



## Brief History of OCHA

- In 1991 the GA adopted **Resolution 46/182** to strengthen the UN response to complex emergencies and natural disasters under a Department of Humanitarian Affairs (**DHA**) within the UN Secretariat
- In 1998, DHA was reorganized into **OCHA**. In 2006 OCHA employed 1,140 staff members in New York, Geneva and in the field with a budget of \$128,445,299
  - OCHA's Core Functions are:
    - **Policy** development
    - **Advocacy** of humanitarian issues
    - **Coordination** of humanitarian emergency response
    - **Information management**
- **Sir John Holmes** was appointed ERC and Head of OCHA in December 2006



## ROAP's 5-pronged Approach to Disaster Preparedness in A & P Region

- Supporting disaster-prone countries through RC/HC system
- Monitoring of EW systems to facilitate early action through IASC and its allies
- Support creation and strengthening of response capabilities at national, regional and international levels
- Collaborate with partners to address transition issues as part of UNCT structure
- Advocacy to address global and underlying risk factors and promotion/support for early action on slow-onset disasters

## Disaster Preparedness in A & P Region

- Wide variety of needs across the region
- Building on local capacities a must
- ROAP preparedness efforts value collaboration with partners
- UNCTs and national authorities
- ROAP Focus Countries
- Data Preparedness

## Avian & Human Influenza

- Hosting UNSIC first Regional 'Hub' & Regional Avian Influenza Coordinator (OCHA/UNDP initiative)
- Developing information coordination tools
- Regional inter-agency missions to Vietnam, Cambodia & Lao PDR – support to AHI planning processes
- Enhancing regional inter-agency collaboration on AHI preparedness efforts
- Support to contingency & scenario planning for humanitarian response
- Focusing on non-health aspects of pandemic preparedness (business continuity)

## Preparedness Assistance to National Authorities

- UNDAC Preparedness Missions: Mongolia, Philippines, Lao PDR and follow up
- AHI Pandemic Preparedness assistance through joint UN/WB missions to Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao PDR
- Contingency Planning Workshops for Indonesia, Philippines, Timor Leste, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, PNG,

## Preparedness Assistance to UNCTs

- Continued advice to UNCTs for revisions to UNDMT roles/responsibilities
- Inter-agency contingency planning
- Self-assessment of preparedness for natural disasters
- Table-top and simulation exercises
- Placement of NDRAs

## UNDAC Assistance to the Region

- UNDAC courses in Asia-Pacific
- UNDAC Members deployed include: China, Iran, Singapore, Mongolia, Philippines, Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia
- UNDAC Missions (2004-2007): Indian Ocean Tsunami; Philippines (Leyte Landslide); Pakistan Quake (2005); Indonesia (Jogja Quake); Solomon Islands Quake & Tsunami (April 2007)
- China, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand & Singapore members of APHP
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## ROAP Regional Cooperation

- ISDR-Asia Partnership
- ADPC-Bangkok
- ADRC-Kobe
- ASEAN (ACDM & AADMER)
- ADRRN
- Regional Humanitarian Network
- UNDAC, INSARAG, APHP
- IOTWS-Consortium activities: Maldives, Sri Lanka & Thailand