ReliefWeb

My Humanitarian Glossary

Acceptable risk:
Degree of human and material loss that is perceived by the community or relevant authorities as tolerable in actions to minimize disaster risk.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Accountability:
Individuals and groups being held responsible for their actions. In particular, ending impunity for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other serious violations of human right or humanitarian law, through justice and truth-seeking mechanisms, such as, the International Criminal Court, Ad hoc tribunals, special courts and tribunals, truth commissions and national courts. See 'Impunity', 'International Criminal Court' 'Restorative Justice' and 'Transitional Justice'**(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**

Acid rain:
Rain containing dissolved acidic compounds, resulting from chemical pollution of the atmosphere by sulphur and nitrogen compounds. When deposited these increase the acidity of the soil and water causing agricultural and ecological damage.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Advocacy:
Partial third-party entreaties usually on behalf of one party to the conflict (often the weaker one) to external decision makers and power brokers. Advocacy campaigns raise awareness about particular issues and conditions and aim to bring about policy changes. [Schmid, Alex P. Thesaurus and Glossary of Early Warning and Conflict Prevention Terms. Abridged version edited by Sanam B. Anderlini for FEWER. Rodderdam: Synthesis Foundation, 1998. http://www.fewer.org./pubs/thes.htm.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Aftershock:
A smaller earthquake that follows the main shock and originates close to its focus. Aftershocks generally decrease in number and magnitude over time.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Aid weariness (fatigue):
Attitude among some donor-country politicians and populations that foreign aid has been unsuccessful and that they are tired of giving it. [Todaro, Michael P. Economic Development (Sixth Edition). Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1997.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Air-coupled tsunami:
Synonym for atmospheric tsunami.**(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

Alarm:
Signal giving warning of danger.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Anticyclone:
A region where barometric pressure is high or relative to that in the surrounding regions at the same level.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Appeal:
Consolidated or Flash Appeal.**(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Appeal year:
Calendar year of the Appeal. Most Consolidated Appeals run January-December. If not, or if it is a 3/6-month Flash Appeal, then the appeal year is that of the majority of the implementation period: e.g., a 6-month appeal starting on Dec. 26, 2004, would be designated as a 2005 appeal. Appeals exactly split between two calendar years, e.g. a 12-month appeal starting July 1, by custom are designated as being in the year in which they started.**(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Appealing organization (or agency):

A humanitarian organisation (UN Agency, NGO, or Red Cross / Red Crescent) using the Consolidated Appeal Process to request funding for a specific project that it will implement; i.e. listing its project(s) in the Appeal.**(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Arid zone:
An area in which the water resources from ground water and rainfall are insufficient to counterbalance the evaporation.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Ash flow:
Pyroclastic flow including a liquid phase and a solid phase composed mainly of ashes. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Assessment:
Survey of a real or potential disaster to estimate the actual or expected damages and to make recommendations for prevention, preparedness and response.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Assistance:
Aid provided to address the physical, material and legal needs of persons of concern. This may include food items, medical supplies, clothing, shelter, seeds and tools, as well as the provision of infrastructure, such as schools and roads. "Humanitarian assistance" refers to assistance provided by humanitarian organizations for humanitarian purposes (i.e., non-political, non-commercial, and non-military purposes). In UNHCR practice, assistance supports and complements the achievement of protection objectives. **(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Avalanche:
The rapid and sudden sliding and flowage of masses of usually incoherent and unsorted mixtures of snow/ice/rock material.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Basic needs:
Minimum requirements of a community for a decent standard of life: adequate food, shelter, and clothing plus some household equipment and furniture. They also include essential services provided by and for the community-at-large such as safe drinking water, sanitation, health and education facilities, protection against human rights violations and gainful employment. [Welsh, Brian W. and Pavel Butorin. Dictionary of Development: Third World Economy, Environment, Society. New York & London: Garland Publishing 1990.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Beaufort scale:
Scale of wind force, measured from O (calm) to 12 (hurricane force wind).**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Bilateral aid/assistance:
Aid that is controlled and spent by donor countries at their own discretion. This may include staff, supplies, equipment, funding to recipient governments and funding to NGOs. It also includes assistance channelled as earmarked funding through international and UN organisations.**(Global Humanitarian Assistance Glossary, DI)**

Breaker:
A sea-surface wave that has become so steep (wave steepness of 1/7) that the crest outraces the body of the wave and it collapses into a turbulent mass on shore or over a reef. Breaking usually occurs when the water depth is less than 1.28 times the wave height. Roughly, three kinds of breakers can be distinguished, depending primarily on the gradient of the bottom: a) spilling breakers (over nearly flat bottoms) which form a foamy patch at the crest and break gradually over a considerable distance; b) plunging breakers (over fairly steep bottom gradients) which peak up, curl over with a tremendous overhanging mass and then break with a crash; c) surging breakers (over very steep bottom gradients) which do not spill or plunge but surge up the beach face. Waves also break in deep water if they build too high while being generated by the wind, but these are usually short-crested and are termed whitecaps.**(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

Capacity:

A combination of all the strengths and resources available within a community, society or organization that can reduce the level of risk, or the effects of a disaster. Capacity may include physical, institutional, social or economic means as well as skilled personal or collective attributes such as leadership and management. Capacity may also be described as capability.**(Components of Risk: A Comparative Glossary, UNU)**

Capacity building:

A process by which individuals, institutions and societies develop abilities, individually and collectively, to perform functions, solve problems and set and achieve their goals. **(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Capacity, adaptive:

...defines adaptive capacity as a combination of a society's ex ante vulnerability to damages from natural hazards and its ex post resilience or ability to cope with the damages that result. **(Components of Risk: A Comparative Glossary, UNU)**

Capacity, coping (3):

Refers to the manner in which people and organisations use existing resources to achieve various beneficial ends during unusual, abnormal, and adverse conditions of a disaster event or process. The strengthening of coping capacities usually builds resilience to withstand the effects of natural and other hazards. **(Components of Risk: A Comparative Glossary, UNU)**

The means by which people or organizations use available resources and abilities to face adverse consequences that could lead to a disaster. In general, this involves managing resources, both in normal times as well as during crises or adverse conditions. The strengthening of coping capacities usually builds resilience to withstand the effects of natural and humaninduced hazards.**(A Glossary of Terms and Concepts in Peace and Conflict Studies, Second Edition, University for Peace)**

The ability to cope with threats includes the ability to absorb impacts by guarding against or adapting to them. It also includes provisions made in advance to pay for potential damages, for instance by mobilizing insurance repayments, savings or contingency reserves.**(Components of Risk: A Comparative Glossary, UNU)**

Capacity, coping & adaptive:

While the concept of coping capacity is more directly related to an extreme event (e.g. a flood or a winter storm), the concept of adaptive capacity refers to a longer time frame and implies that some learning either before or after an extreme event is happening. The higher the coping capacity and adaptive capacity, the lower the vulnerability of a system, region, community or household. Enhancement of adaptive capacity is a necessary condition for reducing vulnerability, particularly for the most vulnerable regions and socioeconomic groups.**(Components of Risk: A Comparative Glossary, UNU)**

Capacity-building:

The development of individual and collective abilities or capabilities to transform the violent expression of conflict into a non-violent, positive, constructive force. Collectively, capacity-building also refers to the strengthening of civil institutions (local government, judiciary etc.) which allow society to address and resolve disputes non-violently. [International Alert. Resource Pack for Conflict Transformation. London, IA, 1996 (Parts, I-V).]**(Thesaurus and Glossary of Early Warning and Conflict Prevention Terms, FEWER)**

Central emergency response fund (CERF):

A central emergency revolving fund (CERF) was established in 1991 as a fund of US$50 million given as a one-off contribution by donors. By 2004, due to the accumulation of interest, the CERF had US$50 million in the bank and US$15 million on loan. In December 2005 a new expanded CERF (this time the central emergency response fund) was approved by the General Assembly officially launched on 9 March 2006. The new CERF has a grant element of US$450 million in addition to the US$50 million loan element. Up to two-thirds of the grant facility can be allocated to rapid response to emergencies while the remaining third will be devoted to addressing underfunded emergencies. See: http://ochaonline.un.org/Default.aspx?alias=ochaonline.un.org/cerf **(Global Humanitarian Assistance Glossary, DI)**

Channel:

Appealing Organization (UN Agency, Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, NGO). **(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Civil society:

Refers to structures independent from governments such as non-governmental organizations and human rights groups, independent activists and human rights defenders, religious congregations, charities, universities, trade unions, legal associations, families and clans. Domestic civil society represents one of the most critical sources of humanitarian assistance and civilian protection during humanitarian emergencies. **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**
See also: Non-Governmental Organization

Civilian populations:
Groups of unarmed people, including women, children, the sick and elderly, refugees and internally displaced persons, who are not directly engaged in the armed conflict. **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**
See also: 'Internally Displaced Person' and 'Refugee'

Cluster approach:
A mechanism introduced by the UN in December 2005 to "enhance the ability of the ERC (globally) and the humanitarian coordinators (on the ground) to manage humanitarian response effectively". See: www.humanitarianreform.org**(Global Humanitarian Assistance Glossary, DI)**

Code of Conduct:
A common set of principles or standards that a group of agencies or organizations have agreed to abide by while providing assistance in response to complex emergencies or natural disasters. For example, the Principles of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations in Disaster Response Programmes, and the IASC Core Principles of a Code of Conduct for Protection from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation. **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**
See also: 'Inter-Agency Standing Committee', 'Sexual Abuse' and 'Sexual Exploitation'

Commitment:
Creation of a contractual obligation regarding funding between the donor and appealing agency. Almost always takes the form of a signed contract. This is the crucial stage of humanitarian funding: agencies cannot spend money and implement before a funding commitment is made; once it is made, they can begin spending against it, using cash reserves.**(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Common humanitarian action plan (CHAP):
A strategic plan for humanitarian response in a given country or region. The CHAP is the foundation for developing a consolidated appeal. Under the leadership of the humanitarian coordinator, the CHAP is developed at the field level by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) country team. This includes UN agencies, and standing invitees, i.e. the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Red Cross Movement, and NGOs that belong to International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), Interaction, or Southern Center for Human Rights (SCHR). Non-IASC members, such as national NGOs, can be included and other key stakeholders in humanitarian action, in particular host governments and donors, are consulted.**(Global Humanitarian Assistance Glossary, DI)**

Communications plan for the tsunami warning system:
The operations manual for the Tsunami Warning System in various regions. The Plan provides a general overview of the operational procedures and of the nature of tsunamis. It lists the seismographic and sea level stations participating in the warning system, the methods of communication between the stations and the Warning Centre, the criteria for the reporting an issuing of tsunami information messages by the Warning Centre, the recipients of the information, and the methods by which the messages are sent. Official contact information for emergency communications is included. **(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**
See also: Tsunami Glossary

Community development:
A process to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of communities. Community development aims to integrate refugee into their host countries or to reintegrate them upon return to their country of origin, while improving the living standards of the whole community.**(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Complex (humanitarian) emergency:

A) Natural or man-made disaster with economic, social and political dimensions. A humanitarian crisis in a country, region, or society where there is a total or considerable breakdown of authority resulting from internal or external conflict, requiring an international response that extends beyond the mandate or capacity of any single agency and/or the ongoing UN country program. [United Nations Department of Humanitarian Assistance. MCDA Reference Manual. 1995. http://www.reliefweb.int/library/mcda/refman/glossary.html.] B) Natural or man-made disaster with economic, social and political dimensions. A profound social crisis in which a large number of people die and suffer from war, disease, hunger, and displacement owing to man-made and natural disasters, while some others may benefit from it. Four factors can be measured: the fatalities from violence; the mortality of children under five years of age; the percentage of underweight children under five; and the number of external refugees and internally displaced persons. [Väyrynen, 1998; cited by Schmid Schmid, Alex P. Thesaurus and Glossary of Early Warning and Conflict Prevention Terms. Abridged version edited by Sanam B. Anderlini for FEWER. Rodderdam: Synthesis Foundation, 1998. http://www.fewer.org./pubs/thes.htm.] **(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Contingency planning:
A management tool used to ensure that adequate arrangements are made in anticipation of a crisis. This is achieved primarily through engagement in a planning process leading to a plan of action, together with follow-up actions.**(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**

continuing flood hazard:
The hazard a community is exposed to after floodplain management measures have been put in place. For a town protected by levees, the continuing flood hazard is the consequences of the levees being overtopped. For an area without any floodplain management measures, the continuing flood hazard is simply the existence of flood liability.**(Glossary of UN Peacekeeping Terms, DPKO)**

Contribution:
The payment or transfer of funds or in-kind goods from the donor towards the appealing agency, resulting from a commitment.**(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Contribution type:
Describes the donation as cash or in-kind (see definition).**(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Contributions in kind:
Non-cash assistance in materials or services offered or provided in case of disaster. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Conventions:
Formal international agreements among nations (to which states become party), which create binding legal obligations. Such agreement may have different names: treaty, convention, covenant, or pact. Conventions are one of two main types of UN human rights instruments, the other being UN standards.**(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Coping capacity:
The manner in which people and organisations use existing resources to achieve various beneficial ends during unusual, abnormal and adverse conditions of a disaster phenomenon or process.**(Reducing Disaster Risk: A Challenge for Development - Glossary of Terms, UNDP)**

Cyclone:
A large-scale closed circulation system in the atmosphere with low barometric pressure and strong winds that rotate counter clockwise in the northern hemisphere and clockwise in the southern hemisphere. The system is referred to as a cyclone in the Indian Ocean and South Pacific, hurricane in the western Atlantic and eastern Pacific and typhoon in the western Pacific.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Damage classification:

Evaluation and recording of damage to structures, facilities, or objects according to three (or more) categories: 1. "severe damage" which precludes further use of the structure, facility, or object for its intended purpose. 2. "moderate damage" or the degree of damage to principal members, which precludes effective use of the structure, facility, or object for its intended purpose, unless major repairs are made short of complete reconstruction. 3. "light damage" such as broken windows, slight damage to roofing and siding, interior partitions blown down, and cracked walls; the damage is not severe enough to preclude use of the installation for the purpose for which was intended.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Debris flow:
A high-density mud flow with abundant coarse-grained materials such as rocks, tree trunks, etc.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Declaration of disaster:
Official issuance of a state of emergency upon the occurrence of a large-scale calamity, in order to activate measures aimed at the reduction of the disaster's impact.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Design earthquake:
Earthquake parameters selected for designing an earthquake resistant structure according to code requirements.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Development:
A) Long-term development efforts aimed at bringing improvements in economic, political, and social status and the quality of life of all segments of the population as well as environmental sustainability. B) Broad-based sustainable development has four components. The first is a healthy, growing economy that constantly transforms itself to maintain and enhance the standard of living. Second, the benefits of economic growth are equitably shared; women, minorities, immigrants, the poor, and the handicapped get a fair deal from economic growth. The third component includes respect for human rights, good governance, a vibrant civil society of non-governmental organizations, and an increasingly democratic society. The fourth is sustainability, which means that in the process of economic growth, we do not destroy the environment, enabling our descendants to enjoy the same or higher standard of living. [Weaver, James H., Michael T. Rock, Kenneth Kusterer. Achieving Broad-Based Sustainable Development. West Hartford, CT: Kumarian Press, 1997.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Disaster:
A serious disruption of the functioning of society, causing widespread human, material or environmental losses which exceed the ability of affected society to cope using only its own resources. Disasters are often classified according to their cause (natural or manmade).**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Disaster management:
The body of policy and admnistrative decisions and operational activities which pertain to the various stages of a disaster at all levels.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Disaster mitigation:
A collective term used to encompass all activities undertaken in anticipation of the occurrence of a potentially disastrous event, including preparedness and long-term risk assessment. [UNDHA 1995: http://www.reliefweb.int/library/mcda/refman/glossary.html]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Disaster phases:
Pre- and post-disaster periods subdivided into particular actions. syn. disaster cycle, disaster continuum**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Disaster prevention:

Originally defined as measures designed to prevent natural phenomena from causing or resulting in disaster or other emergency situations, the term has now been largely replaced by 'mitigation' in the recognition that few natural disasters can be definitively prevented. [UNDHA 1995: http://www.reliefweb.int/library/mcda/refman/glossary.html]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Disaster reconstruction:

Longer term activities designed to augment critical infrastructure and promote development goals. This follows disaster relief and rehabilitation but should be viewed as a part of a continuum. [United States Agency for International Development. "Glossary of ADS Terms." Undated. http://www.info.usaid.gov/pubs/ads/glossary.htm.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Disaster rehabilitation:

Intermediate term activities to assist disaster stricken populations to return to a state of viability. A secondary priority to life-sustaining disaster relief. [United States Agency for International Development. "Glossary of ADS Terms." Undated. http://www.info.usaid.gov/pubs/ads/glossary.htm.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Disaster response:

A sum of decisions and actions taken during and after disaster, including immediate relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Disaster risk management:

The systematic management of administrative decisions, organisation, operational skills and abilities to implement policies, strategies and coping capacities of the society or individuals to lessen the impacts of natural and related environmental and technological hazards.**(Reducing Disaster Risk: A Challenge for Development - Glossary of Terms, UNDP)**

Disaster risk reduction:

The systematic development and application of policies, strategies and practices to minimise vulnerabilities, hazards and the unfolding of disaster impacts throughout a society, in the broad context of sustainable development.**(Reducing Disaster Risk: A Challenge for Development - Glossary of Terms, UNDP)**

Disaster team:

Multidisciplinary, multisectoral group of persons qualified to evaluate a disaster and to bring the necessary relief.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Disaster, remarks on:

In summary, it can be determined that there is a problem of definition which affects the interpretation of vulnerability to disasters. Therefore, a list of important questions often cannot be answered clearly: When does a disaster begin? Who decides about shortcomings in the coping capacity of a society? When does the disaster end? What are the appropriate indicators for disasters? In addition, many definitions do not take differing vulnerabilities of population groups into account. [Feldbrügge, T.; von Braun, J. (2002): Is the World Becoming a More Risky Place? – Trends in Disasters and Vulnerability to Them. ZEF – Discussion Papers On Development Policy No. 46, Center for Development Research, Bonn, May 2002, p. 42.]**(Components of Risk: A Comparative Glossary, UNU)**

Disease control:

All policies, precautions and measures taken to prevent the outbreak or spread of communicable diseases.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Displaced person (DP) (2):

Persons who, for different reasons or circumstances, have been compelled to leave their homes. They may or may not reside in their country of origin, but are not legally regarded as refugees. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

An individual forced to leave his or her home province, district, region, or nation in search of sanctuary from life-threatening circumstances. A displaced person remaining within his or her home nation is usually referred to as an internally displaced person (IDP). **(A Glossary of Terms and Concepts in Peace and Conflict Studies, Second Edition, University for Peace)**
See also: asylum and refugee

Displacement:
Forcible or voluntary uprooting of persons from their homes by violent conflicts, gross violations of human rights and other traumatic events, or threats thereof. Persons who remain within the borders of their own country are known as internally displaced persons. Persons who are forced to flee outside the borders of their state of nationality or residence for reasons based on a well-founded fear of persecution on the grounds identified in the 1951 Refugee Convention or to flee conflict in the case of States Parties to the 1969 OAU Convention or 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees are known as refugees. **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**
See also: Internally Displaced Person and Refugees

Donor country:
Refers to funding by a national government. All funding from other sources (corporate, foundation, individuals, ecclesiastical) is designated as being "private". **(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Donor organisation:
Where applicable, agency within national government, or private organisation, making the contribution. **(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Early action:
Often used in conjunction with 'early warning', the term refers to either 'preventive action' or 'early response action'. Processes of consultation, policy making, planning, and action to reduce or avoid armed conflict. These processes include: i) diplomatic/political; ii) military/security; iii) humanitarian; and iv) development/economic activity. [Diller, Janelle M. Handbook on Human Rights in Situations of conflict. Minneapolis, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, March 1997 (MS).] **(Thesaurus and Glossary of Early Warning and Conflict Prevention Terms, FEWER)**

Early warning:
The systematic collection and analysis of information coming from areas of crises for the purpose of anticipating the escalation of violent conflict; the development of strategic response to these crises; and the presentation of options to critical actors for the purpose of decision making. [Schmid, Alex P. "Thesaurus and Glossary of Early Warning and Conflict Prevention Terms." Abridged version edited by Sanam B. Anderlini for FEWER. Rodderdam: Synthesis Foundation, 1998. http://www.fewer.org./pubs/thes.htm.] **(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Earmarked contribution:
Funding for which the donor specifies the exact use (project and destination) for the contribution. Note that in reality, there are degrees of earmarking: funds can be earmarked to the level of country (e.g. Sudan) or crisis (e.g. Tsunami), province (e.g. Darfur), sector (e.g. health), or—the most restricted level—project (e.g. UNICEF North Darfur Nutrition Project). FTS treats any funds earmarked at least to the level of country as earmarked; if the donor does not specify project and sector, FTS attributes the funds to "Sector not yet specified". **(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**
See also: Unearmarked Contribution

Earth flow:
A mass movement characterized by down slope translation of loose material. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Earthquake:
A sudden break within the upper layers of the earth, sometimes breaking the surface, resulting in the vibration of the ground, which where strong enough will cause the collapse of buildings and destruction of life and property. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

El Niño:

An anomalous warming of ocean water resulting from the oscillation of a current in the South Pacific, usually accompanied by heavy rainfall in the coastal region of Peru and Chile, and reduction of rainfall in equatorial Africa and Australia.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Elements at risk:

The population, buildings and civil engineering works, economic activities, public services and infrastructure, etc. exposed to hazards.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Emergency:

A situation that causes widespread human, material, economic or environmental damage, threatening human lives and/or livelihoods and exceeding the coping capacities of the affected communities and/or government.**(Food Quality Control Glossary, WFP)**

Emergency medical system (EMS):

The aggregate of resources and personnel required to deliver medical care to those with an unpredicted, immediate health need outside established medical facilities. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Emergency relief:

The immediate survival assistance to the victims of crisis and violent conflict. Most relief operations are initiated on short notice and have a short implementation period (project objectives are generally completed within a year). The main purpose of emergency relief is to save lives.**(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC):

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs also carries the title of Emergency Relief Coordinator. In this role, the ERC coordinates the international response to humanitarian emergencies and disasters. **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**
See also: 'Inter-Agency Standing Committee' and 'Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator'

Emerging infectious diseases:

Pathogen-induced human illnesses which have increased in lethality, transmissibility, and/or expanded their geographical range since 1973. [Price-Smith, Andrew T. "Ghosts of Kigali: Infectious Disease as a Stressor on State Capacity and Lessons from Sub-Saharan Africa." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Washington DC, February 1999]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Environmentally displaced person:

Person whose migration movement is of a forced nature and decisively induced by an environmental factor - Comments: There is no generally accepted definition of the term. It is used as a a slightly more neutral alternative to the term environmental refugee, also used to describe people displaced through natural and man-made disasters or environmental degradation. Both terms demand to be used with care as they tend to imply a unique cause to the displacement which may be misleading. Although more frequently used, the latter term is particularly problematic. The term "refugee" usually implies the crossing of state borders, whereas movements concerned here may be occurring within the borders of a state. In addition, it poses a significant risk of diluting the concept of "refugee" as legally defined in the 1951 UN Refugee Convention even though it may rightly point to the forced character of the movement. Use of the term environmental refugee is therefore not recommended, even though it is frequently used. The term climate refugee, though it refers more specifically to movements induced by climate change, raises similar difficulties. The term environmental migrant is also used as "persons or groups of persons who, for compelling reasons of sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad" (Source: IOM). However the expression environmental migrant itself may lead to confusion as the term "migrant" is generally used to cover cases of voluntary migration (unless further specification is introduced i.e "forced migrant"). Environmentally Induced Population Movements (EIPM) are receiving growing attention in both political and academic circles.**(People on the Move: Handbook of selected terms and concepts, version 1.0, Hague Process / UNESCO)**

Epidemic:

1. An unusual increase in the number of cases of an infectious disease which already exists in the region or population concerned. 2. The appearance of a significant number of cases of an infectious disease introduced in a region or population that is usually free from that disease. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Epidemic(s):
Affecting or tending to affect a disproportionately large number of individuals within a population, community, or region at the same time. Non-pandemic disease attacking many individuals in a same community during short terms (days, weeks, months maximum), such as cholera, typhoid, bubonic plague, etc. **(Definitions of Disaster Codes, GLIDE)**

Evacuation map:
A drawing or representation that outlines danger zones and designates limits beyond which people must be evacuated to avoid harm from tsunami waves. Evacuation routes are sometimes designated to ensure the efficient movement of people out of the evacuation zone to evacuation shelters. **(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

Evaluation (2):
A systematic and objective analysis and assessment of the organization's policies, programmes, practices, partnerships and procedures, focused on planning, design, implementation and impacts. **(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Post disaster appraisal of all aspects of the disaster and its effects. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Exposure:
People, property, systems, or functions at risk of loss exposed to hazards. [Multihazard Mitigation Council (2002): Parameters for an Independent Study To Assess the Future Benefits of Hazard Mitigation Activities. National Institute of Building Sciences, Washington, DC, p. 69. http://www.nibs.org/MMC/imagesJuly%202002%20Phase%20I%20Final%20Report.pdf, 24 January 2006.]**(Components of Risk: A Comparative Glossary, UNU)**

Exposure time:
The time period of interest for seismic risk calculations, seismic hazard calcutations, or design of structures. For structures, the exposure time is often chosen to be equal to the design lifetime of the structure.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Extra-tropical cyclone:
Low-pressure system which develops in latitudes outside the tropics. **(Definitions of Disaster Codes, GLIDE)**

Eye (of the storm):
The calm center of a tropical cyclone.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Faith-based organization:
Faith-based organization is the term preferred instead of e.g. church, synagogue, mosque or religious rganization, as it is inclusive (non-judgmental about the validity of any expression of faith) and moves away from historical (and typically European) patterns of thought. **(UNAIDS' Terminology Guidelines, UNAIDS)**

Famine:
A catastrophic food shortage affecting large numbers of people due to climatic, environmental and socio-economic reasons.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Financial tracking system (FTS):
OCHA's FTS captures voluntary statements of contributions to humanitarian assistance from over 60 countries. FTS data primarily covers contributions for countries that are a subject of a CAP appeal or in response to a natural disaster and which have been reported to the FTS either by the donor or by the recipient agency. **(Global Humanitarian Assistance Glossary, DI)**
See also: http://www.reliefweb.int/FTS/

Fire:

A destructive burning (as of a building). Include in this category urban, industrial or rural fires, but not including wild (forest) fires. Limited to those induced or highly connected to natural phenomena, such as electrical storms, earthquakes, droughts, etc.**(ReliefWeb, RW)**

Firewall:
Walls which are intended to be fire barriers.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

First aid:
The immediate but temporary care given on site to the victims of an accident or sudden illness in order to avert complications, lessen suffering, and sustain life until competent services or a physician can be obtained.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Flash appeal:
a tool for structuring a coordinated humanitarian response to sudden onset emergencies. It is triggered by the UN's humanitarian coordinator in consultation with the IASC country team and following endorsement by the ERC and the IASC. The government of the affected country is also consulted. Flash appeals are issued within two to four weeks of an emergency. They are designed to cover urgent life-saving needs and early recovery projects that can be implemented within the first three to six months of an emergency. **(Global Humanitarian Assistance Glossary, DI)**
See also: "consolidated appeal"

Flash flood:
Flooding that develops very quickly on streams and river tributaries with a relatively high peak discharge; usually as a result of thunderstorms. Sometimes the onset of flash flooding comes before the end of heavy rains. There is little time between the detection of flood conditions and the arrival of the flood crest. Swift action is essential to the protection of life and property.**(Definitions of Disaster Codes, GLIDE)**

Flood:
The overflowing of water of the normal confines of a stream or other body of water, or the accumulation of water by drainage over areas, which are not normally submerged. Excludes Tidal flooding in coastal zones will be reported as "Storm Surge".**(Definitions of Disaster Codes, GLIDE)**

Flood alarm level:
Water level which is considered to be dangerous and at which warnings should commence.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Flood control:
The management of water resources through construction of dams, reservoirs, embankments, etc. to avoid floods.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Forecast:
Statement or statistical estímate of the occurrence of a future event. This term is used with different meanings in different disciplines, as well as "prediction".**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Foreign aid:
The international transfer of public funds in the form of loans or grants either directly from one government to another (bilateral assistance) or indirectly through the vehicle of a multilateral assistance agency like the World Bank. [Todaro, Michael P. Economic Development (Sixth Edition). Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1997.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Freedom of movement:
The freedom of citizens to move in, around and from their country.**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

FTS:

A web-based, searchable contributions tracking system which reflects all humanitarian funding reported to OCHA. Includes contributions to Consolidated Appeals, natural disasters, and all other humanitarian aid as reported to OCHA. In-kind contributions, with a dollar value reported by the donor or recipient entity, are also recorded.**(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Fujita-Pearson scale (FPP scale):
A 3-digit scale for tornadoes devised by Fujita (F scale) and Pearson (PP scale) to indicate tornado intensity (0-5), path length (0-5) and path width (0-7).**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Gale:
Wind with a speed between 34 and 40 knots (Beaufort scale wind force 8).**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol:
The four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and their two Additional Protocols of 1977 relating to the protection of victims in armed conflict are the principal instruments of international humanitarian law. Together, these instruments seek to limit the effects of armed conflict by protecting persons who are not or are no longer participating in the hostilities, including wounded or sick military and naval personnel, prisoners of war, and civilian populations, and to restrict the means and methods of warfare. The four Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I apply during international armed conflicts between two or more States, whereas only Article 3 common to the four Conventions and Protocol II apply during non-international or internal conflicts. As of March 2003, 190 States are party to the Geneva Conventions, 161 States are party to Additional Protocol I and 156 States are party to Additional Protocol II. These instruments are monitored principally by the International Committee of the Red Cross. **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**
See also: Armed Conflict, International Humanitarian Law and Protected Persons

Geographic information system (GIS):
Analysis that combine relational databases with spatial interpretation and outputs often in form of maps. A more elaborate definition is that of computer programmes for capturing, storing, checking, integrating, analysing and displaying data about the earth that is spatially referenced. Geographical information systems are increasingly being utilised for hazard and vulnerability mapping and analysis, as well as for the application of disaster risk management measures.**(On Better Terms - A Glance at Key Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, ISDR)**

GLIDE number:
A unique identifier number for an emergency (GLobal unique disaster IDEntifier number). The system that generates the numbers (also cited on ReliefWeb) is managed by the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (www.cred.be). For more info see www.glidenumber.net.**(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Global humanitarian assistance (GHA):
a term used by GHA to describe the "guesstimate" of global expenditure on humanitarian assistance. It includes: total official humanitarian assistance; donations to NGOs, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and UN agencies by members of the general public; certain expenditure by DAC donor governments that falls outside the official definition of either ODA or humanitarian assistance (security expenditure and activities such as mine clearance, for example); and the activities of governments that are not part of the DAC ('non-DAC' donors). In spite of efforts to be all-encompassing, this calculation still excludes local response and remittances from family members and diaspora communities.**(Global Humanitarian Assistance Glossary, DI)**

Globalization:
The increasing integration of national economies into expanding international markets.[Todaro, Michael P. Economic Development (Sixth Edition). Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1997.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

GLOSS:

Global Sea-Level Observing System. A component of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS). TheUNESCOIOC established GLOSSin 1985 originally to improve the quality of sea level data as input to studies of long-term sea level change. It consists of a core network of approximately 300 stations distributed along continental coastlines and throughout each of the world's island groups. The GLOSS network also supports sea level monitoring for tsunami warning with minimum operational standards of 15-minute data transmissions of one-minute sampled data.**(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

Good governance:
A) Efficient, accountable management by the public sector and a predictable and transparent policy framework critical to the efficiency of markets and governments, hence to economic development. [World Bank. Governance and Development. Washington DC, 1992.] B) Technical competence and expertise; organizational effectiveness; accountability; rule of law; transparency and open information systems. [Tulane Institute for International Development (TIID). Sustainable Human Development CD-Rom. Arlington, VA: Tulane Institute for International Development, 1997.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Good humanitarian donorship (GHD):
the initiative 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. **(Global Humanitarian Assistance Glossary, DI)**
See also: www.goodhumanitariandonorship.org

Good practice:
An innovative, interesting and inspiring practice that has the potential to be transferred in whole or in part to other national contexts.**(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Grievance:
In the context of internal conflict, grievance refers to widely shared dissatisfaction among group members about their cultural, political and/or economic standing vis-à-vis dominant factions. [Gurr, Ted Robert and Michael Haxton. Ethnopolitical Conflict in the 1990s: Patterns and Trends. College Park, MD: University of Maryland Minorities at Risk Project, 1996. http://www.bsos.umd.edu/cidcm/mar/minrept1.htm.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Ground motion:
Seismic vibration of the ground at a particular point, recorded by accelerograph or seismograph in order to determine the vibrational characteristics of an earthquake or explosion. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Groundwater level:
The level at which soil and porous rock begins to be saturated with water.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

GTS:
Global Telecommunications System of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) that directly connects national meteorological and hydrological services worldwide. The GTS is widely used for the near real-time transmission of sea level data for tsunami monitoring. The GTS and other robust communications methods are used for the transmission of tsunami warnings.**(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

Guiding principles on internal displacement:
A series of principles that articulate standards for protection, assistance and solutions for internally displaced persons. The Guiding Principles were presented to the Commission on Human Rights by the Representative of the Secretary General for Internally Displaced Persons in April 1998. They reflect and are consistent with human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law, and provide guidance to States, other authorities, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations faced with issues of internal displacement. **(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Hazard (2):
A threatening event, or the probability of occurrence of a potentially damaging phenomenon within a given time period and area.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

A potentially damaging physical event, phenomenon or human activity that may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. Hazards can include latent conditions that may represent future threats and can have different origins: natural (geological, hydrometeorological and biological) or induced by human processes (environmental degradation and technological hazards). Hazards can be single, sequential or combined in their origin and effects. Each hazard is characterised by its location, intensity, frequency and probability. [UN/ISDR (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) (2004): Living with Risk. A Global Review of Disaster Reduction Initiatives. 2004 version. United Nations, Geneva, p. 430.]**(Components of Risk: A Comparative Glossary, UNU)**

Health expenditures:
Expenditures on primary health care including public health, hospitals, health centers and clinics, health insurance schemes and family planning.**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Health services access:
The percentage of population that can reach appropriate local health services on foot or by local means of transportation in no more than one hour. [United Nations Development Programme. Human Development Report. New York and Oxford: UNDP, 1998.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Heat wave:
A long lasting period with extremely high surface temperature.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Historical tsunami:
A tsunami documented to occur through eyewitness or instrumental observation within the historical record.**(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

Historical tsunami data:
Historical data are available in many forms and at many locations. These forms include published and unpublished catalogs of tsunami occurrences, personal narratives, marigraphs, tsunami amplitude, runup and inundation zone measurements, field investigation reports, newspaper accounts, film, or video records. **(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

Host communities:
Communities that host large populations of refugees or internally displaced persons, typically in camps or integrated into households directly.**(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**

Human rights:
Agreed international standards that recognize and protect the dignity and integrity of every individual, without any distinction. Human rights form part of customary international law and are stipulated in a variety of national, regional and international legal documents generally referred to as human rights instruments. The most prominent of these are the United Nations Charter, and the UN Bill of Rights, made up of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights.**(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Human security:
A concept concerned with the security of individuals and promoting the protection of individuals' physical safety, economic and social well-being, human dignity, and human rights and fundamental freedoms. It reflects the growing recognition worldwide that concepts of security must include people as well as States. **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**

Human vulnerability:
A human condition or process resulting from physical, social, economic and environmental factors, which determine the likelihood and scale of damage from the impact of a given hazard. **(Reducing Disaster Risk: A Challenge for Development - Glossary of Terms, UNDP)**

Humanitarian (status) cases:

Persons who are formally permitted, under national law, to reside in a country on humanitarian grounds. These may include persons who do not qualify for refugee status.**(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

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.**(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**

Humanitarian action:

The range of activities designed to reduce human suffering in emergency situations, especially when local authorities are unable or unwilling to provide relief. Actions include: the provision of food, shelter, clothing, medication through organised facilities; evacuating the innocent and vulnerable from conflict or emergency zones; restoring basic amenities (water, sewage, power supplies); and burying remains. [Demurkenko, Andrei and Alexander Nikitin. Basic Terminology and Concepts in International Peacekeeping Operations: An Analytical Review in Low Intensity Conflict & Law Enforcement, Vol. 6, No. 1 (Summer 1997), pp. 111-126]**(Thesaurus and Glossary of Early Warning and Conflict Prevention Terms, FEWER)**

Humanitarian aid:

An intervention to help people who are victims of a natural disaster or conflict meet their basic needs and rights. Because FTS is mandated to track all humanitarian aid, it was necessary for FTS' stakeholders to develop a Definition of humanitarian aid for statistical purposes, which serves as the criterion for posting funding information on FTS.**(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

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. **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**
See also: Humanitarian Principles

Humanitarian assistance (relief):

Aid that addresses the immediate needs of individuals affected by crises and is provided mainly by non-governmental and international organizations.**(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Humanitarian coordination:

An approach based on the belief that a coherent response to an emergency will maximize its benefits and minimize potential pitfalls. In each country, the coordination of UN humanitarian assistance is entrusted to the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator. OCHA, under the direction of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, is responsible for the coordination of a humanitarian response in the event of a crisis and carries out this role according to approved policies and structures set by the IASC. This coordination involves developing common strategies with partners both within and outside the UN system, identifying overall humanitarian needs, developing a realistic plan of action, monitoring progress and adjusting programmes as necessary, convening coordination forums, mobilizing resources, addressing common problems to humanitarian actors, and administering coordination mechanisms and tools. It does not involve OCHA in the administration of humanitarian assistance.**(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Humanitarian emergency:

A) Situations in which large numbers of people are dependent on humanitarian assistance from sources external to their own society and/or are in need of physical protection in order to have access to subsistence or external assistance. [US Mission to the United Nations 1996; cited by Harff and Gurr 1997: http://www.bsos.umd.edu/cidcm/mar/pubs.html] B) A profound social crisis in which a large number of people die and suffer from war, disease, hunger and displacement owing to man-made and natural disasters, while some others may benefit from it. [Vayrynen 1996; cited by Harff and Gurr 1997: http://www.bsos.umd.edu/cidcm/mar/pubs.htm]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Humanitarian engagement:

The involvement of humanitarian agencies and organizations within a complex emergency to deliver protection, assistance and relief. **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**
See also: Complex Emergency

Humanitarian information centres (HIC):
A semi-permanent facility established by OCHA in cooperation with other agencies and NGOs during a complex emergency that serves as an information and data resource and provides infrastructure and professional services to humanitarian organizations as they implement relief and rehabilitation projects. **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**

Humanitarian operating environment:
A key element for humanitarian agencies and organizations when they deploy, consists of establishing and maintaining a conducive humanitarian operating environment, sometimes referred to as "humanitarian space". The perception of adherence to the key operating principles of neutrality and impartiality in humanitarian operations represents the critical means by which the prime objective of ensuring that suffering must be met wherever it is found, can be achieved. Consequently, maintaining a clear distinction between the role and function of humanitarian actors from that of the military is the determining factor in creating an operating environment in which humanitarian organisations can discharge their responsibilities both effectively and safely. Sustained humanitarian access to the affected population is ensured when the receipt of humanitarian assistance is not conditional upon the allegiance to or support to parties involved in a conflict but is a right independent of military and political action. **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**
See also: Humanitarian Assistance and Humanitarian Principles

Humanitarian operations:
Operations conducted to relieve human suffering, especially in circumstances where responsible authorities in the area are unable or unwilling to provide adequate service support to civilian populations. **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**

Humanitarian principles:
As per UN General Assembly Resolution 46/182 (19 December 1991), humanitarian assistance must be provided in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality. Adherence to these principles reflects a measure of accountability of the humanitarian community. 1. Humanity: Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found, with particular attention to the most vulnerable in the population, such as children, women and the elderly. The dignity and rights of all victims must be respected and protected. 2. Neutrality: Humanitarian assistance must be provided without engaging in hostilities or taking sides in controversies of a political, religious or ideological nature. 3. Impartiality: Humanitarian assistance must be provided without discriminating as to ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political opinions, race or religion. Relief of the suffering must be guided solely by needs and priority must be given to the most urgent cases of distress. **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**
See also: Humanitarian Assistance and Humanitarian Operating Environment

Humanitarian worker:
Includes all workers engaged by humanitarian agencies, whether internationally or nationally recruited, or formally or informally retained from the beneficiary community, to conduct the activities of that agency. **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**

Humanitarian, United Nations & associated personnel:
Includes the following groups of persons whose safety and security must be ensured during complex emergencies: Persons deployed by a humanitarian non-governmental organization or agency under an agreement with the UN Secretary-General to carry out activities in support of the fulfillment of the mandate of a UN operation; Persons engaged or deployed by the UN Secretary-General, whether as humanitarian personnel, members of the military, police or civilian components of a UN operation, or experts on mission; and Persons assigned by a Government or an intergovernmental organization with the agreement of the competent UN organ.**(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**

ICG:
Intergovernmental Coordination Group. As subsidiary bodies of the UNESCO IOC, the ICG meets to promote, organize, and coordinate regional tsunami mitigation activities, including the issuance of timely tsunami warnings. The ICG is composed of National Contacts from Member States in the region. Currently, there are ICGs for tsunami warning and mitigation systems in the Pacific, Indian Ocean, Caribbean and adjacent regions, and the north-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and connected seas.**(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

ICG tsunami national contact (TNC):
The person designated by an ICG Member State government to represent his/her country in the coordination of international tsunami warning and mitigation activities. The person is part of the main stakeholders of the national tsunami warning and mitigation system programme. The person may be the Tsunami Warning Focal Point, from the national disaster management organization, from a technical or scientific institution, or from another agency with tsunami warning and mitigation responsibilities. **(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

ICG tsunami warning focal point (TWFP):
7x24 contact person, or other official point of contact or address, designated by an ICG Member State government for rapidly receiving and issuing tsunami event information (such as warnings). The Tsunami Warning Focal Point has the responsibility of notifying the emergency authority (civil defense or other designated agency responsible for public safety) of the event characteristics (earthquake and/or tsunami), in accordance with the procedures of the Tsunami Response Plan. The Tsunami Warning Focal Point receives international tsunami warnings from the PTWC, NWPTAC, or other regional warning centres. **(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

Impartiality:
Third-party attitude that is more active than (passive) neutrality. Equidistant behaviour of a third party when it deals with conflict parties or acts in a conflict zone; even-handedness in mediation, usually linked to the mediator having no stake in the substance of the conflict issue. [Kleiboer, Marieke A. International Mediation: The Multiple Realities of Third-Party Intervention. Leiden, Dept. of Public Administration (PhD Thesis), 1997 (also published by Lynne Rienner).] **(Thesaurus and Glossary of Early Warning and Conflict Prevention Terms, FEWER)**

Implementing partners:
Organisations that collaborate with the "appealing organisation" to implement a project, usually under a sub-contracting relationship. These can be national government institutions, national or international NGOs, or other organizations such as private sector. FTS users should bear in mind that it is difficult to represent the several channels that funding may pass through: for example, a donor government may fund an international NGO, which in turn funds a national NGO, which in turn funds local government, etc. In these cases, FTS shows the primary funding transaction between international donor and recipient agency (in this example, the international NGO). **(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Implementing period:
The project duration or appeal duration (the latter being equal to the maximum implementation period of its constituent projects). FTS users should bear in mind that with chronic emergencies, a project often flows without interruption from one year to the next; in these cases, the "implementation period" (e.g. one year, for a one-year Consolidated Appeal) is a frame within which to measure goals, outputs, and funding needs. **(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Indicator:
A specific variable, or combination of variables, that gives insight into a particular aspect of the situation. **(Food Quality Control Glossary, WFP)**

Information needs:
The data that must be collected and processed from primary and secondary sources in order to fulfil the assessment objectives. **(Food Quality Control Glossary, WFP)**

Initial assessment:
Assessment undertaken promptly following: i) a sudden crisis; ii) reports of deterioration in a long-term crisis; or iii) improved access in an ongoing crisis. An initial assessment is based mainly on secondary data and key informant interviews, but some quick field visits may be undertaken. **(Food Quality Control Glossary, WFP)**

In-kind:
Non-cash assistance in materials or services, e.g. food, tents, secondment of staff **(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Integrated approach:
A planning approach that brings together issues from across sectors, institutions on national and local levels, and different population groups. **(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC):

A body established in June of 1992 in response to General Assembly Resolution 46/182 to serve as the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance in response to complex and major emergencies. The IASC is chaired by the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) and has the membership of all UN operational humanitarian agencies, with standing invitation to ICRC, IFRC, IOM, UNHCHR, the Representative of the Secretary-General on IDPs, the World Bank and the three NGO consortia (ICVA, InterAction and SCHR). The IASC meets at least twice a year to deliberate on issues brought to its attention by the ERC and the IASC Working Group (IASC-WG), which is formed by senior representatives of the same agencies and meets four to six times a year. The primary objectives of the IASC are: • to develop and agree on system-wide humanitarian policies; • to develop and agree on a common ethical framework for all humanitarian activities; • to advocate common humanitarian principles to parties outside the IASC; • to identify areas where gaps in mandates or lack of operational capacity exist; and • to resolve disputes or disagreement about and between humanitarian agencies on system-wide humanitarian issues. **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**
See also: Emergency Relief Coordinator and Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator

Intergovernmental organization (IGO):
An organization made up of State members. Examples include the United Nations Organization (UN), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Organization of American States (OAS), the European Union (EU), and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).**(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Internal displacement:
Involuntary movement of people inside their own country. This movement may be due to a variety of causes, including natural or human made disasters, armed conflict, or situations of generalized violence. **(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Internally displaced person (IDPs):
Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to leave their homes or habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border. A series of 30 non-binding "Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement" based on refugee law, human rights law and international humanitarian law articulate standards for protection, assistance and solutions for internally displaced persons. **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**
See also: Displacement, Refugee Law, Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law

International humanitarian law (IHL or Law of armed conflict):
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 a conflict. The four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their two Additional Protocols of 1977 are the principal instruments of humanitarian law. IHL is also known as the law of war or the law of armed conflict, and is part of international law. It does not regulate resort to the use of force; this is governed by an important, but distinct, part of international law set out in the UN Charter. **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**
See also: Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols

International law:
A body of laws regulating relations between States.**(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**

IOC:
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO. The IOC provides Member States of the United Nations with an essential mechanism for global cooperation in the study of the ocean. The IOC assists governments to address their individual and collective ocean and coastal problems through the sharing of knowledge, information, and technology and through the coordination of national programs. (http://ioc.unesco.org/iocweb/index.php)**(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

ITIC:

International Tsunami Information Centre. ITIC was established in November 1965 by the IOC of UNESCO. In 1968, the IOC first convened the ICG/ITSU to coordinate tsunami warning and mitigation activities in the Pacific. The ITIC serves as the PTWS Secretariat. Additionally, the ITIC provides technical and capacity building assistance to Member States for the global establishment of tsunami warning and mitigation systems in the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, the Caribbean and Mediterranean Seas, and other oceans and marginal seas. In the Pacific, the ITIC specifically monitors and recommends improvements to the PTWS, coordinates tsunamitechnology transfer among Member States interested in establishing regional and national tsunami warning systems, acts as a clearinghouse for risk assessment and mitigation activities, and serves as a resource for the development, publication, and distribution of tsunami education and preparedness materials. (http://www.tsunamiwave.info)**(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

JMA:
Japan Meteorological Agency. JMA established a tsunami warning service in 1952. JMA now serves as a National Tsunami Warning System that continuously monitors 24 hours-a-day all seismic activity in Japan, and issues timely information concerning earthquakes and tsunamis. In 2005, the JMA began operations of the Northwest Pacific Tsunami Advisory Center (NWPTAC). The NWPTAC provides supplementary tsunami information for events in and around Japan and the northwest Pacific in close coordination with the PTWC. (http://www.jma.go.jp/jma)**(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

Key informant interviews:
Individuals with good knowledge about particular aspects of the community or the present emergency are interviewed.**(Food Quality Control Glossary, WFP)**

Key informants:
Individuals of a particular background (e.g. nurses, teachers and poor farmers) who provide their views on various issues.**(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Lahar:
A term originating in Indonesia, designating a debris flow over the flank of a volcano. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Land degradation:
Progressive deterioration of land quality or land forms resulting from natural phenemona or human activity.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Land slide:
The usually rapid downward movement of a mass of rock, earth, or artificial fill on a slope. Under this denomination fall all mass movements other than Mud Slide and Avalanche.**(Definitions of Disaster Codes, GLIDE)**

Landslide stabilization:
Measures to prevent a landslide.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Late warning:
The creation of warning signals after disaster has occurred. [Schmeidl, Susanne, and J. Craig Jenkins. "The Early Warning of Humanitarian Disasters: Problems in Building an Early Warning System." International Migration Review, Summer 1998 v32 n2 p. 471(16).]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Lava flow:
Molten rock which flows down-slope from a volcanic vent, typically moving at between a few metres to several tens of kilometres per hour.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Lead time:
Period of a particular hazard between its announcement and arrival, also used for the mobilization of resources needed in relief operations.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Lifelines:

The public facilities and systems that provide basic life support services such as water, energy, sanitation, communications and transportation.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Livelihood:
The means by which an individual or household obtains assets for survival and selfdevelopment. Livelihood assets are the tools (skills, objects, rights, knowledge, social capital) applied to enacting the livelihood.**(Reducing Disaster Risk: A Challenge for Development - Glossary of Terms, UNDP)**

Local tsunami:
A tsunami from a nearby source for which its destructive effects are confined to coasts within 100 km of the source. A local tsunami is usually generated by an earthquake, but can also be caused by a landslide or a pyroclastic flow from a volcanic eruption.**(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

Logistics:
The range of operational activities concerned with supply, handling, transportation and distribution of materials. Also applicable to the transportation of people.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Magma:
The molten matter including liquid rock and gas under pressure which may emerge from a volcanic vent.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Magnitude ("Richter scale"):
Devised by C.F. Richter in 1935, an index of the seismic energy released by an earthquake (as contrasted to intensity that describes its effects at a particular place), expressed in terms of the motion that would be measured by a specific type of seismograph located 100 km from the epicentre of an earthquake. Nowadays several "magnitude scales" are in use. They are based on amplitudes of different types of seismic waves, on signal duration or on the seismic moment.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Main shock:
The biggest of a particular sequence of earthquakes.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Malnutrition (2):
A diseased state resulting from an absence or deficiency in the diet of one or more essential nutrients, either manifest or detectable by tests. Malnutrition can also be due to an excess of the wrong food. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

A state of ill health resulting from an inadequate or improper diet, usually measured in terms of average daily protein consumption. [Todaro, Michael P. Economic Development (Sixth Edition). Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1997: 704]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Mandate:
The legal framework that defines the responsibilities of UN Agencies, peacekeeping operations and other international organisations such as the International Committee for the Red Cross. 1. The mandates of UN Agencies, such as UNICEF and UNHCR, are agreed upon by the General Assembly. It is imperative that Agencies have clear and adequate mandates to ensure that all humanitarian issues are addressed appropriately and consistently. The protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is one issue that does not fall squarely within any Agency's mandate. Until such time, it is OCHA's responsibility through the IDP Unit to collaborate with Agencies to ensure that IDP interests are protected. 2. Peacekeeping Mission mandates are agreed upon by the Security Council. It is imperative that an authorized UN Force is sufficiently large, well equipped and appropriately empowered with matching resources for the situation called for on the ground. **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**

Maremoto:
Spanish term for tsunami.**(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

Mass media:

Government and non-government radio, TV, newspapers, and other electronic media or print publications used as means of mass communication.**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Microtsunami:
A tsunami of such small amplitude that it must be observed instrumentally and is not easily detected visually.**(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):
Eight goals developed at the Millennium Summit in September 2000. Goal 6 refers specifically to AIDS but attainment of several goals is being hampered by the HIV epidemic.
http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/**(UNAIDS' Terminology Guidelines, UNAIDS)**

Minors:
Persons who are below the legal age of majority and are therefore not legally independent. This term includes adolescents. Under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), a "child" is a person who is below the age of eighteen, unless the applicable law sets a lower age. The CRC equates "child" with "minor". **(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Mitigation:
Structural and non-structural measures undertaken to limit the adverse impact of natural hazards, environmental degradation and technological hazards.**(Terminology: Basic Terms of Disaster Risk Reduction, ISDR)**

Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group:
Established by UNAIDS, the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Reference Group (MERG) has a broad membership of national, bilateral agency and independent evaluation expertise, enabling it to assist in the harmonization of monitoring and evaluation approaches among collaborating organizations and in the development of effective monitoring and evaluation of the response to the epidemic. **(UNAIDS' Terminology Guidelines, UNAIDS)**

Monsoon:
Seasonally heavy rains and wind the direction of which varies from one season to another. They occur particularly in the Iridian Ocean and South Asian areas.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Mudflow:
The down-slope transfer of fine earth material mixed with water.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

mudslide:
A type of landslide, which occurs when the slope is saturated with water. This more destructive flow can pick up rocks, trees, houses and cars. As the debris moves into river and stream beds, bridges can become blocked or even collapse, making a temporary dam that can flood neighbouring areas. **(Definitions of Disaster Codes, GLIDE)**

Natural authority:
Authority based on spontaneous deference to an individual's knowledge or social position. [Thomas Learning 2000: http://polisci.nelson.com/glossary.html]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Natural disaster:
A serious disruption of the functioning of the society, causing widespread human, material or environmental losses that exceed the ability of affected society to cope using only its own resources. **(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Natural disaster, rapid onset:
A disaster that is triggered by an instantaneous shock. The impact of this disaster may unfold over the medium- or long-term. An earthquake is a prime example.**(Reducing Disaster Risk: A Challenge for Development - Glossary of Terms, UNDP)**

Natural disaster, slow onset:
A disaster event that unfolds alongside and within development processes. The hazard can be felt as an ongoing stress for many days, months or even years. Drought is a prime example.**(Reducing Disaster Risk: A Challenge for Development - Glossary of Terms, UNDP)**

Natural hazards:
Natural processes or phenomena occurring in the biosphere that may constitute a damaging event. Natural hazards can be classified by origin namely: geological, hydrometeorological or biological. Hazardous events can vary in magnitude or intensity, frequency, duration, area of extent, speed of onset, spatial dispersion and temporal spacing.**(Terminology: Basic Terms of Disaster Risk Reduction, ISDR)**

Necessity goods:
Life-sustaining items (food, shelter, protection, medical care). [Todaro, Michael P. Economic Development (Sixth Edition). Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1997.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Noise:
This term, often used to explain intelligence failures, refers to critical information being lost in a sea of conflicting or contradictory signals, or due to preoccupation with other matters. For example, in the early stages of the 1994 Rwandan crisis, the international community's attention was on other problem areas and some of the early warnings "got lost in the noise."**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Non-governmental organization (NGO):
An organized entity that is functionally independent of, and does not represent, a government or State. It is normally applied to organizations devoted to humanitarian and human rights causes, a number of which have official consultative status at the United Nations.**(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**

Nowcast:
A description of current weather and a short-period (0-2 hours) forecast.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Ocean-wide tsunami:
A tsunami capable of widespread destruction, not only in the immediate region of its generation but across an entire ocean. All ocean-wide tsunamis have been generated by major earthquakes. Synonym for teletsunami or distant tsunami.**(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

Ocean-wide tsunami warning:
A warning issued to all participants after there is confirmation of tsunami waves capable of causing destruction beyond the local area. Ocean-Wide Tsunami Warnings contain estimated tsunami arrival times (ETAs) at all Forecast Points. Ocean-Wide Tsunami Warning Bulletins also normally carry information on selected wave heights and other wave reports. The Warning will be cancelled when it is determined that the tsunami threat is over. As local conditions can cause wide variations in tsunami wave action, the all-clear determination should be made by the local action agencies and not the TWC. In general, after receipt of a Tsunami Warning, action agencies can assume all-clear status when their area is free from damaging waves for at least two hours, unless additional ETAs have been announced by the TWC (for example for a significant aftershock) or local conditions, that may include continued seiching or particularly strong currents in channels and harbours, warrant the continuation of theTsunami Warning status.**(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

Oil spill:
The contamination of a water or land area by oil.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Opportunistic infections:
Illnesses caused by various organisms, some of which usually do not cause disease in persons with healthy immune systems. Persons living with advanced HIV infection may have opportunistic infections of the lungs, brain, eyes and other organs. Opportunistic illnesses common in persons diagnosed with AIDS include Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, cryptosporidiosis, histoplasmosis, bacterial infections, other parasitic, viral and fungal infections; and some types of cancers. Tuberculosis is the leading HIV-associated opportunistic infection in developing countries.**(UNAIDS' Terminology Guidelines, UNAIDS)**

Original requirements:
Net appealing amount (per Project or Agency) at issuance of Appeal (Total budget - available resources = requirements). **(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**
See also: "Revised requirements"

Other contributions (to projects not listed in the Appeal):
Contributions reported by donors for emergency assistance, but not applied to projects listed in a Consolidated Appeal. These contributions are recorded by OCHA to reflect overall humanitarian aid flows. Donors and recipient agencies should report all such funding to FTS (or to ECHO via the 14-point system) as soon as it is committed.**(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Paid contribution:
Same as "contribution." Also refers to in-kind.**(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Palmer index:
A mathematical representation of drought conditions**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Pandemic:
A disease that spreads across an entire region, continent or the whole world. Preferred usage is to write "pandemic" when referring to global disease and to use "epidemic" when referring to country or regional level. For simplicity, UNAIDS often uses "epidemic", see EPIDEMIC.**(UNAIDS' Terminology Guidelines, UNAIDS)**

Participatory approach:
An approach to development and/or government in which key stakeholders (and especially the proposed beneficiaries) of a policy or intervention are closely involved in the process of identifying problems and priorities and have considerable control over analysis and the planning, implementation and monitoring of solutions.**(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Participatory Rural Appraisal:
A growing family of approaches, methods and behaviours to enable people to share, enhance and analyze their knowledge of life and conditions and to plan, act, monitor and evaluate. **(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Pathogen:
An agent causing disease.**(UNAIDS' Terminology Guidelines, UNAIDS)**

peak discharge:
The maximum discharge occurring during a flood event. Syn. 'maximum discharge', 'peak flow'. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Physical exposure:
Elements at risk, an inventory of those people or artefacts that are exposed to a hazard. **(Reducing Disaster Risk: A Challenge for Development - Glossary of Terms, UNDP)**

Pledge:
A non-binding announcement of an intended contribution or allocation by the donor. Can be specific as to appealing agency and project, or specify only the crisis (e.g. a pledge for the Darfur crisis or for the Sudan Consolidated Appeal).**(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Politically motivated aid:
Aid given primarily to benefit the donor. [Tisch, Sarah J. and Michael B. Wallace. Dilemmas of Development Assistance: The What, Why and Who of Foreign Aid. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1994.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Pollution:
Degradation of one or more elements or aspects in the environment by noxious industrial, chemical or biological wastes, from debris of man-made products and from mismanagement of natural and environmental resources.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Population at risk:
A well-defined population whose lives, property, and livelihoods are threatened by given hazards. Used as a denominator.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Post-conflict reconstruction:
A generic term referring to the rebuilding of society in the aftermath of conflict. Physical infrastructures have to be repaired or re-built, governmental institutions have to be reformed, psychic traumas of civilians and combatants have to be treated, the economy has to be restarted, refugees to be repatriated, reconciliation between the belligerents has to be initiated, justice has to be delivered. Such efforts require sustained support from the international community.**(Thesaurus and Glossary of Early Warning and Conflict Prevention Terms, FEWER)**

Potable water (drinking water):
Water that satisfies health standards, with respect to its chemical and bacteriological composition, and is agreeable to drink.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Precursor:
Phenomenon indicating a probable occurrence of an earthquake or a volcanic eruption. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Prediction:
A statement of the expected time, place and magnitude of a future event (for earthquakes and volcanic eruptions).**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Preparedness (2):
Activities designed to minimize loss of life and damage, to organise the temporary removal of people and property from a threatened location and facilitate timely and effective rescue, relief and rehabilitation**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Activities and measures taken in advance to ensure effective response to the impact of hazards, including the issuance of timely and effective early warnings and the temporary evacuation of people and property from threatened locations.**(Terminology: Basic Terms of Disaster Risk Reduction, ISDR)**

Prevention:
Activities to provide outright avoidance of the adverse impact of hazards and means to minimize related environmental, technological and biological disasters. Depending on social and technical feasibility and cost/benefit considerations, investing in preventive measures is justified in areas frequently affected by disasters. In the context of public awareness and education, related to disaster risk reduction changing attitudes and behaviour contribute to promoting a "culture of prevention". **(Terminology: Basic Terms of Disaster Risk Reduction, ISDR)**

Primary data:
Data collected during the assessment, from interviews with key informants, focus groups, households and individuals.**(Food Quality Control Glossary, WFP)**

Private:
Funding from any private source (individuals or organisations), i.e. not from national governments, are represented as "Private," irrespective of the national origin of the private funds. The private organization is named if applicable; if the reported funding is a lump sum of individual donations, then the source is labelled simply "private." "Private" appears on the drop-down list of donor countries; for details about donor organization, choose that option from the "build table" function.**(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Project code:
Consolidated appeal Project Code, a unique identifier code for each Appeal project. The code abbreviates the country, year, and sector. Example: BDI-05/A01 represents a project in the Consolidated Appeal for Burundi for 2005, in the Agriculture sector.**(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Protected areas:
Areas designated by the UN to be demilitarized to protect civilians and facilitate circumstances for a peaceful, negotiated resolution to the conflict.**(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**

Protected persons:
Persons accorded protection under International Humanitarian Law, who take no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed forces who have laid down their arms and those placed hors de combat by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without any adverse distinction founded on race, colour, religion or faith, sex, birth or wealth, or any other similar criteria. **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**
See also: International humanitarian law and Civilian populations

Protection:
A concept that encompasses all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and spirit of human rights, refugee and international humanitarian law. Protection involves creating an environment conducive to respect for human beings, preventing and/or alleviating the immediate effects of a specific pattern of abuse, and restoring dignified conditions of life through reparation, restitution and rehabilitation. **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**
See also: Human rights, International humanitarian law and Protection of civilians in armed conflict

Protocol:
An addition to the original text of a convention. It may include further agreements or involve amendments to the original text due to new circumstances. It can be procedural or substantive in nature. **(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Qualitative data:
Observations that are categorical rather than numerical; they often involve attitudes, perceptions and intentions. **(Food Quality Control Glossary, WFP)**

Quantitative data:
Observations that are numerical. **(Food Quality Control Glossary, WFP)**

Questionnaire:
A series of questions carefully formulated and ordered; the same questionnaire is addressed to each household in the selected sample. **(Food Quality Control Glossary, WFP)**

Quick impact projects (QIPs):
Small scaled, rapidly implemented projects intended to help create conditions for durable solutions through rapid interventions. They can, for example, provide for initial rehabilitation and enable communities to take advantage of development opportunities. **(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Quicksand:
Saturated sandy deposits which, under the influence of hydrostatic pressures, are buoyant and are able to flow. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Rapid assessment:
Undertaken following an initial assessment in a sudden crisis, or as a component of a reassessment. It is based on a combination of secondary and primary data. **(Food Quality Control Glossary, WFP)**

Rationing:
A system of distribution employed to restrict the quantities of goods and services that consumers or producers can purchase or be allocated freely. [Todaro, Michael P. Economic Development (Sixth Edition). Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1997.] **(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Reconstruction:
Actions taken to re-establish a community after a period of rehabilitation subsequent to a disaster. Actions would include construction of permanent housing, full restoration of all services, and complete resumption of the pre-disaster state. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Recovery:

Decisions and actions taken after a disaster with a view to restoring or improving the pre-disaster living conditions of the stricken community, while encouraging and facilitating necessary adjustments to reduce disaster risk. Recovery (rehabilitation and reconstruction) affords an opportunity to develop and apply disaster risk reduction measures.**(Terminology: Basic Terms of Disaster Risk Reduction, ISDR)**

Re-emerging infectious diseases:
Pathogen-induced human illnesses that were previously controlled or declining in range and/or incidence, but are now expanding in range, incidence, drug resistance, and increasing transmissibility and/or lethality.
[Price-Smith, Andrew T. "Ghosts of Kigali: Infectious Disease as a Stressor on State Capacity and Lessons from Sub-Saharan Africa." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Washington DC, February 1999.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Refugee (2):
A person who meets the eligibility criteria under the applicable refugee definition, as provided for in international or regional refugee instruments, under UNHCR's mandate, and/or in national legislation. **(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

A) A person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, or membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country. [United Nations High Commission for Refugees. The State of the World's Refugees: A Humanitarian Agenda. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 1997. http://www.unhcr.ch/refworld/pub/state/97/toc.htm.] B) Every person who, owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order in either part or the whole of his country of origin or nationality, is compelled to leave his place of habitual residence in order to seek refuge in another place outside his country of origin or nationality. [United Nations High Commission for Refugees. The State of the World's Refugees: A Humanitarian Agenda. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 1997. http://www.unhcr.ch/refworld/pub/state/97/toc.htm.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Refugee camp:
A plot of land temporarily made available to host refugees fleeing from an armed conflict in temporary homes. UN Agencies, particularly UNHCR, and other humanitarian organizations provide essential services in refugee camps including food, sanitation, health, medicine and education. These camps are ideally located at least 50 km away from the nearest international border to deter camp raids and other attacks on its civilian occupants.**(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**

Regional tsunami:
A tsunami capable of destruction in a particular geographic region, generally within about 1,000 km of its source. Regional tsunamis also occasionally have very limited and localized effects outside the region. Most destructive tsunami can be classified as local or regional, meaning their destructive effects are confined to coasts within 100 km, or up to 1,000 km, respectively, of the source -- usually an earthquake. It follows many tsunami related casualties and considerable property damage also comes from these tsunamis. Between 1975 and 2005 there were 22 local or regional tsunamis in the Pacific and adjacent seas that resulted in deaths and property damage. For example, a regional tsunami in 1983 in the Sea of Japan or East Sea, severely damaged coastal areas of Japan, Korea, and Russia, causing more than $800 million in damage, and more than 100 deaths. Then, after nine years without an event, 11 locally destructive tsunamis occurred in just a seven-year period from 1992 to 1998, resulting in over 4,200 deaths and hundreds of millions of dollars in property damage. In most of these cases, tsunami mitigation efforts in place at the time were unable to prevent significant damage and loss of life. However, losses from future local or regional tsunamis can be reduced if a denser network of warning centers, seismic and water-level warning centres, seismic and water-level reporting stations, and better communications are established to provide a timely warning, and if better programmes of tsunami preparedness and education can be put in place.**(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

Rehabilitation (2):
Actions which enable the affected population to resume more or less "normal" patterns of life. These actions constitute a transitional phase and can [occur] simultaneously with relief activities, as well as further recovery and reconstruction activities.**(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

The operations and decisions taken after a disaster with a view to restoring a stricken community to its former living conditions, whilst encouraging and facilitating the necessary adjustments to the changes caused by the disaster.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Reintegration:
The process of facilitating the transition of refugees and internally displaced persons back into their communities of origin. In the context of exsolders, it is the process of facilitating their return to civilian life. [United States Agency for International Development. "USAID/BHR Humanitarian Assistance Common Definitions and Terms" Washington, DC: USAID, February 11, 1998.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Relief (2):
Dispatch of vital material goods and services (clean water, blankets,tents, medicine, food etc.) to victims of disaster. [Schmid, Alex P. "Thesaurus and Glossary of Early Warning and Conflict Prevention Terms." Abridged version edited by Sanam B. Anderlini for FEWER. Rodderdam: Synthesis Foundation, 1998. http://www.fewer.org./pubs/thes.htm.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Assistance and/or intervention during or after disaster to meet the life preservation and basic subsistence needs. It can be of emergency or protracted duration.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

ReliefWeb:
An Internet-based information dissemination system developed by the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs' Geneva office. ReliefWeb compiles and disseminates information for conflict prevention, preparedness, and rapid response. ReliefWeb "seeks to improve access by the humanitarian relief community to timely, reliable information for enhanced decision making and assistance. (…) ReliefWeb carries two main types of information: country situation reports and emergency/logistical reports." [Diller, Janelle M. Handbook on Human Rights in Situations of Conflict.Minneapolis, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, March 1997 (MS).]**(Thesaurus and Glossary of Early Warning and Conflict Prevention Terms, FEWER)**

Resident Coordinator (RC) and Humanitarian Coordinator (HC):
The Resident Coordinator is the head of the UN Country Team. In a complex emergency, the RC or another competent UN official may be designated as the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC). In large-scale complex emergencies, a separate HC is often appointed. If the emergency affects more than one country, a Regional HC may be appointed. The decision whether to and who to appoint as HC is made by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. In countries where large multi-disciplinary UN field operations are in place the Secretary-General might appoint a Special Representative (SRSG). The relationship between the SRSG and the RC/HC is defined in a note issued by the Secretary-General on 11 December 2000 (Note of Guidance on Relations Between Representatives of the Secretary-General, Resident Coordinators and Humanitarian Coordinators, dated 30 October 2000). **(Glossary of Humanitarian Terms: In relation to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, OCHA)**
See also: 'Emergency Relief Coordinator' and 'Inter-Agency Standing Committee'

Resilience:
The capacity of a group or organization to withstand loss or damage or to recover from the impact of an emergency or disaster. The higher the resilience, the less likely damage may be, and the faster and more effective recovery is likely to be.**(Components of Risk: A Comparative Glossary, UNU)**

Risk:
Expected losses (of lives, persons injured, property damaged, and economic activity disrupted) due to a particular hazard for a given area and reference period. Based on mathematical calculations, risk is the product of hazard and vulnerability**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Risk, acceptable:
The level of loss a society or community considers acceptable given existing social, economic, political, cultural, technical and environmental conditions. In engineering terms, acceptable risk is also used to assess structural and non-structural measures undertaken to reduce possible damage at a level which does not harm people and property, according to codes or 'accepted practice' based, among other issues, on a known probability of hazard.**(Components of Risk: A Comparative Glossary, UNU)**

Rule of non-discrimination:

Is a basic concept underlying international human rights law. The prohibition of discrimination means that, as a general rule, the rights and freedoms recognized by international human rights law apply to everyone and states may not make distinctions (for example, on the basis of race) between different individuals in protecting these rights.**(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Safe areas/safety zones:
Areas, zones, or locations established to protect civilians during a time of conflict. The terms and conditions of establishing safety zones are governed by the law of armed conflict. **(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Sanitation:
The application of measures and techniques aimed at ensuring and improving general hygiene in the community, including the collection, evacuation and disposal of liquid and solid wastes, as well as measures for creating favourable environmental conditions for health and disease prevention. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Satellite applications:
The use of satellite technology for the purpose ot communications or data transmission for monitoring, warning and dissemination of information pertinent to emergency response and/or disaster management.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Sea surge:
A rise in sea level that results in the inundation of areas along coastlines. These phenomena are caused by the movement of ocean and sea currents, winds and major storms.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Search and rescue (SAR):
The process of locating and recovering disaster victims and the application of first aid and basic medical assistance as may be required.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Secondary data:
Data collected from outside the current assessment.**(Food Quality Control Glossary, WFP)**

Secondary hazards:
Those hazards that occur as a result of another hazard or disaster, i.e., fires or landslides following earthquakes, epidemics following famines, food shortages following drought or floods. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Sector:
A technical grouping of project activities. The FTS follows standardised sector definitions per the guidelines for CAPs (though other such groupings exist). Sectoral definitions and boundaries, while always arbitrary to some degree, do reflect reality in that many agencies have sectoral specialisations, and many emergencies cause humanitarian needs that are particularly acute in certain sectors. Sectoral analysis of requirements and funding is therefore critical. Each appeal project can have only one sector identification, though it may have multiple themes (see definition of Themes below). The standard sectors are: Agriculture; Coordination and Support Services; Economic Recovery and Infrastructure; Education; Food; Health; Mine Action; Multi-sector; Protection / Human Rights / Rule of law; Security; Shelter and Non-food Items; Water and Sanitation. ("Multi-sector" is reserved for projects with no one dominant sector.) If funding is given in an unearmarked fashion and not yet applied by the recipient agency to a particular project and sector, FTS shows the funding under the heading "Sector not yet specified." See FTS Definition of humanitarian aid for statistical purposes for detailed lists of which activities are assigned to which sector.**(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Sector-wide approach (SWAP):
The prioritization of sector programming as a key intervention used by development agencies. **(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Self-help organizations and projects:
Organizations and projects initiated, created and managed by refugees and other persons of concern for their own benefit.**(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Self-reliance (2):

The ability of an individual, household or community to depend (rely) on their own resources (physical, social and natural capital or assets), judgement and capabilities with minimal external assistance in meeting basic needs, and without resorting to activities that irreversibly deplete the household or community resource base.**(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Reliance on one's own capabilities, judgment, resources, and skills in a bid to enhance political, economic, social, cultural, attitudinal, and moral independence. Countries may also desire self-reliance in particular aspects such as food production, labor, and skills. [Todaro, Michael P. Economic Development (Sixth Edition). Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1997.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Semi-structured interview:
Interview based on a pre-prepared series of questions on a checklist, the phrasing, order and form of which are not fixed.**(Food Quality Control Glossary, WFP)**

Severe local storm:
A tornado, waterspout, or a thunderstorm with winds of 50 knots (25 m/s) or greater and/or hail ¾" (20 mm) or greater in diameter at the ground. Usually results to significant wind damage (several downed trees) and/or large hail.**(Definitions of Disaster Codes, GLIDE)**

Severe weather threat index (SWEAT index):
An index used to predict thunderstorms and tornadoes.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Shelter:
Physical protection requirements of disaster victims who no longer have access to normal habitation facilities. Immediate post-disaster needs are met by the use of tents. Alternatives may include polypropylene houses, plastic sheeting, geodesic domes and other similar types of temporary housing. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Shocks:
Events with negative impact on nutrition status and/or food security. They can be natural or caused by human action.**(Food Quality Control Glossary, WFP)**

Shortfall:
See unmet requirements**(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Signatory to a convention:
A country supporting the purposes of the convention, but not legally committed to comply with the provisions until the country's legislature officially ratifies it. Where the signature is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval, the signature does not establish the consent to be bound. However, it is a means of authentication and expresses the willingness of the signatory state to continue the treaty making process. The signature qualifies the signatory state to proceed to ratification, acceptance or approval. It also creates an obligation to refrain, in good faith, from acts that would defeat the object and the purpose of the treaty. **(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Simulation exercise:
Decision making exercise and disaster drills within threatened communities in order to represent disaster situations to promote more effective coordination of response from relevant authorities and the population.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Situation report (SITREP):
A brief report that is published and updated periodically during a relief effort and which outlines the details of the emergency, the needs generated and the responses undertaken by all donors as they become known. Sitreps are issued by UNDRO, by UNHCR, ICRC and LRCS.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Sphere of influence:

A geopolitical zone within which the interests and influence of a major power are acknowledged by others to be paramount and worthy of deference. [Freeman, Chas. W. Jr. The Diplomat's Dictionary: Revised Edition. Washington, DC: United States Institute for Peace, 1997.] **(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Sphere of obligation:
Who or what enjoys the protection of principles of identifiable norms or laws. [Gurr, Ted Robert and Barbara Harff. Ethnic Conflict in World Politics. Boulder, San Francisco, and Oxford: Westview Press, 1994.] **(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Stakeholder:
An individual or group who has an interest in and influences activities, programs and objectives. **(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Standards of treatment:
Standards derived from the 1951 Refugee Convention and other international instruments that set the parameters for the treatment of refugees. The 1951 Convention provides for various standards of treatment, depending on the particular rights in question. These are: treatment not less favourable than that generally accorded to aliens in similar circumstances; the most favourable treatment accorded to nationals of a foreign country in the same circumstances; the same treatment as is granted to nationals; and treatment as favourable as possible. **(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Staple food:
A food that is regularly consumed in a country or community and from which a substantial proportion of the total calorie supply is obtained. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Starvation:
The state resulting from extreme privation of food or of drastic reduction in nutrient intake over a period of time leading to severe physiological, functional, behavioral and morphological differences. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

State:
A political entity that has legal jurisdiction and physical control over a defined territory and the authority to make collective decisions for a permanent population, a monopoly on the legitimate use of force, and an internationally recognized government that interacts, or has the capacity to interact, in formal relations with other entities. A state must perform minimum functions for the public to maintain social cohesion. [Baker, Pauline H. and Angeli E. Weller. An Analytical Model of Internal Conflict and State Collapse: Manual for Practitioners. Washington, DC: The Fund for Peace, 1998.] **(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

State capacity:
One country's ability to maximize its prosperity and stability, to exert de facto control over its territory, to protect its population from predation, and to adapt to diverse crises. In other words, it is the capability of the government to satisfy the state's most important needs: survival, protection of citizens from physical harm as a result of internal and external predation, economic prosperity and stability, effective governance, territorial integrity, and power and ideological projection. [Price-Smith, Andrew T. "Ghosts of Kigali: Infectious Disease as a Stressor on State Capacity and Lessons from Sub-Saharan Africa." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Washington DC, February 1999.] **(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Status:

The status of a particular funding item, which is critical to understanding how much funding is actually available to agencies on the ground. FTS recognises three statuses (see below): pledge, commitment, and contribution. Nearly all official contributions are preceded by a commitment; sometimes the commitment is preceded by a pledge. The critical factor is that agencies cannot spend funds and implement the project on the basis of a pledge; only a legally binding funding commitment from a donor (or the actual contribution) allows an agency to spend. FTS users should be aware that some agencies use the word "pledge" to refer to a commitment. FTS counts only commitments and contributions as funding towards an appeal (i.e. to calculate the % covered). Pledges are shown in a separate column, as indications.**(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Status: Contribution:
The payment or transfer of funds or in-kind goods from the donor towards the appealing agency, resulting from a commitment.**(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Status: Pledge:
A non-binding announcement of an intended contribution or allocation by the donor. Can be specific as to appealing agency and project, or specify only the crisis, or be unearmarked (to be allocated among crises at the recipient agency's discretion). As a practical matter, agencies typically do not spend internal reserves and start project implementation against a non-binding pledge; they must wait for a commitment (see above). On FTS tables, "uncommitted pledges" are shown as indications only, and are not counted towards the % coverage of an appeal. Sometimes, a donor makes a large general pledge towards a certain emergency, and then makes a series of smaller specific commitments to agencies and projects; in these cases, the figure under "uncommitted pledge" reflects the uncommitted balance of the full original pledge. **(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Storm:
1. An atmospheric disturbance involving perturbations of the prevailing pressure and wind fields, on scales ranging from tornadoes (1 km across) to extratropical cyclones (2000-3000 km across). 2. Wind with a speed between 48 and 55 knots (Beaufort scale wind force 10).**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Storm surge:
A sudden rise of sea as a result of high winds and low atmospheric pressure; sometimes called a storm tide, storm wave, or tidal wave. Generally affects only coastal areas but may intrude some distance inland.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Strategic monitoring:
A process that enables assessment of the progress and effectiveness of a given CAP Strategy (humanitarian action plan) and, if necessary, its modification.**(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**

Strategy:
The activity, process, or plan to attain desired objectives or goals as efficiently as possible, usually in the face of or in competition with others who are developing and implementing similar activities. Strategy is essentially the application of means to attain desired ends. Here, means are expressed widely, suggesting available or retrievable political, economic, social, and psychological resources. The term 'strategy' derives indirectly from the Greek strategos, or general. In modern usage a comparable equivalent is strategike episteme, or generals' knowledge. Although the use of strategy is most frequent in connection with warfare, the concept permeates politics and other fields, where the logic remains the same. Strategy focuses on questions of how, when, and where and determines how the subsequent answers are interdependently formulated. Strictly speaking, it is understood as direct or indirect competition with others. Three broad forms can be identified: offensive, defensive, and deterrent. Offensive strategies pertain to seeking objectives actively through initiative. Defensive strategies involve denying the accomplishment of the objectives of an opponent. Deterrent strategies aim to persuade an adversary to abandon pursuit of objectives in light of the estimated or perceived cost of such pursuit. Successful strategies may be informed by the politics, ethics, and culture of the context and the party responsible for development and implementation. **(A Glossary of Terms and Concepts in Peace and Conflict Studies, Second Edition, University for Peace)**
See also: grand strategy and tactics

Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis:
A way of systematically appraising different response options, based on their strengths and weaknesses, and the opportunities and threats associated with them.**(Food Quality Control Glossary, WFP)**

Structural flood mitigation:

Structural system for reduction of the effects of floods using physical solutions, including reservoirs, levees, dredging, diversions, and flood-proofing. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Sustainability:

A normative concept that has appeared in development theory as a consequence of the environmental concerns from the early 1970s onwards. The main message it carries is that neither the old nor any new international economic order would be viable unless the natural biological systems that underpin the global economy are preserved. This ecological imperative in turn calls for a redirection of the development process itself. [Hettne, Björn. "Ethnicity and Development: An Elusive Relationship." Contemporary South Asia, 1993, 2(2), pp.123-149.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Sustainable development:

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts: the concept of 'needs', in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organisation on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs. **(Reducing Disaster Risk: A Challenge for Development - Glossary of Terms, UNDP)**

Sustainable security:

The ability of a society to solve its own law and order problems and security from external threats peacefully without an external administration or military presence. The standard by which one measures sustainability security is the existence of the "immutable core" of a state, specifically four core institutions: a competent domestic police force and corrections system; an efficient and functioning civil service or professional bureaucracy; an independent judicial system that works under the rule of law; and a professional and disciplined military accountable to a legitimate civilian authority. [Baker, Pauline H. and Angeli E. Weller. An Analytical Model of Internal Conflict and State Collapse: Manual for Practitioners. Washington, DC: The Fund for Peace, 1998.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Sustenance:

The basic goods and services, such as food, clothing, and shelter, that are necessary to sustain an average human being at the bare minimum level of living. [Todaro, Michael P. Economic Development (Sixth Edition). Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1997.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Teletsunami or distant tsunami:

A tsunami originating from a far away source, generally more than 1,000 km away. Less frequent, but more hazardous than tsunamis are ocean-wide or distant tsunamis. Usually starting as a local tsunami that causes extensive destruction near the source, these waves continue to travel across entire ocean basin with sufficient energy to cause additional casualties and destruction on shores more than 1,000 kilometres from the source. In the last 200 years, there have been at least 21 destructive ocean-wide tsunamis. The most destructive Pacific-wide tsunami of recent history was generated by a massive earthquake off the coast of Chile on 22 May 1960. All Chilean coastal towns between the 36th and 44th parallels were either destroyed or heavily damaged by the action of the tsunami and the quake. The combined tsunami and earthquake toll included 2,000 killed, 3,000 injured, two million homeless, and $550 million damage. Off the coast of Corral, Chile, the waves were estimated to be 20 metres (67 feet) high. The tsunami caused 61 deaths in Hawaii, 20 in the Philippines, and 138 in Japan. Estimated damages were US $50 million in Japan, US $24 million in Hawaii and several millions of dollars along the west coast of the United States and Canada. Distant wave heights varied from slight oscillations in some areas to 12 metres (40 feet) at Pitcairn Island, 11 metres at Hilo, Hawaii, and six metres at some places in Japan. The worst tsunami catastrophe in history occurred in the Indian Ocean on 26 December 2004, when a M9.3 earthquake off of the northwest coast of Sumatra, Indonesia produced a ocean-wide tsunami that hit Thailand and Malaysia to the east, and Sri Lanka, India, the Maldives, and Africa to the west as it traversed across the Indian Ocean. Nearly 250,000 people lost their lives and more than a million people were displaced, losing their homes, property, and their livelihoods. The magnitude of death and destructiveness caused immediate response by the world's leaders and led to the development of the Indian Ocean tsunami warning and mitigation system in 2005. The event also raised awareness of tsunami hazards globally, and new systems were established in the Caribbean, the Mediterranean and Atlantic. **(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

Terms of reference:

Instructions describing how the assessment will be carried out, and the roles and responsibilities of the assessment team; prepared at the start of the assessment.**(Food Quality Control Glossary, WFP)**

Tied aid:

Foreign aid in the form of bilateral loans or grants that require the recipient country to use the funds to purchase goods or services from the donor country. [Todaro, Michael P. Economic Development (Sixth Edition). Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1997.]**(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

Tornadoes:

A violently rotating storm of small diameter; the most violent weather phenomenon. It is produced in a very severe thunderstorm and appears as a funnel cloud extending from the base of a Cumulonimbus to the ground.**(Definitions of Disaster Codes, GLIDE)**

Trauma:

Injury of any nature**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Tremor:

A shaking movement of the ground associated with an earthquake or explosion. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Tsunami:

Japanese term meaning wave ("nami") in a harbour ("tsu"). A series of traveling waves of extremely long length and period, usually generated by disturbances associated with earthquakes occurring below or near the ocean floor. (Also called seismic sea wave and, incorrectly, tidal wave). Volcanic eruptions, submarine landslides, and coastal rockfalls can also generate tsunamis, as can a large meteorite impacting the ocean. These waves may reach enormous dimensions and travel across entire ocean basins with little loss of energy. They proceed as ordinary gravity waves with a typical period between 10 and 60 minutes. Tsunamis steepen and increase in height on approaching shallow water, inundating low-lying areas, and where local submarine topography causes the waves to steepen, they may break and cause great damage. Tsunamis have no connection with tides; the popular name, tidal wave, is entirely misleading.**(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

Tsunami response plan (TRP):

The Tsunami Response Plan describes the actions taken to ensure public safety by responsible agencies after notification by the Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP), typically the national Tsunami Warning Centre. It includes Standard Operating Procedures and Protocols for emergency response and action, organizations and individuals involved and their roles and responsibilities, contact information, timeline and urgency assigned to action, and means by which both ordinary citizens and special needs populations (physically or mentally handicapped, elderly, transient, and marine populations) will be alerted. For tsunami response, emphasis is placed on the rapidness, efficiency, conciseness, and clarity of the actions and instructions to the public. A Tsunami Response Plan should also include post-tsunami actions and responsibilities for search and rescue, relief, rehabilitation, and recovery.**(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

Unearmarked contribution:

A contribution (or commitment) for which the donor does not require the funds to be used for a specific project, sector, crisis or country, leaving the recipient organisation to decide on allocation of funds to specific projects. Because there are degrees of earmarking (e.g. to a country or crisis, or a sector), FTS treats as "unearmarked" any funding that is not earmarked at least to the country level. (For example, funding earmarked to "Africa," or to "East Africa," is treated as unearmarked on FTS.) A growing phenomenon is funding not even earmarked to a particular recipient agency, e.g. directed at the UN's Central Emergency Revolving Fund, or to a Consolidated Appeal to be distributed by the UN Resident Coordinator's office among various appeal projects and agencies. **(Financial Tracking Service (FTS) Glossary, OCHA)**
See also: Earmarked Contribution

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA):

Since 1992 humanitarian relief efforts have been coordinated in the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs (New York & Geneva). The DHA mission, under the leadership of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, is to mobilize and coordinate the relief efforts of the international community. DHA also seeks to reduce vulnerabilities and promote solutions to root causes and link humanitarian relief with development. DHA priorities include: i) Establishing and advocating humanitarian principles and concerns; ii) Coordinating humanitarian actions; iii) Strengthening capacity at local, national and international levels; iv) Mobilising resources; and v) Collecting, analysing and disseminating information.**(Thesaurus and Glossary of Early Warning and Conflict Prevention Terms, FEWER)**

United Nations standards (also called principles, declarations, or rules):
These are passed by resolutions of a UN body, usually the General Assembly. States cannot become party to them since they are not treaties, and they do not create binding legal obligations. However, they are authoritative standards which States are expected to respect.**(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Universal precautions:
Standard infection control practices to be used universally in healthcare settings to minimize the risk of exposure to pathogens, e.g. the use of gloves, barrier clothing, masks and goggles (when anticipating splatter) to prevent exposure to tissue, blood and body fluids.**(UNAIDS' Terminology Guidelines, UNAIDS)**

Values and norms:
Values: characteristics of a person, object, behaviour, experience, or concept that imply intrinsic excellence, esteem, worth, or desirability. They are essentially preferences governed by individual choice, which, admittedly, is influenced by external factors. Personal values are constantly changing and adapting, and values that withstand fluctuations can become institutionalised by custom, tradition, or convention. Values might not be consciously articulated, but may strongly guide behaviours and conformity. The social sciences have shown considerable interest in identifying and understanding values in two ways. First, theoretically speaking, knowing a group's values can offer insights for systematically documenting behaviours and patterns. Second, understanding why certain groups act or do not act in certain ways can be improved by the study of values, which can supply rational illumination for behaviours. Norms: explicit prescriptions, or rules, for human (inter)actions or a recognised implicit pattern of behaviours that are 'normatively' driven. In either case, norms can develop spontaneously or through purposeful construction. Regardless, violations are usually subject to formal or informal sanctions. Most norms become accepted when adherence to them brings individuals some benefit, and subsequent imitation can eventually lead to institutionalisation. Whether the norm is formulated spontaneously or purposefully can be crucial. The former tends to benefit the society as a whole, while the latter tends to centralise enforcement. Rules can evolve into behavioural patterns, whereby the rule itself is forgotten, but such patterns need not be deliberately constructed. Values and norms are important in the field of normative ethics – the study, exploration, and search for morally superior ways to act or live one's life. Values and norms should be distinguished from attitudes and beliefs, which do not necessarily carry normative valuations. Attitudes refer to emotions or sentiments that are generated based on experience or information. Beliefs are opinions or rationalised reflections filtered through facts, thoughts, or feelings. While individuals may act on the basis of specific attitudes or beliefs, they do not guide behaviour towards some ideal, proper, ethical, or appropriate manner. The field of normative research encompasses studies, investigations, and inquires concerning the nature and formation of values, norms, attitudes, and beliefs.**(A Glossary of Terms and Concepts in Peace and Conflict Studies, Second Edition, University for Peace)**

Vector control:
Measures taken to decrease the number of disease carrying organisms (vectors) and to diminish the risk of their spreading infectious diseases.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Volcanic eruption:
The discharge (aerially explosive) of fragmentary ejecta, lava and gases from a volcanic vent. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Volcano:
The mountain formed by local accumulation of volcanic materials around an erupting vent. **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Voluntary agencies:
Non-governmental agencies or organizations that exist in many countries throughout the world. Some possess personnel trained to assist when disaster strikes. Some volags have capabilities that extend from the local to national and international levels.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Vulnerability (3):

The insecurity of the well-being of individuals, households or communities in the face of a changing environment. [Alwang, J.; Siegel, P.B.; Jorgensen, S. L. (2001): Vulnerability: A View From Different Disciplines. Social Protection Discussion Paper Series, No. 0115, World Bank, p. 42. http//:www.worldbank.org/sp, 24 January 2006.]**(Components of Risk: A Comparative Glossary, UNU)**

Is a broad measure of the susceptibility to suffer loss or damage. The higher the vulnerability, the more exposure there is to loss and damage. [Department of Human Services (2000): Assessing Resilience and Vulnerability in the Context of Emergencies: Guidelines. Victorian Government Publishing Service.]**(Components of Risk: A Comparative Glossary, UNU)**

Vulnerability (V) = Hazard – Coping, with Hazard = H (Probability of the hazard or process; shock value; predictability; prevalence; intensity/strength); and Coping = C (Perception of risk and potential of an activity; possibilities for trade; private trade, open trade). [...] Determinants of disaster vulnerability: demographic factors: population growth, urbanization, settlements near coastal areas, etc., the state of economic development: poverty, modernization processes, environmental changes: climate changes, degradation and depletion of resources (straightening the courses of rivers, deforestation, etc.); political factors, an increase in tangible assets, which leads to an increase in damages, effects of disaster protection structures and research, and the interactions of the causes of disasters. [Feldbrügge, T.; von Braun, J. (2002): Is the World Becoming a More Risky Place? – Trends in Disasters and Vulnerability to Them. ZEF – Discussion Papers On Development Policy No. 46, Center for Development Research, Bonn, May 2002, p. 42.]**(Components of Risk: A Comparative Glossary, UNU)**

Vulnerable:

Physically, mentally or socially disadvantaged persons who may be unable to meet their basic needs and may therefore require specific assistance.**(Master Glossary of Terms - Rev. 1, UNHCR)**

Vulnerable groups:

Any group or sector of society that is at higher risk of being subjected to discriminatory practices, violence, natural or environmental disasters, or economic hardship than other groups within the state; any group or sector of society (such as women, children or the elderly) that is at higher risk in periods of conflict and crisis. **(A Glossary on Violent Conflict: Terms and Concepts Used in Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution in the Context of Disaster Relief and Sustainable Development (4th edition), Payson Conflict Study Group)**

War:

A mutually recognised, hostile exchange of actions among two or more parties (such as between or within nation-states) conducted by conventional military forces, paramilitary forces, or guerrillas to achieve respective policy objectives. Warfare assumes a degree of continuity until such objectives are accomplished or a party concedes or is defeated. A state of war normally carries legal parameters governed by internationally recognised rules of engagement and conduct. For example, the initiation of war customarily requires some form of official or unofficial declaration, and conclusions to war are usually facilitated by formal agreements among the belligerents. Such declarations enable war to be 'officially' under way even when no military manoeuvres have been undertaken. In an effort to afford some minimum principles of humanity in relation to war, the Geneva Conventions, adopted in 1949 and augmented by the Geneva Protocol in 1977, outline conditions on the treatment of combatants, prisoners of war, and civilians; protection of medical and religious facilities and practitioners; and restrictions of certain types of weapons. Encounters in war may assume a range of forms and employ various types of weapons, depending on the capacities of the parties to the hostilities. Examples include the use of nuclear, chemical, and conventional arsenals, among many others. Explanations and justifications for war have led to numerous categorisations and terms, for example 'total war', 'civil war', 'ethnic war', 'proxy way', and 'wars of selfdetermination'. Historical trends in warfare are changing: human, environmental, and economic costs are rising along with the number of civilian casualties. The geographic areas involved in actual battles are widening, and the number of battles per year is increasing. On average, however, wars are becoming shorter. The absolute size of armies is increasing, as well as their size relative to their respective general populations. Lower proportions of combatants are injured, with a concurrent rise in the casualties of civilians. Also, wars now spread to additional belligerents more swiftly than in the past. Since World War II, the frequency of 'low-intensity' conflicts, revolutions, counter-revolutions, and proxy wars has risen. **(A Glossary of Terms and Concepts in Peace and Conflict Studies, Second Edition, University for Peace)**
See also: war crimes

Warning:

Dissemination of message signalling imminent hazard which may include advice on protective measures.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

WDC:
World Data Center. The WDC system was created to archive and distribute data collected from the observational programmes of the 1957- 1958 International Geophysical Year. Originally established in the United States, Europe, Russia, and Japan, theWDCsystem has since expanded to other countries and to new scientific disciplines. The WDC system now includes 52 Centres in 12 countries. Its holdings include a wide range of solar, geophysical, environmental, and human dimensions data. These data cover time scales ranging from seconds to millennia and they provide baseline information for research in many disciplines. Tsunamis are collected by theWDCfor Solid Earth Geophysics. The WDC-SEG is co-located with the US NOAA National Geophysical Data Center. (http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/wdc/wdcmain.html)**(Tsunami Glossary, UNESCO)**

Wind force:
Number on a Beaufort scale corresponding to the effects produced by winds within a range of speeds.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Wind pressure:
The total force exerted upon a structure by wind. For flat surface it is the sum of the dynamic pressure exerted on the windward side and the pressure decrease, or suction, produced on the sheltered side **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**
See also: wind load

Windbreak:
A barrier used to decrease the wind speed.**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

World Weather Watch (WWW):
The world-wide, co-ordinated, developing system of meteorological facilities and services provided by WMO Members for the purpose of ensuring that all Members obtain the meteorological information required both for operational work and research The essential elements of the WWW are: The Global Observing System, The Global Data-processing System and the Global Telecommunication System (used also for transmission of seismic information in the Far East).**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Zonation:
In general it is the subdivision of a geographical entity (country, region, etc.) into homogenous sectors with respect to certain criteria (for example, intensity of the hazard, degree of risk, same overall protection against a given hazard, etc.)**(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**

Zoonosis:
Any disease of animals that can be transmitted to man (e.g. rabies). **(Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms Related to Disaster Management, DHA)**