



Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction through Preparedness

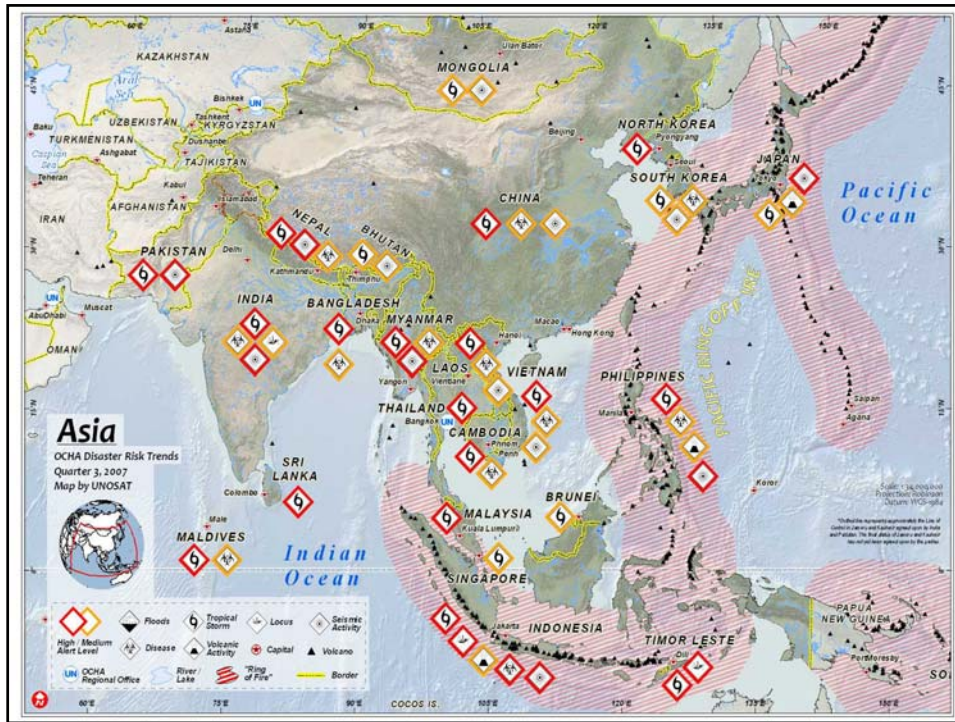
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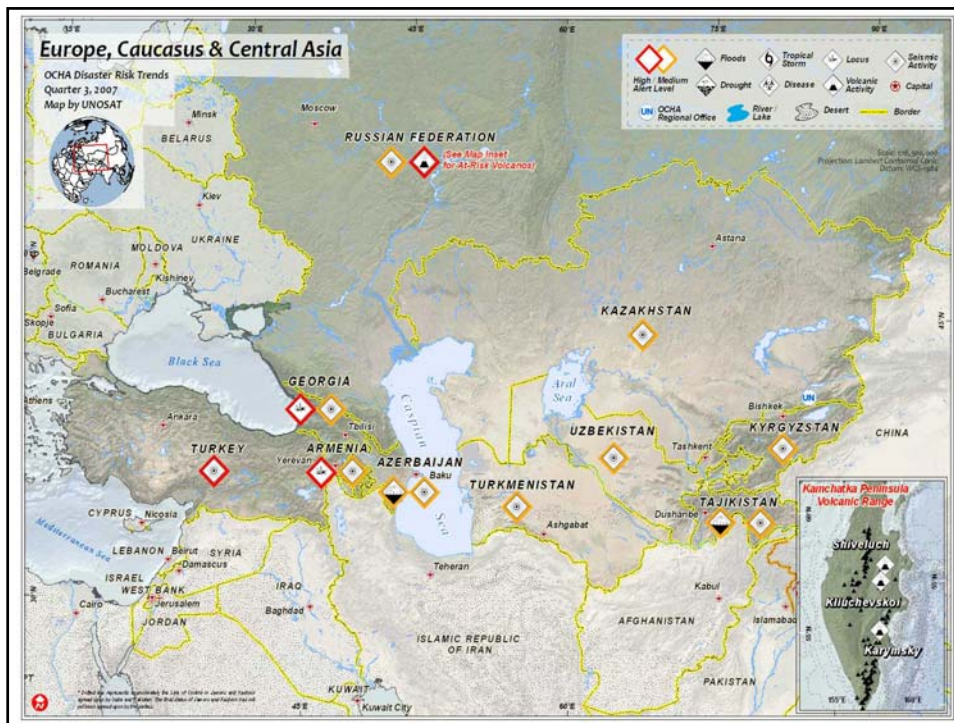


Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction through Preparedness

*Priority 5 of the Hyogo Framework for Action calls for
the “strengthen(ing of) disaster preparedness for
effective response at all levels”.*

**OCHA together with its humanitarian partners – as responders
– and development actors have a responsibility to contribute
to **Priority 5** of the HFA, “preparedness for effective response”**





UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (OCHA)

OCHA - Mandate and Structure

Mandate GA Resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991

Aim To strengthen and improve the overall effectiveness of the UN's humanitarian operations, both in response to complex emergencies as well as disasters

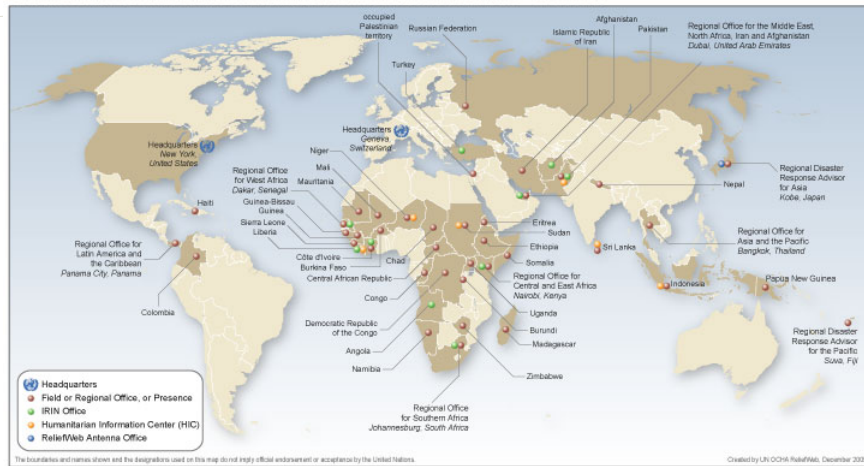
USG for Humanitarian Affairs/ Emergency Relief Coordinator, Sir John Holmes since 2007

A department of the UN Secretariat: the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – OCHA

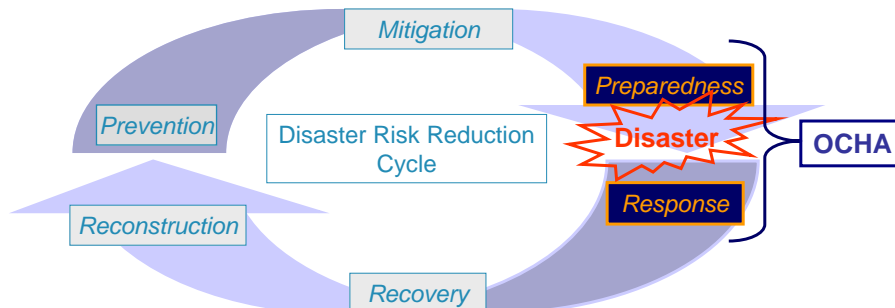


OCHA – Regional presence

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Presence



OCHA's role in disaster preparedness and response





OCHA Emergency Preparedness Section

A dedicated unit based in Geneva to assist in the strengthening of preparedness at all levels :

- ❖ Preparedness of OCHA to respond
- ❖ Preparedness of the international humanitarian community to respond
- ❖ Preparedness of regional and national authorities to respond



What is OCHA doing to support preparedness efforts?

OCHA Regional Offices in Bangkok and Dubai
and
OCHA Regional Disaster Response Advisors Offices in Almaty and Fiji

- ❖ After the Global Platform, our next step is to conduct Strategy Development Workshops on how to support the implementation of HFA Priority 5 at regional and national level



Guiding Principles of Preparedness

- ❖ *Preparedness reduces the impact of disasters and saves lives*

Samiyarpettai and Pudupettai, south coast of Tamil Nadu, India

During the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami Pudupettai lost four times more lives than Samiyarpettai

Just before Samiyarpettai had taken part in preparedness project to build community capacity



Guiding Principles of Preparedness

- ❖ *Preparedness means strong and effective systems and structures in place to respond to needs of the affected*

Assess current systems, legal and institutional frameworks and resources so as to identify gaps

Make sure hazards are identified, mapped and analysed taking special account of vulnerabilities of the populations potentially affected

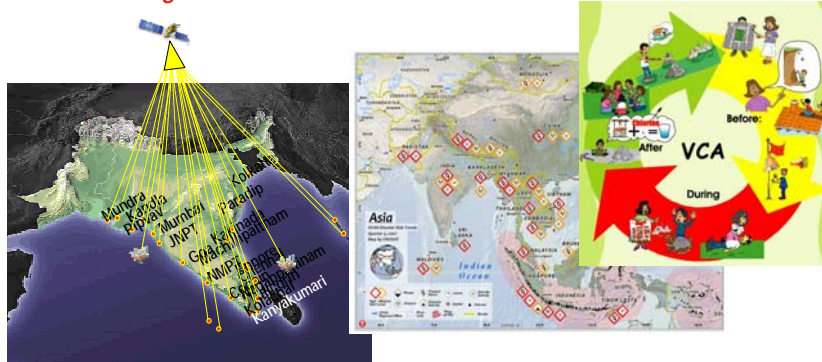
It is vital that preparedness plans include all stakeholders, local populations are often very knowledgeable

Planning is more than a plan – it is a process fostering cooperation and effective response



Guiding Principles of Preparedness

- ❖ *Preparedness should be based on sound risk analysis, early warning, monitoring and dissemination of information*

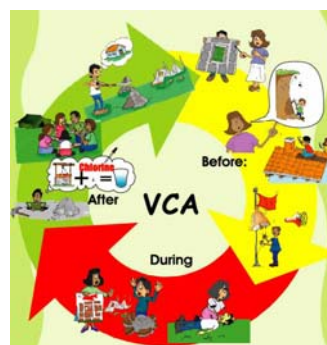


Guiding Principles of Preparedness

- ❖ *Preparedness should be people-centered, people-focused and multi-hazard*

Community-based preparedness and response in Jamaica

- SWOT analysis
- Links to national systems
- Assessment Teams
- Community Disaster plans
- Relief Teams
- Search and Rescue teams
- Emergency first aid
- Equipment





Guiding Principles of Preparedness

- ❖ *Preparedness should build capacity at the local level with links to national and international mechanisms*



Neighborhood Disaster Volunteers, Turkey

A system of 62 neighbourhoods – 2653 volunteers

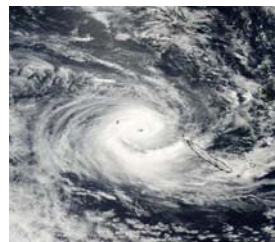
- *Training*
- *Neighborhood Disaster Support Center*
- *Equipment*
- *Public Awareness*
- *Social events*
- *Response*



Guiding Principles of Preparedness

- ❖ *Preparedness should devote particular consideration to the needs of vulnerable groups*

Cuba Hurricane preparedness plans have special allowances for elderly, handicapped and other vulnerable groups. In fact even evacuation of animals are included in order to protect livelihoods





Key Challenges

❖ *Political commitment and political cost*

Preparedness is first and foremost a responsibility of the Governments. Strong commitment is required but can be a difficult political choice

❖ *Funding*

Competing urgent needs makes funding for preparedness difficult but it is worth remembering that...



One dollar invested today in disaster risk reduction saves three to seven dollars in future cost of relief and rehabilitation

An excellent return on investment!



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