# Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT) Mapathlon July 14th 2023 at the Microsoft Technology Center Zurich

A group of people standing together

Description automatically generated

Yesterday we hosted our first Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT) Mapathon at the Microsoft Technology Centre (#MTCSwitzerland) in Zurich. It was a great experience and learning to see the enthusiasm and support of all volunteers during the Mapathon (#Mapathon) organised by Andreas Rüegg and functionally supported by Daniel Gmür.

A group of people in a meeting

Description automatically generatedDaniel kicks off the Mapathon by discovering the [OpenStreetMap](https://www.openstreetmap.org/) and how we can volunteer to support the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT) by collecting geodata for [MissingMaps](https://tasks.hotosm.org/welcome)

It was an eye opener to see how we can impact by simply capture geodata to support humanitarian action and community development. [«Die Idee»: Open Street Map video from SRF 10vor10](https://www.srf.ch/sendungen/10vor10/die-idee-open-street-map) summarized the difference we can make!

A group of people in a meeting

Description automatically generatedSimply follow 3 steps to become a successful volunteer.

1. Register on openstreetmap.org and missingmaps.org.

2. Choose a project

3. start mapping

Within half an hour we had already mapped over 700 new buildings and other objects!

A person pointing at a computer

Description automatically generatedAs well as mapping buildings, we learned how to interpret the satellite image to gain confidence in what we were mapping and how we were mapping it. For example, identifying a wind turbine site in the middle of nowhere.

It was a great experience for me and I would like to thank the volunteers for their enthusiasm and passion. Daniel and Andreas with their expertise to make it a success.

A round badge with a map

Description automatically generatedIf you are a volunteer with geocaching experience, you can earn the Microsoft Technology Centre MTCZHHOT coin by joining the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT) as a volunteer or by participating in a HOT Mapathon. We look forward to hosting the next Mapathon at our MTC in Zurich.

A group of people in an office

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