Forum: General Assembly Third Committee
Issue: Strengthening the mechanism for humanitarian coordination in areas struck by war or natural disasters
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Introduction

Annually, war and natural disasters affect millions of people. In the last ten years, humanitarian relief systems have aided hundreds of millions of individuals affected by more than a thousand complex emergencies or natural disasters around the world.

Currently, the humanitarian relief systems are guided by the UN General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 1991. Almost three decades later, the global humanitarian aid system faces the need to rapidly adapt to the circumstances.

Climate change has potentiated natural disasters in frequency and intensity, and the numbers of internally displaced persons, asylum seekers and refugees have escalated exponentially (United Nations, 2012). Moreover, the quantity of individuals in need for assistance has multiplied, and the number of people designed by The Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) for aid have almost doubled in the past decade.

The current humanitarian aid system constantly struggles in order to provide help to those affected areas in the most effective and successful way possible. The overall increase of demand for aid has caused the humanitarian relief system to develop into an unorganized industry, constituted by several organizations, each trying to help by its own means, with its own goals, and own plans. Bringing both the good and the bad, the increase in contributors for humanitarian aid has provided the international community with funds, engagement and resources, while at the same time forcing the system to enhance their coordination in responses.

This sudden need for change has caused the relief system to receive criticism in their struggle to obtain resources needed by each cause and their coordination of effective and

efficient responses to each situation, led by arguments characterized by the failing to cover the affected population's basic needs, lack in time efficiency, and overall deficit in quality of aid.

As a fact, effective coordination in humanitarian responses has proven to be a force multiplier at the moment of aiding crisis, by reducing competition and duplication, while at the same time allowing for the international community, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and agencies to work together for a common cause.

Furthermore, coordination is capable of turning humanitarian aid into a mechanism which is strategic, smart, time efficient, and reasonable, by making proper use of the limited resources, reaching further numbers of people, improving transparency and, all in all, saving more lives.

The need for humanitarian aid is certain to continue to increase in the following years due to the acceleration of climate change, ongoing population growth, increasing urbanization, and rising of costs. Additionally, the number of "forgotten" emergencies continue to grow, and their aid must also be delivered properly.

An efficient humanitarian relief system must; ensure timely delivered services, fulfill people's basic necessities, be context specific, and be motives for others to collaborate in the cause. It is needed for the United Nations (UN), NGOs and governments to come up with coherent methodologies in order to properly tackle this issue and improve the overall capacity of humanitarian aid to help the affected individuals.

This conditions and predictions for the future will certainly require countries to be more than ever prepared to respond to crisis, by reducing their vulnerability as much as possible, and overcoming the effects of shocks in the best ways known. Nevertheless, it isn't without the help and collaboration of the international community, regular support from international donors, and NGOs and agencies that this will be achieved.

Definition of Key Terms

Humanitarian aid

The provisioning of food, water, medical supplies, tents among other things, to victims of war or natural disasters, who are found in an appallingly vulnerable situation where usually basic physiological needs are unmet.

Coordination

This term refers to the necessary environment of collaboration where multiple parties can interact and work together in order to improve the quality and expand the reachability of the intervention's impact.

Natural disaster

It is any catastrophic event caused by nature or any process of Earth. Its severity is usually measured in lives lost, economic and economic loss. Some examples are: floods, earthquakes, droughts, tornados, tsunamis.

Refugees

It is someone who has been forced to evacuate its own country because of prosecution, war or violence in its country of provenance.

Internally displaced person

A person who has been forced to leave its residential site and flee to another, but who has not crossed international boundaries.

Asylum seeker

Someone who is applying for legal protection and assistance, who would like to be a refugee. It is crucial to prove their need for asylum by justifying their situation of the country of provenance.

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

This is the UN organism, par of the Secretariat, responsible for the coordination of the humanitarian responses and ensures everyone's needs are met. Each actor can contribute with either fund or resources, and OCHA will be the responsible for managing and delivering them to those in the most vulnerable situations.

Background Information

History

Previously to the Second World War, the were not many entities dedicated to providing humanitarian aid. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was the main performer of this actions which were short-term and concentrated only in affected Second World War Europe zones.

In 1945 the UN was founded, and with it, humanitarian aid became a major topic. However, the new organization didn't establish any single organism dedicated to this issue. In the following years, plenty of UN and non-UN organizations started developing in the humanitarian aid field.

Around the 1960s - 1970s several crisis appeared, including Peru's earthquake, the Biafra crisis, and the Indo-Pakistani war. All of these events indicated the need for global humanitarian coordination to Member States.

As a result, in 1971, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2816, in which a Disaster Relief Coordinator position was created and the UN Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO) established. The UNDRO didn't have unlimited funds or personnel, thus, it ended up being outshined by individual, context-specific, parallel organizations such as the Office of Emergency Operations in Africa (OEOA), and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes relating to Afghanistan (UNOCA).

The Kurdish refugee crisis and the Gulf War, once again exposed to the international community the need for a unified coordination mechanism. The UNDRO's job, which supposedly was coordinating responses, was said to be unclear, irregular, unorganized and ineffective, which led to UNHCR being selected as lead organizer agency in 1991 (United Nations, 2012).

Rapidly, Member States started requesting the prioritization of humanitarian coordination aid in the political agenda. The 1991 G7 summit in London stressed this ideas and developed

actions and implementations regarding this concern. After the end of the Cold War in 1991, the General Assembly, as well as the international community was ready to address the topic at hand and work towards the strengthening of the humanitarian coordination response worldwide. In October of the same year, the Secretary-General's report on the matter discussed ideas for the humanitarian aid reform which a later resolution, leaded by Swedish Ambassador Jan Eliasson would implement (United Nations, 2012).

With fresh memories of the Cold War, foreign interventions under a humanitarian justification were feared by many Member States. The extended negotiations developed into a balanced list of guiding principles between national sovereignty and humanitarian aid, which would pilot future humanitarian coordination while keeping in mind concepts such as humanity, neutrality and impartiality. These guidelines were all adopted the 19 of December of 1991, with resolution 46/182.

The resolution changed the Disaster Relief Coordinator into the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), in charge of facilitating the humanitarian aid of the UN and establishing links with NGOs and governments, while at the same time, coordinating funding through the CAP and the Central Emergency Revolving Fund.

In 1992 the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) was established with the purpose of institutionalizing several coordination agencies and organisms. However, due to its lack in size, it took some years for it to fully develop into what was pictured in resolution 46/182 (United Nations, 2012).

Resolution 46/182 further created the Inter- Agency Standing Committee (IASC) with the purpose of having, a platform for discussion between humanitarian organizations from the UN, NGOs and the Red Cross, with ERC as chair. By 1994, IASC had potentiated Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs) and developed key reference terms for their overall practice.

The DHA was beneficiated by the implementation of Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), under ERC Peter Hansen. These were key platforms in the instant and quick sharing of information regarding humanitarian aid needed situations. DHA and NATO's project regarding military and civil defence assets (MCDA) for humanitarian relief, was implemented in 1992, with the purpose of incrementing the government's reach to support relief operations.

MCDA developed, in May of 1994, the Oslo Guidelines, a set of procedures and rules regarding the job of the military in disaster relief zones.

A reform of the coordination system in the UN happened in 1997. Many of the DHA's operational jobs were assigned to other UN bodies, DHA was transformed into the leaner Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was given the job of disaster-preparedness.

By 1999, the protection of civilians in armed conflict was being taken care of by the OCHA and the Security Council resolution 1265; the UN was working towards better international collaborations amongst humanitarian, political and human rights parts of the global response to crisis with resolution 1999/1 of the Economic and Social Council; and the UN was working in combining relief aid to sustainable development.

Between 1999-2000 a report recalling five major affecting factors in post-crisis reintegration and recovery was created in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. Lack of national qualification, different political priorities, unorganized funding, lack of planning in transitional activities and deficient efforts towards common goals were identified as the five factors.

After the 9/11 humanitarian coordinators received a lot of political pressure due to their focus in so-called unstable and vulnerable states, birthplace to many terrorist organizations, activists and networks. This led to the findings that "stabilizing" those states required an integrated approach between security, governamental, development, environmental and humanitarian aspects (United Nations, 2012). Relief organizations faced the decision to become part of the integration or continue through individual paths. In order to integrate all aspects, OCHA managed to persuade political actors into taking humanitarian laws and principles seriously, while raising awareness about forgotten crises. Moreover, in 2003, the Good Humanitarian Donorship principles were produced.

Around 2004, events such as Indian Ocean tsunami and the Darfur crisis revealed the need for humanitarian response effectiveness to improve. Jan Egeland, norwegian diplomat, political scientist and humanitarian leader, led a humanitarian reform the same year with the

purpose of doing a better job when providing efficient, accountable and successful humanitarian responses.

The Cluster Approach was one of the biggest outcomes of this reform. The system named lead organizations such as UNICEF for nutrition, in charge of organizing the individual sectors of aid and response. At the beginning, this new approach didn't suit every Member State and NGO. Nevertheless, after clarifying the specific details of the Cluster Approach method and possible link with government organs, it became more and more accepted. This was further enhanced by OCHA, which was a key player when introducing this methodology and facilitating and guiding its implementation and usage.

It's purpose was to strengthen partnerships, properly divide task between organizations, preventing gaps in responses to happen, and to provide the most effective system as possible. Being implemented in 27 out of the 29 countries in need of humanitarian aid, the Cluster Approach has, as a fact, improved worldwide humanitarian coordination, suggesting it may be the path to follow, however, it is certain that improvements are also needed in the system.

Globally, other actions were taken in order to make coordinations quicker, better and more effective. For instance, a US$450 million grant facility was added to the $50 million Central Emergency Revolving Fund's loan for emergencies and crises, constituting the 2006 Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). (United Nations, 2012). In addition, leadership was enhanced through the establishment of Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators (RC/HCs) at national levels.

After 2011, the IASC took other measures in order to improve the system of response to disasters. A group of recommendations was made in the matter of improving aid and accountability including moving experienced senior humanitarian leaders to zones with starting conflicts as to reduce its potential impact, the quick deployment of trained staff, enhancing planning at national level, and incrementing more coordinating methods.

From that point, response and coordination improved significantly, and led to OCHA becoming really successful at the moment of building stronger partnerships. For instance, the organization has recently incremented its links with humanitarian aid agencies from the Islamic

world, such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), as well as with the African Union. Moreover, OCHA helped in the formation of the 2011 Dialogue on Humanitarian Partnership (DHP) forum.

Drivers of Difficult and Incrementing Humanitarian Need

As previously stated, an evident rise in natural disasters and humanitarian conflicts have been visible in the last couple of years. Not only did the number of displaced individuals duplicate in the last decade, but the frequency of natural disasters has become daily. Both natural disaster and complex emergency situations face difficulties at the moment of coordinating responses due to the big rise in the number of regional, subregional and bilateral actors that intervene in humanitarian aid systems.

Another factor which further makes coordination harder is the tendency of Member States to provide aid via international nongovernmental organizations based in their own countries, which does not only make collaboration harder, but it also deprives affected countries from the chance to improve their coping methodologies.

Moreover, cultural differences, political distinctions, and priorities in different orders, together with too many aiding groups, and lack of specificity regarding aid limits are other key factors which have been proven to make coordination harder.

A further factor that must be taken into account when dealing with crises is the use of the military for peace making. In many occasions, including the hurricane Mitch in Central America and the floods in Mozambique, military operations are sent as response from other countries. According to the Guidelines for Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Response, the host government is in charge of telling military assets what to do, how, and where. Mozambique, for example, requested the UN to coordinate the jobs for the military. A civil-military operations centre was established in the country, where the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations could link the military and the humanitarian aspect as to provide the crisis with a better response. At the end of the aiding period, personnel from both the military and the humanitarian aspects stated that there was still big room for improvement when combining both parties.

Urbanization and population growth are further key factors to have in mind. Population growth means the rise of people vulnerable to crises and more people encouraged to live in places unguarded against natural hazards. Additionally, urbanizations has generated civilian concentrations in possible hazardous areas, dangerous zones and coastal lines, making humanity, as a whole, more vulnerable towards these natural disasters. (United Nations, 2012). A current challenge faced by many humanitarian aid systems is the help towards urbanized areas; organizations currently expects hazardous situations to occur in rural settings, however, with the known increase of natural disasters it is key for these organizations to find methods as to tackle urbanized crises. A clear example of such needed improvement is New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, where the destroy of levees exposed the struggle of both rural and urbanized areas against natural disasters. Furthermore, population growth will also mean a greater struggle in the acquiring of basic necessities such as food, water, and energy. Population growth will as well considerably increment the costs for organizations due to the rise of prices and the rise of individuals in need of help.

Climate change is known to not only increase the frequency and intensity of natural disasters, but to also make all individuals more vulnerable to these due to its effect on sea levels, water accessibility, and agriculture, leading the way towards food insecurity, lack of resources, risky livelihoods and increased migrations.

What's more is the geographically uneven response from donors to situations in need. The United Nations has recently been working in order to dissuade Member States from taking on such practices in order for parties to respond objectively to donation requirements, yet this aspect still needs plenty of improvement as to encourage donations in such as important issues such as transitional rehabilitation activities.

All in all, each and every one of these factors, in correlation with resolution 1999/1 transmit, once again, the need for preparedness and coordination in responses. Strengthening of systems in national, regional and global levels must be achieved as to overcome said difficulties.

Protection of civilians in crises

In September of 1999, the report (S/1999/957) on the protection of civilians in armed conflicts was submitted by the UN's Secretary General to the Security Council. The document expressed the responsibility of nations to protect civilians in such situations and it further stated forty suggestions to be implemented with the purpose of aiding victims of armed conflicts.

In April of 2000, the resolution was adopted by the Council together with resolution 1296, in order to ensure the safety of civilians affected by war and belic conflicts. Moreover, these two resolutions (1265 (1999) and 1296 (2000)) further meant the rising of awareness in children's rights, safety and welfare, constituting a resolution that meant a milestone in the development of organized coordination, response, and protection.

In order to protect civilians, humanitarian organisms have been encouraged to be loyal to laws and enforce them properly, however, significant violations of human rights have been reported committed by these individuals that supposedly are providing humanitarian aid. Almost all countries that currently are working with external humanitarian aid assistance have had complaints due to forced relocations, attacks, abductions and sexual abuse. In order for humanitarian aid to become effective and trustworthy, cooperation between Member States, the UN and NGOs must reach conclusions and deal with such issues.

Luckily, with the initiative to look after civilians, humanitarian bodies have learned different strategies to deal with each country's situation in crisis. Angola, for instance, was given the support to potentiate the aid of internally displaced persons due to an urgent review of coordination arrangements that the ERC performed under the advice of the Secretary General (United Nations, May 30, 2000). Moreover, humanitarian entities have been later encouraged to aid in combination with human rights organizations with the purpose of overall protecting people's rights. Regarding this topic, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee decided to further start a study on good practices of humanitarian aid and human rights as to then publish it as manuals for information and field practice.

Protection of personnel in crises

In its efforts to make coordination better and safer, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee identified access constraints and deficit of security for personnel as key matters in order to deliver proper humanitarian assistance.

Safe and reliable access to areas in need is more than needed in order for humanitarian aid to be successful. Negotiations regarding access conditions must be facilitated and improved due to the current lack of smoothness in its process. Coordination and communication are essential in this matter due to the need of all parties, including humanitarian aid entities, NGOs and other Member States to work in relation to the terms posed by the host nation, which permitted access. In case of conditions not being respected due to, for instance, lack of coordination or communication, could mean the isolation of the needed individuals and the failure of the humanitarian help system, bringing with it, possibly terrible consequences.

Over 180 UN staff members have lost their lives in the field since 1992 (United Nations, May 30, 2000). Resolution 54/192 of 1999 was a big step towards the minimizing of this issue due to the call upon Member States on their responsibility of ensuring a safe environment for the working personnel, while enumerating several recommendations on as to how to do so. This issue is key in the path of effective humanitarian response, and it must certainly be further tackled. The 1994 Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel was many times encouraged to be ratified by resolutions and humanitarian entities, yet only 43 States have signed it, while 22 States have ratified it.

It is very much needed for Member States to ensure the security of personnel and access due to their significant relevance at the moment of making humanitarian access benefactorial and accountable for all parties.

Twenty-first Century Situation

Recently, with the purpose of incrementing the effectiveness of the humanitarian response, regional natural crises advisors have been established around the world (United Nations, May 30, 2000). These not only mentor governments on how to deal with such situations, but they also teach preparedness methodologies, coordinate the deployment of UN aid teams, while providing security to countries as wholes. Such was the case of the 2000's earthquake in China, snowstorms in Mongolia and drought in Paraguay.

Moreover, technology has further enhanced the limits of humanitarian response and is likely to continue doing so. It has become a key tool in order to overcome hazardous situations,

war crises and humanitarian emergencies. Telecommunications and mobile phones are currently used as methods to warn individuals, donate money, and make payments easier; sensors are currently being improved as to accelerate mine clearance, and satellites and drones are now providing humanity with the possibility of delivering humanitarian aid to inaccessible areas.

Telecommunications, for instance, are more than needed in order to perform an accountable preparedness and response to emergencies. Quick and effective systems are needed as to coordinate responses in the best possible manners, and the implementation of the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations on 18 June 1998, was key in the preparedness field (United Nations, May 30, 2000). Even though its effectiveness has been proven, not all Member States have ratified the convention.

Furthemore, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), has incredibly improved its cyclone detection technologies by implementing the use of satellite monitoring, airborne surveillance and radars with the objective of increasing reliability and accuracy when identifying and reporting these events.

In addition, technology is further seen in systems such as the Geographic Information Systems (GIS), designed for storing, displaying, manipulating, collecting and managing all type of data related to natural disasters and population displacements, thus, making responses more tailored, specific and efficient.

Social Media has also played and important role and challenge when coordinating responses to natural disasters and zones affected by war. Whether for telecommunications, awareness-rising or emergencies, social media has been a major component in the improvement of coordination. Seen in the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the international community has become extremely responsive to this media thus, providing humanitarian aid systems with an easy method to reach people worldwide.

In 2016, the UN's Agenda for 2030 was presented, The New York Declaration on Migrants and Refugees was agreed and the New Urban Agenda was designed. Moreover, the

World Humanitarian Summit exposed more of the ingredients of humanitarian aid coordination tha still need improvement, including internally displaced persons, the relief-development transition, payment methods, education and access, thus provided the international community with the motivation needed in order to continue improving humanitarian aid and making the overall process effective and sustainable.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Norway

Norway has realized that there is a huge ongoing humanitarian crisis which has brought about lots of suffering that must be alleviated somehow. As said by the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, the United Nations do not have enough funds in order to address all of the humanitarian needs in areas mainly struck by war, thus, in 2017 the budget for humanitarian aid was increased by 50% comparing to the cifres of 2014. This funds are managed by the UN, the Red Cross and other local organizations.

Sweden

Sweden has drawn a detailed strategy in how to deliver their humanitarian aid through Strategy Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) 2017–2020[1]. Its aim is to maintain human dignity and prevent suffering of those encaged in vulnerable situations of war and violence. Swedish government intends to achieve this by their diplomatic participation in international affairs, their generous funding of humanitarian programs and its preparedness for the eventual deployment of state employees and resources if ever needed for this type of operations.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

This independent organization has contributed massively to the addressing of humanitarian crisis, with the medical treatments provided for the injured in armed-conflicts. It takes immediate action whenever a humanitarian emergency appears within the guidelines of humanitarian international law. It also highlights the importance of "connectivity of response" in

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[1] Strategy for Sweden's humanitarian aid provided through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) 2017–2020 (Rep.). (n.d.). Retrieved February 12, 2019, from https://openaid.se/app/files_mf/1522160868strategyforswedenshumanitarianaidprovidedthroughtheswedi shinternationaldevelopmentcooperationagencysida20172020.pdf.

order to make use of the available resources for humanitarian causes in the most efficient manner.

United Kingdom

As stated in the Humanitarian Emergency Response Review: UK Government Response, the UK Government commits to provide funding and additional resources to save lives in the case of a humanitarian crisis. Its help is delivered in the basis of need, based on the principles of humanity and impartiality.

Japan

This country has been a historical provitioner of funds with humanitarian aims, dating back to 1953 working for Palestine Refugees. Japan would concentrate their funds in relieving those struck by natural disasters, by providing financial aid, emergency supplies and personnel. It was only until January 2004 when it deployed its troops to help the injured in the aftermath of Iraq's war.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1945	Founding of the United Nations
1971	The General Assembly adopts resolution 2816. Disaster Relief Coordinator position is created. UN Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO) is established.
1991	UNHCR is chosen as lead coordinator agency
December 19, 1991	General Assembly resolution 46/182 passes.
April 1992	The Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) is established
May 1994	Oslo Guidelines are developed.
December 1994	Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel
1997	ALNAP is established.
1997	The Sphere Project comes into action.

June 18, 1998	Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations
1998	UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement are established.
1998	DHA transforms into OCHA
1999	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is created.
2000	Fribourg Forum
2003	Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) is established.
2003	The Good Humanitarian Donorship principles are formulated
2003	E-mail becomes major tool in field
2004	Cash transfer programming is used in Aceh's tsunami
2005	The ten-year Hyogo Framework is adopted.
2005	Responsibility to Protect (R2P) is put into action.
2005	The Cluster Approach is put into action for the first time
2006	Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is launched.
2007	Oslo Guidelines are revised
2007	First Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction appears.
2007	International Disaster Relief Laws Guidelines are adopted.
2007	Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) is settled.
2009	First World Humanitarian Day.
2010	Mobile technology becomes widely used.
2010	The Inter-Agency Standing Committee's transformative agenda is endorsed.
2011	The Dialogue on Humanitarian Partnership (DHP) forum is established.
2012	IASC Task Force on Accountability to Affected Populations is created.
2012	Kampala Convention for the protection of IDP comes into action
2013	Cash transfer programming becomes popular and largely used

2013	Social media is widely used
2013	Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability is established
2015	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is launched
2016	NEAR Network is created
2016	First Humanitarian World Summit takes place.
2016	IASC's Grand Bargain agreement is formulated.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (December 15th, 2005) **A/RES/60/124 PP4.**
- Resolution 1296 (April 19th, 2000) **S/RES/1296**
- Resolution 1674 (April 28th,2006) **S/RES/1674**
- Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (June 14th, 2017) **E/2017/L.24**

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

There have been many attempts to aid in the overall issue throughout time. One example would be the 1999 meeting of the UN's Economic and Social Council, where the need for the prioritization of the effective coordination in humanitarian response was first exposed. This meeting tackled issues including the security of humanitarian staff and lead the way toward the 2000s review of humanitarian actions. This review developed into recommendations for All Member States to adopt in order to improve the efficiency of humanitarian aid systems. Some of the recommendations included improving flexibility, updating financial systems and money tracking, implementing impact analysis and awareness-rising. The reviews further recognized joint assessments, evaluations of results, and involvement of NGOs as key factors when dealing with humanitarian response.

Integrated peace operations between humanitarian entities, the UN, civil administration, reconstruction and governance, the police, and military forces were first introduced in 1999 in the East Timor and Kosovo conflicts. This new approach to a complete humanitarian

coordinated response provided a great improvement in the overall effectiveness of humanitarian aid while being a big step towards better services and help in crises.

Setting adviser to assist Governments and regional networks in their methodologies of preparedness and disaster response was another key element when dealing with areas struck by war or natural disasters. The advisor's job also revolted around coordination of the deployment of UN disaster relief aid teams while overall enhancing the response to crises. The effects of this implementation where seen in the Vanuatu tsunami of 1999, where the UN's response proved to be a lot better than in previous operations.

Moreover, in 2000, OCHA took upon several different methods that ended up improving the overall situation of humanitarian aid. The seminar in Brussels, hosted by NATO to analyse the Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Response due to the sudden increase of military assets in humanitarian aid was key for the future use of the military in such situations, and the "Fribourg Forum" conferences in coordination of crises management, held in Switzerland made a big difference in the tackling of issues such as the duplication of aid, the collision of initiatives, and the establishment of policy frameworks in humanitarian aid by region.

Furthermore, the Inter-agency Real-Time Evaluation of the Humanitarian Response to the Darfur Crisis of 2004, were humanitarian aid was said to be of poor standards meant a further approach to the overall improvement of the efficiency of humanitarian action. With the purpose of learning from the mistakes of the Darfur crisis, the ERC and the Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs took on this initiative in order to evade committing the same mistakes.

In addition, by establishing national disaster management, civil protection, and incoming aid coordination positions, the international community as a whole improved in their overall response to war or natural disasters. The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) reported that taking on internal national measures made possible for coordination to be more organized and effective.

Other steps towards a better coordination include the Cluster Approach implementation

of 2005. This system increased transparency and accountability, while encouraging the engagement of other NGOs and organizations in humanitarian aid and provided a more efficient advocacy in the process as a whole.

Finally, in 2016, the Grand Bargain agreement of IASC between major donors and humanitarian actors with the purpose of improving the overall efficiency of humanitarian aid. With annual meetings and reviews, the agreement has potentiated the collaboration between parties and allowed for the growth and development of improved humanitarian assistance, while providing parties with a place to discuss, evaluate and decide in a cooperative mindset and harmonical atmosphere.

Possible Solutions

The existence of an international organization which has as its main activity the coordination of a humanitarian crises response is a huge advancement towards the neutralization of this issue. Still, there are other ways to tackle the issue that may be more effective and could terminate with the severity of the issue.

First of all, the signing of the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations would be heavily endorsed to every member state who has not yet ratified it, since it would thoroughly improve the communication needed between countries in order to provide a coordinated assistance.

Secondly, although there is a current methodology addressing upcoming issues in a coordinated manner named the cluster approach which has had positive outcomes, it has been proven to be harmful in some manner. The data obtained from the evaluations of this method have highlighted the lack of participation of local organisations and NGOs, which lead to severe clash in culture when the "helpers" meet the needed. There are substantial differences in language, which have proved to be barriers for the effectivity of humanitarian aid. Foreign technical experts try to The lack of participation of local or national NGOs arise from the fact that clusters makes them divert from their original focus, thus losing the motivation and momentum they had. Moreover, the funding provided by the cluster is mostly denied for national NGOs, it is rather kept by international organizations. As money is equivalent to power, local organizations have restricted decision-making power in practice in the cluster approach. Furthermore, the

cluster approach works on a specific format that does not necessarily fit into every situation, hence it is pertinent to evaluate and include some flexibility to this method or introduce other formats in order to leave no humanitarian situation unattended.

Lastly, it is of paramount importance to select intensively international coordination program's leadership, considering the high labour turnover characteristic of these positions has worked in detriment to the obtaining of its objectives, considering more training is needed and less involvement on the matter is attained.

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