

# Humanitarian Quickies

Humanitarian Actors, Mandates and Mode of  
Operations

PRESENTED

BY

Dr. Franklin BABILA DOH

Human Security Consultant

EMAIL: [frankbdoh@gmail.com](mailto:frankbdoh@gmail.com)

TEL: +237675326288

'We are not humanitarian actors because we are stronger than the vulnerable. We are humanitarian actors because we DON'T LIMIT OUR IMAGINATIONS'

F.B DOH

# Content

**PART 1**



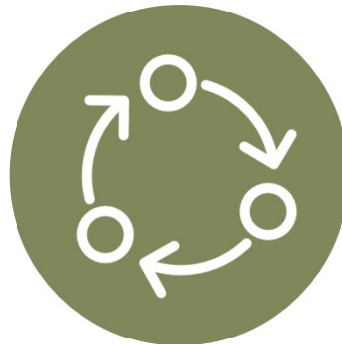
Introducing Humanitarian Actors

**PART 2**



Mandates of Key Actors

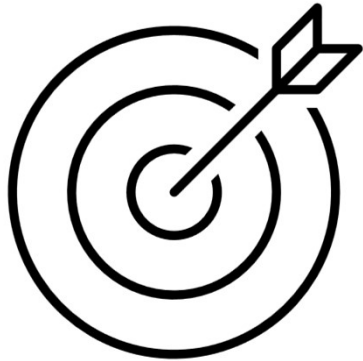
**PART 3**



Mode of Operations

# Learning Objectives

---



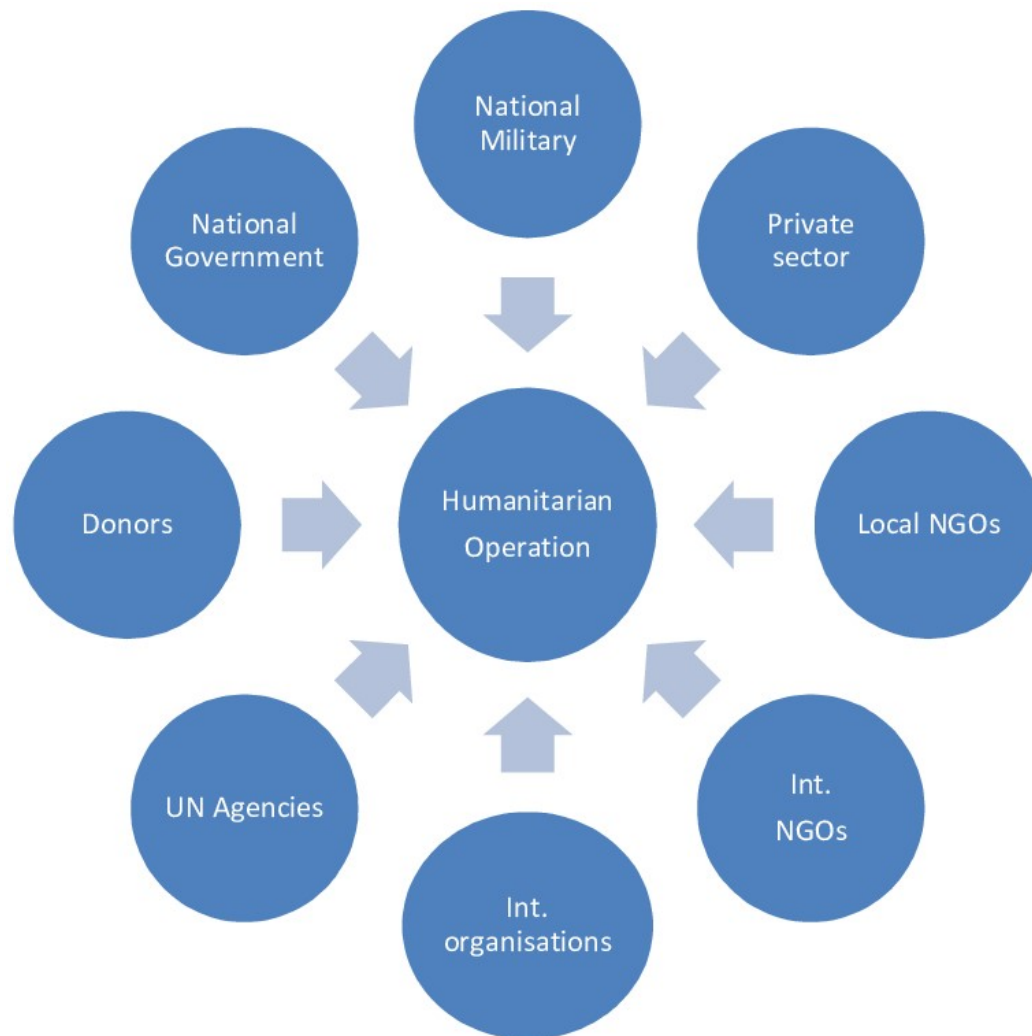
- 01.** Introduce **humanitarian Actors** and understand their **mandates**
- 02.** Discuss on **Mode of operation** of humanitarian Actors
- 03.** Enable participants to identify with the presentation and share their **own experiences** on how their organizations engage in humanitarian activities

# Humanitarian Actors *Key definition*



- **Humanitarian Actors** –a wide range of organizations, agencies and inter-agency networks that all combine to enable international humanitarian assistance to be channeled to the places and people in need of it.

# Humanitarian Actors



- Government Organizations
- Inter-Governmental Organizations
- International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs)
- National Non-Governmental Organizations (NNGOs)
- ICRC, National Red Cross and Red Crescent societies
- Private Sector
- Armed Forces
- Donor Community
- First Responders

# Humanitarian Actors *First responders*

- Primary responsibility to respond to disasters and emergencies lies with the **Government**
- The immediate first responders (or 'zero hour' responders) are more than often **different from the more traditional humanitarian** actors (such as the Government, the UN, Red Cross or international NGOs):



- Faith based organisations
- Grass-root organisations
- Social Networks and Youth Groups
- Private sector or private foundations
- The Military

# Mandates of Key Actors *UN & non-UN entities*



UN entities with a primary responsibility for delivering humanitarian aid



Non-UN entities :  
some examples



ICRC





# World Food Programme (WFP)



## Mandate/Mission Statement:

- WFP was first established in 1961 after the 1960 Food and Agriculture Conference.
- In 1994, WFP was the first UN organisation to adopt a mission statement, which says:

*“The policies governing the use of WFP food aid must be oriented towards the objective of eradicating hunger and poverty. The ultimate objective of food aid should be the elimination of the need for food aid.”*







# World Food Programme (WFP)



- In 2022 WFP has an estimated budget of about \$22.2 billion to reach to over 160 million people in 120 countries.
- Has over 5,600 trucks, 30 ships and 100 planes
- Employs approx. 21,000 people worldwide
- Role in emergency response:
  - ✓ Food aid
  - ✓ Logistics coordination, services, support and infrastructure to the humanitarian community
  - ✓ Emergency telecommunications coordination, services and equipment (with UNICEF)
- Global cluster lead for: Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications





# United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



## Mandate:

### ➤ UNHCR's Statute (1950):

*"...to provide, on a non-political and humanitarian basis, international protection to refugees and to seek permanent solutions for them, until the refugee problem is solved."*



The final clause was added in 2003 by General Assembly resolution 58/153



# United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



- UNHCR has a staff of approx. 18.879 people in more than 137 countries assisting 89.3 million uprooted from their homes or stateless people. Among more than half of whom are under the age of 18.
- It leads and coordinates action to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons (IDP) and stateless persons.
- UNHCR works with approx. 900 NGO partners throughout the world.



- Global cluster lead for:
  - ✓ Protection
  - ✓ Emergency Shelter (with IFRC)
  - ✓ Camp Management and Coordination (with IOM)



# United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



## Mandate:

Created by the UN General Assembly in 1946 to:

*“...[A]dvocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.”*

This mandate was extended indefinitely by the General Assembly in 1953.





# United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



- Operational for 75 years now and present in more than 190 countries
- Highly decentralized authority given to country offices
- Global cluster lead for:
  - ✓ Nutrition
  - ✓ Sanitation, Water and Hygiene
  - ✓ Education (with Save the Children)







# World Health Organization (WHO)



## Mandate:

Established in 1948, the foundation for WHO's work in the area of disaster preparedness and response was laid down in Article 2 of the WHO constitution, which charges the Organization to:

*"...furnish appropriate technical assistance and, in emergencies, necessary aid upon the request or acceptance of Governments".*





# World Health Organization (WHO)



- Provides leadership on global health matters, shapes the health research agenda, set norms and standards, provides technical support to countries and monitors and assesses health trends.
- WHO employs more than 8,500 people in 194 countries.
- Currently has approx. 800 collaborative partnerships with NGOs, foundations and the pharmaceutical industry.
- It operates in a decentralised manner:
  - ✓HQ sets policy, strategy and guidelines
  - ✓6 regional offices represent the front line for decision and intervention
- Global cluster lead for: Health





# United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



## Mandate:

Established in 1965, UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.

- UNDP is the UN's global has a presence in 170 countries.
- Helps countries build and share solutions to the challenges of:
  - ✓ Democratic Governance
  - ✓ Poverty Reduction
  - ✓ Crisis Prevention and Recovery
  - ✓ Environment and Energy
  - ✓ Gender Empowerment, HIV/AIDS
- Supports Resident Coordinator (RC) offices
- Global cluster lead for: Early Recovery





# O C H A

OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS



**“Strengthening the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations” (GA Res. 46/182, Dec 1991)**

# Non-UN entities



ICRC



World Vision



...and many more

# *NGO Consortia and World Bank*



# BILATERAL/ MULTILATERAL DONORS



EUROPEAN COMMISSION



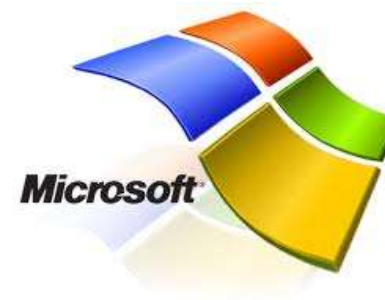
Humanitarian Aid



# PRIVATE SECTOR

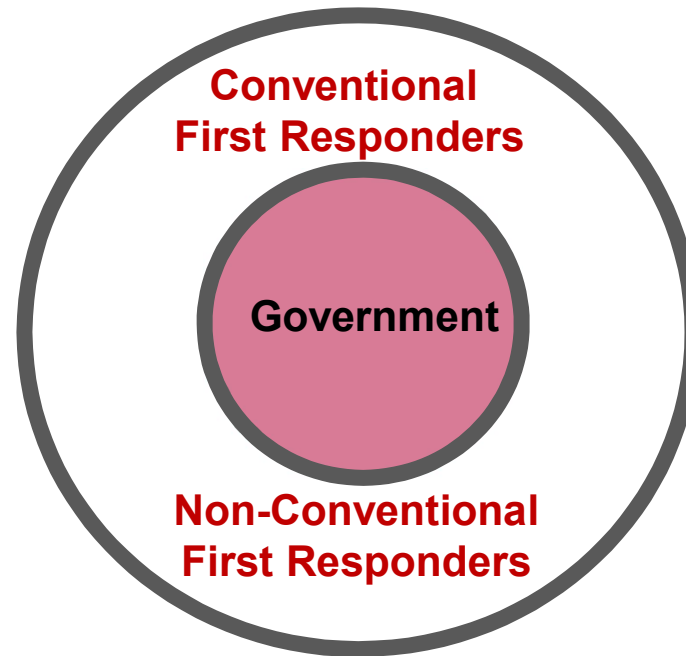


**ERICSSON**   
TAKING YOU FORWARD



# Operationalization of Humanitarian

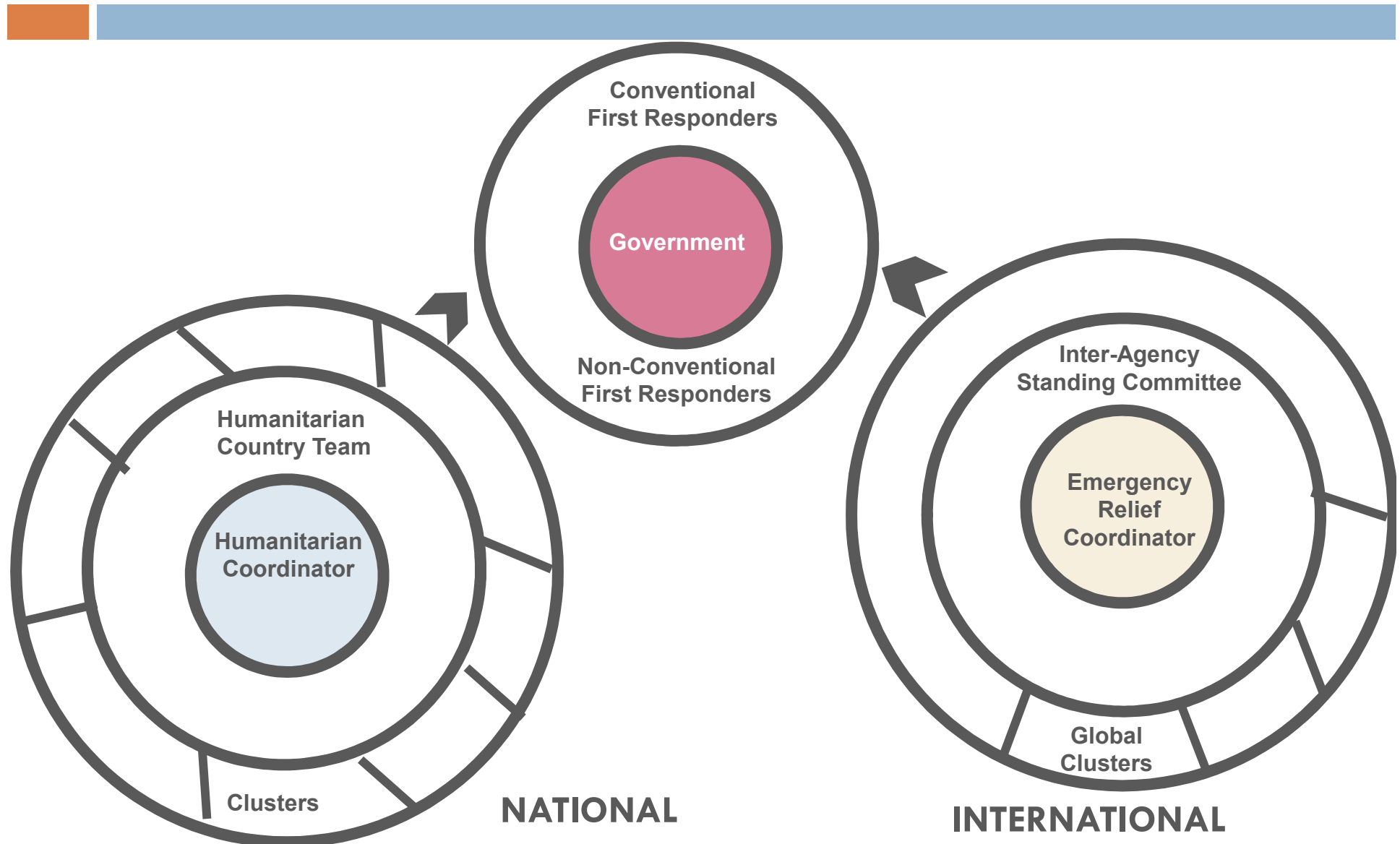
*Actors in-country*



In case of a large-scale emergency, during which national capacities to respond are overwhelmed, the help of international humanitarian actors is requested by Government authorities

# Operationalization of Humanitarian Actors

## *International Interventions*



# Coordination Architecture in the Cluster Approach

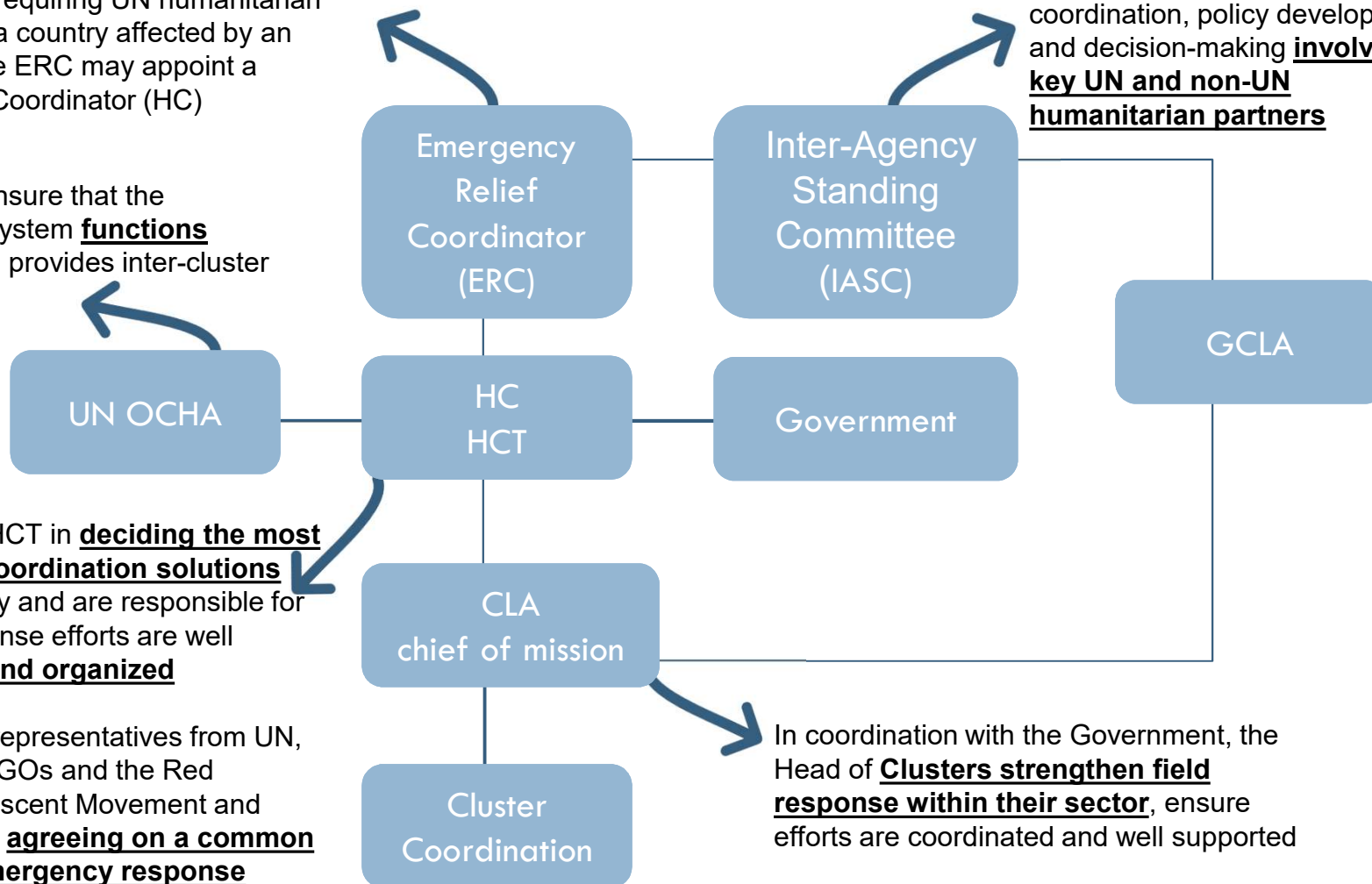
Responsible for the **oversight of all emergencies** requiring UN humanitarian assistance, in a country affected by an emergency, the ERC may appoint a Humanitarian Coordinator (HC)

OCHA helps ensure that the humanitarian system **functions efficiently** and provides inter-cluster coordination

HCs lead the HCT in **deciding the most appropriate coordination solutions** for their country and are responsible for assuring response efforts are well **coordinated and organized**

HCT includes representatives from UN, international NGOs and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and responsible for **agreeing on a common strategy in emergency response**

An inter-agency forum for coordination, policy development and decision-making **involving key UN and non-UN humanitarian partners**



In coordination with the Government, the Head of **Clusters strengthen field response within their sector**, ensure efforts are coordinated and well supported



# Coordination Architecture in the Cluster Approach

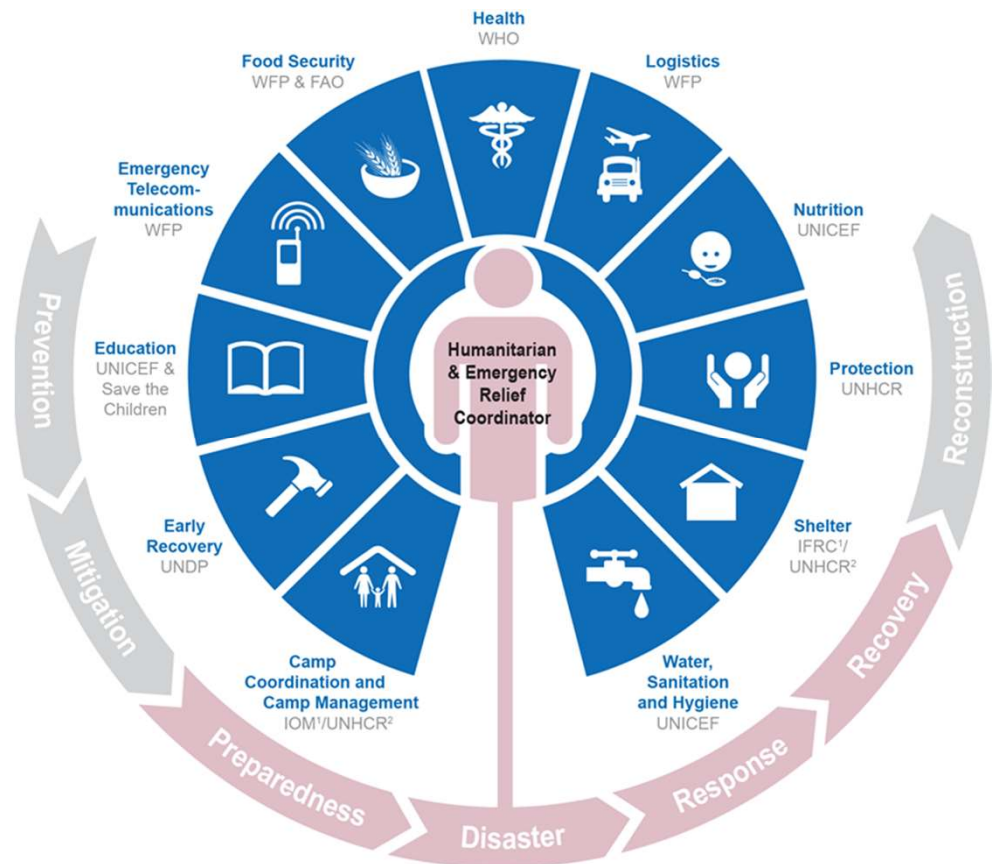
## Zoom on the Cluster Coordination

**Clusters** are groups of humanitarian organizations, both UN and non-UN, in each of the main **sectors** of humanitarian action and carry clear responsibilities for coordination of humanitarian action.

### Responsibilities:

- Supporting service delivery by providing platform for agreement on approaches and elimination of **duplication**
- Informing strategic decision-making of the HC/HCT for humanitarian response through coordination of needs assessment
- Strategy development in adherence to standards
- Advocacy on behalf affected population with regards to sector needs

Each cluster has a **Lead Agency**, which oversees the coordination.



# The Humanitarian imperative



**“The humanitarian imperative comes first.**

The **right to receive humanitarian assistance**, and to offer it, is a fundamental humanitarian principle which should be enjoyed by all citizens of all countries.

As members of the international community, we recognize our **obligation to provide humanitarian assistance wherever it is needed.**“

# Humanitarian standards



Statements which describe sets of actions needed so that crisis-affected people can enjoy this right

---



Developed by consensus by humanitarian practitioners and revised regularly

---



They are a useful resource for humanitarian practitioners to **plan**, **implement**, and **evaluate** humanitarian response

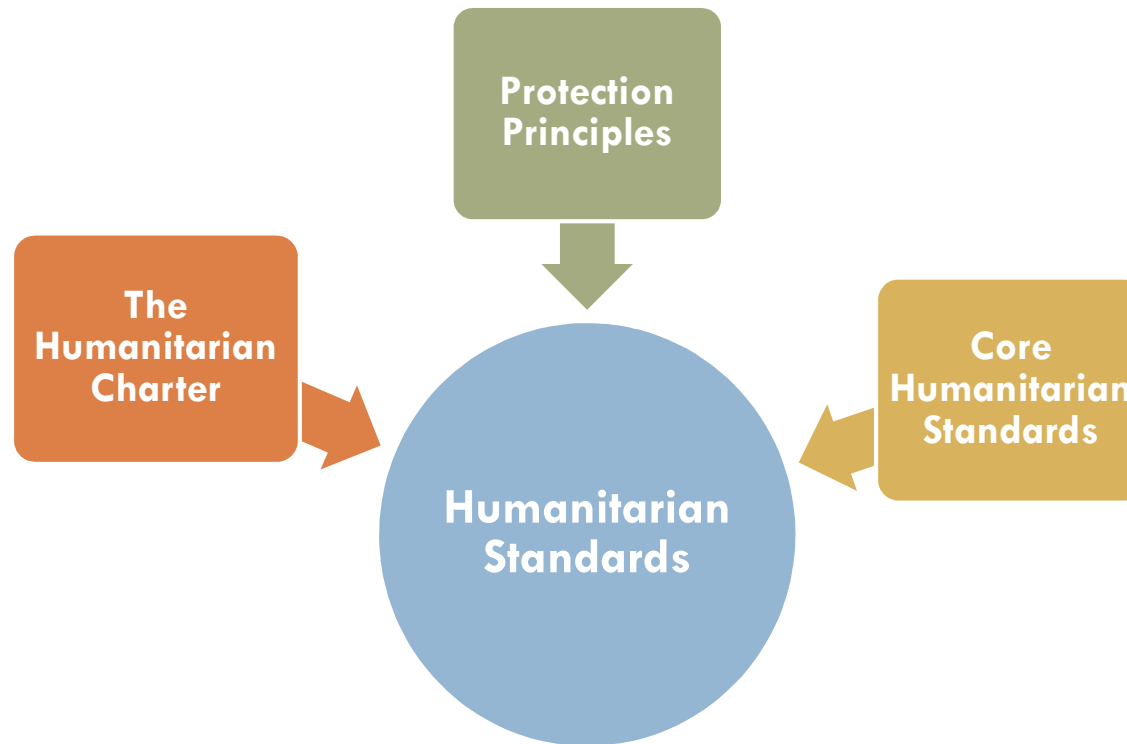
---



They also provide a strong basis to advocate for the rights of crisis-affected communities.

# Humanitarian standards

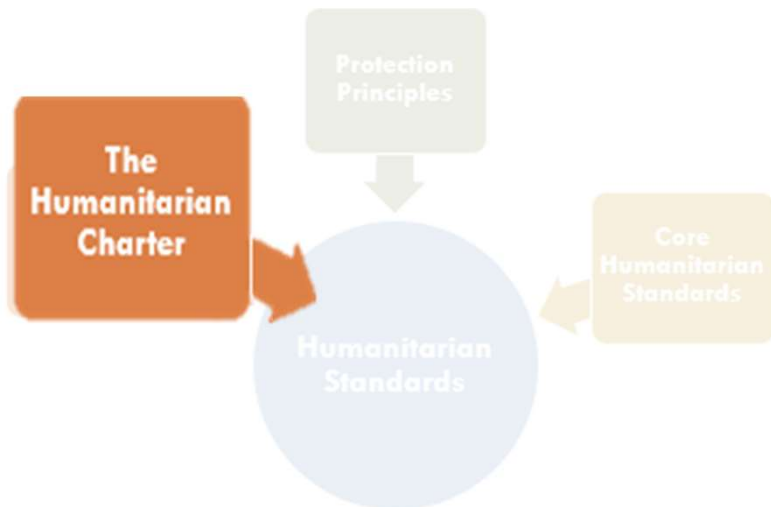
*Foundation of humanitarian standards*



# Humanitarian standards

*Foundation of humanitarian standards*

## THE HUMANITARIAN CHARTER



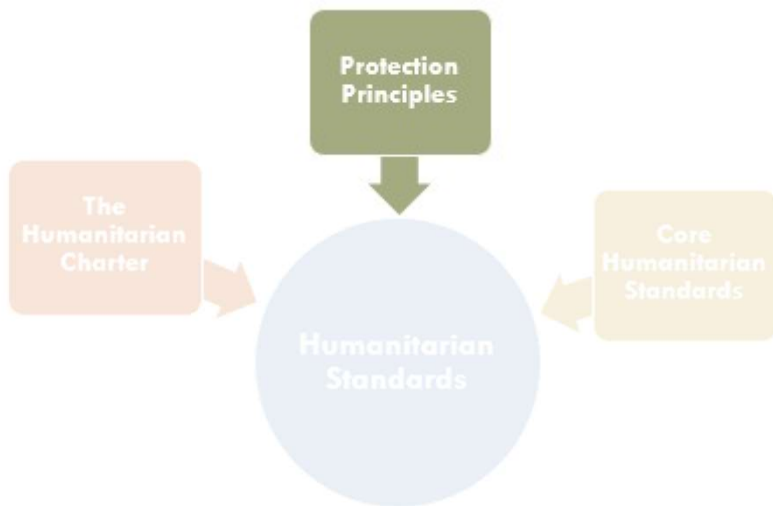
Based on **international humanitarian law, international human rights law, refugee law, and the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and (NGOs) in Disaster Relief.**

Defines the **legal responsibilities of states and parties to guarantee the right to assistance and protection.** When states are unable to respond, they are obliged to allow the intervention of humanitarian organizations.

# Humanitarian standards

*Foundation of humanitarian standards*

## PROTECTION PRINCIPLES



Avoid causing further harm as a result of your actions

Ensure people's access to impartial assistance

Protect people from physical and psychological harm arising from violence and coercion

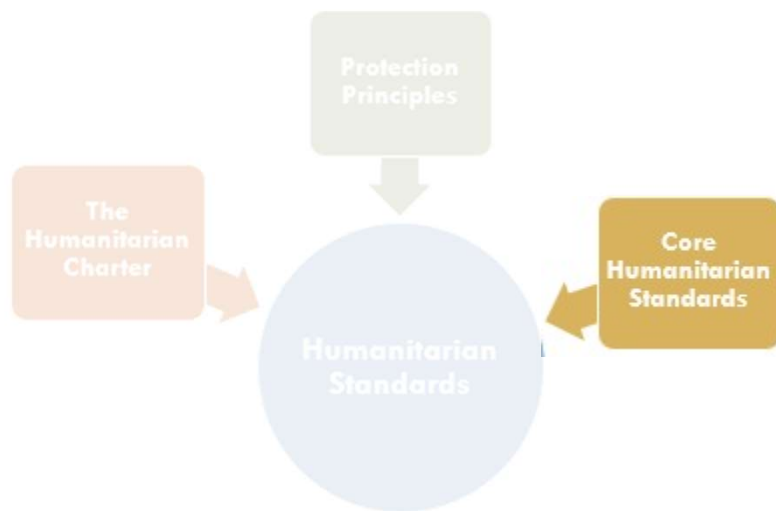
Assist with rights claims, access to remedies and recovery from abuse

# Humanitarian standards

## *Foundation of humanitarian standards*

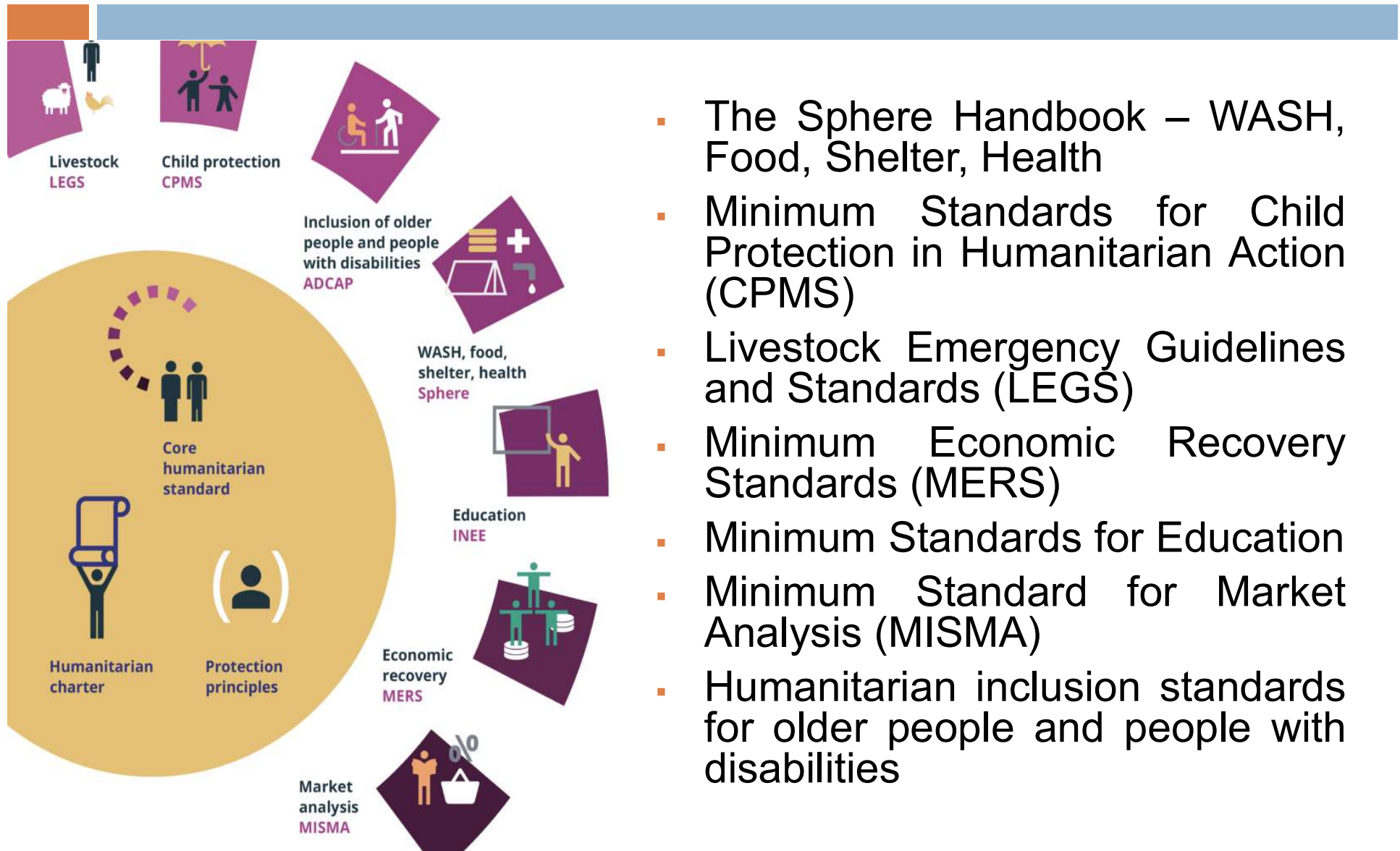
### CORE HUMANITARIAN STANDARDS

Nine Commitments that **organizations and individuals** involved in humanitarian response can use to **improve the quality and effectiveness of the assistance** they provide:



# Humanitarian standards

## *Other standards*

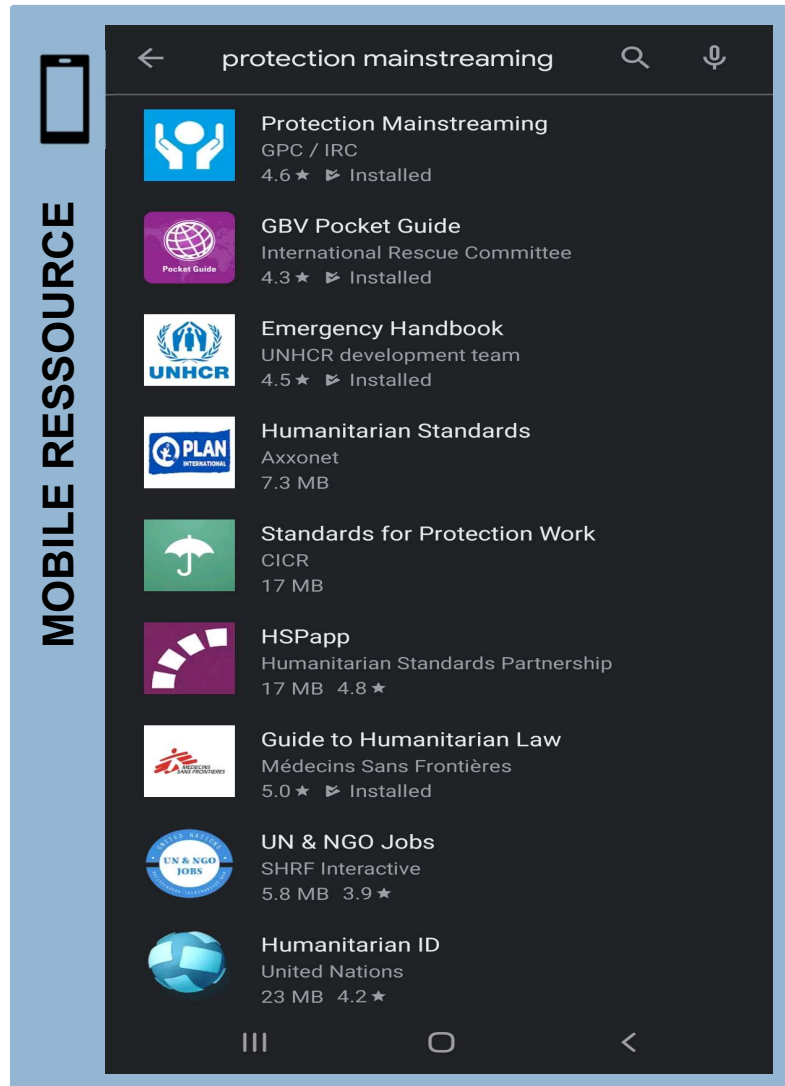


- The Sphere Handbook – WASH, Food, Shelter, Health
- Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPMS)
- Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS)
- Minimum Economic Recovery Standards (MERS)
- Minimum Standards for Education
- Minimum Standard for Market Analysis (MISMA)
- Humanitarian inclusion standards for older people and people with disabilities



# Humanitarian standards

## Other resources



### WEB RESSOURCE

- **Humanitarian Standards -**  
<https://spherestandards.org/humanitarian-standards/standards-partnership/>
- **What are Humanitarian Standards? -**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3nds7SWj0ys&list=PLfb1NgQXCWhgpoo84D-9OX7Am0e518jGR&index=5>
- **Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief -**  
<https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/assets/files/publications/icrc-002-1067.pdf>
- [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org) , [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org) ,  
[www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org) , [www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org) , [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org) ,  
[www.who.int](http://www.who.int) , [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org) ,  
[www.media.ifrc.org](http://www.media.ifrc.org)



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

