

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 fifteen years in the hardest and most neglected contexts of the world making life better for the 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), 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 (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)
- Ongoing support to humanitarian mapping initiative that I co-founded in 2014 (missingmaps.org)
- Developed crowdsourced off-line mobile image classification for humanitarian mapping (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>)
- Contribute to OpenDroneMap, an industry-leading Free Software photogrammetry toolkit

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

projectbuendia.org. Conceived and co-founded the project, project managed from MSF's side of the collaboration.

missingmaps.org Conceived of and co-founded a collaboration between MSF, the Red Cross, and digital humanitarians