



# Capacity Building for Disaster Response

## OCHA Perspective



# The Challenge

- **Affected Country**
  - Overwhelmed by the disaster
    - Insufficient disaster response capacity
    - Lack of information from affected area
    - Unclear command/control structure
  - Overwhelmed by International response
    - Unclear formulation of requests for assistance
    - Lack of procedures to avoid unsolicited assistance
    - Lack of knowledge of available international capacity
    - Lack of procedures to coordinate international assets
    - Lack of knowledge of international coordination tools and procedures



# 1. GA Resolution 46/182, December 1991

**“Strengthening the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations” by:**

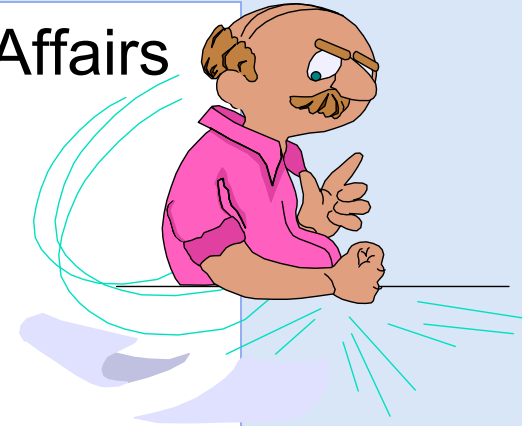
- Creation of Emergency Relief Coordinator
- Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)
- Establishment of the Consolidated Appeal



# The Emergency Relief Coordinator

(GA Resolution 46/182, December 1991)

- Is Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and heads OCHA;
- Processes requests from Member States for emergency assistance;
- Collation and analysis of early-warning information, joint inter-agency needs-assessment and prepares periodic situation reports;
- Facilitates negotiation on access to deliver aid to emergency areas;





# The Emergency Relief Coordinator

(GA Resolution 46/182, December 1991)

- Mobilizes emergency relief capacities;
- Promotes the smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation;
- Chairs the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;
- Manages the world-wide network of Humanitarian Coordinators.

# **i** Response tools available to OCHA

- 24 hours Duty system
- Situation reports
- Donor Meetings
- Appeals
- ReliefWeb
- Emergency Cash Grants
- Environmental Emergency Section
- Register of Disaster Management Capabilities
- UNDAC Team
- UNDAC Support modules
- OSOCC
- Virtual OSOCC
- Surge Capacity
- International Urban SAR Teams
- Military & Civil Defense Assets
- Humanitarian Warehouse
- RDRAs





# Objectives

- Prepare countries to improve the speed and quality of request for international assistance in major disasters
- Prepare disaster-prone countries to make optimal use of internationally available assets in major disasters
- Prepare disaster-prone countries to utilise international tools to coordinate international assistance on-site
- Assist disaster-prone countries in assessing and evaluating the extent of their preparedness to cope with major disasters that require international assistance



## The Way Ahead (1 of 2)

- Awareness building in disaster-prone countries
  - Awareness training for disaster managers (e.g. INSARAG Awareness Training Course)
  - Participation in regional simulation exercises (e.g. INSARAG USAR exercises)
  - Participation in the UNDAC system including participation in the regional UNDAC team
- Analysis of own disaster response capacity
  - OCHA offers analysis by UNDAC experts (free of charge)



## The Way Ahead (2 of 2)

- Disaster-prone countries to interface with the international community
  - Permanent Coordination Focal Points
  - INSARAG Regional Antenna Offices (e.g. Tunis)
    - Awareness building in the region
    - Translation of guidelines and key documents into language of the region)
    - Follow-up of any recommendations for improvement
  - Participate in the Global Disaster Alert and Response Coordination System (GDARCS)
    - Participate in GDARCS workshops and meetings
    - Establishment of GDARCS Antenna Offices
      - Assist in development of disaster information management methodology
      - Assist in awareness building in own country/region
      - Act as coordination/information focal point in disasters
      - in 2005: Antenna offices tentatively planned for Brazil, Fiji, Mongolia, Seychelles, Tunisia