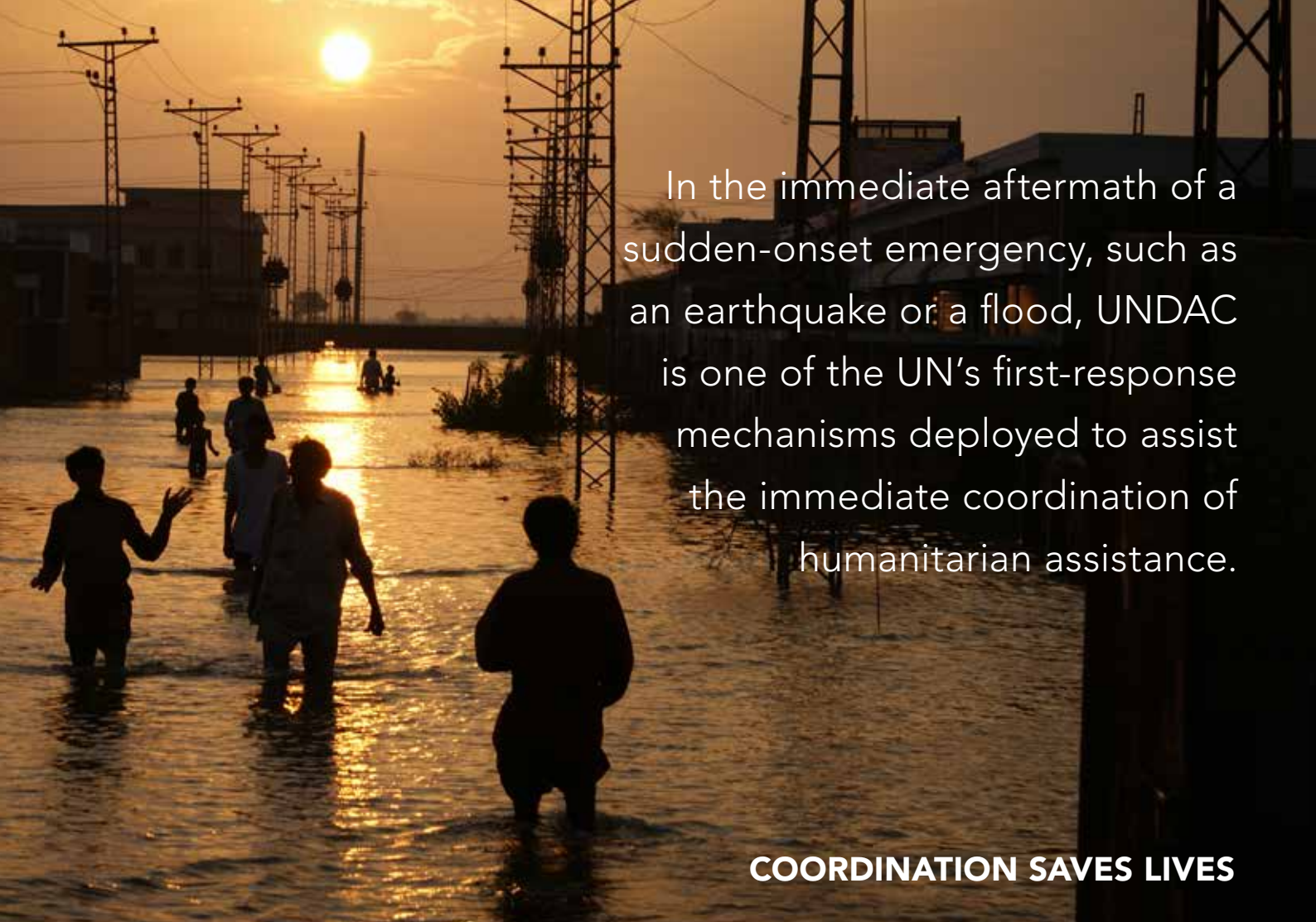




This is UNDAC

The United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination System





In the immediate aftermath of a sudden-onset emergency, such as an earthquake or a flood, UNDAC is one of the UN's first-response mechanisms deployed to assist the immediate coordination of humanitarian assistance.

COORDINATION SAVES LIVES

ABOUT OCHA

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) mobilizes and coordinates humanitarian action for people in need, in partnership with national and international actors. OCHA ensures that each actor can contribute to the overall response effort. OCHA delivers its mandate by coordinating emergency relief, and by organizing and monitoring humanitarian funding, policy development, information management and advocacy.

Cover photo: DND-MDN Canada/Cpl Ariane Montambeault
This page: WFP/Amjad Jamal



OCHA

United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination



THE TEAM

An UNDAC team can deploy within 12 to 48 hours' notice.

A team is deployed following the request of the affected Government and the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator in the country. The typical duration of an UNDAC deployment is between two and four weeks.



UNDAC teams are equipped to be self-sufficient.

They are trained in various skills, such as coordination, needs assessments and information management. The teams also advise and strengthen national and regional disaster response capacity.

When required, an UNDAC team establishes and runs an On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) and a Reception and Departure Centre (RDC), which provide a platform for cooperation, coordination and information management for international humanitarian response agencies and national responders. First responders use the Virtual OSOCC website for real-time information exchange during ongoing emergencies.



MANAGEMENT

The UNDAC system is managed by the Field Coordination Support Section (FCSS) in the Emergency Services Branch in OCHA Geneva.

As well as working with OCHA regional offices and other parts of OCHA, FCSS works with UNDAC national focal points. FCSS also acts as the secretariat of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG), which is the global network of countries and organizations dedicated to improving standards and coordination in urban search-and-rescue (USAR) preparedness-and-response operations.

Facts and Figures



MORE THAN
235

missions have been carried out by UNDAC teams to over **100 countries** since 1993.

MORE THAN
1,270

team members have deployed since **1993**.



OVER
80

countries and organizations have more than **200 experienced UNDAC members**.

A composite image showing a helicopter in flight against a clear blue sky in the upper half, and a large, white, classical-style building with a dome that has been severely damaged by an earthquake in the lower half. The building's facade is crumbling, and debris is visible. The foreground is a green lawn.

UNDAC in Haiti

On 12 January 2010 at 4.53 p.m. local time, a 7.2-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti with devastating effects. The epicentre was located close to the town of Léogâne, but the impact led to widespread destruction in the capital, Port-au-Prince, where many buildings collapsed. Within 24 hours, a 10-member UNDAC team arrived in Haiti to help coordinate relief operations.

The team set up an OSOCC to coordinate incoming aid and an RDC at the airport to organize incoming USAR teams. Five clusters (shelter, food, WASH, health and logistics) were activated within hours of the earthquake and began coordinating within their respective fields.

By the end of the two-week mission, the UNDAC team had established a coordination platform for the incoming relief aid. It also coordinated the work of the 60 USAR teams that saved more than 130 lives and provided medical support to thousands of people.

Timeline

1993

UNDAC is established.

The Europe regional team is also established.

1994

First 10 missions completed.

1991

UN General Assembly passes resolution 46/182 on 'Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations'. INSARAG is established.

1995

Americas regional team is established.

1996

Pacific regional team is established.

Photo credits for this and opposite pages: UNDAC



2002

Asia joins Pacific regional team.

UN General Assembly resolution 57/150 endorses the INSARAG Guidelines as the principal reference for coordinating USAR response, and UNDAC's role to help Governments coordinate international USAR operations.

2005

The Humanitarian Reform process is initiated by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, together with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian response through greater predictability, accountability, responsibility and partnership.

2010

UNDAC completes its 200th mission.

2003

UNDAC completes its 100th mission.

2009

Middle East joins Europe and Africa regional teams.

2011

Second UNDAC review to analyse its effectiveness, efficiency and impact, and its readiness to meet current and future humanitarian challenges.

The Transformative Agenda sets out actions that collectively represent a substantive improvement to the current humanitarian response model.

2001

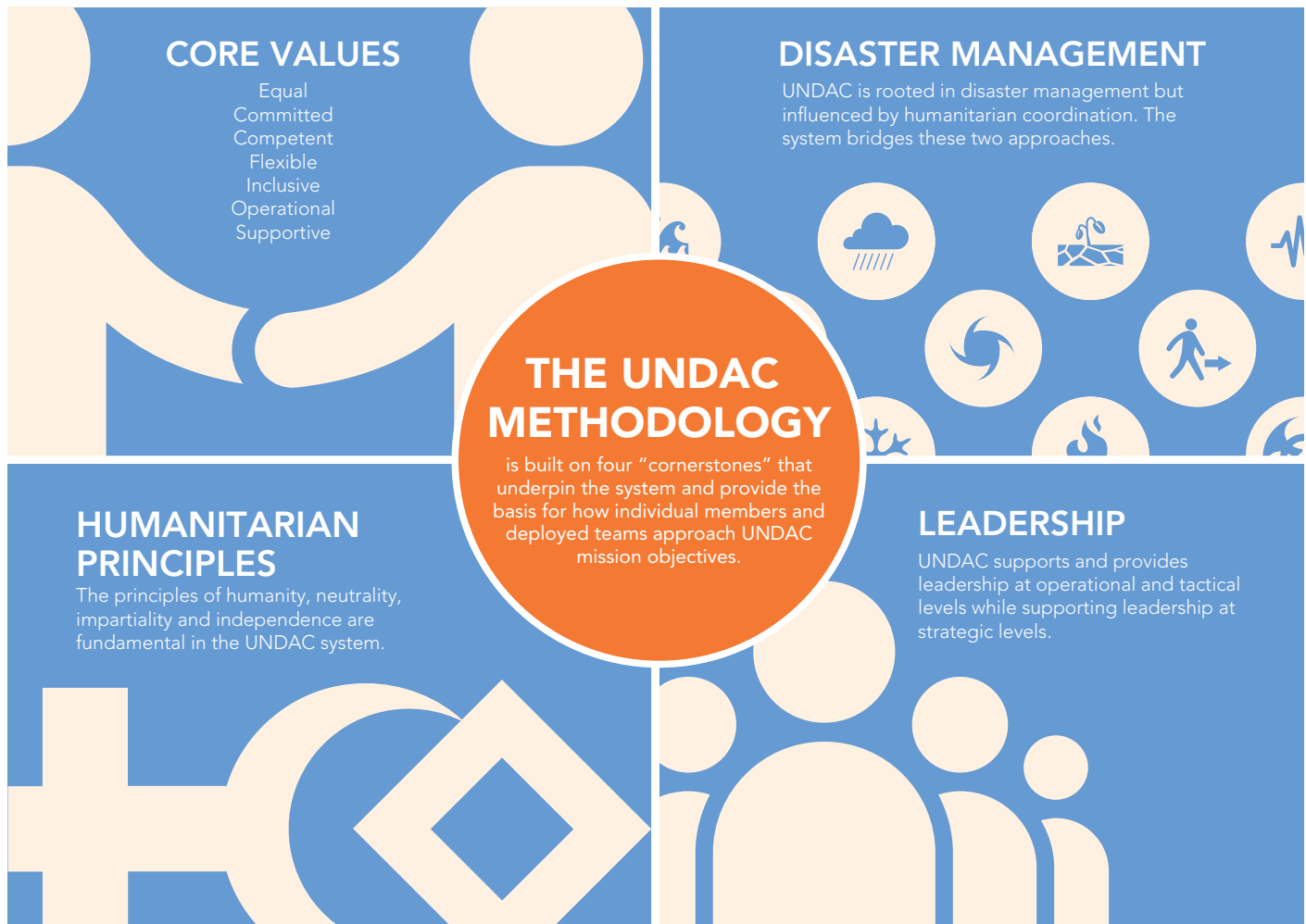
First review of the system to examine overall operational functioning and assess its geographical and demographic composition.

2004

Africa joins Europe regional team. Record number of missions: 20 in one year.


Methodology

The UNDAC methodology is based on best practices from more than 235 missions to over 100 countries since UNDAC's inception in 1993. It can adapt to a wide range of emergency situations and challenges. The *UNDAC Handbook* and trainings clarify UNDAC's roles and responsibilities in a typical mission cycle.



Membership

UNDAC members usually work in disaster management at the national level or in international humanitarian response. Member Governments are self-financing countries that hold UNDAC mission accounts with OCHA/FCSS, through which funds are deposited to cover the deployment costs of their national UNDAC staff. Participating countries are sponsored members of the UNDAC system.

A stylized graphic of a world map. The landmasses are represented by white shapes against a blue background. Numerous orange location pins are scattered across the map, indicating various countries. The pins are concentrated in North America, Europe, and parts of Asia and Africa.

To become a member country, the national authority of the interested country should contact the Chief of FCSS.

Contact details are available at:
<http://www.unocha.org/what-we-do/coordination-tools/undac/contacts>

Training

UNDAC trainings ensure all active UNDAC members remain ready to deploy for response-and-preparedness missions. As experienced disaster managers and humanitarians, all UNDAC members must attend an induction training, which gives them the basic tools for deployment. UNDAC members are expected to regularly attend refresher courses in specific areas of expertise, such as civil-military coordination, environmental emergencies and on-site coordination. Trainings are held in all regions and conducted in cooperation with Member States and operational partners.



Partnerships

OCHA works with operational partners to ensure UNDAC provides the best possible service for telecommunications, emergency logistics, environmental expertise and mapping. These operational partners include the International Humanitarian Partnership, the Asia-Pacific Humanitarian Partnership, the Americas Support Team, MapAction, Télécoms Sans Frontières, DHL, UNOSAT and the European Commission - Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection.



Emergency preparedness

UNDAC teams directly contribute to OCHA's key preparedness objectives: to strengthen the capacity of national authorities and regional organizations to access and coordinate international humanitarian assistance effectively, and to become self-reliant in coordinating national humanitarian assistance in emergency response.



The UNDAC system brings together experienced national disaster management experts and international humanitarian professionals who undertake specific disaster response preparedness missions at the request of interested Governments, and with the buy-in and support of the respective UN Resident Coordinator and UN Country Team.



UNDAC teams also contribute to preparedness through capacity-building activities during response missions, and by participating as associates in the capacity-assessment missions of other institutions. Team members also act as international observers, advisers or exercise controllers of emergency response simulation exercises.



Many team members help to prepare and host training courses for UNDAC teams, and for other regional and international humanitarian response organizations, such as the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the ASEAN Emergency Rapid Assessment Team.

Learn more



Contact UNDAC
fcss@un.org



About UNDAC - unocha.org/what-we-do/coordination-tools/undac/overview



About INSARAG
insarag.org



About Virtual OSOCC
vosocc.unocha.org



The UNDAC system is managed by the Field Coordination Support Section in the Emergency Services Branch of OCHA Geneva.

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