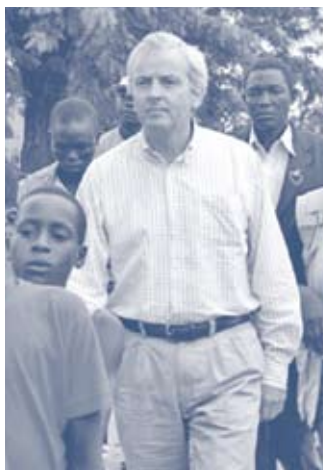


#### 4. Through advocacy

OCHA aims to speak out on behalf of people affected by humanitarian crises. Specific areas of focus include the protection of civilians, displacement, disaster preparedness and the efficiency of humanitarian response. Current advocacy priorities in 2009 at the global level are focused on Internal Displacement, Climate Change, and Gender-Based Violence.



IRIN

#### 5. Through information outlets



**The Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN)** provides news and information through text and radio. IRIN enhances advocacy efforts through photos, films and reports on current crises.

**ReliefWeb** is the global hub for humanitarian information on Complex Emergencies and Natural Disasters

**OCHA Online** provides an overview of key issues and challenges facing the humanitarian community as well as hosting OCHA's advocacy materials.

**OCHA's Public Information Unit** provides public information and editorial content on issues of major concern.

#### 6. Through funding

OCHA aims to improve the funding system for international humanitarian efforts. Participation in the Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative seeks to improve the quality and quantity of humanitarian funding.

**The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)** promotes early action to reduce loss of life in time-critical events, and strengthens response in under-funded crises.

**The Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP)** is a cycle of strategic planning, from development of a Common Humanitarian Action Plan to a funding appeal, to implementation and monitoring.

**Financial Tracking Service (FTS)** is a global, real-time database recording reported international humanitarian aid.

**Funding and in-kind support** from the private sector.



OCHA is funded mostly through voluntary donations and seeks funding for its work.

For further information on donating visit  
<http://ochaonline.un.org/donations>.

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Information



## What is OCHA?

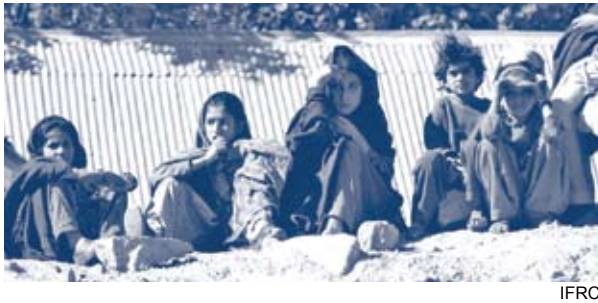
An entity within the United Nations Secretariat, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs supports mobilization, funding and coordination of humanitarian action in response to complex emergencies and natural disasters.



Richard Johnson/OCHA

## What is OCHA? (continued)

OCHA is headed by the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), a position currently held by John Holmes. The ERC is responsible for oversight of all emergencies requiring United Nations humanitarian assistance. The ERC also acts as the central focal point for Governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental relief activities.



IFRC

## What are OCHA's objectives?

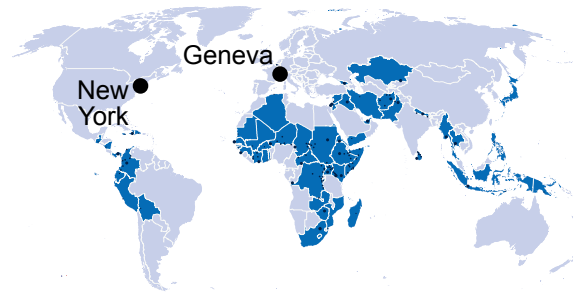
- To alleviate human suffering caused by disaster or conflict.
- To promote better preparedness for and, where possible, prevention of, disasters.
- To help provide timely and effective international assistance to those who need it.
- To ensure that those affected by disasters and conflicts find sustainable solutions to the challenges they face.
- To advocate for the rights of those in need.

## Where does OCHA operate?

OCHA is based at United Nations Headquarters in New York with another main office in Geneva and 30 regional and field offices.

Every person affected by disaster or conflict has the right to assistance. Governments without sufficient capabilities may request international support which can come in the form of food or material aid, protection of rights, access to clean water, health services, information or other life-sustaining assistance. OCHA tries to ensure efforts are effective and efficient while reducing redundancy and gaps.

## OCHA presence in 2009



## How does OCHA coordinate relief?

OCHA supports and facilitates the work of UN agencies, non-governmental organisations and the Red Cross/Crescent Movement in delivering humanitarian services. Working closely with governments to support them in their lead role in humanitarian response, OCHA takes a multi-faceted approach:

### 1. Response at the start of a crisis

- The UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team (UNDAC)
- Search and rescue coordination in accordance with the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) Guidelines
- Civil-Military Coordination personnel
- Logistics coordination support



IFRC

- Access to military assets as a last resort in disaster response
- Information management tools for use by humanitarian response agencies to assist in planning, response coordination and advocacy

### 2. At the country level

In a country affected by a disaster or conflict, the ERC may appoint a Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) to ensure that response efforts are well organized. The HC works with government, international organizations, NGOs and affected communities. An OCHA office will be established to support Humanitarian Coordinator.

### 3. On policy issues related to humanitarian action



Devra Berkowitz/UN

OCHA supports the development of common policy positions among humanitarian agencies. At the international level, OCHA works through the United Nations and other forums while advising affected countries on policy.