

BIGMUN 2024

GA3: Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian (SOCHUM)

Research Report

Topic 2: Overseeing the distribution of humanitarian aid for people during natural disasters.



By Erna Erim and Oliver James Scott

Introduction

Human rights do not vanish when a tsunami, hurricane, earthquake, or any kind of natural disaster occurs. As we have seen with the tsunami in the Indian Ocean, the earthquake in Haiti, and several other catastrophic events, the protection of human rights becomes increasingly crucial during relief and reconstruction operations in order to preserve the dignity of people impacted. In times of crisis, people are most susceptible to abuse and discrimination, thus stopping such actions are essential.

Definition of Key Terms

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA): They provide crisis situation analyses that consider the needs of children, adults, elderly people, and individuals with impairments. This enables the provision of an in-depth analysis of needs. They assist in creating a shared understanding of the humanitarian environment and a coordinated response plan within the humanitarian community.

World Health Organization (WHO): Focuses on offering medical assistance, supplies, and knowledge in the event of a natural disaster.

Background Information:

According to the UN Charter, one of the organization's goals is "to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character." Initially, the UN assisted in the reconstruction of the devastated European continent after World War II.

The world community gradually relies on the Organization for guidance on relief operations in the event of disasters of any kind in places where state authorities are unable to provide adequate assistance.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved:

UNOCHA:

Seeks to ensure that different governments, humanitarian organizations, and other stakeholders coordinate their efforts to guarantee a prompt and efficient response to these disasters. This includes assisting those affected heal and rebuild following natural disasters by mobilizing resources, organizing logistics, distributing aid, and fostering communication among responders. UNOCHA's mission is to lessen human suffering in impacted areas and lessen the effects of disasters.

WHO:

Plays a vital role in providing resources, expertise, and immediate health assistance during natural disasters. The ultimate goals of their work are to protect the public's health and assist impacted communities. They collaborate with local authorities and organizations, evaluate health risks, and help develop preparedness for future disasters.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement:

Is a global network of humanitarians who offer assistance in times of war, natural disasters, and medical emergencies. Their global mission is to reduce suffering and maintain human dignity by offering emergency aid, medical care, preparation for disasters, protection for those in need, and advocacy for compliance with humanitarian law.

Nongovernmental Organizations:

NGOs provide impacted areas with immediate assistance, including food, water, shelter, and medical supplies. They promptly send personnel and assets to the affected areas, providing logistical support, medical attention, and search and rescue services. After the immediate crisis is over, NGOs collaborate to reestablish communities, restore livelihoods, rebuild infrastructure, and aid in their recovery. They attempt to alter policies pertaining to disaster management and response, promote greater preparedness for disasters, and educate the public about the risks involved. They give local communities information and resources, include them in decision-making processes, and strengthen their ability to withstand future disasters.

The United States of America:

The United States frequently offers assistance and support to other nations struck by natural disasters. Financial support, supplies for humanitarian relief, and the dispatch of specialized teams to help with rescue and recovery efforts are all included in this assistance. The United States makes investments in early warning system development, training exercises, and the implementation of strategies to lower risks and lessen the effects of disasters on communities. To improve response plans, better understand natural disasters, and create modern technologies to aid in preparation and recovery, American institutions and organizations conduct research.

European Union (EU) Member States:

Cooperation in disaster response is facilitated by the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, which unites member states of the EU. During crises, they combine assets, personnel, and expertise to guarantee a coordinated and successful response from all points of the globe. The EU's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), which arranges for financial aid and assistance to affected nations both inside and outside the EU, is funded in part by contributions from EU member states. Member states cooperate to assess risks, exchanging knowledge and experience to stop and lessen the effects of natural disasters. They work on creating plans for lowering the risk of disasters and implementing resilience-boosting

techniques. Member states and humanitarian aid organizations play a part in providing aid and support to affected regions both inside and outside of the European Union. Support includes medical teams, supplies, and financial aid.

Japan:

Japan makes significant investments in mitigation and preparedness for disasters. To improve awareness and preparedness for disasters, this includes strict building codes, sophisticated early warning systems, frequent drills, and public education campaigns. When it comes to creating innovative solutions for disaster management, Japan is leading the way. To lessen the effects of natural disasters, it makes use of innovative structural engineering, tsunami barriers, and advanced earthquake detection systems. When a natural disaster strikes, the Japanese government reacts quickly, working with local authorities and emergency services. They swiftly and effectively send rescue teams, medical personnel, and humanitarian aid to the impacted areas. Japan actively takes part in global efforts to cooperate and provide aid during natural disasters. It supports international disaster relief efforts by offering financial assistance, sharing its knowledge, and extending aid to impacted nations.

Australia:

Australia's strategy combines preparedness, quick action, engagement with society, and cross-border cooperation to lessen the effects of natural disasters and assist impacted areas.

United Kingdom:

Many UK-based NGOs, including British Red Cross, Oxfam, and Save the Children UK, actively take part in international disaster response efforts. During natural disasters, such groups frequently work with local partners, governmental organizations, and international organizations to provide relief supplies, aid, and support services to the affected areas. To guarantee a timely and efficient response to such crises, coordination between governmental entities and non-governmental organizations is essential.

Germany:

International humanitarian aid is organized and delivered in large part by the German government, via the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Furthermore, German-based non-governmental organizations, including the German Red Cross, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (German Agro Action), actively take part in global disaster response initiatives. During natural disasters, these groups frequently work with local partners, governmental organizations, and international organizations to provide relief supplies, aid, and support services to the regions impacted. Germany more thoroughly assists in coordinating and distributing aid to areas affected by natural disasters worldwide by providing financial support to international bodies like the United Nations and the European Union. Germany more thoroughly assists in coordinating

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Canada:

Through Global Affairs Canada and the now-integrated Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Canadian government plays a crucial role. During times of crisis, these organizations plan and deliver aid internationally. Organizations with a Canadian base that actively participate in disaster response efforts around the world include CARE Canada, Oxfam Canada, and the Canadian Red Cross. During natural disasters, these groups frequently work with local, national, and international partners to provide relief supplies, aid, and support services to the affected areas. By funding international organizations like the United Nations and endorsing multinational projects centered on disaster relief and recovery.

France:

International humanitarian assistance is coordinated and provided in large part by the French government through its Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, specifically the Directorate-General for Global Affairs, Development and Partnerships (DGM). Global disaster response efforts involve the active participation of French-based non-governmental organizations, including Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), Action Against Hunger (Action Contre la Faim), and the French Red Cross. During natural disasters, these organizations frequently work with governmental bodies, international organizations, and local partners to provide relief supplies, medical care, and other vital services to affected areas. By aiding international organizations like the United Nations and the European Union in their disaster relief efforts, France also makes a contribution to global humanitarian efforts.

Relevant UN Resolutions:

46/182.

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations.

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/582/70/IMG/NR058270.pdf?OpenElement>

70/1.

“Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue:

Based on the information at hand, humanitarian agencies received approximately \$1.29 billion in funding from the international community between April and December 1994. Although precise amounts spent could not be ascertained, it is presumed that during the year under review, spending closely followed allocations. It is likely that the entire response during this nine-month period alone was in the neighborhood of \$1.4 billion if the costs of the various military contingents and private flows not covered by the available data sets are fully taken into consideration. About 86% of the \$1.29 billion in recorded allocations came from official sources, with the remaining amount coming from private donors, most of whom were distributed through national Red Cross Societies, UNICEF National Committees, and NGOs.

<https://www.oecd.org/derec/50189439.pdf>

Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are well known for their excellent work in coordinating activities among programs during recent conflicts in places like Somalia, Haiti, and Bosnia. These organizations provide food, shelter, medicine, and a variety of other supplies and services under incredibly difficult circumstances. Thousands of lives have been saved thanks to humanitarian aid given by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in Africa in recent years. The importance of these initiatives is being acknowledged and valued more and more. Under incredibly trying circumstances, these organizations have provided food, shelter, medicine, and a variety of other supplies and services. In October 1995, the United States Institute of Peace hosted a symposium titled "Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict in Africa" at the request of multiple non-governmental organizations that were worried about the possibility that aid could sometimes worsen conflict instead of bringing about peace. In general, Africans are strong and optimistic. Africans will keep working through their problems and advance the cause of peace. Throughout this journey, international NGOs ought to stay involved with Africans.

<https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/pwks6.pdf>

Possible Solutions:

Donations of money, necessary supplies, and blood can be of great support to those impacted by natural disasters. Still, there are a few things to remember. Such as; donating only the items that are listed, making sure you are suitable for donating blood and you meet the requirements for it.

Another option is for individuals to register with a volunteer organization and offer their assistance. When volunteering, you should be careful and wait to hear from the organization before going there on your own.

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