In 2016, the world celebrated the inaugural World Humanitarian Summit. The collective voices from the region resulted in stronger commitments to end need, prevent conflicts, and uphold humanitarian principles safeguarding and investing in humanity.

More than 10.7 million people across Latin America and the Caribbean were affected by disasters and emergencies. Livelihoods were destroyed when El Niño exacerbated the drought in Central America and the Caribbean and caused heavy rains in South America. Families were forced to flee violence to seek protection and safe refuge. Millions more were affected by the Zika epidemic and other vectorborne diseases. Large-scale emergencies, such as the earthquake in Ecuador (April 2016) and Hurricane Matthew in the Caribbean (October 2016), demanded the humanitarian community’s attention and tested our capacity to respond.

The United Nations Regional Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for Latin America and the Caribbean (OCHA ROLAC) provided humanitarian coordination to ensure that effective and inclusive humanitarian action protects, empowers and delivers equally for women, girls, boys and men. OCHA coordinated actions to improve operational readiness and response. Coordination saves time and resources and consequently helps to save more lives.

2016 was also a year of change for OCHA. We undertook a functional review and emerged with a clearer perspective to focus on our core functions and services for the humanitarian community. OCHA provides better coordination through information management, advocacy, policy and humanitarian financing.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, we renewed our commitment to ensure that humanitarian action is based on regional solidarity and partnerships, and to ensure that humanitarian action respects the dignity of affected people.

As we learn from the experiences of 2016, we will seek to strengthen OCHA in 2017. We remain committed to coordinate, mobilize and advocate for the right assistance in the right place at the right time to families and people who need it most.

We recognize the vital support from our partners who have helped us improve our capacity through financial and material resources, joint deployments and constant feedback.

Thank you for your continued support.

Wendy Cue
Head of the United Nations Regional Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Latin America and the Caribbean
OCHA ROLAC’S KEY CONTRIBUTIONS

During 2016, more than 10.7 million people were affected by disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean. OCHA worked for an appropriate response with the crisis-affected countries that requested international assistance, and it supported the mobilization of $341.6 million through different appeals (42 per cent covered).

More than 3.5 million people in Central America faced prolonged drought that put their lives at risk during 2016. OCHA coordinated a response with strategic partners outlining the situation. A Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) was developed for Guatemala (US$57 million requested, 28 per cent covered) and Honduras ($44 million requested, 12 per cent covered).

The region renewed its commitment to the humanitarian field, participating in the first World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). The Summit stated the validity of resolution 46/182 (adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1991) as a guide and commitment to focus attention on the most affected people and communities. This highlighted the major role of Member States in disaster preparedness and response. The contributions and the commitments made by the regional countries during the Summit will be consolidated at the International Mechanisms of Humanitarian Assistance (MIAH) meeting in 2017.
Central American countries that make up the Northern Triangle show similar indicators as countries in conflict. El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras consistently rank among the countries with the highest homicide rates in the world; nearly 750,000 people have experienced forced displacement. OCHA advocates for appropriate protection and assistance to affected people. Together with partners such as the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), OCHA supported the development and strengthening of protection groups for each of the Northern Triangle countries and for a regional protection group.

OCHA supported the response to epidemics in coordination and information management. OCHA staff supported the response to the yellow fever outbreak in Angola for a month through coordinating actors involved in the response. OCHA also mobilized an expert in information management to support the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) to respond to the Zika virus outbreak in the region.

In April 2016, the Ecuador Humanitarian Country Team launched an international appeal for $72.8 million to respond to the earthquake. OCHA mobilized $7.5 million through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). After six months, $26.9 million was received, and about $14.2 million was received in financial and in-kind contributions outside the appeal.

The 2016 hurricane season in the Atlantic was the most active since 2012 and the deadliest since 2005. Hurricanes Earl, Matthew and Otto had a strong impact in the Caribbean and Central America. OCHA deployed experts to the field and supported the mobilization of $11.5 million through humanitarian financing mechanisms to respond to these emergencies.
REGional humanitarian overview

Latin America and the Caribbean is an extremely disaster-prone region. The compound effects of climate change, recurring floods, hurricanes and earthquakes coupled with rising social inequity, unplanned urbanization, corruption and violence require continued monitoring. OCHA supports humanitarian partners throughout the region to strengthen emergency preparedness and response.

10.7 M
PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DISASTERS

HURRICANES
MATTHEW
2.1 M people affected in Haiti

OTTO
12 k people affected in Nicaragua

DROUGHT
HEAVY RAINS
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OCHA RESPONSE

COLOMBIA AND HAITI

OCHA PERSONNEL DEPLOYED IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

FUNDING

PREPAREDNESS

KEY EVENTS
OCHA RESPONSE

EL NIÑO AND DROUGHT

PEOPLE AFFECTED

3.5M

People affected by food insecurity (Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador)

PEOPLE TARGETED

750K

In the Humanitarian Response Plan (Honduras and Guatemala)

FINANCING NEEDED (US$)

101.3M

Required for the Humanitarian Response Plan in Honduras and Guatemala

FINANCING COVERED (US$)

16M Guatemala

5.3M Honduras

Throughout the Central American Dry Corridor (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras), communities experienced the worst drought in decades. The humanitarian situation reached crisis levels, with more than 3.5 million people at risk in 2016. During early 2016, actions related to the 2015 CERF allocations for El Salvador ($2.7 million) and Honduras ($2.2 million) were implemented to assist the most vulnerable people. Guatemala requested $4.8 million from CERF in 2016.

OCHA supported the Guatemalan and Honduran Humanitarian Country Teams to develop a joint HRP in response to the drought by carrying out needs assessments and highlighting priority actions. In January 2016, OCHA and its partners officially presented the plan to support the efforts of the Guatemalan and Honduran Governments to address the situation. An appeal for $101.3 million was launched to finance activities detailed in the HRP. Guatemala requested $57 million (28 per cent covered) and Honduras requested $44.2 million (12 per cent covered).

During 2016, eight of nine departments in Bolivia suffered from El Niño-related drought. The Government reported that 740,000 people were affected from 1 December 2015 to 2 September 2016. By the end of 2016, the main urban centres had a water deficit, and water rationing was taking place in seven of Bolivia’s ten main cities.
“These people cannot wait: they are in immediate danger and need urgent assistance. But the situation also requires a more holistic approach that includes long-term planning to face the slow-onset impacts of the climate change,” said Mary Robinson during her visit.

Mary Robinson, the United Nations Special Envoy on El Niño and Climate Change, visited Honduras from 27 to 29 July 2016 to promote climate change resilience initiatives and to observe the progress of humanitarian action in the area.

It is very important that everyone is aware of the impact of the El Niño phenomenon in this region and the need to provide assistance during this difficult period, said John Ging, OCHA’S Operations Director, during his visit to Central America’s drought-affected areas.

We must ensure that this region receives the precise and necessary global resources it needs to face the humanitarian challenges.

For more information about El Niño, visit:
www.unocha.org/el-nino-latin-america-caribbean
HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODS

NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY RAIN, LANDSLIDES AND FLOODS

During early 2016, floods in Paraguay resulted in 100,000 people being moved to 134 temporary shelters and 440 tents. Of these people, 63,320 were in 125 shelters throughout the capital, Asunción. A United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team was deployed in the first week of April to respond.

The Risk Management Secretariat of Ecuador reported that 70,000 people were affected by rains and floods during 2016.

In November 2016, severe rains affected regions of the north and north-east, and the central and south mountain ranges of the Dominican Republic, causing floods in provinces already affected by Hurricane Matthew (October 2016). A total of 50,000 people were moved to safer places, 20,000 houses were affected and 700 destroyed. During the emergency, OCHA updated Humanitarian Country Team members, and it supported the Emergency Operations National Centre in preparing and presenting a situation report for the President. OCHA also supported resource mobilization for UNDP through UNDP’s Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, and it supported humanitarian partners with their applications for Start Funds.

In Guatemala, landslides and floods caused by the rainy season (April to October 2016) affected more than 300,000 people, according to the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction. Thirteen people died, 1,121 people were placed in shelters and 2,806 people were evacuated from at-risk zones.
Coordinated response against the spread of Zika

- The first case of the Zika virus in the region was confirmed in Brazil, May 2015. It then spread rapidly throughout the region. As of 4 January 2017, 48 countries and territories of the region reported cases.
- The exact number of people infected is unknown because one out of four people infected by the virus develops symptoms such as fever, headaches, conjunctivitis and skin rashes.
- In November 2016, WHO declared the end of the Public Health Emergency of International Concern and recommended convert the response to sustained programme work.
- OCHA supported coordination actions and communication among all the actors that participated in the prevention and response. OCHA also deployed an information management expert to support information compilation and dissemination with the Emergency Operations Center of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO).
- The Zika virus and its consequences will continue to be a significant challenge for the region and will require concentrated action and adequate coordination.
NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE

380K

The 16 April earthquake in Ecuador caused 661 deaths, injured 6,274 people and affected approximately 380,000 people. A total of 18,663 buildings were destroyed, and 35 health centres and 600 schools were damaged, as well as roads and other infrastructure.

When the emergency began, the Government and the local response teams supported affected families with emergency medical attention, food, temporary shelter, water and other needs.

OCHA mobilized an UNDAC team within the first 24 hours of the emergency to support initial assessments and establish coordination centres in the most affected areas. OCHA maintained an active presence in the field during the first six months of the emergency, enabling inter-sector coordination and assessing and advocating for an efficient response for the most vulnerable communities.

The Humanitarian Country Team launched a Flash Appeal for $72.8 million seven days after the earthquake to provide humanitarian assistance to affected people for six months. CERF allocated $7.5 million. After the first six months, $26.9 million was received. In addition, approximately $24.2 million was received from financial and in-kind contributions outside the appeal.

At the same time, regional and international humanitarian organizations worked together to strengthen the national humanitarian operation. They provided equipment, logistical support, supplies and expert technical staff.
The strong resilient spirit that I witnessed during my visit to the affected region will undoubtedly help the recovery from this situation, said Stephen O’Brien, United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator.
HURRICANE SEASON

NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE HURRICANE SEASON

Hurricane Earl made landfall in Belize on 4 August 2016. Approximately 2,500 people were in shelters and 10,000 required humanitarian assistance. OCHA immediately released $50,000 to purchase supplies for shelters and non-food items.

The hurricane also affected Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. In Mexico, Hurricane Earl left 54 people dead and 32,500 affected. It damaged 1,600 houses and led to losses totalling millions of dollars.

Hurricane Matthew struck the Bahamas, Cuba and Haiti in early October 2016. The category 4 hurricane caused human loss and damaged infrastructure and basic services.

In Haiti, 2.1 million people were affected and 1.4 million needed urgent assistance to survive. More than 40 per cent of these people were children, and another 40 per cent were women of reproductive age.

© OCHA NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE HURRICANE SEASON 2.7M
The magnitude of the damage amplified the humanitarian needs already existing in the country.

In close coordination with the Government, Haiti’s Humanitarian Country Team launched a Flash Appeal for $139.8 million to care for the most urgent humanitarian needs of 750,000 people, including 315,000 children, for three months. OCHA released more than $6 million in CERF funds to care for the urgent needs. CERF also granted a loan of $8 million to UNICEF to strengthen the response to the worsening cholera epidemic.

Cuba reported 365,602 people in need of assistance (147,698 women, 24,320 boys and girls under age 5) in the most-affected provinces (Guantánamo and Holguín). OCHA, through CERF, disbursed $5.4 million to respond to the most urgent needs in education, food security, health, housing, and water, sanitation and hygiene. The United Nations presented a Plan of Action to the international community that aimed to raise $26.5 million to assist the country in the immediate response and early recovery to support severely affected people. After four months, $9.3 million was received.

UNDAC teams and staff from OCHA ROLAC were deployed to the Bahamas, Haiti and Jamaica. Specialists in coordination and information management were deployed to Cuba.

In November 2016, the passage of Hurricane Otto through Central America had a strong impact on Costa Rica; it left 10 people dead and 10,000 people in need of assistance. The National Emergency Commission and national authorities assisted people affected in shelters and in the most remote areas. OCHA deployed personnel to Costa Rica, released $30,000 to support response operations and coordinated assistance to affected people.

The task to respond to the passage of Matthew through Haiti is challenging because entire towns have been isolated. As part of the UNDAC team, we work hand-in-hand with authorities in the most affected zones and with humanitarian organizations to strengthen the coordination and get assistance that people need. This is a crucial moment for Haiti, and our duty is to support the country to move forward. Juan Pablo O’Farrill (right), UNDAC member talking to the then Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon.
VIOLENCE AND MIXED-MIGRATION FLOWS

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE OF CENTRAL AMERICA

Countries in the Northern Triangle of Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras) face a humanitarian crisis caused by the constant violence perpetrated by organized criminal groups (IDMC, 2016). The homicide rate in these countries is among the highest in the world.

With this background, OCHA worked with the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum of the Social Science Research Council to study the humanitarian consequences of violence in the Northern Triangle. The results of this study indicate that about 4.5 per cent of El Salvador’s population is internally displaced, while Guatemala and Honduras report 2 per cent of their respective populations.

OCHA supports UNHCR with developing and strengthening Protection Working Groups for each country in the Northern Triangle, and of a regional Protection Working Group in Panama to reinforce and support national protection groups.

Migration and forced displacement are some of the consequences of this crisis. Between October 2015 and October 2016, 390,161 people and 59,757 unaccompanied boys and girls from the Northern Triangle were arrested trying to cross the Mexico-USA border. During 2016, 131,419 people from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras were returned by the Mexican migration authorities.

Women represent approximately 53 per cent of Central America’s migrant population (IOM).

Despite the lack of records, estimates from civil society report at least 750,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Northern Triangle. OCHA has conducted field missions in Petén department in Guatemala to better understand the migration phenomenon and affected people’s needs.
The invisible majority: helping internally displaced persons

“The vast majority of people who have currently been forced from their homes have not yet crossed international borders. They run away from armed conflict, disasters and violence. However, since they have been displaced in their own countries, the situation is often forgotten.

In 2016, of the 65.3 million people forcibly displaced around the globe, 40.8 million, or more than six out of ten, are internally displaced persons. They are the invisible majority of displaced persons.

Limiting our support based on some lines in a map would be a great failure for humanity. Our work is guided by humanity, and humanity has no borders. We must not leave anyone behind. To achieve this, the world must do more and in an urgent manner to support the internally displaced and the communities that welcome them.”


For more information visit: www.unocha.org/idps
COLOMBIA

OCHA Colombia monitors the humanitarian consequences of armed conflict and natural disasters. It also promotes coordination between international humanitarian actors with local and national State actors.

The ceasefire between the Government and the FARC-EP (agreed on August 2016) improved certain humanitarian indicators, but some armed groups continue to represent a threat to civil society. People are exposed to forced displacement, human rights violations, limitations to access and protection risks. Communities affected by the conflict and armed violence are also located in zones exposed to natural hazards, contributing to their vulnerability (doubly affected).

In 2016, OCHA Colombia promoted the link between humanitarian issues, development and peacebuilding at the national level through Local Coordination Teams, and at national levels through humanitarian programming. OCHA works with the Information Management and Analysis Unit to guarantee that humanitarian data is gathered on development and peacebuilding.

OCHA also supports the administration of common funds to improve the humanitarian response, promoting complementarity processes among humanitarian actors. During 2016, the Humanitarian Fund for Colombia allocated $2.1 million to 12 projects, benefiting more than 12,000 people.

### HUMANITARIAN INDICATORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mobility limitations and restrictions on access to supplies and services</strong> 2</td>
<td>• 3.7 millions of people affected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2.8 millions of people affected as a result of the armed conflict</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Massive displacements</strong> 3</td>
<td>• In 2015, 180,505 4 people were displaced</td>
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<td>• In 2016, OCHA reports 9,826 people displaced in massive events</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Attacks on civilians</strong></td>
<td>• 979 events of which 57% were threats</td>
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<td>• Increase of 23 percent of threats compared to the same period</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Impact by disasters of natural origin</strong> 5</td>
<td>• 877,371 people affected. 70% increase over the previous year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The 2016 rainy season and Hurricane Matthew had a major impact on the population</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 As of 31 October 2016  
2 Source: Monitor as of 18 November 2016  
3 More than 50 people or 10 families in the same event  
4 Source: Red Nacional de Información  
5 Source: UNGRD as of 18 November 2016
HAITI

Haiti continues to be affected by the convergence of a humanitarian crisis aggravated by Hurricane Matthew, which hit the country in October 2016. During the last three years, Haiti’s humanitarian and financial needs have grown from $40 million to $193 million in 2016 and to $370 million in 2017.

Hurricane Matthew was the first major humanitarian crisis after the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). The humanitarian community worked towards an innovative response through the implementation of WHS commitments, particularly:

- Local focus for the response
- Communication with affected communities
- Participation of women in the humanitarian response
- Financing from the private sector and the diaspora
- Programmes for cash transfers

Limited humanitarian funding is hindering the effective response to cholera, food security and thousands of migrants coming from the Dominican Republic*.

This complex humanitarian ecosystem requires major coordination and preparedness for future disasters in the Caribbean, which is one of the world’s most vulnerable regions.

*38,356 people were deported in 2016 from the Dominican Republic to Haiti, according to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.
OCHA PERSONNEL DEPLOYED IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

OCHA ROLAC comprises 40 people in 12 countries. National disaster response advisers and information assistants are present in nine countries.

In 2016, OCHA ROLAC deployed 53 people to support emergency response in the region (20 OCHA ROLAC staff and 41 UNDAC members), and it supported the emergency response for the yellow fever outbreak in Angola.

Additional information management support was provided to Humanitarian Country Teams and Resident Coordinators’ offices in various countries in the region. This support included advocacy, damage and needs assessments, and resource mobilization.

During 2016, coordination and communications were strengthened in OCHA’s country offices in Colombia and Haiti, guaranteeing regional coherence and support to humanitarian actions and situations.

In June 2016, OCHA launched its new Policy Instruction on gender equality. It defines a shared vision on gender equality within the basic OCHA mandate for advocacy, humanitarian coordination, humanitarian funding, human resources, information management and policy.

OCHA’s commitments include:

- Promoting a gender focus in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle
- Preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence in emergencies
- Strengthening inter-institutional partnerships in gender-equality programming
- Facilitating the participation of boys, girls and women in humanitarian decision-making

For more information on gender in humanitarian action visit: www.humanitarianresponse.info
OCHA ROLAC deployed 53 people to support emergency response in the region (20 OCHA ROLAC staff and 41 UNDAC members)
When a disaster strikes, OCHA’s mission is to save lives and guarantee the dignity of affected people. This depends on the speed and effectiveness of the response. CERF helps to guarantee funding for a rapid and equitable disaster response. The fund is replenished annually through voluntary contributions from various donors. OCHA’s Emergency Cash Grant (ECG) is another tool used in the region.

For more information visit:
www.fts.unocha.org
OCHA is grateful for the generous support of its donors towards activities carried out at the global and regional levels in 2016, and for supporting OCHA activities worldwide.

OCHA ROLAC received earmarked donations from Canada, the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, Sweden and the United States.

The following countries supported UNDAC activities during 2016:

- **Colombia**: Hosted and funded the Working Group on National Processes and the urban search-and-rescue accreditation meeting in May; hosted the preparation meeting for the simulation exercise (SIMEX) in May; hosted and funded a generous allocation to the regional SIMEX of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) in September; and hosted and funded a generous allocation to the regional INSARAG and UNDAC consultation meeting in November.

- **Spain**: Hosted and funded (with logistical support for Guatemala) the Coordinated Assessment and Information Management (CAIM) course for members of UNDAC and the Risk, Emergencies and Disasters for Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC) group in June.

- **United States**: Hosted the INSARAG Training Working Group meeting in January and funded the hosting of CEPREDENAC, with support from Costa Rica for the On-Site Operations Coordination Centre Operations Course for UNDAC members in Costa Rica in August.

As part of an initiative between UNFPA, UN WOMEN and OCHA to include the appropriate gender approach in humanitarian action, a Gender Capacity Advisor (GenCap) was deployed in December 2016. During 2017, joint efforts will be made to ensure this approach, especially in the Northern Triangle of Central America (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras).

Two interns from Lund University supported OCHA ROLAC with projects related to disaster preparedness, information management and protection.

*Contributions from Colombia and Haiti country offices are not reflected on this page.*
The main objective of these workshops is to strengthen the capacities of humanitarian actors, teams, networks and alliances to better respond to emergencies.

Wendy Cue, Head of OCHA ROLAC

Regional partners, national authorities and Humanitarian Country Teams met in Guatemala in June 2016 to participate in the region’s first CAIM workshop.

The CAIM course starts from the premise that information overload is a reality. Therefore, humanitarian actors have to master information management tools, services and best practices to analyse data and information quickly to produce results in a short period of time.
INSARAG organized a SIMEX with the support of Colombia’s National Unit for Disaster Risk Management as the Regional President of INSARAG Americas. More than 750 participants worked on models, virtual reality and other tools that would enable a response to the effects of a high-magnitude earthquake.

More than 70 representatives from 10 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean participated in the Humanitarian Country Team Regional Workshop that took place in Panama in June 2016. Representatives came from State institutions and international corporations to learn about initiatives and tools that enable people to work together more effectively.

Some of the main themes included the climatic variability and its relation to humanitarian action, cash grant initiatives in emergencies, the inclusion of the gender approach and the Essential Humanitarian Norms.
OCHA analyzes information and data: InfoRM

Understanding disaster risks - the probability that an emergency occurs and its possible impact - is a fundamental step in risk reduction and protection of lives. The Index for Risk Management (InfoRM) is a tool to analyse, understand and measure the risk of humanitarian crises and how the conditions that cause them affect sustainable development. A collective index identifies countries or areas of countries at risk of humanitarian emergencies that could exceed the national response capacity and highlight the need for international assistance.

In 2015, OCHA and UNICEF initiated the first pilot for the national adaptation of InfoRM’s global model for the region with the development of the InfoRM model for Colombia. During 2016, OCHA and UNICEF initiated the regional adaptation of InfoRM and expanded the national adaptations in the region to include Guatemala and Honduras. This process involves collaboration with a wide range of actors, and it will continue in 2017.

OCHA gathers together information and data: Redhum.org

In 2016, Redhum completed its ninth year as the leading online platform for dissemination of humanitarian information in Spanish. With over 3.3 million visits in nine years, Redhum remains at the forefront as a humanitarian reference in the region, constantly improving and adapting to new technologies.

![Map of Central America with countries highlighted: Bolivia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama (ROLAC), Peru.](image)

- **10,603** documents
- **1,578** maps
- **66,677** news articles
- **4,363** vacancies
- **19** events
- **219** emergencies covered
- **957** alerts
- **288** organizations
- **1,289** contacts
- **84,824** records uploaded
- **1.6M** visits
- **3.3M** pages visited
OCHA coordinates with partners: RedLac
Since 2003, RedLac has been working constantly as a forum in which organizations can coordinate efforts for disaster preparedness and response. During 2016, more than 30 RedLac members continued to hold monthly and ad hoc meetings to coordinate the response for crisis situations and to address the region’s priorities (such as El Niño, drought, migration and violence).
KEY EVENTS

WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE MECHANISMS

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), held in Istanbul on 23 and 24 May 2016, produced momentum with political determination to maintain the United Nations Secretary-General’s Agenda for Humanity and its five main responsibilities, in order to offer better assistance to affected people.

The Summit underscored the clear demonstration of humanitarian leadership and political will to address the severe costs of emergencies and crises. Evidence of the leadership and political will is seen through the approximately 3,000 commitments for action and more than 2,500 actions to align with the basic commitments to respond to the Agenda for Humanity generated by the Summit.

The International Humanitarian Assistance Mechanisms (MIAH) is a pioneering forum for regional cooperation and debate on humanitarian issues, promoted and facilitated by OCHA since 2008. Given its importance, the WHS regional consultations in Latin America were coordinated with the MIAH.

The MIAH in 2017 will be held in Lima, Peru, offering an opportunity to consolidate regional commitments to the Agenda for Humanity. The MIAH seeks to advance common understanding, streamline policies, and promote the development of concrete humanitarian partnerships, synergies and an atmosphere of collaboration.

In preparation for the World Humanitarian Summit, the WHS Dialogue: Regional Priorities before the Summit was held on 19 April 2016 in Panama. The event was organized by OCHA in conjunction with IFRC and with the support of the Government of the Republic of Panama.

The meeting provided an opportunity for humanitarian partners, representatives of Member States and other stakeholders in Latin America and the Caribbean to delve into the issues most relevant to the region that were subsequently addressed during the WHS.

To learn more, visit:
www.agendaforhumanity.org
www.worldhumanitariansummit.org
www.redhum.org/es/miah
IN NUMBERS

9,000 PARTICIPANTS

400 PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES

180 MEMBER STATES REPRESENTED
(93% of all member states) including 63 heads of state and government

700 NGOS

130 SIDE EVENTS

#ShareHumanity

46,120 people used the hashtag

121,635 TWEETS

235M maximum audience reached
RECOGNIZING HUMANITARIAN HEROES

World Humanitarian Day was commemorated on 19 August 2016, with the theme: *The world needs more humanitarian heroes.*

It paid homage to the aid workers around the world who risk their physical integrity and their lives in favour of people affected by disasters and conflicts.

OCHA and a group of humanitarian partners lead the organization of activities for World Humanitarian Day.

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