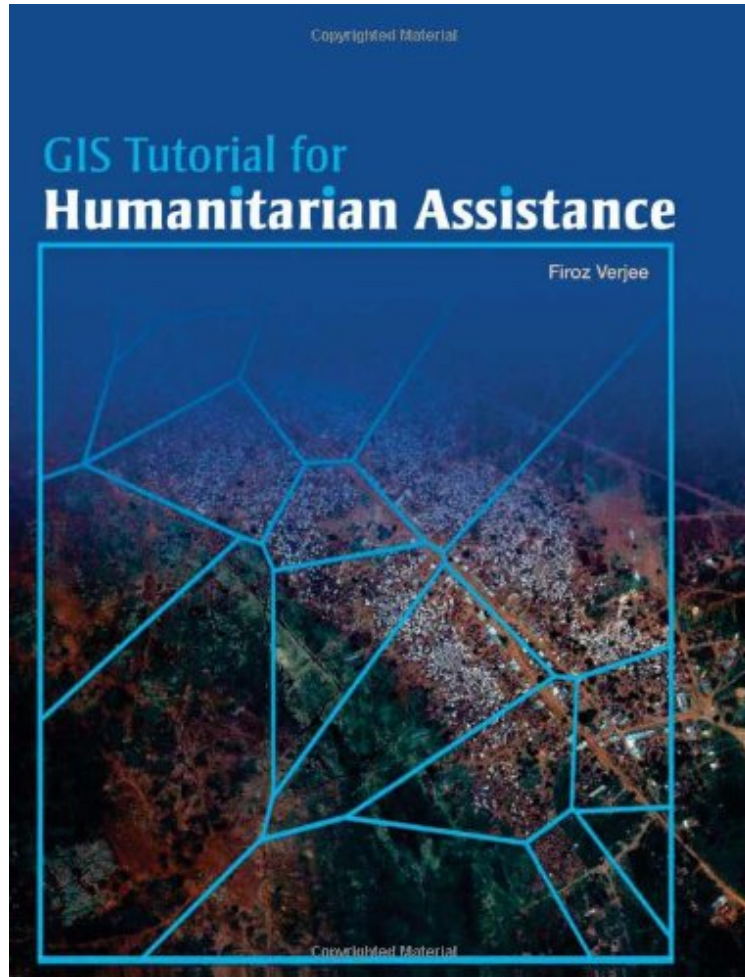


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## GIS Tutorial for Humanitarian Assistance (GIS Tutorials)

*Firoz Verjee*

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**Firoz Verjee : GIS Tutorial for Humanitarian Assistance (GIS Tutorials)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised GIS Tutorial for Humanitarian Assistance (GIS Tutorials):

1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. non-working demo disk!!By shthe 180 day trial version of the software that came with this disk did not work! it is the vital component to even try to learn the curriculum of the book. i spent about 3 days trying to get the disk/software to work, even researched on the net to find a way to make it work. i bought this book and trial software just before leaving the country, knowing i would need it abroad. now, i am in a remote place, with no software that works.i have never had a problem with ordering from before, but now i am skeptical about their quality of product.unless someone from reads this, and emails me to correct the problem, i most likely will never order books or software from them again. owes me a working copy of the software that comes with the book. we'll see if they even read these emails, and care about customer sastifaction.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Comprehensive exercises for real world GIS applicationBy K. ChamberlainI highly

recommend this book for anyone looking to explore applications of GIS analysis in humanitarian assistance, and more broadly in emergency management. I worked through Dr. Verjee's tutorial as part of a graduate level 'GIS in emergency response' course. The author provides realistic exercises that allow the user to go beyond the steps of just completing the technical analysis, also requiring him or her to consider legitimate questions about data collection, data accuracy, development of practical solutions and policy, etc. This book does an excellent job of capturing those challenges and forcing the reader to incorporate those and similar issues in drawing final conclusions. The exercises provided cover a broad range of problems/challenges requiring an equally wide application of geoprocessing tools, and aren't just a repeat of the same few types of analysis. This kept the tutorials both interesting and effective at expanding my GIS skill set. A number of the exercises build on skills and products developed in earlier examples. The step-by-step method of instruction and comprehensiveness of the exercises, from data research and collection through final map development, makes the skills learned easily transferrable to real world GIS challenges in the field of humanitarian assistance (or any field). If you're new to GIS or unfamiliar with the basic spatial operations in ArcGIS, I would recommend working through this book after or in conjunction with a primer. Prior to using this tutorial, I had taken an "intro to GIS" course, which was more than sufficient preparation. Even where an exercise utilized a spatial analysis tool I had used extensively, applying the already understood analysis in the context of the scenario presented was valuable in building my broader GIS knowledge and my understanding of the GIS challenges unique to humanitarian assistance. I recommend this book to instructors teaching GIS in the field of emergency management, as well as anyone who wants to expand their understanding of GIS by working through exercises on their own. Even if you are experienced with GIS, the case studies will provide new insights on the many possible applications of the geoprocessing tools covered. This is a book that you can keep around as a useful, quick reference or work through repeatedly to improve on the final map products developed, conclusions drawn, etc.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Real world GIS for humanitarians and others By N. Smith Dr. Verjee's offering is a solid tutorial with interesting, real world case studies and thoughtful, relevant exercises. While it will be essential reading for those who are seeking knowledge in humanitarian GIS, it may also be an intriguing addition to GIS curriculum that seeks to reinforce a multi-discipline approach and demonstrate it in a motivating and meaningful application. The case studies cover a breadth of issues that would not be found in other specialized tutorials and brings a realism lacking in many technical how-to manuals. I encourage GIS educators to consider this as a secondary text should they want to insert more reality into their programs and demonstrate to their students the use of GIS in critical, life saving work. Secondly, as someone who has worked in this field for nearly two decades, this book is a wonderful compilation of case studies that begins to bring the work of many GIS professionals into the public view. Humanitarian GIS experts in the US and around the world, though not as visible as their hands-on counterparts in disaster response, often work just as hard and have significant impact on targeting of aid, effectiveness of operations and general situational awareness. This text communicates the fact that GIS is a humanitarian activity and helps to provide a foundation for professionalism within this community. Practically speaking, I used this book as the core curriculum in a graduate level course and found it to be thoughtfully designed and realistic in many ways. Because of this realism, it will require engagement from the instructor to navigate some logistical challenges. Specifically, the text aims to introduce the readers to real-world players and resources through web pages. Obviously, the web can prove to be a moving target and the instructor may need to provide new links as some have recently changed. It is recommended that an instructor run through the exercises prior to assigning them and individual users of the book should be prepared to do some web searching to find the desired resources. In general, I found the students enjoyed the exercises within the Tutorial as they were concrete and meaningful applications that showed the importance of the tool and approach. First time GIS students had some difficulty following the exercises and I would recommend pairing this book with another tutorial, such as "Getting to Know ArcGIS". I believe Dr. Verjee has provided an excellent cornerstone of methods and best practices that have been established in humanitarian work. This resource can help provide a baseline of knowledge that can help ensure consistency among those entering the community, who can then direct their energies toward taking the discipline to higher levels.

Developed for members of the humanitarian relief community, GIS Tutorial for Humanitarian Assistance moves you from the role of casual observer to involved investigator as you learn to apply analysis skills in GIS to real-world problems around the globe. Following the standard tutorial format, exercises in this book demonstrate the GIS knowledge you need to effectively manage the provision of humanitarian assistance before, during, and after a disaster. A fully functioning 180-day trial version of ArcEditor 9.3.1 software on DVD and a CD of data for working through the exercises are included.

About the Author Firoz Verjee is senior research associate at the Institute for Crisis, Disaster Risk Management at the George Washington University. For more than 16 years he has specialized in the application of remote sensing and GIS, primarily within the fields of disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance. Verjee has provided expert services to the U.S. National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, the World Bank Group, the United Nations Office for the

Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance.