

# Ivan Buendia Gayton

**Humanitarian Field Worker, Software and Drone Developer, Mapper, Data Collector, Manager, Leader**  
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## Overview

At the intersection of technology, humanitarianism, health, and innovation.

- Over ten years in the hardest and most neglected contexts of the world making life better for the most vulnerable.
- Leading teams, helping people to reach their potential and goals.
- Expert knowledge of problem domains in low-income settings
- Technical product management skill.

## Work Experience:

### Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT) July 2017-present

#### Country Director, Technical Project Manager, Senior Advisor

Manage a suite of community mapping initiatives in Tanzania, including Ramani Huria ([ramanihuria.org](http://ramanihuria.org)), advise and support other projects including Ebola response in DRC and various technical projects.

### Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF or Doctors Without Borders) 2003-2016 (still involved in advisory roles)

#### Head of Mission and other positions

Managed a number of MSF missions as HoM (Country Director), including Nigeria, Haiti, Libya, and South Sudan. Did a stint as Humanitarian Affairs Advisor based in Amsterdam, focusing on migrants. Two years as GIS and Technological Innovation Advisor.

### [Wave.com](http://wave.com) (Mobile Money startup) May 2016-April 2017

#### Africa operations

Preparing licenses and other prerequisites for Wave's operations in West Africa, based in Dakar, Senegal. Successfully negotiated a bank partnership, Central Bank authorization, Value Added Service provider license, access to USSD and SMS with major telcos.

### Independent consultant to several humanitarian agencies

Advisor, project manager, and software product manager

- Leading an Electronic Medical Records for Emergencies development team ([projectbuendia.org](http://projectbuendia.org))
- Ongoing support to humanitarian mapping initiative that I co-founded in 2014 ([missingmaps.org](http://missingmaps.org))
- Developed crowdsourced off-line mobile image classification for humanitarian mapping ([mapswipe.org](http://mapswipe.org)).
- Developed TileHuria, a Python-based command-line and Web MBTiles management utility used by several organizations to manage background images for data collection (<https://github.com/HumanitarianStuff>)

## Skills

- Leadership of operational teams (including large ones), empowering managers, mentoring.
- Product Management. Sufficient knowledge of software engineering to effectively lead a team of engineers and designers, and an expert knowledge of problem domains in humanitarian and low-income settings, particularly around health, geography, and data collection.
- Python, Flask, Java (including some Android Java), SQL, Shell (bash), and general UNIX (well, GNU/Linux) system administration.
- GIS software including QGIS, GDAL, PostGIS, etc. Have led development teams building GIS-related applications (MapSwipe). Occasionally teach a practical GIS course for scientists and humanitarian professionals.
- Academic knowledge in biology, philosophy (particularly ethics), a bit of anthropology, and mathematics. No degree, but three years of university courses with very high grades, not following a degree program (undergrad university classes in the aforementioned fields between humanitarian missions out of personal interest).

## Tech projects

[github.com/mapswipe/](https://github.com/mapswipe/) [mapswipe.org](http://mapswipe.org). Founded the project, managed the product, wrote some of the back-end code.

[projectbuendia.org](http://projectbuendia.org). Conceived and co-founded the project, project managed from MSF's side of the collaboration.

[missingmaps.org](http://missingmaps.org) Conceived of and co-founded a collaboration between MSF, the Red Cross, and digital humanitarians