

OUR VISION

A sustainable and just world, where people are empowered to overcome poverty and hunger and fully realise their rights and potential



**REDUCED HUNGER,
STRONGER RESILIENCE**



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT, INCLUSIVE
ECONOMIC GROWTH**



**BETTER GOVERNANCE,
HUMAN RIGHTS AND
ACCOUNTABILITY**

Ireland's Humanitarian Assistance Policy 2015

To save and protect lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity before, during, and in the aftermath of humanitarian crises

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1. Foreword

The Government is committed to working with partners around the world to save and protect lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity before, during and in the aftermath of humanitarian crises. Our humanitarian assistance is delivered on the ground by our trusted partners – the United Nations, the Red Cross movement and Non-Governmental Organisations - who have demonstrated the experience and capacity to deliver lifesaving assistance to the most vulnerable people in times of crisis. Through Ireland's Rapid Response Initiative, we respond in a very practical way to humanitarian crises by deploying highly-skilled personnel and sending vital emergency supplies to those in need.

Every year, millions of people across the world face a daily struggle for survival due to the devastating impact of natural and man-made crises. The crises come in many forms - from the sudden and horrific devastation caused by earthquakes and tsunamis, to the destruction wrought by war and conflict, to recurring drought and famine. Developing countries are disproportionately affected by these crises and it is always the poorest men, women and children who suffer the most.

Humanitarian needs are rising beyond the capacity of the global community to cope. Conflict is a major driver of humanitarian need, with 80 per cent of humanitarian work now in countries and regions affected by conflict. The number of forcibly displaced people stands at almost 60 million, the highest level since World War II, with increasing numbers seeking refuge in Europe. Increasingly civilians are deliberate targets of war, with people's human rights violated and scant respect for international humanitarian law.

The 'humanitarian space' required to help those in need of aid is being eroded and humanitarian workers are increasingly targeted in situations of conflict. Humanitarian organisations work hard to save people's lives, but the nature of many crises give little prospect of a secure future for the civilians affected. The human and financial cost of humanitarian action is rising every year.

This update to our Humanitarian Policy serves to reflect the current context and Ireland's response. This policy document sets out our approach to understanding and meeting the needs of communities affected by humanitarian crises.

Ireland's response to crises is underpinned by a strong commitment to international humanitarian law and the provision of flexible and timely funding that is based on the humanitarian principles of independence, neutrality, impartiality and humanity. These principles ensure that our humanitarian assistance is targeted, based on need, and provided without discrimination.

Conflict and war have a particularly horrific impact on women and girls, and Ireland will continue to prioritise preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence as a lifesaving action in emergencies. While some conflicts grab the headlines and the attention of the international community, others tend to be forgotten and underfunded – Ireland will work hard to keep a focus on these, particularly in Africa. Vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, the sick and the disabled are more vulnerable to the impact of disasters and we will continue to work to ensure that their needs are taken into account in humanitarian response in a meaningful way.

We recognise that local communities are the first responders in many crises, and we believe in the importance of putting affected people – who themselves are agents of change and self-help - at the centre of humanitarian action. Crises often keep the poor in poverty and make vulnerable groups even more likely to be affected by future crises – Ireland will promote community resilience in order to help these communities cope better with shocks caused by conflict and natural hazards.

Ireland has a strong and committed tradition of humanitarian action, including through the deployment of our Defence Forces to UN peacekeeping operations across the world. We will continue to work with our global and national partners to ensure a coherent approach is taken across all aspects of our work, including our political engagement. This Humanitarian Policy statement is rooted in the values we committed to in our Foreign Policy Review, 'The Global Island' and through our Policy for International Development, 'One World, One Future'. We are confident that it is a commitment of which the Irish people can feel justifiably proud.

Charles Flanagan, T.D.,
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade

Seán Sherlock, T.D.,
Minister of State for Development, Trade Promotion and North-South Cooperation

June 2015

2. Introduction

The Global Island: Ireland's Commitment to Values Based Foreign Policy

The Global Island: Ireland's Foreign Policy for a Changing World, was launched in January 2015. The Review considers how the Government safeguards our peace, security and economic prosperity, and promotes reconciliation and cooperation on the island of Ireland. The protection of our citizens and the promotion of our values and our interests abroad are at the core of Ireland's foreign policy.

The Global Island reaffirms Ireland's principled engagement in foreign policy and our commitment to promoting our values. It sets out Ireland's support for a fairer, more just, more secure and more sustainable world through our development programme, human rights policies, peacekeeping, disarmament and security policies and growing engagement with emerging global issues including climate change.

The Review highlights the serious and growing challenges to international peace and security and the devastating consequences on civilian populations. The changing nature of conflict is impacting negatively on the ability of the United Nations to fulfil its mandate. The Foreign Policy Review recognises that in many parts of the world, inequality and insecurity are linked. The number of humanitarian crises continues to rise while the international humanitarian system is stretched beyond acceptable levels. Many fragile regions and states struggle to emerge from longstanding emergencies.

The Review commits the Irish Government to continuing to promote respect for and adherence to International Humanitarian Law. Ireland also commits to addressing neglected emergencies in parts of Africa which do not always receive public attention. The Review affirms the role Ireland is playing in helping to address humanitarian crises, in the context of natural disasters, conflict situations and chronic emergencies.

Afghanistan police directing traffic in Kabul. Photo: Robin Hammond, Panos



Irish Aid is the Irish Government's official aid programme administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), working on behalf of the Irish people to address poverty, hunger and humanitarian need in some of the poorest countries in the world.

Irland's Policy for International Development

Irland's Policy for International Development (2013) *One World, One Future*, sets out a vision of "a sustainable and just world, where people are empowered to overcome poverty and hunger and fully realise their rights and potential."

Irland's engagement in the International Development agenda is planned around three goals:

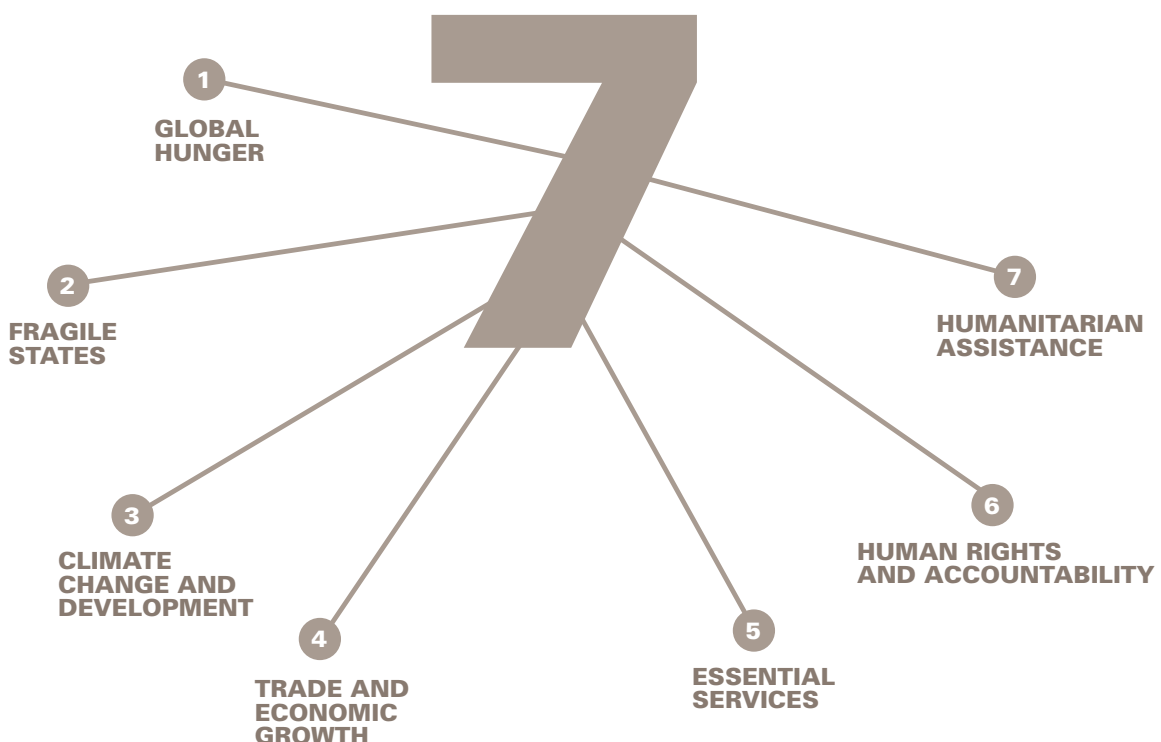
- 1. Reduced hunger, stronger resilience
- 2. Sustainable development, inclusive economic growth
- 3. Better governance, human rights and accountability

In order to deliver on the goals the implementation plan for *One World, One Future*, referred to as the Framework for Action (2014 - 2017), sets out **seven priority areas for action** (listed below).

The provision of humanitarian assistance, necessary to protect and sustain life, continues to form a vital part of Ireland's development cooperation engagement.

Although distinct in nature, it is fully coherent with the strategies for international development outlined in Ireland's Policy, *One World, One Future*.

Seven Priority Areas for Action



Affirming and Consolidating Ireland's Humanitarian Policy

Ireland's Humanitarian Relief Policy (2009) has stood the test of time. It affirmed Ireland's commitment to effective humanitarian assistance and ensured support was consistently provided according to need and need alone, in line with the core humanitarian principles of *humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence*.

Whilst Ireland's Humanitarian Relief Policy (2009) continues to prove relevant, reflections drawn from the experience of implementation indicate that further elaboration of Ireland's humanitarian policy perspective could better reflect today's complex and ever changing context, and articulate how Ireland has kept pace. These reflections were reinforced by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Peer Review of Ireland's international development cooperation programme in 2014.

Ireland's humanitarian policy will continue to be guided by the humanitarian principles of *humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence* and Ireland's commitment to Good Humanitarian Donorship. It is underpinned by the commitments made by Ireland under the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid (2007) and continues to be informed by a respect for human rights and the international legal frameworks which exist to help define and protect the rights of individuals and the responsibilities of States with regard to humanitarian relief.

Ireland recognises that humanitarian relief assistance, which addresses acute need, forms part of a broader humanitarian response which takes longer term objectives into account and addresses the core vulnerabilities of disaster prone and crises-affected communities before, during and after an acute crisis.

The new policy captures the importance of linking preparedness, relief, early recovery and development, a commitment to work in situations of fragility as well as a focus on evidence, accountability and impact.

This Humanitarian Assistance Policy outlines:

- › The global humanitarian context;
- › The fundamental principles which underpin Ireland's approach to humanitarian assistance; and
- › Ireland's approach to addressing humanitarian need.

BOX 1:

The Humanitarian Principles

Ireland's first Humanitarian Relief Policy was agreed in 2009. The overall goal was "to save and protect lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during and in the aftermath of humanitarian crises". The policy was guided by the four core humanitarian principles, which provide the foundations for humanitarian action:

- › **Humanity**, meaning the centrality of saving human lives and alleviating suffering wherever it is found;
- › **Impartiality**, meaning the implementation of actions solely on the basis of need, without discrimination between or within affected populations;
- › **Neutrality**, meaning that humanitarian action must not favour any side in an armed conflict or other dispute where such action is carried out; and
- › **Independence**, meaning the autonomy of humanitarian objectives from the personal, political, publicity, economic, military or other objectives that any government or agency may hold with regard to areas where humanitarian action is being implemented.

The centrality of these four principles to humanitarian response is formally enshrined in UN General Assembly Resolutions 46/182 (1991) and 58/114 (2004). The General Assembly has repeatedly reaffirmed the importance of promoting and respecting these principles within the framework of humanitarian assistance. Adherence to the principles is critical in order to distinguish humanitarian action from the activities and objectives of political, military and other actors, and the principles are central to establishing and maintaining access to affected people, whether in a natural disaster or a complex emergency, such as armed conflict. There are multiple pressures on humanitarian actors to compromise humanitarian principles, such as providing humanitarian aid as part of efforts to achieve political ends. Maintaining principled humanitarian action in the face of these pressures is an essential task, but not an easy one. Commitment to the principles will continue to remain at the core of Ireland's humanitarian policy.

BOX 2:

Reflections on Ireland's Humanitarian Relief Policy (2009)

Since the publication of Ireland's Humanitarian Relief Policy in 2009, we have learnt from implementation and formal reviews and evaluations of our humanitarian response and on this basis we have continuously updated and adapted our internal mechanisms in order to better respond to humanitarian emergencies. Some key features of Ireland's programme of support and innovations during this period include:

- › **Advocacy for humanitarian principles:** Ireland's commitment to the humanitarian principles has led to Ireland being one of the major advocates of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid and the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) initiative. Ireland has a strong record globally as a humanitarian donor with a commitment to good practice, quality, effectiveness and results.
- › **Compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL):** In Ireland's view the greatest current obstacle to the protection of victims of armed conflict is the frequent failure by both the armed forces of States and non-State armed groups to respect the existing rules of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). This failure may occur for a number of reasons: lack of knowledge of the law, absence of political will to ensure respect for the law or, indeed, tolerance or promotion of a culture of impunity. Promoting compliance with IHL is essential to ensure that much of the human suffering occurring in temporary armed conflicts – particularly the suffering of civilians – does not happen. Our experience also shows that the provision of humanitarian assistance and promotion and protection of human rights are complementary activities, bearing in mind the very different mandates of human rights and humanitarian organisations.
- › **Support for coherent response mechanisms:** We have been prominent in the humanitarian reform process and a supporter of the more recent Transformative Agenda in both policy and financial terms. Ireland has strongly supported the central role of the UN in improving coordination of humanitarian response at field level, is one of the primary funders of the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and provides funding to the UN Common Humanitarian Funds to support protracted and forgotten humanitarian crises. Ireland is active in ensuring effective oversight of the management of these funds, and will chair the UN Pooled Funds Working Group in 2015.
- › **Adjusting the way we do business:** We have comprehensively reformed our own internal mechanisms in order to better respond to humanitarian emergencies and ensure our humanitarian assistance is directed to where needs are greatest, with particular emphasis on targeting forgotten or under-funded emergencies. Ireland has put in place innovative pre-positioned funding mechanisms with a number of significant humanitarian partners which provide predictable and flexible funding to sudden onset and protracted crises. Irish Aid also carries out an annual '*categorisation of need*' assessment which identifies the highest priority humanitarian crises by country or region (see Box 5).
- › **Strengthening the Rapid Response Initiative:** Ireland's Rapid Response Initiative is an operational tool designed to contribute to Ireland's overarching humanitarian goal of saving and protecting lives by filling critical gaps in the international humanitarian system. It seeks to respond in a practical way to humanitarian crises and emergency situations by deploying highly-skilled personnel and sending emergency supplies and relief items to a disaster zone in the aftermath of a crisis.

BOX 2 (continued):

Further Reflections on Ireland's Humanitarian Relief Policy (2009)

Further key features of Ireland's programme of support and innovations include:

- › **Protection:** Ireland affirms its commitment to ensuring the centrality of protection in humanitarian action. The imperative to protect people lies at the heart of humanitarian action, and protection must inform all humanitarian decision-making and response. Protection must be prioritised from day one in any humanitarian response, with a particular focus on the differing protection needs of vulnerable groups including children, women, people with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older people, minority groups and displaced populations. Ireland believes that the primary responsibility to protect people in humanitarian situations lies with States and that in situations of armed conflict, non-State parties to conflict are obliged to protect persons affected and at risk in accordance with international humanitarian law.
- › **Protection of women and girls in emergencies:** Through dedicated policy, programming and advocacy efforts, Ireland has prioritised the protection of women and girls in emergencies and the prevention of and response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence. Almost without exception, there is an increase in SGBV during and after natural and man-made disasters and in situations of conflict. Sexual violence is often deliberately and systematically used as a weapon of war. Engaging men and boys is critical to the prevention of and response to SGBV. Ireland affirms that the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls is in itself a life-saving action which needs to be an essential part of every humanitarian operation.
- › **Focus on Resilience:** Resilience is the ability of people and communities, as well as countries, to withstand setbacks such as extreme weather events like flooding, an outbreak of violence, or an unexpected dip in income. Being resilient means you are better prepared, better able to cope and better placed to recover. Drawing on Ireland's own unique development experience in the area of hunger, nutrition and food security, Ireland advocates for and supports international efforts to seize opportunities to build resilience at individual, community and national level, even while saving lives in times of crisis. Forging stronger links between relief, rehabilitation and development to build resilience was a priority area of focus during Ireland's Presidency of the European Union, January – June 2013.
- › **Focus on Fragile States and Situations:** Many emergency needs stem from chronic situations in fragile and conflict affected states, not sudden crises. Ireland recognises that humanitarian action is only one component of the international community's broader support for addressing needs in a fragile situation. Since 2009 Ireland has made much progress in articulating a vision and an approach to working in fragile states and situations which is aligned with the concepts of the *New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States*, founded on the idea of national ownership and on a relationship between partner countries and donors based on trust and mutually agreed goals. A Fragile States Team has been established to facilitate a coherent approach to the various strands of work undertaken by the Department of Foreign Affairs Trade in support of the Fragile States Agenda (for example, humanitarian action, development cooperation, peace-keeping, conflict resolution, human rights and other relevant policy areas).

3. Key Challenges

Providing appropriate and effective humanitarian assistance will always be challenging. Ireland is determined to keep abreast of the challenges faced by the international humanitarian system and is fully committed to the need to adapt to a rapidly changing global context, while at the same time maintaining the quality and relevance of both our policy-making and funding.

The Challenge of a Changing Humanitarian Context

A key challenge for the international humanitarian community will be to keep up with the significant pace of the changing global context and the increasing demand for effective humanitarian response and resources.

Many of the advances made through development investments can be eroded or lost due to the increasing frequency and recurring nature of crises. It is predicted that the nature and intensity of natural hazards will continue to increase as climate change generates more severe and more frequent weather-related events. The world also faces new types of hazards such as pressures from population growth; climate change; environmental degradation; excessive food price volatility and fluctuating fuel prices; the threat of pandemics such as Ebola; rapid and unplanned urbanisation; increasingly complex conflicts; and a proliferation of violent non-state actors.

Developing countries are disproportionately affected by disasters and within these countries it is the poorest men, women and children who suffer the most significant human and economic losses. Furthermore, conflict is a key cause of world hunger and humanitarian need. According to the World Bank, some 1.5 billion people in an estimated 40 countries live in an environment marked by persistent conflict and fragility. The changing nature of violent and protracted conflicts around the world is putting increased numbers of civilians at risk and forcibly displacing millions of people from their homes, internally and across borders. The nature of armed conflict is changing, with violence becoming regionalised. Conflicts in today's world have a major impact on civilians, who are killed, injured, forced to leave their house and subjected to sexual violence and abuse during the course of fighting. Increasingly, civilians, including humanitarian workers, are deliberate targets of war, with people's human rights and humanitarian law violated with impunity.

The Challenge of Coordinating International Humanitarian Response

Humanitarian action has become much more frequent and visible over the last 15-20 years, not only in response to natural disasters but also to respond to the changing face of conflicts and violence. More often than not, the capacity of disaster-affected countries to withstand and respond to 'shocks' becomes overwhelmed. There is increasing recognition of the need to build this local response capacity. In many cases, external assistance is required to effectively support and coordinate activities.

Normally, when external capacity is required, the stakeholders and processes within the international humanitarian system are mobilised and deployed to support humanitarian response. In these situations, Ireland supports the primary role of the United Nations (UN) in coordinating, responding to and managing this external humanitarian assistance in consultation with national governments and local authorities.

Humanitarian response involves the coordination of multiple stakeholders: international and national agencies; large and small organisations with complex global mandates; private sector; international donors; and local organisations that serve populations at the community level.

Furthermore, there has been an increased involvement of new and emerging donors and new actors, including business, in humanitarian crises. There is a key challenge to engage with the new donors and actors, be open to their contribution, while seeking to promote the fundamental importance of the humanitarian principles; the need to support national and local government leadership (where possible); a commitment to capacity building, coordination, common humanitarian assessments and accountability to beneficiaries; and protecting 'humanitarian space'.

Coordinating the actions of so many stakeholders within a changing context remains a challenge.

The Challenge of Being Fast and Effective: The Humanitarian Reform Agenda

The Humanitarian Reform process was initiated by the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, together with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) in 2005 to improve the effectiveness of the international humanitarian system through greater predictability, accountability, responsibility and partnership.

Since 2005, the Humanitarian Reform process made some positive progress in two key areas: (i) Coordination has been reinforced at the global, national and sub-national levels according to an agreed division of labour under what is called the Cluster Approach led by in-country Humanitarian Coordinators; (ii) Humanitarian financing has seen improvement with the creation of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

Despite these reforms, the humanitarian system continues to face challenges and it is important to continue to strengthen capacity for leadership and coordination and promote more responsive funding mechanisms. In addition, further effort is required to ensure local ownership including building national disaster management capacity and facilitation of access to resources for local civil society.

The 'Transformative Agenda' refers to the processes underway within the UN to further address the operational challenges related to the humanitarian reform process and is focused on the three key areas of Leadership, Coordination and Accountability.

The 'Transformative Agenda' is also meant to improve coordinated responses that are informed by, meet the needs of, and are accountable to, affected populations.

Dollo Ado Refugee Camp, Ethiopia. Photo: UNHCR



The Challenge of Linking Humanitarian Response with Ongoing Development Efforts

With the confluence of global trends– such as climate change, financial and food price crises, population growth and urbanisation, conflict and displacement, and the challenges of mixed migration – the reality for many poor communities is the erosion of coping strategies and heightened vulnerability to recurrent and protracted crises. In these difficult contexts, where chronic poverty, violations of human rights and exposure to multiple shocks and stresses intersect, humanitarian and development needs co-exist. Therefore, humanitarian and development agencies need to join efforts to address root causes, reinforce local capacity and find sustainable solutions.

However, 'linking relief and development' is inherently difficult. While they often share common goals and objectives, differences have become embedded in a divided aid architecture, each wing of which has its own terminology, procedures and decision making fora. Four key challenges to realising the synergies between relief and development are: different timeframes; inflexible funding modalities; separate analytical/conceptual frameworks; and entrenched institutional barriers.

The complex context of chronic poverty and vulnerability demands that both the humanitarian and development communities look afresh at what we do and how we work together to assist people and their societies to prevent, withstand and recover from shocks and stresses.

The Challenge of Proving Results: An Evidence Base for Humanitarian Action

Humanitarian aid effectiveness and the impact of humanitarian assistance is a key question for all of the stakeholders involved in humanitarian assistance, including partner governments, donors, implementing agencies and the affected population.

Developing a solid empirical evidence base for humanitarian assistance has not been easy. Some of the challenges include: difficult issues of causality and attribution; a lack of basic data; the pressure for immediate action in situations of immediate crisis; the shorter time frame for humanitarian programming; constraints of security and access in complex and volatile environments; and the risk that an onus on 'measurement' could lead to reduced operational effectiveness and neglect of important areas such as safety and protection, given that they are harder to measure.

Furthermore, given the diversity of operational contexts and their dynamic nature (sudden onset; protracted crises; natural disasters; conflict related; complex political; food and nutrition insecurity; etc.) there is no real consensus around the type of evidence that is acceptable or what 'impact' means in a humanitarian context.

Nonetheless, pressure for an improved evidence base and analysis of the impact of humanitarian assistance has grown in line with the increase in resources allocated to the sector, and a broader focus on results, performance and overall value for money in the public sectors of donor governments. Tools and methods for improving the measurement and analysis of the impact of humanitarian aid do exist and there is a growing body of emerging and evolving best practice. Increased emphasis on including the views of beneficiaries and being accountable to them has supported the need for better oversight. In order to build on progress made to date, the humanitarian system will need to scale-up investment in the skills, capacity and resources needed to research, use and develop these existing tools.

BOX 3:

The International Humanitarian Response System

The 'international humanitarian system' is not a formal structure. It includes a wide range of agencies and organisations as well as various mechanisms and processes which together aim to support and protect all those affected by an emergency.

In most modern contexts, the international humanitarian system works together with the **national governments and local authorities of the affected states** who have the primary responsibility for humanitarian action. **Communities and local organisations** are often the first to respond, particularly in sudden onset crises and have a critical role in preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation.

In states with few resources or in situations of fragility, the international humanitarian system may work largely on its own or together with national partners.

Three main parts of the international system can be highlighted:

- › **The United Nations:** Internationally, humanitarian assistance is undertaken by a range of operational UN agencies, according to their individual mandates. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has a particular role in the coordination of international humanitarian assistance on the ground and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) plays a specific role in refugee emergencies. The UN system has a particular role in strengthening national capacity to coordinate and respond.
- › **The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement:** The movement consists of three parts: the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies. The Movement is valued for its neutrality, impartiality and independence, its commitment to international humanitarian law and its unparalleled access during times of conflict and other situations of violence.
- › **Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs):** National and international NGOs represent a key group within the humanitarian community. They play a vital role in delivering humanitarian action and in mobilising public support and voluntary contributions for emergency assistance. These organisations, especially local ones, often have strong links with community groups in developing countries.

A new wave of actors is increasingly at the centre of humanitarian response including regional organisations, local and national NGOs, faith-based organisations, academia and private companies. The **private sector's** involvement in humanitarian action has risen steadily in the last decade, in many cases offering innovative solutions to humanitarian problems.

Government donors play a vital role in influencing humanitarian action through funding decisions/mechanisms and policy formulation. Although the majority of humanitarian funding is still provided by OECD DAC donors, funding comes from a diverse array of sources including new and emerging donors such as the Gulf States, recipients-as-donors, private remittances and the diaspora.

4. Ireland's Humanitarian Assistance Policy Statement

Policy Goal

The overall goal of Ireland's humanitarian assistance policy is "to save and protect lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity before, during, and in the aftermath of humanitarian crises."

Guiding Principles

The implementation of Ireland's humanitarian assistance policy will be informed by the following guiding principles:

- I. Ireland respects and promotes the fundamental principles of **humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence**. In practice, this means that Ireland's humanitarian assistance targets its support on the basis of need, and that such assistance is administered impartially and without discrimination. The specificity of humanitarian action is a core commitment of the Irish Government and will continue to be treated as a distinct area of work, independent of other foreign policy objectives.
- II. Ireland respects and promotes the implementation of **International Humanitarian Law, Refugee Law and Human Rights Law** as they relate to both the delivery and receipt of humanitarian assistance.
- III. Ireland respects and reaffirms **the primary responsibility of the state** for respecting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of its citizens to receive humanitarian assistance.
- IV. Ireland **respects the rights and dignity of crisis-affected communities and people**. Ireland will ensure that the human dignity and preferences of these individuals, communities and affected states are respected and preserved. Ireland supports local communities through our implementing partners who deliver humanitarian assistance in support of these communities. Ireland recognises the important role of communities as first responders and advocates for their inclusion in preparedness, decision making and monitoring of humanitarian assistance. Ireland will seek to help empower these groups.
- V. Ireland supports and promotes **the central role of the United Nations** in providing leadership and coordination of international humanitarian engagement and in particular the role of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- VI. Ireland recognises the authority of **the International Committee of the Red Cross**, provided for under International Humanitarian Law, and supports the unique and complementary role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- VII. Ireland supports the important role played by experienced and professional **Non-Governmental Organisations** in the provision of humanitarian assistance.

- VIII. **The protection of vulnerable groups** in emergencies is a key policy priority for Ireland's humanitarian assistance. In particular, Ireland affirms that the prevention of and response to gender-based violence is in itself a life-saving action which needs to be an essential part of every humanitarian operation.
- IX. In all of our work, Ireland remains committed to ensuring that issues of **gender, protection, governance, the environment, and HIV and AIDS** (where context relevant) are at the centre of planning, implementation and evaluation.
- X. In responding to need, Ireland recognises that **individual vulnerabilities and differentiated responses** must be taken into account. From the outset, special attention is therefore paid to the differing needs of, for example, women, children, the elderly, the sick, persons affected or living with HIV and AIDS, and people with disabilities. Ireland also recognises that vulnerable groups are potential agents for change and a resource for self-help, not merely passive victims of disasters.
- XI. Ireland will seek to ensure that we **'do no harm'** through our humanitarian efforts. Conflict sensitivity, environmental management and understanding the political economy are of critical importance when planning humanitarian interventions.
- XII. The approach of Ireland to the use of foreign **military and civil protection assets and capabilities** in natural and complex crises is that they should be used only in limited circumstances in support of humanitarian relief operations. This approach is informed by the 1994 Oslo Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief and the 2003 Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets to Support United Nations Humanitarian Activities in Complex Emergencies and reaffirmed in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid (2007).
- XIII. Ireland recognises the requirement that the **scale of a response** should be commensurate with the scale of need and available resources.
- XIV. Ireland recognises that humanitarian relief assistance, which addresses acute need, forms part of a broader humanitarian response which takes **longer term objectives** into account and addresses the core vulnerabilities of disaster prone and crises-affected communities before, during and after an acute crisis.
- XV. Ireland recognises that **fragile states and situations face particular challenges in a wide range of domains** (e.g., provision of physical security, legitimate political institutions, sound economic management and the delivery of social services), indicating the need for a mix of actors, instruments, incentives and interventions.
- XVI. Ireland is committed to developing and upholding **agreed international standards** in relation to humanitarian assistance.

BOX 4:**A Focus on Vulnerable Groups**

A vulnerability approach to disasters shows that inequalities in access to resources, capabilities and opportunities systematically disadvantage certain groups of people, rendering them more vulnerable to the impact of humanitarian disasters. As detailed in the Sphere Project Handbook (2011), women, children, older people, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV and AIDS, displaced people and minority groups may be denied vital assistance or the opportunity to be heard due to physical, cultural and/or social barriers. Experience has shown that treating these people as a long list of 'vulnerable groups' can lead to fragmented and ineffective actions.

Through our advocacy, appraisal tools, and programming and funding decisions, Ireland seeks to ensure that a differentiated approach to humanitarian response is adopted and that in all aspects of the relief effort, special measures are taken to ensure the inclusion of those who are hard to reach.

Focus on gender

Humanitarian emergencies affect women and girls differently from men and boys. Women in situations of armed conflict, civil unrest or natural disasters often lose their capacity to sustain their family's livelihood. Women often still carry the responsibility of meeting their family's day-to-day survival needs, but with greatly limited access to resources. During natural and man-made emergencies, women and girls are particularly vulnerable to all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including physical abuse and exploitation, rape and early and forced marriage.

Focus on children

The Convention on the Rights of the Child states that a child is considered to be an individual below the age of 18 years. Children often form a larger percentage of an affected population. In disaster situations, in addition to the most basic needs of food, water and shelter, children are always the most vulnerable to the effects of malnutrition and disease. Other risks that threaten the wellbeing of children include: separation from their families or other caregivers; recruitment into armed forces or groups; economic exploitation; physical or sexual abuse; gender-based violence; and psychological distress.

Focus on people with disabilities

Approximately 15% of the world's population has one or more disability making them the largest minority group. Of these, 80% live in developing countries or areas at a high risk of humanitarian emergency (World Report on Disability, WHO, 2011). People with disabilities are more likely to be left behind or abandoned during evacuation in disasters and conflicts due to a lack of preparation and planning, as well as inaccessible facilities, services and transportation systems. During crises, people with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Focus on people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS

The impact of a humanitarian crisis on HIV transmission depends on existing HIV prevalence rates and the capacity of the government, international agencies, donors and civil society to respond. In the context of a high HIV and AIDS prevalence rate, the effects of poverty, powerlessness and social instability are intensified during a crisis, increasing people's vulnerability to HIV transmission. Migration, displacement and the collapse of social systems are all factors that contribute to increased risk and vulnerability to HIV and AIDS. Military forces, other armed groups or those responding to crises can contribute to increased HIV transmission. Furthermore, the health infrastructure may be greatly stressed and inadequate supplies of medicines may hamper HIV and AIDS prevention and/or treatment efforts.

Focus on older people

Older people are particularly vulnerable and face specific threats from man-made and natural disasters that differ from those of younger members of a community. Older age brings reduced mobility and muscle strength, impaired sight and hearing, and greater vulnerability to heat and cold. Minor conditions can quickly become major handicaps that overwhelm a person's ability to cope. These require special consideration, in particular in the areas of physical and mental health, nutrition and access to essential services.

Policy Objective

1

To provide needs-based humanitarian assistance in a way that is predictable and flexible, to respond to sudden onset, protracted and forgotten humanitarian crises.

At the operational level Ireland responds to humanitarian crises by: contributing funds to trusted implementing partners who have local capability and specialist knowledge; deploying experts with required skills to our standby implementing partners; and providing appropriate and cost-effective relief supplies, such as, tarpaulins, family tents and water containers.

OECD DAC Peer Review, 2014

“Ireland takes an objective approach to determining geographical priorities and areas of greatest need. Ireland’s prioritisation model is also used to detect and monitor deteriorating situations, highlighting areas where early funding is required.”

What We Will Do

- › In deciding which partners and actions to support, Ireland chooses partners and programmes which best address the needs of the affected population in the identified priority countries in a timely manner. Ireland will continue to channel the majority of our humanitarian assistance through our trusted implementing partners: (i) selected United Nations agencies; (ii) the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and (iii) established humanitarian Non-Government Organisation (NGO) partners. These partners often have long-term relationships with governments and communities affected by crises and can deliver professional and effective responses quickly. They can provide life-saving assistance across a number of sectors according to established humanitarian principles and standards.
- › Where possible, Ireland encourages international organisations to work with and strengthen the capacity of national authorities and civil society organisations. Ireland will continue to explore strategic partnerships for the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance.
- › Ireland is committed to the allocation of funds on the basis of acute humanitarian need. We will ensure funding decisions are timely and are informed by Ireland’s annual ‘categorisation of needs’ exercise (see Box 5) taking into consideration threats, vulnerabilities and capacities of individuals, communities and affected countries.
- › Ireland will continue to pay special attention to so-called ‘forgotten emergencies’ – i.e. those situations where the crisis continues but no longer commands the attention of the world’s media or international community and where funding levels are low.
- › Effective humanitarian action should be informed by the priorities of, and owned by, the intended beneficiaries, reinforcing their existing capacity to respond. Ireland will ensure through our appraisal, monitoring and evaluation systems that humanitarian assistance builds upon and reinforces existing local capacities of the affected communities, addresses their identified needs, and ensures accountability to those affected. Putting disaster-affected people at the heart of humanitarian response is the overarching theme of the Irish Humanitarian Summit (July 2015).

BOX 5:**Making Decisions on Who, What and Where to Fund**

Ireland's humanitarian assistance is directed to where needs are greatest, with particular emphasis on targeting forgotten and silent emergencies. Ireland's Development Cooperation Division within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, carries out an annual 'categorisation of need' assessment which identifies the highest priority humanitarian crises by country or region.

While there is no scientific approach to establishing and comparing needs across countries and no one agreed source of information, Ireland draws on a variety of sources of information to develop a categorisation of geographic priorities. These sources include:

- 1) UN Strategic Response Plans and percentage funding level
- 2) UN needs assessment reports
- 3) NGO early warning and needs assessment reports
- 4) Famine Early Warning Systems Network
- 5) Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED)
- 6) EU Vulnerability Index
- 7) ECHO Global Needs Assessment and Forgotten Crises
- 8) Global Hunger Index
- 9) UNICEF Multi-Indicator Cluster Surveys
- 10) ECHO Daily Flash Updates
- 11) OCHA situation reports and updates
- 12) Internal monitoring reports

Based on an analysis of this information, Ireland develops a categorisation matrix of geographic priorities on an annual basis to guide funding decisions across the humanitarian portfolio. This is done at the end of each calendar year and is regularly updated throughout the year as the global humanitarian situation is constantly evolving. This process helps ensure that Ireland's funding decisions are based on the most up-to-date information and remain focused on the most acute humanitarian crises, including forgotten and underfunded emergencies. The categorisation matrix is shared with our partners.

- › Ireland will ensure that equitable attention is paid to the needs and risks of the most vulnerable people and groups including women, children, the elderly, persons living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, and people with disabilities. Collecting and using sex and age-disaggregated data is a minimum requirement. This will be emphasised as part of Ireland's appraisal and monitoring of partner responses to emergencies. In addition, all our humanitarian efforts will be guided by the Sphere Standards which make specific references to the particular needs of vulnerable groups and people.
- › Ireland will honour our commitment to addressing the needs of women and girls in emergencies. Promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women will be key to this. We will progressively increase funding for the delivery of programmes that protect women and girls in emergency and recovery contexts over the coming years. As part of this commitment, Ireland will ensure that gender, and sexual and gender-based violence issues are addressed across all our humanitarian efforts through the twin-track approach of mainstreaming and funding specific Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) prevention and response operations. Ireland will target support to conduct research, promote operational guidance and develop good practice in this priority area.

- Ireland will support the Good Humanitarian Donorship principle of ensuring predictable, flexible and timely funds to the UN, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs through the use of un-earmarked core funding, pooled mechanisms and innovative funding instruments.
- Through Ireland's Rapid Response Initiative Ireland will enhance our operational response to humanitarian crises. We will continue to make available a roster of highly experienced and specialised personnel, for deployment at short notice to both sudden onset and protracted emergency situations. Ireland will also continue to pre-position and transport essential and appropriate humanitarian relief supplies through the UN Humanitarian Response Depots (UNHRD) Network to sudden onset, protracted and forgotten humanitarian crises.

Balangiga elementary school, Eastern Samar, Philippines. Photo: Irish Aid



BOX 6:**Illustration of Ireland's Commitment to Timely, Predictable and Flexible Funding Mechanisms**

Ireland is committed to providing flexible, predictable and coordinated humanitarian funding using innovative instruments delivered through a range of partners to manage risk and vulnerability, address humanitarian needs in protracted crisis and support recovery activities in post-conflict and disaster contexts. Over the past number of years Ireland has demonstrated this commitment through a number of funding mechanisms:

Funding for UN Agencies

- › Ireland has prioritised our UN humanitarian funding allocations through inter-agency pooled funding mechanisms such as the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF); UN Strategic Response Plans (SRPs); and Common Humanitarian Funds (CHFs), to promote early action and response in sudden on-set emergencies and to strengthen humanitarian response in protracted and underfunded crises. On average, over 40% of Ireland's humanitarian funds are allocated to the CERF, SRPs and CHFs. Ireland is one of the top ten donors to the CERF. We believe these funding instruments play a key role in improving the speed of response to humanitarian situations as well as in addressing forgotten and under-funded emergencies.
- › In line with best practice, Ireland provides unearmarked core funding to a number of UN humanitarian agencies including the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP), the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and others. This flexible funding is allocated on the basis of need and can be used to support humanitarian operations.
- › Ireland has a Strategic Partnership Agreement (2013-2015) with World Food Programme (WFP), including dedicated financial support and regular policy engagement. This relationship is led by Ireland's Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine.
- › Ireland supports the central coordination role played by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in humanitarian emergencies, provides core funding on an annual basis to OCHA and engages as an active member of the OCHA Donor Support Group.

Funding for NGOs

- › Ireland places importance on working with trusted NGO partners to deliver assistance, and provides significant and predictable funding to key NGO partners to support their strategic plans for humanitarian preparedness and response in protracted and predictable crises through the Humanitarian Programme Plan funding mechanism (see Box 11).
- › Ireland provides pre-positioned funding to selected NGO partners through the Emergency Response Funds Scheme (ERFS) to promote early action and response to time-crucial requirements based on demonstrable needs in sudden onset humanitarian crises or spikes in an existing protracted crisis.
- › Ireland implements a systematic approach to proactively initiate a 'Call for Proposals' to NGO partners to respond rapidly and effectively to sudden onset disasters or deteriorations in protracted emergency situations. The call for proposals mechanism has been issued for crises such as the Horn of Africa, the Sahel, Mali, Central African Republic, Syria, South Sudan and the Philippines.
- › Ireland earmarks funding to support invited NGO partners work in a number of specialised thematic areas that are policy priorities for Ireland (e.g. Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Mine Action).

BOX 6 (continued):**Illustration of Ireland's Commitment to Timely, Predictable and Flexible Funding Mechanisms****Funding for NGOs (continued)**

- Ireland supports the Start Fund which enables pre-approved NGO partners to rapidly access response funding within 72 hours of an emergency alert. It is focused on working with national organisations to respond quickly to neglected emergencies where international interest is low but human suffering high.
- Ireland works to ensure coherence between the various NGO funding schemes managed by Irish Aid in support of both development and humanitarian assistance. We seek to ensure that our longer term, multi-annual development funding for NGOs is responsive to the changing needs in the context of chronic poverty, vulnerability and protracted crisis situations.

Funding for Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

- Ireland supports the special mandate and complementary role of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in situations of crisis and conflict. Ireland became a member of the ICRC Donor Support Group (DSG) in 2007, joining the core group of donors providing annual guaranteed funding to the ICRC of over CHF10 million.
- Ireland supports the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) which plays a key role in disaster risk management for natural disasters and health emergencies. Through our support to IFRC, Ireland supports the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) contributing funds to assist humanitarian efforts on the ground through the national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, including the Irish Red Cross.

World Refugee Day at Kobe Camp, Dollo Ado, Ethiopia. Photo: UNHCR



BOX 7:

Ireland's Rapid Response Initiative

The Rapid Response Initiative has become an integral part of the way in which Ireland prepares for and responds to humanitarian emergencies. A detailed Rapid Response Initiative Strategy guides implementation. The Rapid Response Initiative has two key elements:

- 1) **Rapid Response Corps:** The availability of a roster of highly experienced and specialised personnel, for deployment at short notice to both sudden onset and protracted emergency situations. When deployed, roster members fill specific skills gaps identified by Ireland's UN Standby Partner organisations.

Ireland deploys an average of 30 personnel per year from the Rapid Response Corps to a variety of crisis situations and across a number of specialised areas. Ireland allocates resources to continuously recruit, train and develop the capacity of its Rapid Response Corps members to respond effectively to the changing nature of crises and the demands of UN Standby Partners. Ireland has invested in particular in developing expertise in Logisticians, Engineers, Protection Officers, Gender and Gender Based Violence Specialists, Water and Sanitation Experts, and Civil Military Coordination Officers.

- 2) **Stock Piling:** The pre-positioning and transportation of essential humanitarian relief items through the UN Humanitarian Response Depots (UNHRD) Network. The network consists of six strategically placed hubs, located in Ghana, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Malaysia, Panama, Italy and Spain. Hubs are strategically located near disaster-prone areas. Relief items can be delivered to affected areas worldwide within 48 hours. Ireland facilitates UN and NGO partners' access to pre-positioned humanitarian stock under the Rapid Response Initiative on a needs basis.

More generally, the Rapid Response Initiative contributes to the strengthening of the Cluster Approach by deploying Roster members to positions in the UN organisations' Cluster lead sections; and by strengthening the capacities of UN Standby Roster members to engage in Cluster coordination and information management in the field.

Ireland also harnesses the Rapid Response Initiative as a useful tool in creating an understanding amongst Ireland's Permanent Defence Forces of the specificity of humanitarian action, and to ensure a positive, mutually respectful and open working relationship between humanitarian actors and military forces. This is furthered through practical engagement such as the provision of humanitarian input to, and support for the attendance of Rapid Response Corps personnel at Defence Force trainings at the UN Training School Ireland, such as the International Human Rights Course and the International Civil Military Relations Course. The specific skills of the Permanent Defence Forces are also harnessed through officers and non-commissioned officers' inclusion on the Rapid Response Corps roster.

Policy Objective

2

To demonstrate Ireland's leadership and partnership for effective international humanitarian action with a particular emphasis on gender, protection and on targeting forgotten and underfunded humanitarian crises.

Ireland is committed to a humanitarian approach that responds to the priorities of partner governments and supports local ownership. Ireland will actively engage with our humanitarian partners to improve delivery and performance of humanitarian assistance.

What We Will Do

- › Ireland will continue to follow and promote Good Humanitarian Donorship principles and best practice and encourage other donors and partners to do likewise. In particular, Ireland will encourage the development and use of predictable, flexible, and innovative funding arrangements as well as continuous improvement in accountability, quality, efficiency and effectiveness.
- › Within the EU, UN, international fora and donor support group meetings, Ireland will continue to promote principled humanitarian action, increased effectiveness of humanitarian action and respect for International Humanitarian Law.
- › Ireland will support the implementation of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid to strengthen coherence, consistency and effectiveness of EU humanitarian assistance. Ireland recognises and respects the distinct and specific nature and modus operandi of EU humanitarian aid within the broader toolbox of the EU's Comprehensive Approach, and reaffirms that humanitarian aid is not a crisis management tool.

BOX 8:

Ireland is Committed to Good Humanitarian Donorship

In line with the Good Humanitarian Donorship principles and practice, Ireland's humanitarian efforts will:

- 1) be guided by the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence;
 - 2) respect and promote adherence to international humanitarian, refugee and human rights law;
 - 3) ensure flexible, timely and predictable funding;
 - 4) allocate funding and stocks in proportion to needs and on the basis of needs assessments;
 - 5) ensure implementing partners involve beneficiaries in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian response;
 - 6) ensure implementing partners strengthen local capacity to prevent, prepare for and mitigate crises;
 - 7) provide humanitarian assistance in ways that are supportive of recovery and longer term-development;
 - 8) support the UN, the Red Cross and NGOs, and affirm the primary position of civilian organisations in humanitarian crises; and
 - 9) support learning and accountability initiatives and encourage regular evaluation.
- › Ireland will advance our core commitment to mainstream and prioritise protection, including child protection, protection of women and girls in emergencies, prevention and response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence, and protection of vulnerable groups in the international humanitarian response system. We will do this through advocacy, research, deployment of personnel and funding.

- › Ireland will support programmes that specifically address gender as well as ensuring that gender is effectively integrated into all our work. Ireland will support the implementation of the second National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and the second EU Gender Action Plan 2016 – 2020. We will also continue our active engagement in the Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence.
- › Ireland is committed to supporting the implementation of the Transformative Agenda around the three themes of Leadership, Coordination and Accountability. We will support this operationally by deploying specialist personnel through the Rapid Response Initiative. We will also continue to engage in dialogue with all partners to advocate for further improvement of international humanitarian operational and response capacities.
- › Ireland will work to improve donor coordination mechanisms, particularly financing mechanisms, to improve the predictability and timeliness of funding to crisis situations. We will consult with and obtain feedback on the practical elements of these financing mechanisms from our operational partners and use our position within UN donor group meetings to advocate for improvements and ensure appropriate oversight.
- › Ireland will ensure that the Rapid Response Initiative goes beyond the operational level of providing emergency stocks and supplying expert personnel to Standby Partners and use the policy and partnership dimension (with UN agencies and NGOs) to drive positive changes within the international humanitarian system.

Dollo Ado Refugee Camp, Reception Centre 4, Ethiopia. Photo: UNHCR



Policy Objective

3

To link Ireland's humanitarian and development approaches so as to prevent, prepare for, support recovery from, and build resilience to, man-made crises and natural disasters.

Recognising that it is more cost effective to prevent and prepare for a crisis than to wait for it to happen, interventions that prevent or reduce the risk/vulnerability and the impact of disaster, along with those that enable recovery, form an essential part of Irish Aid's humanitarian and development efforts. The rationale is that better development can build resilience, reduce the need for emergency relief and that better relief can contribute to recovery and longer-term sustainable development.

OECD DAC Peer Review, 2014

"Ireland has embraced a strong commitment to build resilience and has successfully embedded that commitment across its programmes and processes."

What We Will Do

- › Building the resilience of vulnerable people and addressing the root causes of recurrent crises and not just the consequences, is a priority area of action for Ireland. Ireland recognises that this requires an integrated approach between humanitarian and development assistance and will therefore seek to build complementarity and foster greater internal coherence across our humanitarian, development and human rights efforts to meet immediate needs whilst simultaneously tackling the root causes of natural as well as man-made disasters, including those caused by conflict.
- › Being resilient means being better prepared, better able to cope, and better placed to recover. Irish Aid is developing its approach to resilience with a focus on building capacity to anticipate, absorb, adapt to and transform shocks and stresses. In adopting a resilience approach, Ireland will prioritise a focus on understanding and responding to risk and vulnerability. Interventions that build resilience will form an essential part of Ireland's humanitarian and development efforts.
- › The importance of improving access to quality, basic essential services such as health and education underpins Ireland's humanitarian response.
- › Ireland will promote dialogue on resilience in international fora. Whilst resilience is the glue that can bring humanitarian and development work together, Ireland recognises that the primary responsibility for longer-term resilience-building lies outside of the scope of humanitarian action. It is also recognised that in certain contexts, a clear distinction between humanitarian and development mandates is necessary.
- › It is important that each policy community (humanitarian and development) is clear on how their specific background and skills can contribute to the resilience approach. Within the EU, UN, international fora and donor support group meetings, Ireland will continue to promote principled humanitarian action whilst also making the case for adopting a disaster risk reduction, early recovery and resilience approach where appropriate.

- › Ireland will actively support the implementation of the EU's Action Plan for Resilience in Crisis Prone Countries (2013-2020). This sets the way forward for more effective EU collaborative action on building resilience, bringing together humanitarian action, long-term development cooperation and on-going political engagement (for example, see Box 9 on Ireland's EU Presidency work on Resilience).
- › Ireland will continue to deliver on the objectives of our Rapid Response Initiative which is an important strategy for disaster preparedness through (i) the stockpiling of relief supplies for immediate distribution to crisis affected people; and (ii) the availability of a roster of highly experienced and specialised personnel, for deployment to selected partners for emergency preparedness or recovery interventions.
- › Early warning systems linked to early response are an important risk management strategy. Ireland will contribute to early warning by supporting the capacity of partners to develop early warning systems for slow and sudden onset crises. We will also act quickly on information from international early warning systems and respond to emerging crises in a timely manner.
- › Through our humanitarian funding and country programmes, Ireland will encourage and allocate funding based on joint humanitarian and development context specific analysis that is based on an awareness of the political, economic, social and geographic context, including an understanding of risk and vulnerability and leading to a joint definition of strategic priorities and coordinated programming.

BOX 9:

Promoting Dialogue and Policy Commitment to Resilience

During Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, from January to June 2013, Ireland chaired the Council Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) and the Council Working Party on Development Cooperation (CODEV). As such, Ireland prioritised the resilience policy agenda and in particular the follow-up on the Commission Communication on the EU Approach to Resilience and the preparation of Council Conclusions and related Action Plan.

As part of these efforts Ireland organised a joint field visit to Ethiopia by the Council Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA), the Council Working Party on Development Cooperation (CODEV), European Commission (DGs DEVCO and ECHO), and the European External Action Service to Ethiopia.

Building on initial lessons learned within EU programmes, in particular through the EU's SHARE strategy (Supporting Horn of Africa Resilience) in the Horn of Africa and the AGIR initiative (Alliance Globale pour l'Initiative Resilience) in the Sahel – the field visit to Ethiopia – the first such visit to be undertaken by a rotating Presidency – was intended to provide delegates with a practical understanding of the key challenges of and the best practices in linking humanitarian, recovery and development interventions to strengthen resilience at household and community levels. Ethiopia was chosen as a case study given the Government's effective leadership on linking relief and development in close collaboration with the EU and EU Member States. The examples of best practice showcased during this visit fed into the development of practical and focused Council Conclusions on the EU Approach to Resilience, adopted by EU Foreign Affairs Council in May 2013.

In parallel, Ireland harnessed the field visit to promote greater engagement by EU Member States in the development of the related Action Plan on Resilience, with the objective of ensuring that this Plan was not perceived as a purely Commission document, but rather constitutes a broader EU approach. Lessons learned from the visit have also been used to inform the EU's RESET resilience programme in Ethiopia.

- › To support an integrated and responsive approach, Ireland will provide flexible funding that is appropriate to the diverse range of contexts, including: pooled funding mechanisms that have preparedness; early recovery and 'neglected and forgotten crises' funding windows; early funds to slow-onset crises to encourage risk management; multi-year commitments to our partner countries that build in flexibility to respond to crises; multi-year commitments to protracted crises; prioritise forgotten and underfunded crises; and transition funding with a flexibility to adapt to changing situations (see Box 11 on Ireland's Humanitarian Programme Plan with NGO partners).
- › Ireland's humanitarian investments will focus on the early warning and early recovery aspects of the much broader disaster risk reduction agenda. In this regard Ireland will support a range of responses from the humanitarian response toolbox such as school feeding, cash and voucher transfers, food-for-work programmes, social protection, local purchase, etc, as these interventions can alleviate short-term suffering whilst helping vulnerable families prevent, prepare for, or mitigate the effects of disasters. This support includes integrating the 'build back better' principle into reconstruction projects and raising awareness and building local capacities for disaster risk reduction.
- › Our support for humanitarian demining and weapons and ammunition disposal makes an important contribution to Ireland's priority action for increased focus on situations of fragility. By preventing casualties and opening up access to services and markets, demining efforts contribute to risk reduction and reconstruction in post-conflict situations. The clearance of land opens up opportunities for agricultural production and business development and so has a link to longer term socio-economic development.

BOX 10:

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Internationally, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015 – 2030) provides the global blueprint for disaster risk reduction efforts. Ireland recognises that investing in disaster risk reduction today is more cost effective than responding to a crisis tomorrow. As such, we believe that primary responsibility for disaster risk reduction (DRR) rests within the domain of development rather than humanitarian efforts. In line with this commitment, Ireland's funding to disaster risk reduction takes place primarily within our development funding mechanisms, particularly linking our work on global hunger, fragile states and situations, social protection, environmental sustainability, climate change and essential services.

In 2012 Ireland put in place a new innovative multi-annual funding mechanism with NGO partners of sufficient organisational size and with a record of sound grant management. It allows greater flexibility and predictability for our most trusted partners to address risk and vulnerability and implement more ambitious and responsive interventions aimed at holistic change for poor and marginalised people.

Ireland's international development programme has a strong focus on nine Key Partner Countries (Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia). Many of these countries have been particularly prone to an increasing number and frequency of crises and disasters. At a programming level Ireland's Country Strategic Planning process in these Key Partner Countries provide the basis for addressing risk and vulnerability in a more planned and systematic way through joint humanitarian and development analysis and flexible programme design with the potential to be adapted and revised based on changing needs.

BOX 11:**Innovative Funding Mechanism to Link Relief and Development**

Through a partnership approach Ireland has strengthened our policy and practice with NGO partners on pursuing a more integrated humanitarian/development approach. This includes an overall commitment to the “before, during and after” of humanitarian crisis situations and the broader recovery and resilience agenda.

In 2009 Ireland introduced a funding innovation, the Humanitarian Programme Plan (HPP) which has evolved over time. This mechanism provides predictable funding on an annual basis to a group of eight invited NGO partners that have demonstrated capacities for humanitarian response. It is designed in particular to deal with predictable and protracted humanitarian crises where we know that there are likely to be significant humanitarian needs.

The HPP allows NGO partners to submit their proposed annual humanitarian programmes to Irish Aid for support at the beginning of each calendar year – it may incorporate elements of preparedness, disaster risk reduction and early recovery. This funding predictability assists the NGO partners to plan for their humanitarian responses in protracted humanitarian emergencies. Seven of the eight partner agencies also receive multi-annual funds from Ireland’s Civil Society and Development Education Section (CSDEU). The HPP is designed to address humanitarian needs in situations of protracted and predictable crises and is intended to be complementary to and coherent with Ireland’s longer-term development funding. Funding is based on a robust appraisal process and a resource-based allocation model to incentivise good practice and reward performance.

Balangiga Elementary school, Eastern Samar, Philippines. Photo: Irish Aid



Policy Objective

4

To contribute to building a humanitarian evidence base and improving humanitarian response through research, innovation, good practice, and a focus on effectiveness and results

.....
One World, One Future - Ireland's Policy for International Development, emphasises the importance of learning and building evidence on approaches that are most effective in meeting the needs of poor and vulnerable people. Ireland recognises that we, and all of our development partners, need to continually update our knowledge and ensure that our decisions, policies and programmes are based on good practice and sound evidence of what works and what does not.

Transitional shelters at Kobe Camp, Dollo Ado, Ethiopia. Photo: UNHCR



What We Will Do

- › Ireland's humanitarian funding decisions will be informed by evidence-based, analytical processes of need. In particular, Ireland will promote joint (multi-agency, multi-sector) needs assessments, and increased focus on the use of the Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) tool in rapid onset crises.
- › Ireland's humanitarian funding decisions will be informed by a robust appraisal mechanism that includes a consideration of context analysis, needs assessments, baseline data, adherence to relevant humanitarian standards and an ability to manage for results. We will encourage monitoring of results and performance from field experience, and use evidence and lessons to inform future humanitarian decision-making and policy.
- › In line with the Irish Aid Research Strategy, Ireland will support research and innovation to better capture the results and impact of humanitarian action on civilian populations, and use this research and evidence to inform practice and advocacy through EU, UN and international fora.

BOX 12:

Example of Support for Standards and Good Practice

Ireland is cognisant of the increasing insecurity for humanitarian workers. The last decade has seen aid workers increasingly targeted by armed groups and according to Humanitarian Outcomes' aid worker security database, 991 humanitarian workers (national and international) were killed in action between 2003 and 2013.

Against this challenging background Irish Aid developed Guidelines for NGO Professional Safety and Security Risk Management. These were designed to assist NGO partners to fulfil their duty of care responsibilities towards their own staff, most especially through an enhanced implementation of their own existing governance processes and in view of their legal obligations as employers. The guidelines were drafted with the active input of the Dóchas Humanitarian Aid Working Group and are based on extensive research carried out by leading experts in the field of aid worker security.

To help operationalise these standards, Irish Aid has provided financial support to the International NGO Safety and Security Association. Furthermore, Irish Aid has established a partnership with the Swiss Development Cooperation agency (SDC) to support the "Sustained Humanitarian Presence" project, which aims to provide practical security training for NGO personnel through a series of workshops in the field.

- › Ireland will promote and invest in good practice and standards within humanitarian assistance so that humanitarian responses are more effective, coordinated and accountable. (See example outlined in Box 12 on Guidelines for NGO Professional Safety and Security Risk Management). A key area of focus over the coming years will be the development and dissemination of the Core Humanitarian Standard which seeks to bring greater coherence to standards in the humanitarian sector.
- › Ireland's funding will target support to implementing partners to conduct research, promote operational guidance and develop good practice in our priority focus area of the protection of women and girls in emergency and recovery contexts.
- › Ireland will use evidence from Irish humanitarian experience to inform international policy dialogue and best practice on Good Humanitarian Donorship and Humanitarian Reform.
- › The Irish Aid programme will engage closely with Irish and European parliamentarians to raise awareness of humanitarian issues, present evidence of what works and shape international humanitarian policy dialogue.
- › Ireland will use the opportunity of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul in 2016 to consult with Ireland's diverse humanitarian community to produce a coordinated Irish response to the Summit. Our WHS preparations are aimed not just at providing input to the WHS but at using the lead up to the Summit as an opportunity to raise awareness and understanding in Ireland on our shared humanitarian endeavour and to further build and consolidate commitment to principled humanitarian engagement amongst the key stakeholders in Ireland (Public Sector, Civil Society, Academia, Private Sector and the diaspora). The outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit will usefully inform future updates of Ireland's humanitarian policy.

BOX 13:

Ireland's Focus on Evidence and Results for Humanitarian Action

Ireland recognises the need for a strengthened evidence base for humanitarian action across the project and programme cycle; the need to go beyond the current narrow focus on inputs and outputs and to address outcomes and impacts; the need to invest in monitoring, evaluation and learning; and the need to focus on new and innovative practices which can improve how things are done.

In the humanitarian context, Ireland has adopted and adapted the following Key Principles of Results Based Management:

- › A strong context analysis underpinning programme development and implementation
- › Recognise that humanitarian assistance is a principled endeavour in which the process as well as the outcome is important and therefore, it is important to also assess adherence to the humanitarian principles
- › Focus the dialogue on performance and managing for results
- › Align programme cycle with results, informing decisions at each stage: assessment/analysis; planning; programming; and monitoring and evaluation
- › Keep measurement and reporting simple
- › Manage for, not by, results
- › Use results information for learning and decision-making

Irish Aid stocks being delivered to help people affected by Tropical Storm Washi, Philippines. Photo: Plan Ireland



5. Maximising Our Impact

With humanitarian needs increasing worldwide and limited resources at our disposal, now, more than ever before, we must maximise the impact and results of humanitarian assistance. Ireland's approach to humanitarian assistance will ensure that Ireland's collective humanitarian efforts are more than the sum of its parts. We will do this in a number of ways.

Oversight of the Humanitarian Assistance Policy is the responsibility of Irish Aid's Senior Management Group within Development Cooperation Division (DCD), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Implementation of the policy will be overseen by the Director of the Humanitarian Unit, DCD.

The following steps will be undertaken to implement the strategy:

- › Maintain up-to-date standard operating procedures to guide operations.
- › Strengthen institutional capacity within Development Cooperation Division to ensure that adequate resources, including appropriately trained and experienced staff are committed for effective implementation of the policy.
- › Ensure ongoing learning and development through reviews and partner consultations.
- › Dissemination and communication of Ireland's humanitarian plans, achievements and learning.

Co-Ordination Across Government

Whilst the Humanitarian Unit, Development Cooperation Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, leads the Irish Government's response to humanitarian crises in developing countries, other parts of the Department and government also contribute to Ireland's humanitarian efforts.

As part of a cooperative approach, the Humanitarian Unit has established close working links across government, including:

- › Other sections of the Development Cooperation Division responsible for guiding and delivering assistance in risk prone and fragile and conflict affected situations.
- › Across the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with: Political Division; the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations in New York and Geneva which are responsible for tracking humanitarian issues; the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the three specialised food and agriculture agencies of the United Nations that are based in Rome; the Permanent Representation

of Ireland to the EU (notably the European Union Political and Security Committee delegation).

- › With other Government Departments, particularly the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine on the WFP Partnership and the Food Assistance Convention; a broad ranging partnership with the Irish Defence Forces guided by a Service Level Agreement; collaboration with An Garda Síochána on security and training; the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government on issues of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- › With interdepartmental working groups such as the Inter-Departmental Committee on Development and the Hunger Task Team
- › Membership of the National Committee on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) chaired by the Legal Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Risk Management

Risks to programmes and budgets are generally higher in humanitarian contexts and fragile states and situations. These situations are more unpredictable, with greater potential for significant short-term changes in the political and security environment. Partner capacities, especially in government and within local implementing partners, are likely to be weaker. Risk assessment, risk management and risk communication are essential to effective engagement in these situations.

Decisions on funding implementing partners and pooled mechanisms are based on a thorough analysis of systems, and any risks are proactively managed.

Assuring Quality And Value For Money

Ireland is committed to transparency and accountability within our humanitarian work. The overall responsibility for accountability rests with Irish Aid's Senior Management Group (SMG) which sets the direction in line with policy priorities and evolving needs. The Senior Management Group monitors expenditure and tracks progress against the Framework for Action for One World One Future.

Ireland evaluates its major humanitarian responses, assesses performance against formal policies and regularly conducts lessons learned exercises. Periodic formal internal and external audits of performance are also conducted. Consistent with our commitment to transparency, the results of these are shared with partners and some are published on the Irish Aid web site.

Effective Public Communication

The Irish Government is committed to building public support for Ireland's international development and humanitarian efforts by introducing key audiences to our work and communicating the results being achieved.

Ireland adopts a public communication approach to our humanitarian efforts that raises awareness and conveys the complexity of emergencies and conflicts, seeks to gain support for the victims of humanitarian crisis and the need for support from the Irish people, explains our humanitarian approach and core commitments, and reports on the results of our investments. These efforts will include engagement with our Communications Unit to ensure that these messages are effectively communicated to the public through the Irish Aid website, mainstream media and social media.

Accounting For Performance

The Framework for Action (2014 - 2017), developed to deliver on Ireland's commitments in *One World, One Future*, Ireland's policy for international development, serves as a management instrument for the delivery of Ireland's aid programme over the coming years and to set out the higher level results that Irish Aid aims for. The Framework for Action provides a credible basis for measuring performance and demonstrating accountability across all seven of Irish Aid's priority areas for action, including Humanitarian Assistance. Any review of Ireland's Humanitarian Assistance Policy will be considered in the context of the Framework for Action.

Kobe Camp in Dollo Ado, Ethiopia. Photo: UNHCR



Annex 1: Strategic Framework

<p>Goal: To save and protect lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity before, during and in the aftermath of humanitarian crises</p>	
<p>Final Outcome: Ireland responds effectively, efficiently and in a timely manner to the humanitarian needs of crisis-affected peoples</p>	
<p>Policy Objective 1 To provide needs-based humanitarian assistance in a way that is predictable and flexible to respond to sudden onset, protracted and forgotten humanitarian crises</p>	<p>Policy Objective 2 To demonstrate Ireland's leadership and partnership for effective international humanitarian action with a particular emphasis on gender, protection and on targeting forgotten and underfunded humanitarian crises</p>
<p>What we will do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Channel Ireland's humanitarian funding through our trusted implementing partners: UN, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs › Ensure funding decisions and decisions to release stocks are timely and are informed by Ireland's annual 'categorisation of needs' exercise › Pay special attention to forgotten /neglected emergencies › Support existing local capacities of and ensure accountability to the affected communities › Focus on vulnerable groups and support a differentiated response › Commit more funds for work in the area of protection, gender mainstreaming, and sexual and gender based violence prevention and response in emergency contexts › Continue to support deployment of Rapid Response Corps personnel to UN Standby Partners › Continue to pre-position and stockpile necessary first response relief materials and release quickly and rapidly › Provide predictable, pre-positioned and flexible funding to UN, Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs 	<p>What we will do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Ireland will follow Good Humanitarian Donorship principles and best practice and encourage others to do likewise › Within the EU and UN, continue to promote principled humanitarian action and respect for International Humanitarian Law › Support the implementation of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid › Advance core commitment to mainstream gender and protection into Ireland's humanitarian policy, funding decisions and operational approach › Support the implementation of the Transformative Agenda around the three themes of Leadership, Coordination and Accountability › Work to improve donor coordination mechanisms, particularly financing mechanisms › Fulfil commitments under Ireland's second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and continue engagement with the Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence › Contribute to the overall global capacity for effective and efficient emergency response through the Rapid Response Initiative › Review what emergency relief items we stockpile, and ensure that our stocks are relevant to current humanitarian needs, gender-sensitive and protection focused

<p>Goal: To save and protect lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity before, during and in the aftermath of humanitarian crises</p>	
<p>Final Outcome: Ireland responds effectively, efficiently and in a timely manner to the humanitarian needs of crisis-affected peoples</p>	
<p>Policy Objective 3 To link Ireland's humanitarian and development approaches so as to prevent, prepare for, support recovery from, and build resilience to, man-made crises and natural disasters</p>	<p>Policy Objective 4 To contribute to building a humanitarian evidence base and improving humanitarian response through research, innovation, good practice and a focus on effectiveness and results</p>
<p>What we will do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › With resilience building as a core commitment, ensure complementarity between our humanitarian and development efforts › Tackle the root causes of vulnerability and actively seeking to reduce risk in all work › Within international fora, continue to promote principled humanitarian action whilst also making the case for adopting a disaster risk reduction, early recovery and resilience approach where appropriate › Support the implementation of the EU's Action Plan for Resilience in Crisis Prone Countries › Deliver on the objectives of the Rapid Response Initiative which is a key strategy for preparedness › Support early warning systems linked to early response › Encourage and support joint humanitarian and development context specific analysis › Provide flexible funding that is responsive to a diverse range of contexts › Ensure Disaster Risk Reduction is a core element of development programming 	<p>What we will do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Base funding decisions on evidence based analytical processes of need › Funding decisions will be informed by a robust appraisal mechanism › Support research and innovation to better capture the results and impact of humanitarian action › Promote and invest in humanitarian standards within humanitarian assistance › Support research and good practice in protection of women and girls in emergency and recovery contexts › Track and communicate results › Use evidence to inform international policy dialogue › Work with parliamentarians to shape international humanitarian policy › Use the opportunity of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul in 2016 to consult with Ireland's diverse humanitarian community to produce a coordinated Irish response to the Summit which articulates Ireland's humanitarian priorities

Annex 2: Glossary of Humanitarian Terms

All definitions are from the Reliefweb Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, August 2008, unless otherwise referenced.

Complex emergency: A multifaceted humanitarian crisis in a country, region or society where there is a total or considerable breakdown of authority resulting from internal or external armed conflict and which requires a multi-sectoral, international response that goes beyond the mandate or capacity of any single agency and/or the ongoing United Nations country programme.

Disaster Risk Reduction: Action taken to reduce the risk of disasters and the adverse impacts of hazards/shocks, through systematic efforts to analyse and manage the causes of disasters, including through avoidance of hazards, reduced social and economic vulnerability to hazards, and improved preparedness for adverse events. (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) 2009, Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction).

Do No Harm: The Do No Harm analytical framework provides a tool for mapping the interaction between development/humanitarian assistance and armed conflict. It can be used to plan, monitor and evaluate aid programmes and to assist in identifying opportunities to foster peace and stability—ensuring that aid programmes do not unwittingly contribute to instability and further violence.

Fragile states and Situations: Fragile states have weak capacity to carry out basic functions of governing a population and its territory and lack the ability to develop mutually constructive and reinforcing relations with society. As a consequence, trust and mutual obligations between the state and its citizens become weak.

Gender-based violence: Violence that is directed against a person on the basis of gender or sex. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental, or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion, or other deprivations of liberty.

Good Humanitarian Donorship: This initiative was created by donor governments at a meeting in Stockholm in 2003 with the idea of working towards achieving efficient and principled humanitarian assistance. The initiative provides a forum for donors to discuss good practice in funding humanitarian assistance and other shared concerns. By defining principles and standards it provides both a framework to guide official humanitarian aid and a mechanism for encouraging greater donor accountability.

Humanitarian Access: Where protection is not available from national authorities or controlling non-state actors, vulnerable populations have a right to receive international protection and assistance from an impartial humanitarian relief operation. Such action is subject to the consent of the State or parties concerned and does not prescribe coercive measures in the event of refusal, however unwarranted.

Humanitarian Action: Assistance, protection and advocacy actions undertaken [by a variety of stakeholders, including military] on an impartial basis in response to human needs resulting from complex political emergencies and natural hazards.

Humanitarian Assistance: Aid that seeks to save lives and alleviate suffering of a crisis affected population. Humanitarian assistance must be provided in accordance with the basic humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality and neutrality, as stated in General Assembly Resolution 46/182. In addition, the UN seeks to provide humanitarian assistance with full respect for the sovereignty of States. Assistance may be divided into three categories - direct assistance, indirect assistance and infrastructure support - which have diminishing degrees of contact with the affected population.

Humanitarian protection: Protection covers all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of all individuals in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law. (ICRC and Red Crescent, Professional Standards for Protection Work, 2009)

Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC): This is an inter-agency forum of UN and non-UN humanitarian partners founded in 1992, to strengthen humanitarian assistance.

International Humanitarian Law: A body of rules that seek, for humanitarian reasons, to limit the effects of armed conflict. It protects persons who are not, or are no longer, participating in the hostilities and restricts the means and methods of warfare by prohibiting weapons that make no distinction between combatants and civilians or weapons and methods of warfare which cause unnecessary injury, suffering and/or damage. The rules are to be observed not only by governments and their armed forces, but also by armed opposition groups and any other parties to an armed conflict.

Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development: 'Achieving better linkage between Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) requires humanitarian and development actors to coordinate from the earliest phases of a crisis response and to act in parallel with a view to ensuring a smooth transition. It necessitates mutual awareness of the different modalities, instruments and approaches on the part of all aid actors and flexible and innovative transition strategies'. (*European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid*).

Protracted crisis: This policy uses protracted crises to mean environments in which a significant proportion of the population is acutely vulnerable to death, disease and disruption of their livelihoods over a prolonged period of time. (Overseas Development Institute Humanitarian Policy Group, 2004, 'Beyond the continuum: The changing role of aid policy in protracted crises').

Resilience: Resilience is the ability of an individual, a household, a community, a country or a region to withstand, to adapt, and to quickly recover from stresses and shocks (Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, *The EU Approach to Resilience: Learning from Food Security Crises, 2012*). Resilience is the ability of people and communities, as well as countries, to withstand setbacks such as extreme weather events like flooding, an outbreak of violence, or an unexpected dip in income. Being resilient means you are better prepared, better able to cope and better placed to recover. (*One World, One Future, Ireland's Policy for International Development, 2013*)

Vulnerability: The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards. For positive factors, which increase the ability of people to cope with hazards, see definition of 'capacity'. (UNISDR)

Acronyms

CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CHF	Common Humanitarian Fund
DREF	Disaster Response Emergency Fund
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EU	European Union
GHD	Good Humanitarian Donorship
HIV & AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IASC	Inter Agency Standing Committee
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
LRRD	Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OCHA (UN)	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
RRI	Rapid Response Initiative
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
WFP	World Food Programme



