict4peace.org/category/updates/event-announcements).

g. Partners

- The list of partners can be found on the ICT4Peace website (http://ict4peace.org/whoweare/ourpartners).

Daniel Stauffacher 8. 12. 2010