

### ROMENACA activities

ROMENACA's activities for 2010 have been determined in accordance with OCHA Strategic Framework for 2010 – 2013. A snapshot of key objectives, outputs and indicators for 2010 are as follows:

**Objective:** Partnerships increased with a wider group of member states and regional organizations in support of humanitarian action.

**Outputs:** A strategy for increasing partnerships with relevant regional organizations developed in consultation with HQ and country offices.

Engagement of humanitarian actors in the region with international response systems increased.

**Objective:** Relationships strengthened with a wider group of operational partners, and other relevant actors to advance humanitarian action.

**Outputs:** Appropriate support provided to regional coordination mechanisms (Inter-Agency Coordination Network, Regional Directors' Team) in support of humanitarian preparedness and response.

Increased engagement of NGOs from the region in international humanitarian system.

**Objective:** Strengthened OCHA capacity to quickly respond; clear triggers for establishing, phasing and drawing down operation

**Outputs:** ROMENACA capacity for emergency response enhanced with adequately trained staff.

**Objective:** A more predictable and scalable suite of OCHA services and tools to support leaders and partners in response preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition.

**Outputs:** Emergency preparedness integrated into longer-term development frameworks.  
Minimum level of data preparedness fully implemented in priority countries.

### How to contact us

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Cairo Regional Office

Villa 10, Road 83, Maadi, Cairo - Egypt

P.O. Box 1182, Maadi

11431 Cairo, Egypt

Tel. No. +20 2 2751 5016 - 17 / Fax No. +20 2 2751 0125

Email: [romenaca@un.org](mailto:romenaca@un.org)

Website: [www.ochaonline.un.org/romenaca](http://www.ochaonline.un.org/romenaca)

### How to find us



**OCHA**  
Cairo Regional Office

ROMENACA Regional Office - Cairo  
Villa 10, Road 83, Maadi, Cairo - Egypt  
P.O. Box 1182, Maadi  
11431 Cairo, Egypt  
Tel. No. +20 2 2751 5016 - 17  
Fax No. +20 2 2751 0125  
Email: [romenaca@un.org](mailto:romenaca@un.org)  
<http://ochaonline.un.org/romenaca>

ROMENACA Liaison Office  
Dubai Humanitarian City Doha Road  
Building No.4, 1st Floor  
P. O. Box 506011  
Dubai - United Arab Emirates  
Tel. No. +971 4 368 1022  
Fax No. +971 4 368 1023

UNITED NATIONS  
2010



OFFICE FOR  
COORDINATION OF  
HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE  
MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA AND  
CENTRAL ASIA

Cairo Regional Office

Villa 10, Road 83, Maadi, Cairo - Egypt

P.O. Box 1182, Maadi

11431 Cairo, Egypt

Tel. No. +20 2 2751 5016 - 17

Fax No. +20 2 2751 0125

Email: [romenaca@un.org](mailto:romenaca@un.org)

Website: <http://ochaonline.un.org/romenaca>

## BASIC BACKGROUND ON OCHA

In December 1991, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 46/182, designed to strengthen the United Nations' (UN) response to both complex emergencies and natural disasters. In addition, it aimed at improving the overall effectiveness of the UN humanitarian operations in the field.

The resolution created the position of Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), which combined into a single UN focal point the functions carried out by representatives of the Secretary-General (SG) for major and complex emergencies, as well as the functions carried out by the UN former Disaster Relief Coordinator. Afterwards, with the establishment of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA), the ERC was assigned the status of Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Humanitarian Affairs. Currently, the post of USG for Humanitarian Affairs and ERC is held by Mr. John Holmes of the United Kingdom, appointed in January 2007.

In 1998, as part of the SG programme of reform, DHA was reorganized into the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Its mandate includes the following five core functions: coordination, information management, policy development advocacy and humanitarian financing.

OCHA carries out its coordination function primarily through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), which includes all humanitarian partners from UN agencies, funds and programmes to the Red Cross/Crescent Movement and NGOs. The IASC ensures inter-agency decision-making in response to complex emergencies.

## OCHA MISSION STATEMENT

OCHA mission is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors in order to:

- Alleviate human suffering and disasters in emergencies,
- Advocate for the rights of people in need,
- Promote preparedness and prevention, and
- Facilitate sustainable solutions.

## OCHA ROLE

OCHA facilitates the work of operational agencies that deliver humanitarian assistance to populations and communities in need and provides response tools, advocacy and information services.

OCHA solicits donor support mainly through the consolidated appeals process (CAP) and emergency appeals on behalf of countries affected by disasters. In sudden emergencies, OCHA may issue flash appeals for a three to six-month period. In addition, OCHA manages an Emergency Fund, which enables agencies to jump-start relief activities.

OCHA works with key stakeholders to develop policies and advocacy strategies designed to ensure the protection of civilians in armed conflict and respect for international humanitarian law. It also seeks to draw attention to "forgotten emergencies" that are not in the spotlight.

OCHA maintains an in-house emergency response capacity, supported by a 24-hour monitoring and alert system to deploy staff at short notice to sudden onset emergencies. In addition, OCHA maintains and facilitates several "surge capacity" and response mechanisms and networks that enable the humanitarian community to respond quickly to emergencies and disasters. These include, inter alia:

- The United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination System (UNDAC).
- The On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC).
- The Environmental Standby Experts.
- The Civil-Military Coordination Section (CMCS).  
The International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG).

An important part of OCHA work is to gather, analyse and disseminate information from the field to key stakeholders. Some of the tools used to collect and share information include:

- [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)
- [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org)
- [www.humanitarianinfo.org](http://www.humanitarianinfo.org)
- <http://ochaonline.un.org>

## OCHA SET UP

OCHA, as an office within the UN Secretariat, has its headquarters in New York with another main support office in Geneva. OCHA operates through an average of 30 country offices which support UN Humanitarian Coordinators and country teams. OCHA maintains regional offices in Dakar, Johannesburg, Nairobi, Panama, Bangkok and Cairo, as well as Regional Disaster Response Advisors in Africa, Central Asia, Asia-Pacific, Caribbean, Latin America and the Middle East.

## OCHA REGIONAL OFFICES

OCHA established its first Regional Office in East Africa in 1996, and since then OCHA has opened five more Regional Offices serving varied contexts. Regional Offices concentrate on the following three set of activities:

- Preparedness, including early warning and contingency planning;
- Support to emergency response; and,
- Development of regional coordination networks.

## OCHA REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA, AND CENTRAL ASIA- (ROMENACA)

The OCHA Regional Office for the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia (ROMENACA) is established in Cairo, Egypt. Together with the Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan) and its Liaison office in Dubai (UAE), it provides humanitarian coordination support to 28 countries and territories. The region under the scope of ROMENACA is prone to an array of sudden and slow onset natural disasters, and characterized by broad political instability and protracted conflict.

## ROMENACA core functions

To overcome these constraints, ROMENACA actively engages with all humanitarian partners and stakeholders in the region. The office, currently based in Cairo, Egypt, aims to:

- Strengthen capacity of Humanitarian Country Teams and national counterparts in the areas of emergency preparedness and response;
- Increase communication and cooperation between international emergency responders in the region;
- Strengthen humanitarian partnerships and networks in the region;
- Improve humanitarian decision-making and response through more coherent and sharpened advocacy and information management; and
- Promote multilateral donor coordination and resource mobilization mechanisms.