



UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

OCHA is the part of the United Nations Secretariat responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies. OCHA also ensures there is a framework within which each actor can contribute to the overall response effort.

OCHA's mission is to:

- Mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors in order to alleviate human suffering in disasters and emergencies.
- Advocate the rights of people in need.
- Promote preparedness and prevention.
- Facilitate sustainable solutions.

How OCHA delivers

OCHA's Strategic Framework ensures that OCHA delivers on its core mandate, while responding to contemporary global challenges. The three pillars of the Strategic Framework are:

- 1. Partnerships:** broadening the coalition for multilateral humanitarian action.
- 2. Service provider:** building a better system.
- 3. Reliability and professionalism:** creating better staffing and surge solutions to be there when it counts.



Iran Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Abbas Araqchi, and UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, sign a Joint Statement on bilateral cooperation in Tehran, September 2013.

OCHA presence in Iran

OCHA has been present in Iran since the Bam earthquake in 2003. However, OCHA sent a UN Donor Assistance Coordination (UNDAC) team to Iran in response to the earthquake in Khorasan province in 1997 (where 1,570 people were killed). During the Bam Earthquake response in 2003 (26,271 people killed) OCHA dispatched a full-scale UNDAC team and mobilized the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG).

- OCHA established an official presence in the country in 2013 through the establishment of a Humanitarian Assistance Team (HAT) through a joint statement with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. At present:
- OCHA in Iran serves as the secretariat of the UN Disaster Management Team, which is chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator.
- OCHA in Iran has organized several workshops and trainings, such as the post-Bam earthquake workshop (April 2004). In March 2011, a workshop was conducted by the Field Coordination

Support Section of OCHA Geneva to familiarize the government and the IRCS with INSARAG methodology. In October 2012, the Coordinated Assessment Support Section of OCHA in Geneva, along with OCHA Regional Office (ROMENA), facilitated a coordinated needs assessment workshop in Teheran. Workshop material included Inter-Agency Steering Committee (IASC) Guidelines on Coordinated Assessments.

- In August 2013, OCHA Regional Office (based in Cairo) and OCHA Humanitarian Advisory Team (HAT), together with WFP Readiness Initiative and UNICEF Iran, organized a training on international response tools, which was attended by 90 staff from UN and National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO) of Iran. The same group, together with UNICEF Regional Office Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA), WFP Regional Bureau for the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe delivered an earthquake simulation in two interlinked locations (Tehran and Kerman) on 12-13 October 2013.
- In September 2013, Ms. Valerie Amos Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) undertook her first official visit to Iran at the invitation



UN Humanitarian Chief Valerie Amos speaks at a press conference in the Iranian capital of Tehran.

of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the end of the visit, a joint statement on partnership was reached and OCHA formally establishes its presence in IRI through its Humanitarian Assistance Team (HAT).

- In August 2014, the USG/ERC Valerie Amos again visited Iran and endorsed a Plan of Action in disaster management (2014-2016), based on the 2013 signed joint statement on partnership. The PoA includes provision for structured strategic dialogue and information exchange, strengthened operational coordination efforts, the provision of technical support and capacity building for Iranian humanitarian and disaster management actors and, support to Iran's engagement in regional, global and multilateral forums.

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