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Programme planning**Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007****Part two: biennial programme plan****Programme 22****Humanitarian assistance****Contents**

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* A/59/50 and Corr.1.

Overall orientation

22.1 The overall purpose of the programme is to ensure the timely, coherent and coordinated response of the international community to disasters and emergencies, to promote natural disaster reduction and to facilitate the smooth transition from emergency relief to rehabilitation and development. The legislative authority and mandate for this programme are derived from General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the guiding principles of humanitarian assistance and reinforced earlier decisions and resolutions adopted by it and the Economic and Social Council concerning humanitarian assistance and the leadership role of the Secretary-General in responding to natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is responsible for the implementation of this programme and the achievement of its objectives.

22.2 The strategy for implementing the programme is based on the need for the development and promotion of a common policy on humanitarian issues for the United Nations system and its partners; the mobilization and coordination of assistance in complex emergencies and disasters; the development and mobilization of United Nations capacity to expedite the provision of international humanitarian assistance; advocacy of humanitarian issues; the promotion of natural disaster reduction; and the availability of timely information on emergencies and natural disasters to facilitate global humanitarian assistance.

Subprogramme 1 Policy and analysis

Objective of the Organization: To ensure an effective international response to situations calling for humanitarian assistance that follows the guiding principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved coordination within the United Nations system in response to disasters and emergencies	(a) The number of agreements adopted by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on appropriate standards to improve coordination mechanisms and structures at Headquarters and in the field
(b) Improved planning, monitoring and accountability during disasters and emergency situations, including the transitional phase from relief to development	(b) (i) An increase in the number of policy guidelines that are implemented at the field level (ii) The number of countries with agreed inter-agency strategies implemented

Strategy

22.3 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Policy Development and Studies Branch in New York.

22.4 The Branch will continue to develop a humanitarian policy agenda which will identify emerging humanitarian trends and changes in the humanitarian environment

in order to build harmonized policy positions among humanitarian agencies based on human rights, international law and humanitarian principles.

22.5 It will foster strategic and operational coherence, crafting practical policies, guidance and analytic tools for use in the field by humanitarian practitioners. It will develop aides-memoires and diagnostic tools for political actors, such as Member States and peacekeepers, to use during crisis management to help ensure consideration of key humanitarian concerns. It will also contribute to the development of training programmes to ensure that staff and other actors in emergencies are aware of key humanitarian policies and methodologies and are able to apply them flexibly and appropriately in varied contexts. The Branch will help identify best practice and innovative concepts that should be disseminated widely to inform and guide policy, operational decisions and crisis management.

22.6 Moreover, the Branch will support and promote the efforts of Governments of affected countries, upon their request, and those of other agencies, with the approval of the Government concerned, to assist and protect internally displaced persons. Support will be given to the establishment of effective planning capacity for the management of the transition from relief to reconstruction and development. In addition, efforts will be made to ensure that lessons learned from past experience are applied to the strengthening of future humanitarian assistance activities. The secretariat of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee will provide support to the Committee in its efforts to ensure a well-coordinated international response to humanitarian crises and should conduct regular briefings with Member States on its activities.

Subprogramme 2

Coordination of humanitarian action and emergency response

Objective of the Organization: To ensure a coherent and timely humanitarian response to alleviate human suffering in natural disaster and complex emergencies.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Timely and coordinated support to operational agencies engaged in the response to humanitarian emergencies	(a) The establishment of coordination mechanisms, including the deployment of humanitarian coordination personnel in the field at the onset of an emergency, within five days
(b) Increased availability of extrabudgetary resources for humanitarian activities through the consolidated appeal process	(b) An increase in the ratio of contributions received from donors to requirements identified in the consolidated appeals process
(c) Progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in strategies for emergency response	(c) The number of instances where needs of women are effectively addressed through common humanitarian action plans
(d) Humanitarian actions by the United Nations system are properly coordinated and integrated with political, security and peacekeeping initiatives	(d) (i) The number of political, security and peacekeeping initiatives that take into account humanitarian perspectives (ii) The number of up-to-date country contingency plans

Strategy

22.7 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested with the Humanitarian Emergency Branch in New York and the Response Coordination Branch in Geneva.

22.8 The Humanitarian Emergency Branch will prepare day-to-day analysis on complex emergencies and natural disasters through its link to resident and humanitarian coordinators and field coordination units of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs worldwide; provide inputs to and monitor all Security Council deliberations on issues with humanitarian implications; represent the Office in relevant United Nations interdepartmental or inter-agency forums dealing with crisis management; provide analysis and recommendations for consideration by the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs, as well as other United Nations executive committees; enhance preparedness in countries at risk of crisis through support to contingency planning; lead or participate in inter-agency and interdepartmental assessment missions and offer the United Nations system information and advice on a timely basis with respect to humanitarian assistance activities, in strict conformity with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality, as contained in General Assembly resolution 46/182.

22.9 The Response Coordination Branch will provide support to resident and humanitarian coordinators in the field to ensure effective field-based coordination; aim at the timely mobilization and coordination of international assistance to countries affected by emergencies through strengthened cooperation between assisting and recipient countries; activate international disaster response mechanisms to facilitate international relief assistance; provide support to Member States and international response networks to ensure improved coordination in crisis management; facilitate, where appropriate, field-based strategic planning for the common humanitarian action plans of the United Nations; and draw up appeals to solicit support from the donor community for humanitarian action by the United Nations system and partners. In addition, it will reinforce services to field offices through greater participation in the inter-agency structure and management of the regional disaster response advisers; strengthen partnerships through the efficient and systematic monitoring of the implementation of policies and programmes; contribute to the analysis of issues related to access security; and analyse emergencies and lessons learned.

Subprogramme 3

Natural disaster reduction

Objective of the Organization: To reduce vulnerability to natural hazards and ensure effective international support to reduce the impact of disasters.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased national capacity for the development of a culture of prevention and reduction of risk and vulnerability to natural hazards	(a) (i) The number of development plans/policies adopted at the national level with elements of disaster risk reduction (ii) The number of educational tools addressing disaster risk management in schools and higher education
(b) Increased application of scientific and technical knowledge for risk and vulnerability reduction by policy makers at national levels	(b) (i) An increase in the number of development tools for risk assessment and monitoring of progress in the disaster risk reduction field (ii) An increase in the number of countries utilizing disaster risk assessment and monitoring tools
(c) Increased capacity of developing countries for disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and recovery	(c) (i) An increase in the number of countries adopting national programmes to implement disaster risk reduction strategies (ii) An increase in the number of countries incorporating disaster-reduction measures into post-disaster recovery efforts
(d) Increased level of donor support for disaster reduction programmes/projects	(d) The number of disaster reduction and recovery programmes/projects funded

Strategy

22.10 The subprogramme will follow a two-fold strategy to achieve its objective concurrent with the focus of activities with the two participating organizations, namely, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

22.11 The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction will continue to pursue promoting links and synergies and the coordination of disaster reduction activities in the socio-economic, humanitarian and development fields, as well as to support policy development and integration in this field. This will be carried out through increasing public awareness, increasing the application of policy, scientific and technical knowledge for risk and vulnerability reduction in close partnership with various organizations working in this field and, in particular, ensuring the

mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into major international sustainable development policy processes and sensitizing the international community and decision-making authorities about the cost-effectiveness of investing in reducing disaster risk and vulnerability.

22.12 Through its network of country offices, UNDP will continue to support the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction programmes and projects at the regional and national levels as an essential objective of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. This will be carried out through the development of disaster reduction capacity-building strategies and programmes, training for human resource development, mainstreaming risk reduction into ongoing frameworks of cooperation, programmes and projects in country offices and the design and implementation of frameworks and programmes for sustainable recovery.

22.13 A particular relevant result sought from the work of the two organizations is increased investment in disaster risk reduction.

Subprogramme 4

Emergency support services

Objective of the Organization: To expedite international humanitarian assistance to victims of environmental emergencies and natural disasters, including technological accidents.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Prompt mobilization of international emergency response mechanisms and tools to facilitate international humanitarian assistance to victims of disasters and emergencies, including the identification of resource requirements and timely dissemination of information	(a) International assistance and resources are provided to affected country within 48 hours following the issuance of the situation report
(b) Enhanced capacity and preparedness of national and international emergency/disaster management networks in order to respond to disasters and emergencies	(b) An increase in the number of national and international networks that can respond effectively to disasters and emergencies
(c) Heightened awareness of gender mainstreaming in disaster-assessment reports and appeal documents	(c) All situation reports issued during every major disaster will reflect impact on gender perspective

Strategy

22.14 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Emergency Services Branch in Geneva.

22.15 Support will be provided to disaster-affected countries through the strengthening of mechanisms for emergency response; the promotion of the membership of developing and disaster-prone countries in emergency response networks; the development and strengthening of the Office's response capacities; and the improvement of mechanisms, instruments and procedures for the mobilization and coordination of international assistance in case of natural disasters

and complex emergencies. In addition, support will be provided through the increased involvement of potential recipient and donor countries, using a regional approach, as well as United Nations agencies, in relevant activities, including training and exercise programmes and capacity-building for response preparedness.

22.16 Emphasis will be placed on ensuring the timely dissemination of information on the situation in countries affected by emergencies and disasters, including the identification of resource requirements, to humanitarian and other partners; activating emergency and disaster-response tools to reduce their impact; expanding the United Nations Disaster Assessment Coordination team in different regions; standardizing operational procedures for international urban search and rescue teams; further developing a comprehensive network of partners comprising Governments, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations through the Partnership on Environmental Emergencies; and strengthening civil and military coordination through national training programmes to support international humanitarian relief operations.

Subprogramme 5

Humanitarian emergency information and advocacy

Objective of the Organization: To ensure effective advocacy of humanitarian principles and concerns on behalf of populations affected by disasters and emergencies.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased understanding and regard for humanitarian principles and concerns	(a) The number of agreements adopted by Member States, regional organizations and humanitarian actors that promote humanitarian principles and actions
(b) Increased utilization of timely information on emergency situations for decision-making by Member States and other humanitarian actors	(b) An increase in the number of users of information made available through the information services and systems of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
(c) Increased awareness of the humanitarian information	(c) An increase in the number of page views of the information services and systems of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Strategy

22.17 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme rests with the Advocacy, External Relations and Information Management Branch.

22.18 Advocacy being a core mandate of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Branch will enhance partnerships with United Nations departments and agencies, non-governmental organizations, Member States, regional organizations and other stakeholders in order to increase the commitment and support to humanitarian action globally. The Branch will strengthen public information and media relations capacities at Headquarters and in the field in order to raise awareness of the plight and needs of civilians affected by conflicts and

natural disasters and promote adherence to international humanitarian law and principles. It will also undertake outreach and targeted campaigns, in concert with its partners, to focus attention on specific humanitarian crises and issues.

22.19 Another vital aspect of the subprogramme is to provide timely and reliable information on unfolding emergencies and natural disasters in order to inform decision-making and support humanitarian action on the ground. The Branch will strengthen the systems for collection, analysis, dissemination and sharing of humanitarian information through expanded networks, coverage and reach. This includes updating and improving its principal web sites, namely OCHA-Online and ReliefWeb, as well as the Integrated Regional Information Networks, its independent field-based humanitarian news service. Partnerships with other members of the humanitarian community for information sharing, coordination and standardization will be further enhanced.

22.20 With regard to humanitarian emergencies, the Branch will provide appropriate early information with regard to preventive and preparedness measures. It will continue to provide secretariat and technical support to the United Nations inter-agency framework for coordination teams and to assist United Nations country teams in the preparation of contingency plans.

Legislative mandates

Programme 23

Humanitarian assistance

General Assembly resolutions

46/182	Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations
47/120 A and B	An Agenda for Peace: preventive diplomacy and related matters
53/192	Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
54/96 A-M	Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions
58/25	International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development
58/114	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations
58/119	Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster
58/122	Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

1999/1	Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance
2003/5	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Security Council resolution

1296 (2000)	Protection of civilians in armed conflict
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Subprogramme 1
Policy and analysis

General Assembly resolutions

52/12 A and B	Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform
56/89	Scope of legal protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel
57/184	New International Humanitarian Order
58/118	Participation of volunteers, "White Helmets", in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development
58/177	Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons

Subprogramme 2
Coordination of Humanitarian Action and Emergency Response

General Assembly resolutions

56/112	Emergency assistance to the Sudan
57/103	Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and rehabilitation in Tajikistan
57/148	Humanitarian assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
58/24	Emergency humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia
58/26	Emergency humanitarian assistance to Malawi
58/27 A and B	Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan and the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security
58/115	Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia

Subprogramme 3
Natural disaster reduction

General Assembly resolutions

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| 54/219 | International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: successor arrangements |
| 57/255 | International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon |
| 58/214 | International strategy for disaster reduction |
| 58/215 | Natural disasters and vulnerability |

Economic and Social Council resolutions

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| 1999/46 | International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon |
| 1999/63 | International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: successor arrangements |

Subprogramme 4
Emergency support services

General Assembly resolution

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| 56/99 | Emergency response to disasters |
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