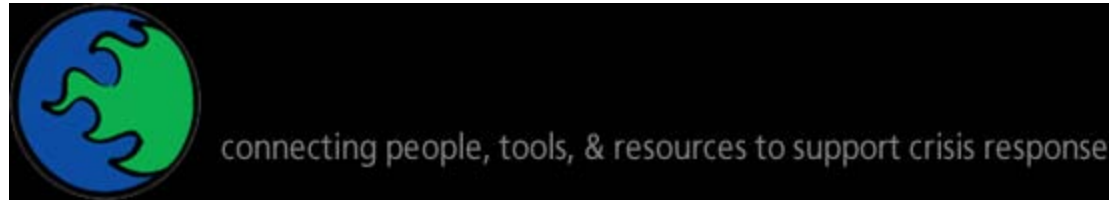


Crisis Commons



“

remote groups of technically minded people, who are using their hi-tech skills to do good... One such organisation is CrisisCommons”

- – *BBC*
- CrisisCommons has inspired a huge swath of people from various global communities to come together to help.”
- – *Mashable*
- “volunteers are gathering in cities around the world to help bolster relief groups and government first responders in a new way...”
- – *The New York Times*
- The group uses what’s called the BarCamp model, which allows conversations and projects to develop organically and without hard and fast agendas.”
- – *CNN*

Open = Crisis Management

The main aim of Crisis Commons is to Connect the existing technology community to emergency response (meaning the local authorities)

Necessary to achieve this:

- 1) local engagement is paramount - the local tech community and local crisis management need to build relationships before a crisis (CrisisCamp is an open event anyone can host to bring these people together in a coordinated collaborative and open fashion)
- 2) Man hours are more important than money - people's skills equate to funding, not using those skills leaves resources on the table that could be used to support
- 3) during a crisis event people who are on the ground sharing will likely have more information on what's happening than crisis responders - especially in the first hours - citizens want to share, how can they help responders do their job better?

Connectivity is key

- There is no existing connectivity to allow for connectivity (eg. How does a CrisisCamp support the City of Brussels Crisis Response Authorities? Or for the first EU Peace Volunteer Corps how do they use on the ground resources in their emergency response project?).
 - Local authorities have little capacity (sometimes low digital literacy) to work with technology - in these low budget times this is getting worse, budget cuts mean staff and skill cuts.
 - Social media is information, it can be turned into data, what remains vital to this is the free flow of information and the ability to connect that information to those who need the information the most - the public and response agencies (could be government, could be non profits like the Red Cross).
 - There are a lot of resources and skills in the tech community that will be needed more and more - its time to start conversations with the response community. Learn from each other. Talk. Build trust. Build local engagement. All disasters are local. Familiarising these two groups and building that bridge is a first important step.
 - Since 2009, CrisisCommons has coordinated crisis event responses such as the Haiti, Chile and Japan Earthquakes and the floods in Thailand, Nashville and Pakistan. Over 3,000 people have participated worldwide in over 30 cities across 10 countries including France, United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, Chile and Colombia.
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- **CRISIS CAMP EU – Coming Soon**