

# Humanitarian Programme Cycle

**The Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) provides a framework to guide humanitarian agencies in meeting the needs of affected populations quickly, effectively and in a coordinated and principled manner.**

Agencies are required to work collectively and to share information through the relevant clusters. In this way they can hold one another to account to achieve improved decision making and outcomes for the affected population.

The HPC consists of five sequential elements and depends on effective **emergency preparedness, coordination** with national/local authorities and humanitarian actors, and **information management**.

Stage	Primary Output	Agency benefits
1. <b>Assess and analyse needs</b>	<b>Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO):</b> overview of the prioritised humanitarian need in the affected country.	Contribute to HNO through clusters/sectors. Use findings to plan effective programmes and projects.
2. <b>Plan strategic response</b>	<b>Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP):</b> draws on HNO to define the overarching strategy and main priorities for the response. <b>Cluster plans</b> specify what clusters will do to contribute to strategic objectives.	Use HRP and cluster plans to check own strategy / plans reflect sectoral priorities. Engage with cluster to ensure own plans are incorporated in flash appeals and pooled funding bids.
3. <b>Implement and monitor</b>	<b>Humanitarian Response Monitoring Framework and Periodic Monitoring Report (PMR):</b> how well have HRP outputs and outcomes been achieved: overall strategic objectives, cluster objectives and country activities.	Participate in cluster monitoring plans. Ensure capacity for your part in monitoring activities. Align your project indicators with cluster plans. Use the PMR as a measure for wider impact of your project.
4. <b>Mobilise resources</b>	<b>Country-based pooled funds (CBPF) and Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF):</b> pooled funding mechanisms for responding agencies.	Clusters play an important role in facilitating funding allocations from pooled funds to partners to fulfill their cluster response plan.
5. <b>Operational peer review and evaluate</b>	<b>Operational Peer Review:</b> an inter-agency management tool which identifies areas for improvement <b>Inter-agency Humanitarian Evaluations (IAHE):</b> independent assessment of results of collective response.	OPR is an internal report for the Humanitarian Country Team. The IAHE provides recommendations for future responses to specific individuals or agencies.

## Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP)

- is a continuous process of anticipating potential emergencies and pre-planning the response.

### Primary outputs

- **Risk analysis and monitoring** generating a country risk profile, identifying vulnerable groups.
  - **Minimum preparedness actions** e.g. risk monitoring, arranging coordination, preparing for joint assessments, information management, and operational capacity.
  - **Contingency planning and advanced preparedness** e.g. identifying capacities, key logistical requirements and pre-positioning of relief supplies.
- Benefits for the response**  
Aligning preparedness planning with the cluster arrangements established under the ERP approach brings all relevant actors to an advanced level of readiness for specific scenarios.

### Additional resources on All In Diary website

IASC Reference Module for the Implementation of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle, v2.0, IASC, 2015.

### Web links for further information

HPC: [www.humanitarianresponse.info/programme-cycle](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/programme-cycle)  
Building a Better Response training programme:  
<http://www.buildingabetterresponse.org>