SUPPORTING RELIEF EFFORTS AFTER HURRICANE SANDY

In October 2012, Hurricane Sandy devastated portions of the Caribbean, Mid-Atlantic, and Northeastern United States, causing more than 250 deaths and $60 billion in damage. As a first responder, Direct Relief International (DRI) provided medical supplies and services to thousands of people affected by the hurricane. DRI used Palantir Gotham to help identify health needs and coordinate appropriate response efforts.

THE PROBLEM

In the chaotic aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, thousands of people were in need of power, basic provisions, and medical supplies. First responders had to rapidly assess the scope of damage and coordinate appropriate response efforts. As soon as the storm subsided, DRI deployed an assessment team to find out which communities were hit hardest and identify the community-based organizations that could lend support. This required combining a number of data sources ranging from weather reports to pharmacy shipping histories. DRI also needed an efficient way to coordinate data exchanges between on-the-ground responders and their base station in Santa Barbara.

PALANTIR'S SOLUTION

Using Palantir Gotham, DRI monitored the availability of pharmacies and health clinics as well as their inventories of basic medical supplies. When pharmacies and clinics were identified as lacking supplies, DRI used Palantir Gotham to route the necessary medical resources to them. This involved integrating a wide range of relevant data sources, including pharmacy locations, weather reports, flood maps, and fuel availability charts. DRI also integrated data from New York's 311 request system into Palantir Gotham, where analysts could determine which areas had the highest concentration of requests and where response efforts should be targeted. DRI analysts used Palantir's Map application to determine which roads were available for transport and which routes were most efficient for supply vehicles. In the weeks following the storm, DRI used Palantir's real-time dashboard capabilities to monitor infectious disease trends in the disaster region.

DRI also deployed Palantir Mobile to teams in the field to enable real-time collaboration and data collection. Using Palantir on mobile devices, DRI teams on the ground sent information on flood zones, drug availability, and damage levels to coordinators at DRI Headquarters in Santa Barbara, who optimized their response plans accordingly.

PALANTIR'S IMPACT & RESULTS

» Using Palantir Gotham, DRI **identified the most vulnerable communities** affected by Hurricane Sandy, matching them with the pharmacies and health clinics that could provide immediate medical support.

» Volunteers on the ground used Palantir Mobile to **collect and send data to DRI HQ in real time**.

» DRI used Palantir to **monitor infectious disease trends** and route medical resources to the areas in greatest need**.**

» "Palantir brought tremendous intelligence to bear on field-based humanitarian assessment and opened the promise of **extending our analytic capacities** more directly into events as they happen."

— Andrew Schroeder, Director of Research and Analysis, DRI

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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