

# 25

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION

United Nations General Assembly (GA) adopts **resolution 46/182** to strengthen the United Nations coordination of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies and natural disasters. It focuses on prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. This includes:

- 1.** Creating the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) position to coordinate and facilitate humanitarian assistance.
- 2.** Forming the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)—a primary mechanism to coordinate the assistance of UN and non-UN humanitarian partners.
- 3.** Establishing the consolidated appeal system and the Central Emergency Revolving Fund to enhance response to time-critical funding requirements.
- 4.** Establishing the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) with offices in New York and Geneva to provide institutional support to the Under-Secretary-General/ERC.



DHA is renamed the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and its core activities are strengthened around coordination, policy, advocacy, information management and humanitarian financing.

The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement are issued and recognized as a landmark framework. They set the standards to improve the conditions of internally displaced people, families and communities worldwide, and they are consistent with international law.

Humanitarian reforms are introduced to ensure more predictability, accountability and partnership in international humanitarian response, including through the establishment of the cluster system.



## WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY

The annual World Humanitarian Day is established on 19 August to recognize the aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service.



## WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

The World Humanitarian Summit promotes the Agenda for Humanity, which focuses on preventing and ending conflict, respecting the rules of war, leaving no one behind, working differently to end need and investing in humanity, thereby contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

19 DEC 1991

1998

2005

2009

2016

1971

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

1991

The International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) is established. INSARAG is the global network of countries and organizations dedicated to improving standards and coordination in urban search-and-rescue and preparedness-and-response operations.

1993

The United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) system is established. During sudden-onset emergencies, UNDAC is one of the UN's first-response mechanisms deployed to swiftly coordinate humanitarian assistance.

1995

The first humanitarian country-based pooled fund (CBPF) is initiated in Angola, providing funding to humanitarian actors, including NGOs and local civil society. Since then, CBPFs have been established in more than 20 countries.

1999

The Security Council introduces the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict as a specific item on its agenda. The item is rooted in international humanitarian law, aiming to limit the humanitarian impact of conflict on civilians.

2006

The Central Emergency Revolving Fund is renamed the Central Emergency Response Fund. It swiftly disburses up to US\$450 million a year for sudden-onset emergencies, rapidly deteriorating situations and protracted crises that fail to attract sufficient resources.

2011

IASC organizations agree on a Transformative Agenda to improve the international humanitarian response system, including the system-wide (Level 3) emergency activation.

2015

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is agreed, in which all Member States and stakeholders recognize that sustainable development must take into account the needs of the most vulnerable people by committing to "leave no one behind".

