This is OCHA

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

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 and national capacity-building and training, and by mobilizing support from regional networks.

OCHA delivers its mandate through…

COORDINATION
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 we work with partners to assess needs, take action, secure funds, produce reports and facilitate civil-military coordination.

ADVOCACY
OCHA speaks on behalf of people affected by conflict and disaster
Using a range of channels and platforms, OCHA speaks out publicly when necessary. We work behind the scenes, negotiating on issues such as access, humanitarian principles, and protection of civilians and aid workers, to ensure aid is where it needs to be.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
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.

HUMANITARIAN FINANCING
OCHA organizes and monitors humanitarian funding
OCHA’s financial-tracking tools and services help manage humanitarian donations from more than 130 countries.

POLICY
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.
A brief history

1971
UN General Assembly (GA) resolution 2916 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.

1991
Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) position created to serve as a focal point and voice for humanitarian emergencies.

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).

2009
The GA establishes World Humanitarian Day to be held annually on 19 August. It increases public understanding of humanitarian assistance activities worldwide.

2011
IASC organizations agree on a set of transformative actions to improve the international humanitarian response system.

2006
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.

2011
Secretary-General assigns the ERC the status of Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Humanitarian Affairs.

2005
Secretary-General establishes the Department for Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) with offices in New York and Geneva to provide the USG/ERC with institutional support.

2016
The UN Secretary-General will convene the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit, which will map out a humanitarian approach that is more effective, inclusive and better representative of the needs and challenges of our changing world. The summit will set the future agenda for humanitarian issues, with a focus on effectiveness, reducing vulnerability, managing risk, meeting the needs of conflict-affected people and promoting innovation.
Coordination

OCHA is responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies. We play a key role in assessing situations and needs, monitoring progress, and mobilizing funds and other resources.

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.

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE

OCHA carries out its coordination function primarily through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), which includes UN agencies, NGOs and other humanitarian organizations.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

OCHA rapidly deploys experts to crisis-affected areas, ensuring the right people are on the ground when new or escalating emergencies require additional support. OCHA maintains an Emergency Response Roster, with staff ready to undertake six-month rotations. Additional capacity is provided through the OCHA-managed Associates Surge Pool and the Stand-By Partnerships Programme, both of which mobilize external expertise at short notice. In addition, OCHA coordinates the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC).
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.
**Advocacy**

OCHA speaks out on behalf of people worst affected by humanitarian crises. We raise awareness through media interviews, speeches, press briefings, web stories and social media campaigns. We also work behind the scenes, engaging in diplomacy with Governments or negotiations with armed groups to bring about change, secure humanitarian access and build support.

**Information management**

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 photogalleries.

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. These include ReliefWeb—an award-winning website providing 24-hour coverage of disasters, conflicts and crises for the international aid community.
Humanitarian financing

OCHA coordinates efforts to plan humanitarian action, obtain funding and monitor progress in the aftermath of sudden disasters and during protracted crises. Funding requests are based on a thorough needs evaluation. They are underpinned by strategic response plans that lay out the common humanitarian response and make a compelling, evidence-based case for assistance. This collaborative process enables humanitarian actors to coordinate, carry out and monitor their responses and to appeal for funds as a group. This makes aid more effective, efficient and predictable.

OCHA manages three types of pooled funds: CERF, common humanitarian funds (CHFs) and emergency response funds (ERFs). They all provide rapid funding for life-saving activities.

**CERF**
Under OCHA’s stewardship, CERF provides rapid initial funding at the onset of humanitarian crises and critical support for underfunded emergencies worldwide.

**CHFs**
CHFs provide predictable country-based funding for the most critical humanitarian needs during large-scale, prolonged emergencies. CHFs range from $50 million to $150 million.

**ERFs**
ERFs provide initial funding for sudden-onset emergencies to quickly deliver essential aid and meet urgent needs. Funds predominantly go to NGOs. ERFs range from $2 million to $5 million.

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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.

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**HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME CYCLE**

- Needs assessment & analysis
- Operational peer review & evaluation
- Strategic planning
- Resource mobilization
- Implementation & monitoring

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**FUNDING FLOWS**

- **Planned projects**
- **Pooled funds**
  - CERF
  - CHF
  - ERF
- **Unforeseen actions**

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**Donations**

**Humanitarian needs**
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.
OCHA Philippines timeline

2007

Supreme Court declared Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MO-AD) unconstitutional led to armed clashes between Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) that displaced 118,000 people in Zamboanga City

Tropical storm Ketsana, typhoons Parma and Marinae swept across Luzon affected up to 10 million people with floods and landslides. The 3 successive typhoons left 1,000 people dead, 400,000 houses destroyed and displaced 430,000 people

2008

OCHA Presence in the Philippines

Establishment of OCHA Philippines country office in Manila and sub-office in Cotabato

2009

Tropical storm Washi struck northern Mindanao causing flashfloods that killed almost 1,500 people and left more than 1,000 people dead, 900,000 people displaced, 200,000 houses damaged and key infrastructure and vast tracks of agricultural land decimated

2010

Typhoon Bopha hit the east coast of Mindanao affected 6.2 million people and left more than 1,000 people dead, 900,000 people displaced, 200,000 houses damaged and key infrastructure and vast tracks of agricultural land decimated

2011

Opened hubs in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan City to respond to the effects of tropical storm Washi (Sendong)

Opened hubs in Davao City, Nabunturan, Trento and Cateel to support the emergency response to Typhoon Bopha (Pablo)

2012

Opened hub in Zamboanga City for the Zamboanga Crisis

Opened hub in Bohol for the Bohol earthquake

Typhoon Bopha hit the east coast of Mindanao affecting 6.2 million people and leaving more than 1,000 people dead, 900,000 people displaced, 200,000 houses damaged and key infrastructure and vast tracks of agricultural land decimated

2013

Opened hub in Zamboanga City for the Zamboanga Crisis

Opened hub in Bohol for the Bohol earthquake

Opened hubs in Tacloban, Ormoc, Roxas/Iloilo, Guiuan and Cebu to support the emergency response to Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda)

Opened hubs in Davao City, Nabunturan, Trento and Cateel to support the emergency response to Typhoon Bopha (Pablo)

2014

Armed clashes erupted between AFP and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) that displaced 4 million people, damaged 1 million houses and killed over 6,000 people

Presence in Albay to support local government in response to displacement caused by Mayon volcano

Presence in Borongan to support government on the preparedness and response efforts for Typhoon Ruby (Hagupit)

2015

Super Typhoon Haiyan swept through central Philippines that displaced 4 million people, damaged 1 million houses and killed over 6,000 people

Mayon Volcano’s imminent eruption displaced 55,000 people

Typhoon Hagupit swept through Eastern Visayas and Southern Luzon displacing 1.7 million people

2016

Typhoon Koppu caused massive flooding in Central Luzon

Typhoon Melor caused severe housing damage in Northern Samar
Anybody remotely interested in humanitarian affairs should follow @UNOCHA”

– Tweet from a Lebanese student