

# Connecting Grassroots to Government for Disaster Management



**COMMONS LAB  
WOODROW WILSON CENTER  
WASHINGTON, DC**

**PRESENTED TO UN-SPIDER  
04 DECEMBER 2012**



# Workshop Agenda 13-14 Sept 2012



- Agency Mission and Needs
- Crowdsourced Data Quality
- Data Collection and Management
- Impact Evaluation
- Public and Volunteer Engagement
- Research Challenges
- Research to Operations
- Legal and Policy Issues
- Security of Crowdsourcing
- Open Innovation



# Agency Mission and Needs



- What information do local and national government decision-makers need for disaster response and recovery? For scientific research?
- Where might governments effectively leverage social networking and crowdsourcing for disaster management?
- What policy frameworks will need to be adapted or established?

# Crowdsourced Data Quality



- What tools and methods have been developed for validation and verification of crowdsourced data?
- How does the accuracy and efficiency compare to other data sets?
- Under what circumstances might crowdsourced data fill gaps or be more useful than traditional sources?

# Data Collection and Management



- How can government integrate crowdsourced data with authoritative data sets?
- What issues emerge when using fused data sets?
- What methods and processes have governments put into place to support crowdsourcing?

# Impact Evaluation



- How do we measure the impact? How do we define success?
- What forms of monitoring and evaluation are effective?
- How can we develop an iterative design process with a positive measurable impact?

# Public and Volunteer Engagement



- What are potential models for successful participatory engagement?
- What effective techniques for engaging and motivating volunteers?
- What types of organizational structures, protocols, and processes have proven effective?

# Research Challenges



- Create **durable workflows** to connect the info needs of responders and government decision-makers with info providers.
- Develop methods to quickly **verify and validate** crowdsourced data.
- Establish best practices of **integrating crowdsourced and authoritative** datasets. Construct methods and processes that can streamline this integration and synthesis.



# Research Challenges



- Determine **where governments can effectively leverage** social networking and crowdsourced data to augment existing info or intelligence for improved decision-making. Conversely, determine where it is not appropriate.
- Determine which **policies** need to be adapted or established. Develop ways for agencies to look ahead in their policymaking 5-10 years with rapid technological change – “Strategic Foresight.”

# Research-and-Operations



- How does a government agency turn new capabilities into official processes?
- How does an agency look out 10-20 years and build processes with uncertainty and adaptation as part of the design?

# Legal and Policy Issues



- Liability/Risk Mitigation Strategies
  - <http://www.scribd.com/collections/3840667/Commons-Lab-Science-and-Technology-Innovation-Program-STIP>
  - <http://wilsoncommons lab.org/2012/11/07/calling-for-backup-indemnification-for-digital-volunteers/>
- Privacy
- Statutes and Regulations
- Data Ownership/Terms of Service
- Records Management and Retention
- Procurement Rules

# Security of Crowdsourcing



- What are the emerging security standards for crowdsourcing?
- How should governments approach the use of crowdsourcing data to make decisions under conditions of uncertainty?
- How does this differ from the usual “fog of war” that surrounds disasters?

# Open Innovation



- When should government agencies use volunteers versus companies?
- What are the best methods and models for organizing collective work?
- What are the challenges that need to be overcome if open innovation is to take a wider role in government problem solving?

# G2G Workshop Materials

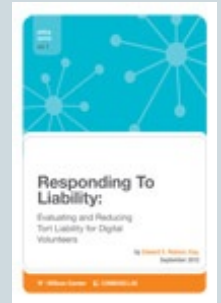


- Background Materials and White Papers:  
<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/webcast-day-2-connecting-grassroots-to-government-for-disaster-management-policy-roundtable>
- Workshop Session Videos:  
<http://bit.ly/CommonsLabVideo>
- Workshop Summary and Policy Reports (In progress, To be published in 2013):  
<http://bit.ly/CommonsLabReports>

# Wilson Center Commons Lab



- Responding to Liability: Evaluating and Reducing Tort Liability for Digital Volunteers (2012)
- Privacy and Missing Persons Registries in Natural Disasters (2013)
- Transforming Earthquake Detection and Science Through Crowdsourcing (2013)
- Security of Crowdsourcing (2013)



<http://bit.ly/CommonsLabReports>



# Wilson Center Commons Lab



Lea Shanley, Director, Commons Lab  
Science and Technology Innovation Program  
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
Washington, DC USA

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- **Email** [CommonsLab@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:CommonsLab@wilsoncenter.org)
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