**Summary:** MapSwipe is an open-source mobile app that is making worldwide mapping more coordinated and efficient. Humanitarian organisations such as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT) and the Red Cross (RC) make use of MapSwipe to identify settled regions. Since its start in 2016, MapSwipe has scaled to 50,000 app users mapping 1,700 km².

**The Problem**
- Humanitarian organisations need maps that show where people live, ideally **before disaster events**.
- Creating maps and mapping in OSM is time consuming and needs training → lack of data for humanitarian organisations
- **Goal:** developing a crowdsourcing tool that hides complex data processing tasks, can be scaled in real-time and fits into the structures of an open-source project and community

**MapSwipe Statistics (until 03-2021)**

**MapSwipe Numbers 2020**
- 168 active projects
- > 90 Mio. results
- 9281 users
The Solution

- HeiGIT and the GIScience Research Group at Heidelberg University have designed MapSwipe’s crowdsourcing approach by developing and maintaining the back end tools.
- Their work ensures that volunteer efforts can turn into meaningful data for humanitarian organizations. The other organizations involved (MSF, RC, HOT) are mainly responsible for communication and organizing mapping projects.

The Results

- Research results have been successfully transferred into a real-world application which is used among numerous humanitarian organisations.
- Several research publications which again shaped the future of the app: the initial MapSwipe idea, first analysis of MapSwipe data quality or recent work on combining machine learning, AI and MapSwipe.

AWARDED

MapSwipe was awarded in the 2020 Global Mobile Awards

Top prize in the category: Best Mobile Innovation Supporting Emergency or Humanitarian Situations

“an exceptionally important project with clear results and impact across multiple geographies – definitely a stand-out winner showing clear innovation and potential”