

Humanitarian and special economic assistance

In 2015, the Unit7 (mi)157.25 TJ-0.012 Tc -0.05 Tw p... (a) -10.8 (a) -

relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development; international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development; international strategy for disaster reduction; the impacts of the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon; and assistance in mine action.

In December, the General Assembly designated 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day,

humanitarian financing, and another on protecting civilians by upholding international humanitarian law.

The Council, along with the General Assembly, considered the April report of the Secretary-General

[A/70/77-E/2015/64] on strengthening the coordination of the emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, submitted in response to Assembly resolutions 46/182 [YUN 1991, p. 421] and 69/135 [YUN 2014, p. 1060], and Council resolution 2014/13 [YUN 2014, p. 1056].

In the report, the Secretary-General described the

The Secretary-General stated that a record 33 emergencies and crises, covered by appeals, were stretching the capacity of the humanitarian system to its limit. While the more than \$11 billion provided for 2014 through inter-agency appeals was an all-time high, so too was the \$7.4 billion shortfall, highlighting the need to make the best use of available resources. Effective responses required a critical need to maximize resources and expertise by connecting more predictably the many actors and systems involved. It also required the international humanitarian actors to complement, not substitute, national actors. In addition, the goals that were shared among international humanitarian actors needed to include a clear exit strategy, with clear benchmarks to signal the phase-out of humanitarian operations.

On humanitarian financing, the Secretary-General stated that the approach needed to address the problem

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to jump-start and accelerate life-saving response to hundreds of thousands of people. In Yemen, where a staggering 82 per cent of the population required humanitarian assistance, provided \$44 million to ensure that critical services reached people most in need. As millions of people struggled with the devastating impact of droughts and floods driven by a strong El Niño weather cycle, provided quick and early funding in the amount of \$59 million to countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, Central America and the Caribbean.

. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/102 [YUN 2013, p. 869], the Secretary-General submitted a June report [A/70/96] which described the activities of in 2014. The Emergency Relief Coordinator allocated \$460.8 million from the rapid response and underfunded emergency grant windows to support activities in 44 countries and one territory. Member States and the private sector contributed \$479.2 million to the Fund for 2014. During the year, the Emergency Relief Coordinator commissioned two studies to look at the role of the Fund in the evolving humanitarian landscape and to ensure that contributions entrusted to the Fund effectively and efficiently served people most affected by crises.

Food assistance (\$110.1 million), health (\$73.4 million) and water and sanitation (\$53.9 million) totalled more than 51 per cent of all Fund allocations in 2014. Some \$338.7 million, or 73.5 per cent, went to emergency activities in Africa. South Sudan was the largest recipient globally, followed by the Sudan and Ethiopia. The Middle East received 10.9 per cent, Asia and the Pacific 7.8 per cent, Latin America and the Caribbean 5.9 per cent and Europe 1.8 per cent. The three largest grant-receiving agencies in 2014 continued to be the World Food Programme (\$137.3 million), the United Nations Children's Fund (

the end of the year, over 87.6 million people across 37 countries, most of which were in conflict, needed life-saving humanitarian assistance. Crises were becoming more protracted and displacement levels were unprecedented due to the lack of durable political solutions. Nearly 60 million people, half of them children, had to flee their homes. Extended conflicts in Iraq, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen continued to affect large numbers of people and to place extraordinary strain on the humanitarian system.

In its fifth year, the crisis in Syria continued to propel one of the largest refugee exoduses since the Second World War. More than 830,000 refugees and migrants found their way into Europe. In Yemen,

in neighbouring countries, totalling almost 20 per cent of the population. Key milestones in the political process took place during the year demonstrating a willingness by the major political actors to move forward.

The organization of the Bangui Forum, in May, followed by a referendum approving a new constitution, paved the way for presidential and legislative elections.

Chad

The UN humanitarian response plan for Chad in 2015 sought \$ 571.6 million, of which 47.9 per cent (\$273.9 million) was received.

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Poor rainfall had resulted in below-average agricultural production. Due to the reduced production of cereals, especially (a)-2.8 (-)13tri6-1.6 4may(a)-2.8 (.)4

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Mauritania had been one of the coastal countries most affected by the late start of the rainy season and (i) -13.4 ut
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 264,000 people needed immediate food assistance.

The pastoral situation had also deteriorated because of the lack of grazing land. The failure of rain-fed crops had limited farming activities and the lean season in farming areas in the north-west started as early as March instead of June. In addition, over 52,000 Malians sought refuge in Mauritania following Mali's crisis in 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 165], the majority of whom were residing in the Mberra camp.

Niger

The UN humanitarian response plan for the Niger in 2015 sought \$ 375.7 million, of which 55.8 per cent (\$209.6 million) was received.

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As at 18 May, over 40,000 people had been internally displaced due to Boko Haram attacks on Niger's territory and military operations in the Lake Chad islands. Furthermore, the meningitis outbreak in the country had reached epidemic thresholds in 12 health districts (out of 44) following a three-year absence. Of the Sahel countries covered by the Regional Humanitarian Response Plan, Niger remained one of the most vulnerable to malnutrition. As at June, Niger showed a global acute malnutrition rate of 14.8 per cent nationally, which was close to the emergency threshold of 15 per cent. Food insecurity was affecting 2.5 million people due to a crop shortage countrywide, the low availability of pasture and water, and disruption in the transhumance routes in the Lake Chad basin area due to the Boko Haram insurgency.

Nigeria

The UN humanitarian response plan for Nigeria in 2015 sought \$100.3 million, of which 57.8 per cent (\$58.0 million) was received.

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the strategic objectives identified by the humanitarian community were to reduce the impact of drought, re-establish livelihoods and strengthen the resilience of affected people; minimize the risk of epidemics, epizootics and zoonotics and reduce their impact on drought-affected populations and livestock; and strengthen protection and improve access to food and other basic services for refugees and vulnerable migrants.

Over a decade of recurrent, severe droughts and limited access to basic social services had led to a worsening humanitarian situation. Over 40 per cent of the population was food insecure, 42 per cent lived in extreme poverty and 44 per cent of the rural population had no access to water. In addition, the spill-over from the Yemen crisis had led to the arrival of some 9,700 people from Yemen as at May. Approximately 80,000 Ethiopian migrants were reportedly transiting through Djibouti every year en route to the Arab states in the Gulf. Humanitarian partners continued to help implement projects to promote agricultural production and food security, access to water and the safeguarding of livelihood assets, activities to prevent and treat malnutrition, and

ceived, targeting around 1.6 million people out of a population of 4.5 million. Around 1.3 million of those targeted were in Gaza.

The humanitarian community identified six strategic objectives: to enhance protection by promoting respect for international humanitarian and human rights law, pursue accountability and prevent and mitigate the impact of violations; respond to immediate needs following shocks and increase the resilience of those at risk of forcible displacement; respond to food insecurity and promote resilient livelihoods; ensure that 1.6 million people in areas with limited services and restricted access had access to essential services; enhance the capacity of national stakeholders to provide timely coordination of and effective preparedness for coordinated response to emergencies; and ensure transitional solutions for *refugees* and those vulnerable to re-displacement in Gaza, working towards a durable solution.

The protracted protection crisis with humanitarian consequences was principally driven by insufficient re-

While the situation appeared under control, Haiti remained vulnerable to a sudden onset of the disease.

Honduras

The UN humanitarian response plan for Honduras in 2015 sought \$13.2 million, of which 53 per cent (\$6.9 million) was received as at June.

The strategic objectives identified by the humanitarian community were to reduce food insecurity for the most vulnerable populations affected by the drought in the 64 prioritized municipalities, thereby decreasing malnutrition and negative strategies of

Disaster Reduction

Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

On 5 March (69/556) the General Assembly, on the proposal of its President, recalling its resolutions 66/199 [YUN 2011, p. 877], 67/209 [YUN 2012, p. 920], 68/211 [YUN 2013, p. 886] and 69/219 [YUN 2014, p. 1083], decided that the conference on disaster risk reduction, to be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, should henceforth be known as the

United Nations/Germany International Conference on Earth Observation: global solutions for the challenges of sustainable development in societies at risk (Bonn, Germany, 26–28 May) [A/AC.105/1097], which showcased the most recent developments on the use of Earth observation and integrated space technology applications to address the challenges of climate change and disaster risk reduction and to contribute to sustainable development worldwide; a regional expert meeting on access to information and knowledge for disaster risk reduction and emergency response (Bogotá, Colombia, 12–14 August) [A/AC.105/1105], which discussed ongoing efforts related to the use of space-based information to strengthen national drought early warning systems; and the United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Management: a consolidating role in the implementation of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (Beijing, 14–16 September) [A/AC.105/1102], which contributed to the process of producing guidelines for Member States to integrate Earth observation and geospatial technologies in implementing the Sendai Framework.

On 9 December, in [70/82](#) (see p. 000), the General Assembly noted the significant achievements made and the advisory support provided to more than 35 Member States within the framework of UN-[70/82](#) and welcomed its role in promoting international cooperation as a way to enhance the use of space-based technologies and related services.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 72], the General Assembly adopted [70/107](#) [draft: A/70/L.30 & Add.1] () without vote [agenda item 73 (a)].

Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management

On 22 July (see below), the Economic and Social Council, noting the adoption of resolution 71/11 by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-first session (Bangkok, 25–29 May), endorsed the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management. The objective of the Centre was to reduce the risks, losses and damages resulting from natural 50.006 Tc 0.3.8 (l 50.006 Tc 0.3.8 -32.8Tn)6.4 (o)

with the adoption of the African Union (

Rev.1] () without
 vote [agenda item 12 (d)].

Nepal

- . In a statement [SG/SM/16701] issued on 25 April on the Nepal earthquake that had struck the Kathmandu valley, the Secretary-General expressed his deepest condolences to Nepal and to everyone affected, particularly to the families and friends of those killed and injured. He stated that the United Nations was supporting the Government in coordinating international search and rescue operations and was preparing to mount a major relief effort.

. On 15 May [A/69/PV.90], the General Assembly considered “Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions” under the agenda item “Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance”.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 15 May [meeting 90], the General Assembly adopted **69/280** [A/69/L.66 & Add.1] (,