



FACTSHEET

OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (OCHA)

OCHA has a unique mandate to coordinate international humanitarian assistance, support organisations to respond effectively to the needs of people, understand and analyse their needs, and mobilise international assistance. OCHA also manages the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs).

Governance

As part of the UN Secretariat, OCHA does not have its own executive board, but is directly accountable to the Secretary-General and the General Assembly. It is led by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC).

The OCHA Donor Support Group (ODSG), composed of 30 donors, including Switzerland, is a sounding board and source of advice for OCHA on policy, management and financial matters.

Strategic Objectives

OCHA's Strategic Plan 2023-2026 aims to transform humanitarian coordination in a context of exponential rise of humanitarian needs and decreasing funding.

Added Value and Challenges

OCHA's added value is to act as an honest broker, facilitator, thought leader and global advocate, providing support to the whole humanitarian system.

OCHA sees itself as a catalyst for change. It aims to reshape the humanitarian system towards a coherent humanitarian response that is people-centred, context-specific and contributes to community resilience. OCHA also wants to expand its pooled funds as funding catalysts and invest in strategic areas that need to be scaled up by the broader humanitarian community, including anticipatory, inclusive and locally-led humanitarian assistance.

OCHA is committed to implement its vision, but is facing difficulties, partly due to the resistance to change from different actors in the system. Furthermore, much stronger system-wide coherence and partnerships are needed to advance the UN Development System reform.

Key Results in 2023

OCHA facilitated a dialogue between the Government of Ethiopia and key stakeholders in November which led to the resumption of food aid for 20 million people, following a 6-month hiatus. OCHA led the way to humanitarian diplomacy and access. Following the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, it facilitated the opening of two additional border crossings into north-west Syria, allowing the delivery of desperately needed aid.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Type of organisation:
Part of the UN Secretariat

Head of organisation:
Tom Fletcher (UK), Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Headquarters:
Geneva and New York

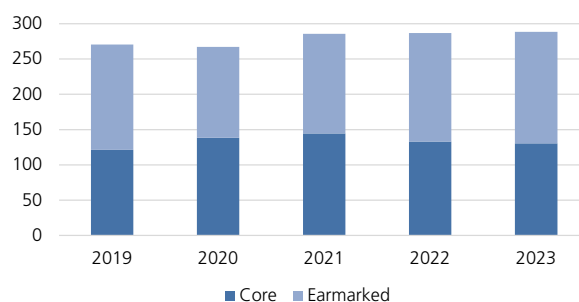
Country Offices:
2 global hubs, 5 regional offices and 29 country offices

Total Personnel:
Over 2000

Established in:
1991

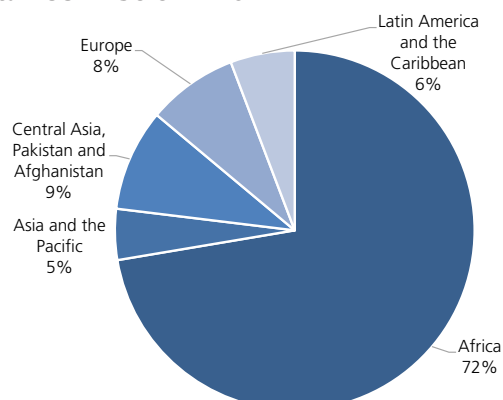
Steering:
OCHA Donor Support Group (ODSG), co-chaired by OCHA and a donor representative rotating on a yearly basis

OCHA Funding 2019-2023, Core vs. Earmarked, in million USD



OCHA Expenditure 2023, by Region (%)

Total: USD 238.8 million





An IDP site in Bunia, Democratic Republic of Congo. ©OCHA

SWITZERLAND AND OCHA

Contributions (2023):

Total: USD 94.6 million

Unearmarked: USD 3.7 million
(11th largest gov. donor)

Projects: USD 4.9 million

Pooled Funds: USD 86 million

Number of Swiss staff:

5

Number of Swiss secondments:

20

Involved Swiss government entities:

SDC, PHRD

SWITZERLAND'S PARTNERSHIP WITH OCHA

Switzerland's Strategic Priorities

- **Localisation of aid:** Switzerland encourages OCHA to promote a localised coordination architecture in advocating that localisation is understood and lived consistently in all CBPFs.
- **People-centred humanitarian assistance:** Switzerland supports OCHA to transform humanitarian assistance, ensuring it is driven by people's priorities. In this regard, Switzerland also encourages OCHA to fully integrate Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) in its policies and actions so that humanitarian action protects and preserves the rights and dignity of crisis-affected people, remains relevant and effective, leaves no one behind and upholds humanitarian principles.
- **Gender-sensitive programming and protection:** Switzerland facilitates and strengthens capacity and leadership of the humanitarian system to ensure that protection, gender equality programming and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) are at the centre of humanitarian assistance.

Cooperation at Country Level

In 2023, Switzerland contributed to 15 CBPFs, with a total amount of USD 74.9 million (6th largest gov. donor). Over USD 26 million were allocated to the occupied Palestinian Territory (oPT) CBPF. It also supported the deployment of rapid response teams to sudden-onset emergencies and the provision of humanitarian response activities within underfunded emergencies through the allocation of USD 11.2 million to the CERF (12th). Swiss Cooperation Teams actively engage in the existing coordination structures like the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and sectoral clusters.

Cooperation at Global Level

Switzerland supports OCHA with a yearly allocation of predictable, unearmarked and flexible funding. Earmarked contributions are also made to specific capacity-building projects. These include contributions to the Protection Capacity (ProCap), the Gender Capacity (GenCap), and the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Capacity (PSEACap) Projects. They aim to strengthen protection, gender equality and PSEA programming efforts in the humanitarian system. Switzerland also contributes to the Peer-2-Peer (P2P) Support Project, which provides independent and impartial peer advisory services and support to humanitarian leaders in the field.

FDFA's Peace and Human Rights Division (PHRD) has a strategic

dialogue with OCHA on humanitarian diplomacy and access, and provides a contribution to OCHA's Humanitarian Negotiations Section (HNS).

At policy level, Switzerland actively advocates for new, more inclusive and forward-looking ways of working to enable an efficient and effective humanitarian response to people in need, in accordance with humanitarian principles and International Humanitarian Law. For that, Switzerland's focus lies on the effective implementation and institutionalisation of OCHA's Flagship Initiative, which aims to engage with affected people, local organisations and funding partners to develop context-specific coordination and people-centred response solutions.

Swiss Contributions 2019-2023, in million USD

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Core contribution	2.1	2.1	2.2	3.5	3.7
Projects	4.9	5.8	4.8	4.2	4.9
Total OCHA	7	7.9	7	7.7	8.6
CBPF	23.6	28.3	30.6	54.7	74.9
CERF	6.9	24.2	5.5	5.9	11.2
Total Pooled Funds	30.5	52.5	36.1	60.6	86.1
Total	37.5	60.4	43.1	68.3	94.7

Localisation of Aid: Country-Based Pooled Funds Working Group

During its co-chairing of the CBPFs Working Group (2022-2023), Switzerland enabled local and national actors to have a voice and space through sponsoring their in-person participation in both bi-annual meetings. Their representation, since then permanent, gives funding partners a reality check and enables for an open and inclusive discussion with OCHA to inform the strategic direction and management of CBPFs.

Contact:

Multilateral Humanitarian Affairs Section

Multilateral Affairs and NGO Division

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Email: sdc.multi-ngo@eda.admin.ch

Website: <https://www.sdc-multilateral.ch>