

UN and international organisations

In disaster situations which are beyond the capacity of the affected state(s), the United Nations (UN)* may be called upon to protect and assist those affected and coordinate the international humanitarian response.

Key UN Agencies and their role in humanitarian disasters

OCHA - Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Mobilises and coordinates international humanitarian response in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (see side bar).

<http://ochaonline.un.org>

WFP - World Food Programme

Feeds the hungry and poor - principal provider of relief food aid.

www.wfp.org

WHO - World Health Organisation

Provides global public health leadership by setting standards, monitoring health trends, providing direction on emergency health issues.

www.who.org; www.paho.org

UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund

Works to uphold children's rights, survival, development and protection by intervening in health, education, water, sanitation, hygiene and protection.

www.unicef.org

UNHCR - United Nations High Commission for Refugees

Provides international protection, assistance and seeks long term solutions for refugees and other groups displaced by conflict.

www.unhcr.org

FAO - Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN

Provides early warning of food crises and assesses global food supply problems.

www.fao.org

UNDP - United Nations Development Programme

Assists disaster-prone countries in contingency planning and disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness measures. The Resident Coordinator (Country Head of UNDP) may coordinate relief efforts in small scale emergencies.

www.undp.org

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

ICRC - International Committee of the Red Cross

Mandated through Geneva Conventions to assist civilians in times of war.

IFRC - International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Coordinates international relief provided by National Societies.

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Assist people affected by conflict or disaster within their own borders – they may also be the mandated humanitarian partner of the affected state(s).

Additional resources on All In Diary website

Basic Facts about the UN © United Nations 2011
UN Organisation System, © United Nations 2015
What is Inter-Agency Standing Committee? - 2012

Web links for further information

IFRC: www.ifrc.org/en/who-we-are/the-movement/
UN : www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/deliver-humanitarian-aid/

IASC

Inter-Agency Standing Committee

The Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) brings together international agencies that respond to natural disasters, conflict-related emergencies, global food crises and pandemics.

Through coordination, members improve service delivery, share resources, agree system-wide policy guidance, pool analysis and disseminate good practice.

<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc>

The IASC includes key UN agencies and NGO representation through:

- InterAction

www.interaction.org/

- Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR)

<http://schr.info>

- International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)

www.icvnetwork.org

**The UN is a global, inter-governmental institution made up of 193 nation states*