



OCHA's Cluster Approach & Outcomes of the Inter-Agency Contingency Planning Workshop

UN SPIDER Workshop
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Content

- Background to humanitarian reform
- The cluster approach
- Outcomes of IACP workshop
- OCHA's roles in Disaster Response
- OCHA mapping capacity

Background

- Humanitarian Reform and Cluster Approach at the global level
- Lessons from the **Solomon Islands Tsunami/Earthquake in April 2007**, which highlighted the challenges in response and the importance of disaster preparedness
- Objective: more effective & predictable humanitarian assistance in the Pacific
- Inter-agency coordination and collaboration and emergency preparedness are an important part of this effort

Why do we need
humanitarian reform?

2005 Humanitarian Response Review



- ❖ Well-known, long-standing gaps
- ❖ Inconsistent linkages: UN & non-UN
- ❖ Erratic coordination
- ❖ Insufficient accountability (particularly for IDPs)
- ❖ Inconsistent donor policies

Changing Environment



- ❖ Proliferation of actors
- ❖ Host government demands for more structured responses
- ❖ Changing role of the UN (less direct implementation and more focus on coordination, standard-setting, advocacy)
- ❖ Competitive funding environment
- ❖ Increased public scrutiny

- Humanitarian reform seeks to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian response by ensuring greater predictability, accountability and partnership.



Whose reform?

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

Composed of NGO consortia, Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, IOM, World bank and UN agencies

Inter-Agency Standing Committee Full Members and Standing Invitees

Full Members		Standing Invitees	
	Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)		International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)		International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)
	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)		American Council for Voluntary International Action (InterAction)
	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)		International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)		Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
	World Food Programme (WFP)		Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (RSG on HR of IDPs)
	World Health Organisation (WHO)		Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR)
			World Bank (World Bank)

THREE PILLARS OF REFORM (and foundation)

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATORS

Ensuring effective
leadership

HUMANITARIAN FINANCING

Adequate, timely and
flexible financing

CLUSTER APPROACH

Adequate capacity and
predictable leadership in
all sectors

FOUNDATION: Strong humanitarian partnerships

PILLAR 3

CLUSTER APPROACH

Adequate capacity and predictable leadership in all sectors

What is a Cluster?

- A group comprising organizations and other stakeholders: UN agencies, Red Cross movement, NGOs, national and local institutions.
- Designated lead agency.
- Organized at both field and global level.
- Accountable to the Emergency Relief Coordinator globally and to the Humanitarian Coordinator at country level.

AIM of the cluster approach

- High standards of **predictability**, **accountability** and **partnership** in all sectors or areas of activity
- Better linkages with Government/national authorities
- More strategic responses
- Better prioritization of available resources

Government/National Authorities

- The host Government has **primary responsibility** for organizing humanitarian response in emergency situations (GA Resolution 46/182)
- **The Sector/Cluster Lead** is responsible for promoting close cooperation and linkages with Government/national authorities

Global Capacity-Building

■ Cluster/Sector Working Group:

- Agriculture
- Camp Coordination & Camp Mgmt
- Early Recovery
- Education in Emergencies
- Emergency Shelter
- Emergency Telecomms
- Health
- Logistics
- Nutrition
- Protection
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

■ Global Cluster Leads:

- FAO
- UNHCR & IOM

- UNDP
- UNICEF & Save the Children
- UNHCR & IFRC (Convenor)
- OCHA (UNICEF & WFP)
- WHO
- WFP
- UNICEF
- UNHCR
- UNICEF

Responsibilities of global cluster leads



■ Normative

- Standard setting and consolidation of 'best practice'

■ Build response capacity

- Training and system development at local, regional and international levels
- Surge capacity and standby rosters
- Material stockpiles

■ Operational Support

- Emergency preparedness
- Advocacy and resource mobilization

Regional Inter-Agency Contingency Planning Workshop for Humanitarian Assistance in the Pacific, Suva, Fiji, 16-18 July 2008

- Total 65 participants
- 19 UN staff from 11 UN agencies
- 11 INGO staff from 11 INGOs
- 5 participants from 3 Red Cross organisations
- 5 participants from 5 education/training institutes
- 14 participants from 5 donor partners
- 11 country representatives (NDMO, MOH)
- 5 facilitators

Objectives of the workshop

Agree on:

- Mechanism for humanitarian assistance in the Pacific
- Priority areas/clusters
- Lead agencies
- Roll out strategy for country level inter agency contingency planning

Specific Context in the Pacific

- High degree of disaster risk
- The vast ocean mass
- Small and scattered population on small islands
- Probable remoteness of affected area
- Assessment difficulties, Logistical constraints
- Regional responders operate from different locations in the Pacific
- Large natural events quickly overwhelm local and national capacities

Challenges for effective & timely response and coordination

Planning assumptions

- Most likely, worst case scenario: Rapid onset natural disaster affecting up to 30,000 people, including displacement, shelter, etc. in multiple locations/countries
- This preparedness capacity should be able to deal with most other (smaller) emergencies (natural and man-made)

Pacific Disaster Response Framework

Humanitarian Pacific Team

-Comprising all disaster response actors in
the region who play regional role



Prioritized Clusters/combining clusters

- (1) Health & Nutrition
- (2) WASH
- (3) Emergency Shelter
& Camp management
- (4) Logistics
- (5) Information Management
- (6) Protection

6 Pacific Priority Clusters

Humanitarian Cluster	Global cluster lead	Pacific cluster lead	Pacific cluster partners
1 Health & Nutrition	WHO & UNICEF	WHO & (UNICEF?)	WHO, UNICEF, USG, Red Cross (RC), UNFPA, WV, UNDP, UNEP, SCF, OXFAM, NZ, AUS, Fiji School of Medicine/Monash
2 Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)	UNICEF	UNICEF	UNICEF, RC, OXFAM, NZ, WV, SCF, USG, JP, WHO, AUS
3 Shelter & Camp Management	IFRC & IOM	IFRC (convener for Shelter) IOM? (for Camp Management)	IFRC, SCF, HFH, WV, Oxfam, NZ, JP, AUS, IOM?
4 Logistics	WFP	WFP?	WFP, Oxfam, Red Cross, USG, Church, FRANZ
5 Information Management	Cross-cutting issue	OCHA	UNOCHA, OXFAM, SCF, RC, USG, UNFPA, UNICEF, Monash/ FSM, UNESCO, FRANZ, SOPAC?, NZCID, ACFID? PIANGO?
6 Protection	UNHCR	UNHCR/UNICEF/OHCHR? (to be determined)	UNHCR, UNICEF, OHCHR, OXFAM, WV, SCF, OCHA, USG, UNFPA, NZ, RC, Churches, UNDSS, AUSAID



■ Cluster leads

- Inter Cluster Coordination
- function as the inter-agency standing committee of the Pacific Humanitarian Team

Health-WHO

WASH-UNICEF

Emergency Shelter-IFRC

Information Management-OCHA

Education-UNICEF/Save the Children

Emergency Telecom-New Zealand RC

Early Recovery-UNDP Samoa

■ Chaired by Resident Coordinator

Information Management

- Baseline information (maps, statistics)
- Standardise assessment tools (review & research international methods)
- Dissemination of tools
- Information co-ordination mechanisms at regional and national level (regional set-up should support national structures)
- Online forum (set up for this cluster)
- Pacific Disaster Net key platform for disaster related info in the region

OCHA response tools

- 24 hour monitoring
- Situation reports
- ReliefWeb
- Donor meetings
- Channeling donor \$
- Inter-agency appeals
- Emergency cash Grants
- Central Register of Disaster Management Capabilities
- MCDA
- Joint UNEP-OCHA Unit
- UN Brindisi Warehouse
- The UNDAC Team
- UNDAC Support Modules
- OSOCC / Virtual OSOCC
- International Urban SAR Teams



OCHA's PRIMARY role in response is co-ordinating international assistance.

OCHA mapping capacity

- OCHA internal capacity
 - Bangkok Regional Office
 - Geneva
 - Reliefweb (updated regularly)
- Partnership with NGOs E.g. MapAction

Help?

Key documents:

- IASC Guidance Note on Cluster Approach
- Specific guidance from global cluster leads

For assistance:

- Humanitarian Reform Support Unit: hrsu@un.org
- MapAction website: www.mapaction.org
- Reform Website: www.humanitarianreform.org

UNOCHA Fiji

- Peter Muller, Regional Disaster Response Adviser (peter.muller@undp.org)
- Minako Kakuma, Humanitarian Affairs Officer (minako_ocha@undp.org)

Pacific Disaster Net:

<http://www.pacificdisaster.net/site/index.html>

Thank you