



Acronym: OCHA

Full Name: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Website: <http://www.ochaopt.org/>

Established: 1991

Location: United Nations Headquarters in New York, main office in Geneva and 30 regional and field offices

Areas of expertise: Protection of civilians, displacement, disaster preparedness and the efficiency of humanitarian response

Main Partners and Collaborations: European Commission, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Canadian International Development Agency, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Irish Aid, Reliefweb, UNISPAL, UNDP/PAPP etc

Short Description:

The mission of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors in order to: alleviate human suffering in disasters and emergencies advocate for the rights of people in need promote preparedness and prevention facilitate sustainable solutions. 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.

Main activities:

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: OCHA provides emergency response tools at the start of a crisis. These include:

- 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,
- 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 and coordination.

Contact:

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