Premise

Case Study

Geospatial Solutions NGO Uses Premise To Fill In Location Data Gaps in Ministry Records

Challenge

A global NGO focused on building spatial data solutions to achieve development goals works with countries to generate, validate and use geospatial data on population, settlements, infrastructure, and boundaries. To support Sierra Leone's Ministry of Health and Sanitation system of record keeping, this NGO sought Premise's help validating existing health facility location data and collecting location data for those facilities without location information.

Solution

For the process of validating healthcare facilities, Premise leveraged both the broader public network of Contributors in Sierra Leone, as well as building and training a subset of Contributors to travel and validate facilities located in rural parts of the country. To validate a healthcare facility with known geographic information (latitude and longitude), Contributors were asked to:

- Confirm the accuracy of the location information (lat/long) for the given health facility
- Confirm the correct name of the facility
- Take a photo of facility signage and the structure itself
- Confirm the type of facility
- Report on the operational status of the facility

To validate a healthcare facility with no known geographic information, Contributors were asked to:

- Travel to a chiefdom (Administrative level 3) of the facility and locate the facility
- Collect the location information (lat/long) for the given health facility
- Confirm the correct name of the facility
- Take a photo of facility signage and the structure itself
- Confirm the type of facility
- Report on the operational status of the facility

Findings

The team found that many of the official healthcare facility records required updating. Of the over 700 facilities mapped by Premise Contributors, nearly 30% had incorrect names. However, of those with location information, only approximately 5% of location information was inaccurate and nearly all the facilities validated were operational.

Of the health facilities without location information, approximately 15% were not located within the chiefdom administrative boundaries where they were believed to be located. Therefore, more work is required to determine if the health facility records are incorrect or if these health facilities no longer exist.

The NGO partner team also discovered the utility of using mixed methodologies and technologies to inform their support of authoritative systems of record for various sub-Saharan African governments. Particularly, the team used a combination of local expertise, in the form of community health workers, along with local knowledge from Premise Contributors to more accurately isolate and target data collection strategies for validating and updating official infrastructure records.

Premise Contributors visited over 700 health facilities to document their exact locations, names, operational status, and more.

Implications

Premise Contributors validated over 700 health facilities across Sierra Leone. Once the data was collected, the NGO harmonized the health facility location data with existing authoritative records of Sierra Leone's Ministry of Health and Sanitation. The Ministry of Health and Sanitation now owns this data, which can be utilized for more complex data collection down the road and to support micro-planning efforts or future service delivery initiatives.

With a greater understanding of Premise's capabilities, the NGO continues to use Premise to expand its technological approaches to contribute to human settlement mapping initiatives in Sierra Leone and elsewhere

About Premise

Premise is a crowdsourced insights company. Our technology mobilizes communities of global smartphone users to source actionable data in real-time, cost-effectively and with the visibility you need. In more than 144 countries and 40 languages, we find Data for Every Decision™.

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