

PA41C-1338 A Partnership for Global Impact and Resiliency



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Abstract

Many researchers, particularly in the development sector, struggle with connecting their work with on-the-ground users who will benefit from their research. SERVIR, a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)/ United States Agency for International Development (USAID) joint program strives to “connect space to village” and to reduce through the use of geospatial technology and data. Partnerships with organizations, such as Mercy Corps, are important for connecting to the village level and ensuring that our work is benefiting the most vulnerable communities. Mercy Corps is a global non-governmental, humanitarian and development organization operating in transitional contexts that have undergone, or have been undergoing, various forms of economic, environmental, social and political instabilities. Through the Mercy Corps and SERVIR partnership, we are able to bring together the remote sensing and geospatial technology expertise of SERVIR and the on-the-ground expertise of Mercy Corps.

In this talk we will provide additional background of this partnership as well as provide examples of how we have collaborated thus far in the partnership. The partnership spans engagement from connecting one another with our various partners to in-depth collaboration on specific projects. Additionally, we will discuss some of the various goals and outcomes of the partnership that help frame our work together in the present and future.

Global

- ▶ From a global level, SERVIR and Mercy Corps coordinate activities and identify points of potential collaboration
- ▶ Mercy Corps attended the SERVIR Annual meeting which allowed opportunities to share various Mercy Corps tools that can be applied to SERVIR services
- ▶ Held a joint session at the 2018 Understanding Risk event in Mexico City, Mexico

Lessons Learned

- ▶ It is important to get everyone to speak the same language when working across disciplines and outside of “normal operating procedures”
- ▶ Face-to-face meetings provide value to have less structured conversations and to better understand individuals
- ▶ Regular and open communication is key to successful engagement and partnership.
- ▶ Regularly scheduled check-ins and updates allow for continual communication and coordination as new opportunities arise

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Goals & Objectives

- ▶ Connect Mercy Corps and SERVIR hubs so they are aware of one another’s relevant priorities and engagements
- ▶ Share and utilize one another’s tools, approaches, and networks through collaboration
- ▶ Coordinate regional and global efforts and network when strategic
- ▶ Local activities are led by regional Mercy Corps and SERVIR hubs with support from the global partnership team when appropriate
- ▶ Increase Mercy Corps’ capacity in using earth observations and create linkages that allow for SERVIR services to reach the local village level

Hindu Kush Himalaya

- ▶ The SERVIR Hindu-Kush Himalaya located at ICIMOD in Kathmandu, Nepal has been established since 2010 and has several existing products and services
- ▶ Mercy Corps is able to provide a local perspective to SERVIR’s flood forecasting, landslide susceptibility, and sugarcane coverage services
- ▶ The SERVIR tools and expertise are able to be expanded to specific locations that Mercy Corps-Nepal is working in
- ▶ Mercy Corps is utilizing the current capabilities and tools on deforestation and land use mapping to apply to their work in Bangladesh with refugees



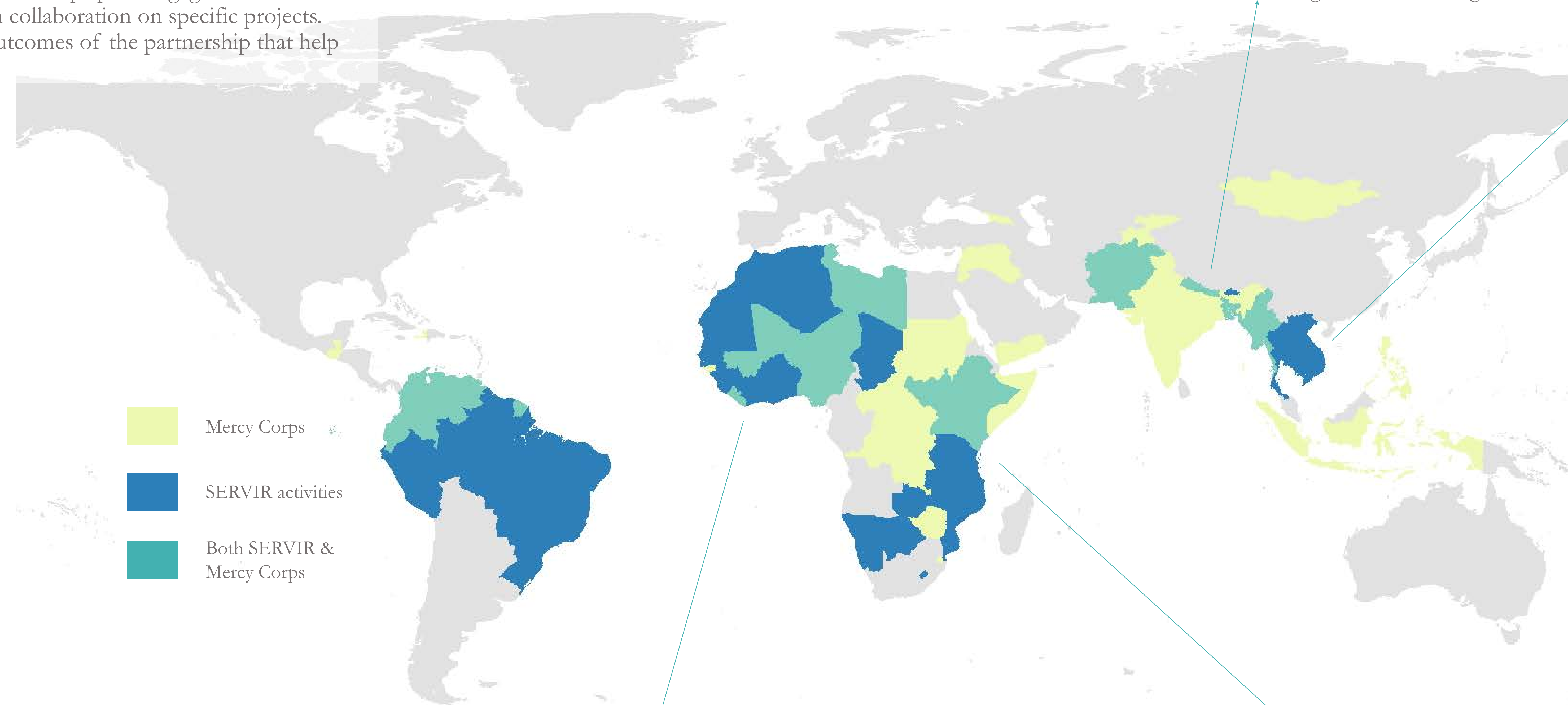
Credit: DIPTENDU DUTTA/ AFP/ Getty Images

Lower Mekong

- ▶ The SERVIR-Mekong hub, located at the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) has several existing data sets and tools that can be used to inform current Mercy Corps projects
- ▶ Mercy Corps is utilizing the SERVIR-Mekong landslide inventory for one of their projects
- ▶ SERVIR Mekong is working with Mercy Corps to identify more ways to incorporate gender considerations into SERVIR services

Science to Action

- ▶ Along with the regional examples, through the use of Earth observations and the partnership, communities will be able to better respond to future changes
- ▶ The partnership allows for SERVIR’s work to better connect to the individuals at a local level
- ▶ Services are able to be better tailored for those who will most benefit from them



Credit: SERVIR WA/ AGRHYMET



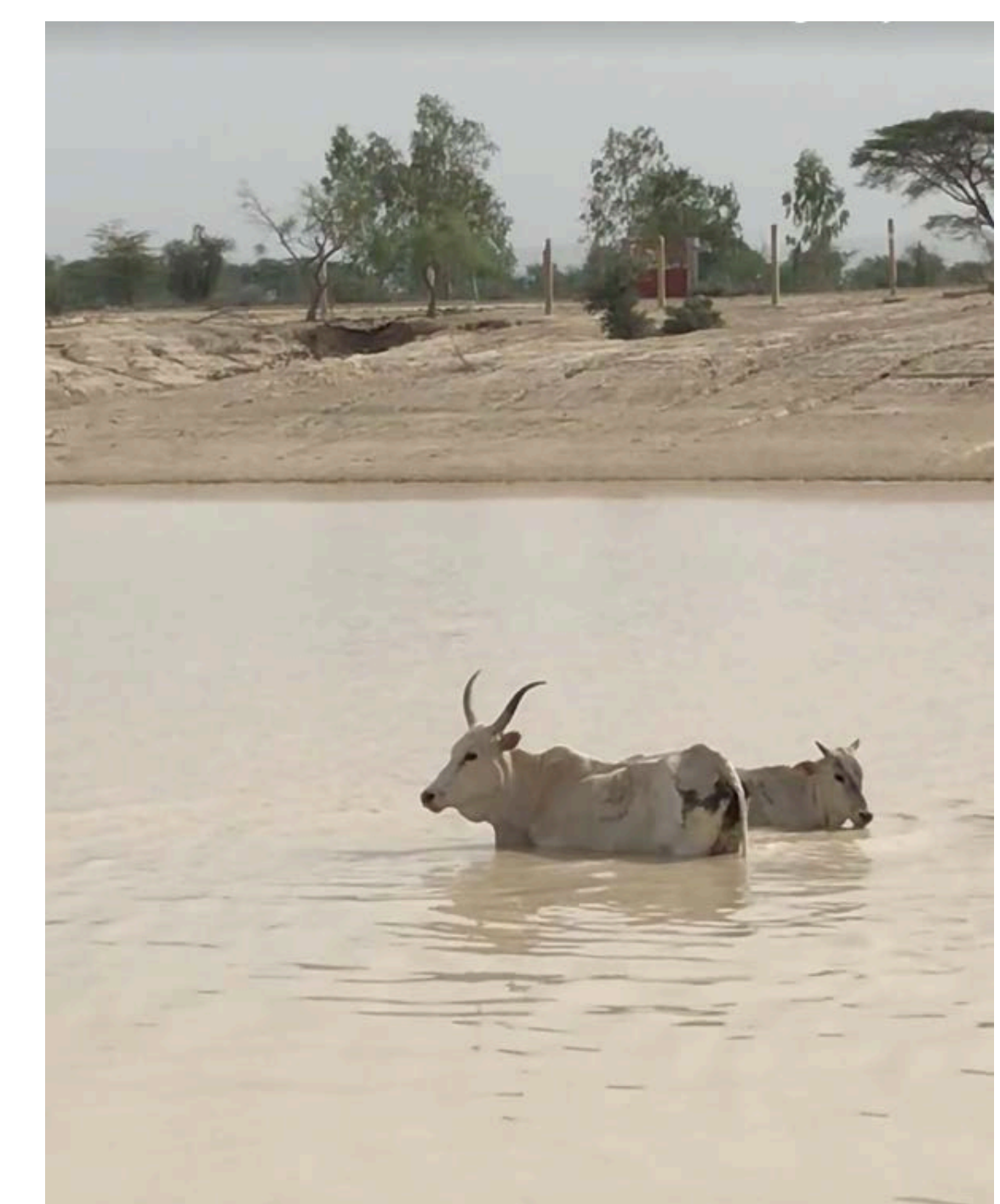
Credit: SERVIR WA/ AGRHYMET

West Africa

- ▶ Mercy Corps and SERVIR-West Africa consortium member, AGRHYMET are working together on a groundwater service
- ▶ Through the NASA SERVIR Applied Science Team and the existing capacities at AGRHYMET, SERVIR has expertise in utilizing various groundwater models
- ▶ Mercy Corps – Niger brought together a group of various stakeholders for detailed discussion of the needs and ways to address these needs
- ▶ Ground data is critical for calibrating the models which
- ▶ For the model outputs and information to be useful and applicable to the people at the local level in the villages, Mercy Corps is able to provide context and help create connections to deliver this important groundwater information to them

Eastern & Southern Africa

- ▶ In Kenya, SERVIR-Eastern & Southern Africa and Mercy Corps are working together on a Livestock Market Systems (LMS) service
- ▶ The goal of the collaboration is to improve existing LMS maps and ensure that issues of livestock mitigation routes, conflicts, and hazards are incorporated
- ▶ Using SERVIR’s previous skills and expertise in Natural Resource Management mapping and applying these skills to five counties that Mercy Corps is working in for the LMS
- ▶ SERVIR and Mercy Corps will conduct participatory mapping with local pastoralist communities in Northern Kenya
- ▶ Mercy Corps works with groups at the county and village level and is able to provide ground support and logistics in the context of LMS



Credit: Rebekke Muench