

# OCHA on Message: Humanitarian Programme Cycle



## What is the Humanitarian Programme Cycle?

The Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) consists of a set of inter-linked tools to assist the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) and the Humanitarian Country Team to improve the delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection through better preparing, prioritizing, steering and monitoring the collective response based on evidence.

Since 2018, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations have come together to

diagnose existing and emerging challenges, and associated solutions, to strengthen HPC-related processes and products. The enhanced HPC package was rolled out in 2019 with a view to improve the relevance and effectiveness of the response, increase the quality and usefulness of needs analysis to inform decision-making, enable more meaningful monitoring of needs and results, and reflect global perspectives from the World Humanitarian Summit and Grand Bargain commitments.

### Needs and response analysis

Needs assessment and analysis provides the evidence base for strategic planning, as well as the baseline information upon which situation and response monitoring relies. The collaborative process of

producing analysis across various sectors such as food security and health, and ensuring that it directly informs response planning is as important as the output documents –

Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs), Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) or monitoring reports – themselves.

### Continuous monitoring in the HPC

Monitoring should be understood as a pragmatic, decision-driven mechanism. As such, the frequency of data consolidation and analysis will vary from one context to another depending on the type of crisis and shocks occurring, nature of the programmes

and humanitarian partners' capacity and own monitoring systems. Building on information specific to agencies and related to sectors, HPC focuses on monitoring; and the interactions between the needs and response related to sectors.

### Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO)

Every December, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) launches the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO). The GHO is the world's most comprehensive, authoritative and evidence-based assessment of humanitarian needs. It presents global funding needs and assesses the humanitarian situation and trends at global, regional and country levels. All OCHA headquarters divisions and country and regional offices, as well as partners, substantively contribute to the publication.

### HPC platforms and tools

OCHA provides a set of flexible information platforms that enable the humanitarian community to manage and publish structured information around the HPC. They support the cycle at all stages: identification of needs, cluster-level and project planning; periodic monitoring; presence mapping and financial tracking.

Key HPC data management and data use modules include:

- [Response Planning and Monitoring Module](#)
- [Projects Module](#)
- [Financial Tracking Service](#)
- [Humanitarian Insight](#)

*“Our collective humanitarian system is getting better. We are significantly improving our planning, forecasting and analysis; our ability to prioritize and our coordination. We can now identify the people most in need, we can target priority assistance to them, and we can reach them faster.”*

- Mark Lowcock,  
Emergency Relief  
Coordinator and Under-  
Secretary-General for  
Humanitarian Affairs,  
Foreword, 2020 GH0.

## What is OCHA's role?

At the country level, the OCHA country office supports the RC/HC in steering the HPC process, ensuring that relevant data and information are gathered from partners throughout the year. At headquarters level, the Assessment, Planning and

Monitoring Branch is mandated to support the implementation of the HPC. This includes normative work through the HPC Steering Group, technical support, gathering of best practices, capacity-building, and

management of monitoring platforms and tools.

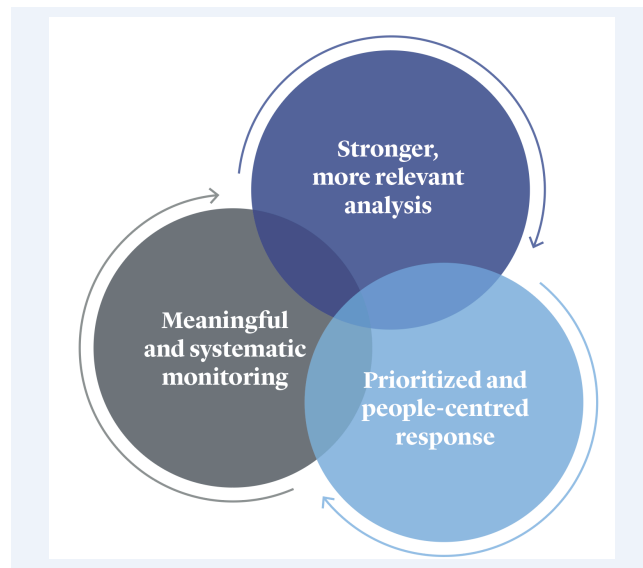
OCHA is also leading Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations and resource mobilization efforts linked to the HPC, such as the GH0 launch.

## What does OCHA say?

**1.** Since its inception, the HPC has enabled the humanitarian community to build a stronger evidence base for the collective response.

**2.** While strategic planning based on a needs analysis is necessary in all types of crises, the HPC should be applied flexibly according to the timing, duration and extent of the crisis and in-country capacities.

**3.** Through the enhanced HPC, OCHA and partners aim to produce strong analysis on needs and response that cuts across various sectors. They also seek to establish or strengthen the system to ensure regular situation, needs and response monitoring in all operations.



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## To find out more

- All HPC guidelines: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/programme-cycle/space>
- FTS website: <https://fts.unocha.org/>
- Humanitarian Insight: <https://hum-insight.info/>

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