

# Digital Humanitarians

How technology and new methods can improve different aspects of humanitarian aid

# A Brave New World

Smartphones everywhere – and they are user friendly!

More things than ever available online – potentially **all the world's knowledge** (but still a long way to go!)

More **people want to help online** – crowdsourcing information, time & computer power

Internet is now **multilingual** – and *no one* is better than Wikimedia (300+ languages)



**Wikimedia** is the organizations behind **Wikipedia**,  
Wikimedia Commons, Wikidata and a number of  
other OERs.

100,000 **volunteers** / 300 **staff**

Mostly paid for by individual **donations**

Chapters in **40 countries**

**A non-profit!**



# Free knowledge reaches further

Wikipedia Zero = **free access to ca. 600 million people** in 64 countries. The operator "zero-rates" access to Wikimedia sites in their billing system.

Kiwix = a system for **offline access to Wikipedia**, perfect for schools, universities or prisons.



# Wikimedia and Culture



Increasing visibility to highlight cultural heritage in the country.

**Digital preservation** of the cultural heritage, in case it is damaged or destroyed.

Two cool projects:

**Wiki Loves Monuments** – the world’s largest photo contest.

# Kopplat Öppet Kulturarv /Connected Open Heritage

Creating a **multilingual cultural heritage database** for the world.

Gathering historical images from museums, libraries and archives (100,000+ images).

Including the data and the images to Wikipedia to give context.

Organizing a photo exhibition.

Supported by the the Culture Foundation of the Swedish Postcode Lottery.





# Wikimedia and Democracy

Volunteers gather the information that is needed for **citizens to be informed**

People **share their knowledge** and by doing so get a voice

People discuss what to include on Wikipedia and to find a middle ground, a **neutral point of view**



# Wikimedia and Education



Create a **global library** and to align the material with school curriculums.

**Students are actively involved.**

Great tool to learn about the Internet, **source criticism**, internet culture, copyright, sharing culture (dela-kultur), Open source, programming and more.

**Teachers** using Wikimedia have recently won both Guldäpplet and Kvalitetspriset Fjädern.



# Wikimedia and Businesses

A free license on the material means that it can be used commercially by local business that are lacking funds.

Contributes to **open source** which create **opportunities for SMEs** as they don't have to reinvent the wheel.

Releasing your material under a free license supports the local technical industry and local innovation.





# Wikimedia and Catastrophes

OpenStreetMap – maps will soon be included on Wikipedia

**Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT)** focuses on creating better maps during catastrophes.

A source for **public medical information in the local language** – Wikipedia was more used than WHO during the Ebola outbreak.

# THANKS!

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# Images

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