

GDACS multi-hazard early warning system - Terms of use (March 2025)

1. GDACS is a cooperation framework among United Nations (OCHA - Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and UNOSAT – United Nations Satellite Center) and the European Commission (JRC - Joint Research Centre and ECHO - Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid). GDACS aims at providing disaster notifications and impact estimations to the humanitarian community and disaster management professionals worldwide, after major sudden-onset disasters that potentially require international assistance.
2. GDACS products are the result of models, whereby data from scientific institutions and information from authoritative domains (such as official meteorological bulletins) are used to calculate, through (semi)automatic algorithms, the possible impact of sudden-onset disasters with regard to the potential need for international assistance.
3. GDACS notifications in the case of earthquakes, tsunamis and tropical cyclones are automatic, produced by algorithms and not reviewed by human experts before being issued. They may be subject to uncertainties and errors. The information and data contained in GDACS is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either express or implied, including, but not limited to, any implied warranty against infringement of merchantability, integration, satisfactory quality and fitness for a particular purpose.
4. GDACS services are not meant to substitute nor to override any official information or alert message from local or national disaster management authorities. Only such delegated authorities, in all cases, have and retain the mandate to issue alert messages to the population, to order evacuation or adopt other life-protection measures. Expert assessment of the situation and response plans must always be carried out by competent decision-makers in designated positions of authority.
5. GDACS alerts and automatic impact estimations may require further validation. They should not be used for decision making without prior confirmation of their validity. Links to a number of official alert providers and original data sources are given in the site (such as the World Meteorological Organisation, UNESCO-IOC, etc). However, the reference verification sources remain the ones of the scientific institutions and national authorities respectively mandated by law with event's forecasting, monitoring, surveillance and with emergency management.
6. GDACS alerts are issued in near-real-time, but no guarantee is provided as to the completeness or timeliness of the alerts. The system can be subject to unspecified downtime, server reboots or other technical temporary malfunctions. Similarly, changes to the data might occur frequently and without prior notice.
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