34th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE AND SOCIETY (E5)
Space Assets and Disaster Management (4)

Author: Ms. Kaitlyn Holm
University of Pennsylvania, United States, kait.holm@gmail.com

USING GLOBAL SATELLITE DATA TO IMPROVE GENDER EQUITY

Abstract

In the East African and MENA regions, there are over 4 million refugees, with the majority being women and children. This humanitarian disaster is one that we see again and again – and this paper presents a unique way of using space data and technologies to mitigate the human impact of disasters. These women often face significant barriers to education and employment due to cultural and societal norms, language barriers, and lack of access to resources. With digital skills, refugee women can learn new skills, access online resources, and connect with individuals and organizations from around the world. This can be a game-changer, as they can find new ways to support their families and become active contributors to their communities by helping design innovative solutions for challenges facing their communities. By empowering refugee women with digital skills in online safety, remote work opportunities, data literacy and data-informed advocacy, we can help them break down the barriers that stand in their way, unlock their potential, and create brighter futures for themselves and their families. Digital advocacy requires the use of data, much of which is gathered by satellite, as to migration drivers (like climate change), encampments, agricultural stability, and location of key facilities (like schools and roads).

This work is sponsored by UNHCR and delivered to refugee women and shows how anyone can use satellite data to improve the lives of some of the most marginalized and fragile groups.