This is OCHA

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OCHA mobilizes humanitarian assistance for all in need

Lives that are saved.

OCHA delivers its mandate through:

COORDINATION
POLICY
ADVOCACY
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
HUMANITARIAN FINANCING
OCHA brings together people, tools and experience to save lives

OCHA helps Governments access tools and services that provide life-saving relief. We deploy rapid-response teams and work with partners to assess needs, take action, secure funds, produce reports and facilitate civil-military coordination.

OCHA speaks on behalf of people affected by conflict and disaster

Using a range of channels and platforms, OCHA speaks out publicly when necessary. It also works behind the scenes, negotiating on issues such as access, protection of civilians and aid workers, and humanitarian principles to ensure aid is where it needs to be.

OCHA organizes and monitors humanitarian funding

OCHA’s financial tracking tools and services help manage humanitarian donations from more than 130 countries.

OCHA provides guidance and clarity on humanitarian policy

OCHA identifies and analyses trends and helps the humanitarian community develop common policy based on human rights, international law and humanitarian principles.

OCHA collects, analyses and shares critical information

OCHA gathers and shares reliable data on where crisis-affected people are, what they urgently need and who is best placed to assist them. Information products support swift decision-making and planning.

OCHA helps prepare for the next crisis

To reduce the impact of natural and man-made disasters on people, OCHA works with Governments to strengthen their capacity to handle emergencies.

OCHA assists UN Member States with early warning information, vulnerability analysis, contingency planning, national capacity-building and training, and by mobilizing support from regional networks.
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.

1998
Department for Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) becomes the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and its mandate is refined.

2005
The Secretary-General introduces humanitarian reforms to ensure greater predictability, accountability and partnership in international humanitarian response.

Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) position was created to serve as a focal point and voice for humanitarian emergencies.

Secretary-General assigned the ERC the status of Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Humanitarian Affairs.

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) and Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF) were created as key coordination mechanisms and tools of the ERC.

Secretary-General established the DHA with offices in New York and Geneva to provide the USG/ERC with institutional support.
2009

The GA establishes World Humanitarian Day (WHD) to be held annually on 19 August. It increases public understanding of humanitarian assistance activities worldwide. The 2012 WHD campaign featured a special performance by music artist Beyoncé and made social media history by sharing more than 1 billion simultaneous messages of hope.

2011

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

2006

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

2012

OCHA is coordinating $8.78 billion of humanitarian programming to assist 54 million people affected by the world’s worst humanitarian crises.
Information products

OCHA offices collect and analyse information to provide an overview of protracted and acute emergencies. OCHA’s information products include maps, graphics, situation reports, humanitarian bulletins, films and photo galleries.

Services and coordination mechanisms

OCHA is the steward of several humanitarian tools and services that help our partners make better-informed decisions and ensure a more predictable approach to preparedness and response. They include:
News and analysis

ReliefWeb is an award-winning website that provides 24-hour coverage of disasters, conflicts and crises for the international aid community. Based in multiple time zones, ReliefWeb’s editorial team scans thousands of sources daily for the most relevant humanitarian news, reports, maps, analysis and other content.

9.3 million people visited ReliefWeb in 2011

IRIN Readership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Segment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarian Workers</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academia</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Academia

Academics, teachers, researchers, analysts, think-tanks and students

Others

Corporate and private sector, military, etc.

IRIN is an award-winning humanitarian news and analysis service covering the parts of the world often under-reported, misunderstood or ignored. It delivers unique reporting in English, French and Arabic to over a million online readers and over 50,000 e-mail subscribers. Millions more people are reached through syndication in newspapers, social networks, websites, magazines, TV and radio stations.
People

OCHA’s strength lies in the diversity and dedication of more than 2,000 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.

Disclaimer: 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. The colour shades depicted define the coverage of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) Regional Offices and do not represent boundaries or frontiers recognized by the United Nations Secretariat or OCHA. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu & Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.
OCHA manages rapid deployment solutions to ensure the right people are on the ground when new or escalating emergencies require additional support. These deployments are coordinated closely with longer-term staffing.

In 2011, regional office staff deployed 151 times to 37 countries.
OCHA also maintains an Emergency Response Roster (ERR), with 35 staff on standby for six-month rotations. In 2011 there were 42 ERR deployments to 15 countries. Of those deployments, 88 per cent took place within a week of the initial request.

Additional capacity is provided through the OCHA-managed Associates Surge Pool (ASP) and the Stand-By Partnerships Programme (SBPP), both of which mobilize external expertise at short notice. In 2011, associates deployed 25 times to 15 countries, and SBPP partners from nine organizations deployed 39 times.
Funding and planning

Humanitarian partners generally develop two types of appeals: Consolidated Appeals (CAPs), produced annually, and Flash Appeals, developed following a sudden-onset emergency.

CAP and Flash Appeals

Consolidated Appeals are produced annually and reviewed midyear for prolonged emergencies. These common action plans allow aid organizations to coordinate, implement and monitor their response to emergencies and appeal for funds as a group.

Flash Appeals are developed following a sudden-onset emergency. They structure an initial, rapid, coordinated humanitarian response and are ideally issued within one week of a new emergency. These appeals are intended to cover the first three to six months of a response.

$9.5 billion requested in 2011
21 appeals
64% funded

The history of CAP and Flash Appeal funding
In addition, three types of pooled funds—Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) and Emergency Response Fund (ERF)—provide rapid funding for life-saving activities. All funding information is recorded in the Financial Tracking Service.

**CERF**
Under OCHA’s stewardship, CERF provides rapid initial funding at the onset of humanitarian crises and critical support for underfunded emergencies. Since 2006, more than 120 members of the General Assembly have contributed to CERF, and more than $2.5 billion has been allocated to emergencies in more than 80 countries.

**CHFs**
CHFs provide early and predictable funding to the most critical humanitarian needs as identified and formulated in a CAP. In 2011, $356 million was allocated through CHFs in five countries.

**ERFs**
ERFs provide initial funding for sudden-onset emergencies not included in CAPs. Funds predominantly go to NGOs. In 2011, $100 million was allocated through ERFs in 12 countries.
OCHA adds value to every humanitarian dollar spent

OCHA is a low-cost, high-value investment in better humanitarian action. We cost a little over 2 per cent of the $9.5 billion in humanitarian programming coordinated through OCHA in 2011.

Our capacity to deliver on our mandate relies on timely and generous financial support. We depend almost exclusively on voluntary contributions from Governments.

Combined value of humanitarian
programming coordinated
by OCHA in 2011
$9.5 billion

OCHA programme expenditure
$215.3 million

source: Financial Tracking Service
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– Tweet from a Lebanese student in December 2011