

# **Communities of Shalom and Haitian Artisans for Peace International: GIS in Rural Haiti for Sustainable Development**

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

Communities of Shalom is committed to a long-term, sustainable partnership with local groups and organizations in Mizak. This commitment began as a response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010.

To this end, Communities of Shalom has partnered with Haitian Artisans for Peace International (HAPI) to enable Haitians in the rural community of Mizak to organize and empower themselves to develop local resources to fight poverty, provide health care, empower women, and teach values of peace and cooperation. Community development depends heavily on the ability to plan strategically. One component of strategic planning includes mapping existing community resources and analyzing collected data about how resources are distributed geographically.

Krista White, GIS Support Specialist at Drew University, and Annie Allen, Shalom Coordinator for Training, Coaching, Internship & National Training will teach 1 or 2 local Mizak residents to become GIS technicians. Krista and Annie's training will begin with field research techniques and the use of geographic information systems technology to map local resources in Mizak. Krista and Annie will guide trained Mizak residents through as small-scale exercise mapping local community resources such as water sources, local businesses, and medical facilities. They will also teach project management skills and guide GIS technicians through the beginning planning stages of other projects of interest to the community using GIS.

The GIS for Haiti project in Mizak will begin with basic equipment. Further projects and fundraising efforts can move toward the purchase of more sophisticated equipment and the necessary training for its use and implementation in the field.

## **GIS for Haiti: Project Plan**

The Haiti GIS project fits in with Communities of Shalom's (CoS) commitment to asset-mapping. Communities of Shalom has a network of 135 sites around the world; the HASB GIS team's work will be a pilot project to demonstrate what could be done at CoS sites all over the world, including Uganda, Malawi, and communities across the United States.

### **Shalom Training for Project Participants**

2 days of required training for HAPI staff and GIS project participants.

### **Train GPS Technicians**

GPS training for 1 or 2 Mizak Citizens (dependent upon ability to prepare instructional materials ahead of time)

- Trainees will be chosen by HAPI leadership based on literacy skills, aptitude for learning to use technology, and personalities that tend toward attention to detail and keen problem solving skills

- Two days of training to instruct trainees in
  - The use of Garmin GPS unit(s)
  - The importance and use of a field note book for collecting metadata about conditions and other important features
  - Data management and planning strategies
- One day of Project Management Training
  - Defining Project Scope
  - Breaking project into manageable tasks
  - Setting deadlines and estimating time for each task to be completed
- Two days of data collection and work on the training project
- Meetings throughout the week with community leaders to help begin planning of future GIS projects

### **Training Project: Collect spatial data**

Collect Global Positioning System (GPS) data about HAPI facilities (the workshop, the Shalom Zone, the medical clinic), local natural resources, some transportation routes, and other Mizak community resources; Sites including but not limited to:

- The Peace Park
- HAPI Clinic
- HAPI workshop
- Merlet Center
- Mizak central market
- Nearest water sources
- Nearest gasoline stations
- Locations of residences farthest from community resources but still within the Mizak administrative zone.
- Other community resources/transportation routes as suggested by Mizak community

### **Projects of Potential Further Interest**

- Locations of Commune Section political boundaries as detailed in the “Comite de Gestion des Risques et des Desastres de la Commune de La Vallee de Jacmel.”
- Location of homes of physically challenged community members and their needs (crutches, wheelchairs, etc.)
- Location of homes damaged by the earthquake for inclusion in Red Cross rebuilding efforts.
- Village/Lakou locations of families participating in Medika Mamba program
- Other, unmapped geographic features such as unknown centroids of political boundaries.
- Frequently travelled but unmapped roads and trails in the area

### **Deliverables Upon Return**

- Create online, interactive maps of each of these sites for HAPI web site.
- Create map documents in ArcMap to print out and return to Haiti with location of resources for analysis including:
  - Location of community resources
  - Distance from community residential locations to critical resources

- Other analyses based on possible, unforeseen connections suggested by fruitful collection of data and discussion of HAPI and Mizak community goals and needs.