



OCHA



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# THIS IS OCHA

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

# We help humanitarians save the lives of people caught up in crisis



When the world needs help. We're always there.

When crisis occurs, humanitarians make a life or death difference.

We exist to help humanitarians save the lives of millions of people caught in crisis.

We help get them the funds they need. And the facts that help them focus their efforts.

We help make sure they're safe to deliver aid in war zones.

It's our job to do whatever it takes to help humanitarians save lives.

Cover photo: OCHA/OCHA Myanmar  
This page: OCHA/Naomi Frerotte



## WE ALERT & INFORM

We are first to alert and inform humanitarians in times of crisis. When crisis occurs we're the only organization that has the big picture view. The information we have means we can help humanitarians better understand the complex challenges they face. This knowledge allows humanitarians to deliver help in ways that will have the most impact on the people caught up in these crises.



## WE ASSEMBLE

We bring the world's humanitarians together so we can create solutions to the world's most pressing crises. We have relationships with all the world's governments and major humanitarian organizations. We bring people together to create solutions to the world's crises.



## WE FUND

We help make sure humanitarians have the funds, resources and support they need.



## WE ADVOCATE FOR SOLUTIONS AND POLICY CHANGE

We campaign for change at the highest levels. The Emergency Relief Coordinator depends on our knowledge to understand what's happening in the world's crisis hotspots. They use this information to propose solutions and campaign for policy changes at the United Nations.

# A brief history

**1971**

UN General Assembly (GA) resolution 2816 creates the Disaster Relief Coordinator position and establishes the Office of the UN Disaster Relief Coordinator in Geneva.

**1991**

GA adopts resolution 46/182 to strengthen the UN response to complex emergencies and natural disasters.

Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) position created to serve as a focal point and voice for humanitarian emergencies. Secretary-General assigns the ERC the status of Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Humanitarian Affairs. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), consolidated appeal process (CAP) and Central Emergency Revolving Fund are created as key coordination mechanisms and tools of the ERC. Secretary-General establishes the Department for Humanitarian Affairs with offices in New York and Geneva to provide the USG/ERC with institutional support.

**1998**

The Department for Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) becomes the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and its mandate is refined.

**2005**

Secretary-General introduces humanitarian reforms to ensure more predictability, accountability and partnerships in international humanitarian response.

**2006**

The Central Emergency Revolving Fund is upgraded to include a US\$450 million grant facility and renamed the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

**2011**

IASC organizations agree on a set of transformative actions to improve the international humanitarian response system.

**2009**

The GA establishes World Humanitarian Day to be held annually on 19 August. It increases public understanding of humanitarian assistance activities worldwide.

**2016**

The UN Secretary-General convened the first World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul and launched a new Agenda for Humanity. The Summit generated more than 3,500 commitments, initiatives and partnerships to reduce suffering and deliver better for people in crises.

**2018**

OCHA underwent a reform process to enable it to be “fit for the future”. Under a new operating model, OCHA has become more efficient, agile, collaborative and field-focused.



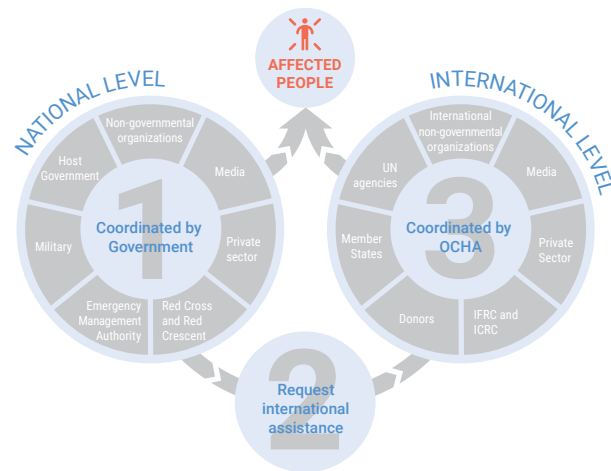
# Coordination

OCHA brings together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies.

We help them assess situations and needs, plan responses, monitor progress, and mobilizing funds and other resources. OCHA carries out its coordination function primarily through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, which includes UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other humanitarian organizations.

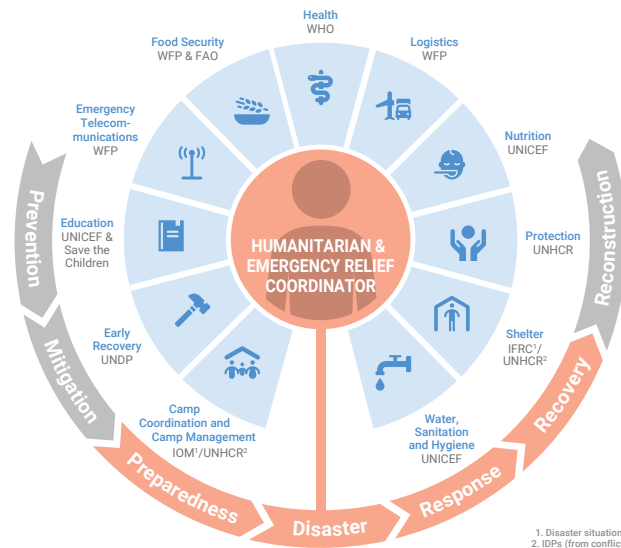
## KEY ACTORS

OCHA works with partners to assist Governments in mobilizing international assistance when the scale of a disaster exceeds the national capacity for response.



## CLUSTER SYSTEM

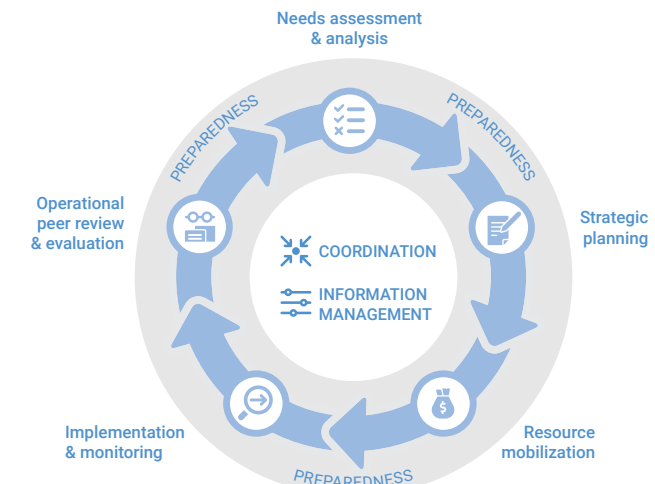
The cluster system aims to strengthen partnerships and responses to emergencies by clarifying the division of labour among aid organizations.



1. Disaster situations  
2. IDPs (from conflict)

## HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME CYCLE

The Humanitarian Programme Cycle sets out the sequence of actions that should be taken to prepare for, plan, manage, deliver and monitor collective humanitarian responses. Through this process OCHA helps humanitarian partners identify the most critical needs, develop Humanitarian Response Plans and determine the budgets needed to address them.



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

OCHA rapidly deploys coordination staff to crisis-affected areas when new or escalating emergencies require additional support. Additional capacity is provided through OCHA-managed partner programmes which mobilize external expertise at short notice. In addition, OCHA facilitates an international network of search and rescue teams focused primarily on earthquake response (INSARAG) and the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) System which can deploy expert disaster coordination teams immediately (12-48 hours) anywhere in the world.





## PEOPLE

OCHA's strength lies in the diversity and dedication of more than 2,100 staff working in over 50 country, regional and headquarters locations. Our staff come from almost 100 countries, bringing flexibility, local knowledge and commitment to humanitarian partnerships and response efforts.

Field coordination is the **frontline of our operations.**

It ensures that national and international partners work better together during emergencies. This helps aid reach the right people when they need it most, with fewer gaps and duplications.



Photo: OCHA/Matteo Minasi

# 2019 PRESENCE



1

Headquarters  
two locations



5

Regional Offices



31

Country Offices



21

Humanitarian  
Adviser Teams



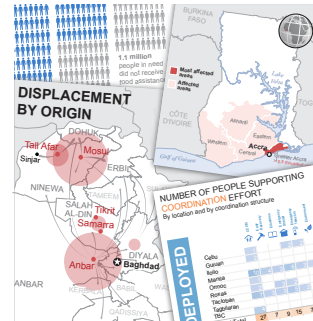
1. CAR - Central African Republic
2. DRC - Democratic Republic of the Congo
3. DPR of Korea - Democratic People's Republic of Korea
4. oPt - occupied Palestinian territory
5. Syrian AR - Syrian Arab Republic
6. IR Iran - Islamic Republic of Iran
7. Regional Office for the Syria Crisis, Amman, Jordan
8. Operational coordination team
9. Operational coordination team to be opened in 2019

The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

# Advocacy

OCHA's public and private advocacy raises awareness of forgotten crises, promotes respect for international humanitarian law, brings the voices of crisis-affected people to the forefront, and helps people obtain access to humanitarian assistance.

OCHA uses its unique role and responsibilities when briefing the Security Council, and raises public awareness through media, social media and innovative digital campaigns.

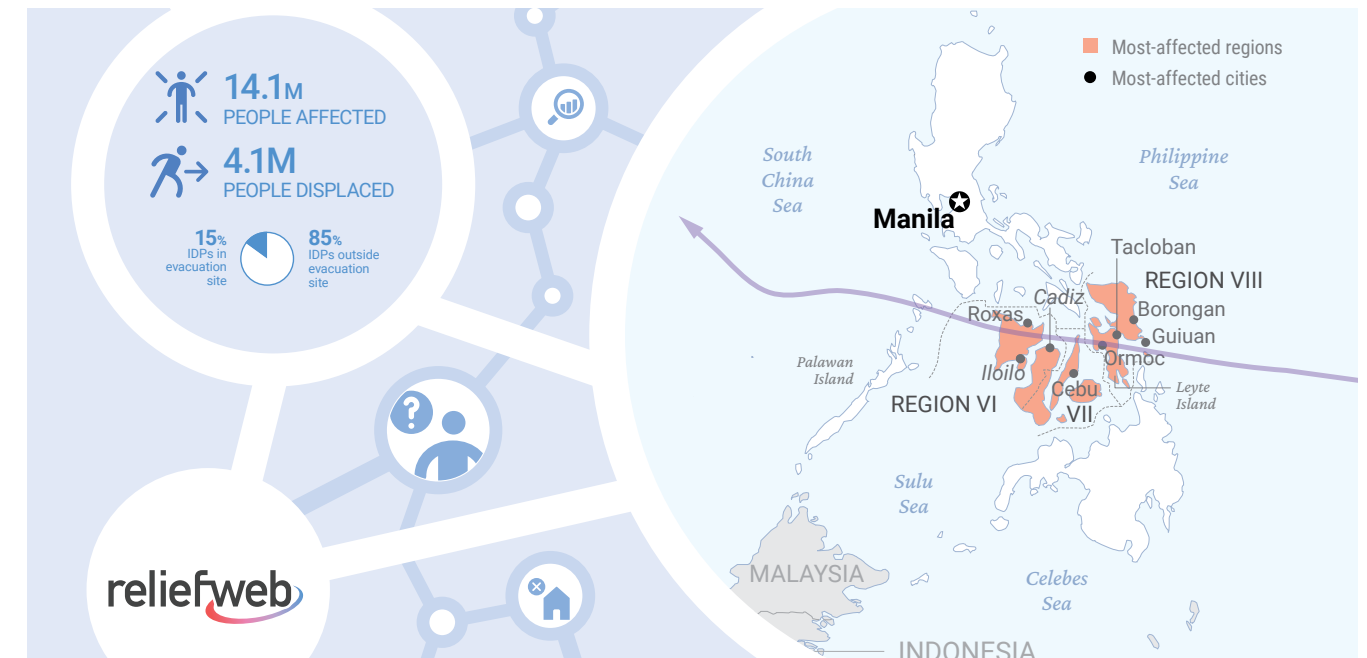


Photos (clockwise): 1. OCHA/Yasmine Guerda, 2. OCHA/M. Rodríguez, 3, 4, 5. OCHA, 6. OCHA/Amanda Pitt.

# Information management

OCHA provides information management services to the humanitarian community to inform a rapid, effective and principled response. It gathers, shares and uses data and information, underpinning coordination, decision-making and advocacy.

OCHA also adapts tools and methodologies for monitoring humanitarian response, including developing joint analysis with local communities, and with development, peacebuilding, environment and other actors.



# Humanitarian financing

OCHA works with humanitarian partners around the world to mobilize resources to ensure that humanitarian needs are met.

OCHA drives humanitarian action by encouraging new, more effective funding and financing mechanisms that respond to and reflect the changing nature of humanitarian crises. At the country level, OCHA ensures that funding requests are based on thorough needs evaluations and common humanitarian response plans. This collaborative process enables humanitarian actors to coordinate their efforts and to appeal for funds as a group, making aid more effective, efficient and predictable. At a global level, this work culminates in our Global Humanitarian Overview which provides a comprehensive and evidence-based assessment of humanitarian needs around the world.



All funding reported by donors and recipient organizations is recorded in the Financial Tracking Service, which is a global, real-time database of all reported humanitarian aid.



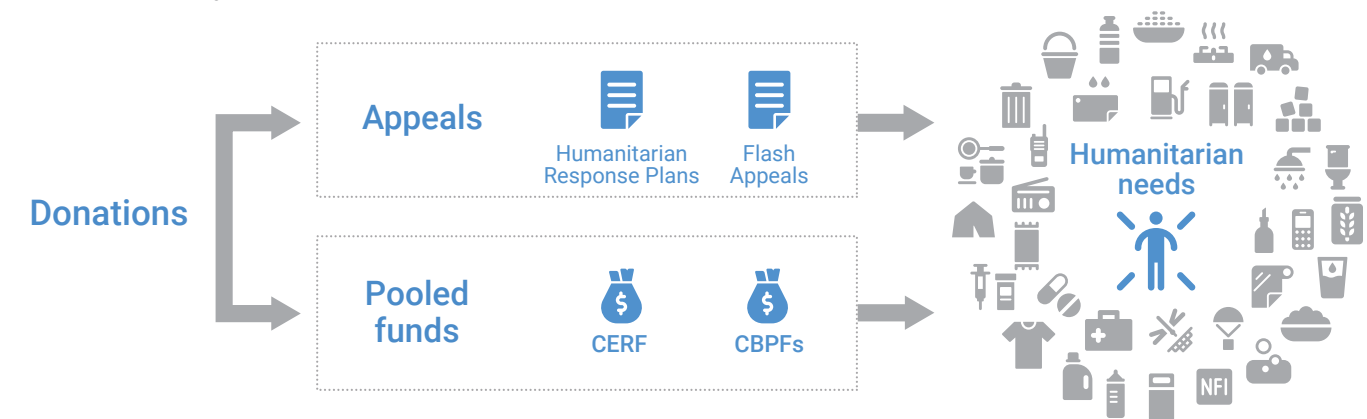
OCHA advocates for sufficient funding for crises, including through high-level events. OCHA also ensures more responsive, predictable and strategic humanitarian financing through its leadership of two types of humanitarian funds: Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which can cover emergencies anywhere in the world, and country-based pooled funds (CBPFs), which cover crises in specific countries.

## CERF

Under OCHA's stewardship, CERF provides rapid initial funding at the onset of humanitarian crises and critical support for underfunded emergencies worldwide. CERF has an annual funding target of \$1 billion and is fully unearmarked to ensure funds go to meet the most urgent, life-saving needs.

## CBPFs

CBPFs are locally managed by OCHA under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinators. Funds are directly available to relief partners at the front lines of the response in support of priorities set out in common, crisis-specific response plans. OCHA currently manages 18 CBPFs from about \$5 to \$200 million.





# Policy

OCHA helps the international humanitarian system adapt to global challenges—such as climate change and demographic shifts —by exploring new policies, technologies and partnerships to improve the delivery of assistance.

OCHA helps set the agenda of policymakers, rallying humanitarian actors around current and emerging concerns. We engage with Member States to strengthen the legal bases for humanitarian action. OCHA also provides expert advice on issues including the protection of civilians, international humanitarian law, displacement and gender equality.



Photo: OCHA/Gilles Clarke

# OCHA donors<sup>1</sup>



Photo: OCHA/Gilles Clarke

<sup>1</sup>2018 donors





OCHA



## VISION

A world that comes **together** to help crisis-affected people rapidly get the **humanitarian assistance** and **protection** they need.



## MISSION

OCHA **coordinates** the global emergency response to save lives and protect people in humanitarian crises.

We **advocate** for effective and **principled** humanitarian action by all, for all.

## Join us

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Join our mailing list and receive the latest updates and information on the world's most severe humanitarian crises.  
<http://bit.ly/OCHASubscribe>

## To make a donation

Governments, corporations and foundations can email: [ocha.donor.relations@un.org](mailto:ocha.donor.relations@un.org)  
Individuals can visit <https://crisisrelief.raisely.com>

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