

Humanitarian Coordination

Purpose

Humanitarian coordination seeks to leverage collective humanitarian action thereby increasing the effectiveness and impact of humanitarian agency programming. Common standards and approaches are combined with the collective prioritisation of needs, identification of gaps in humanitarian assistance creating a more robust response and increased accountability to the communities served. Critically, humanitarian coordination seeks to avoid duplication and do no harm. For ACT Alliance external donor engagement, active participation in humanitarian coordination is an indicator that donors use to determine if a recipient agency is deserving of funding.

Humanitarian Coordination Mechanisms

ACT Alliance operations should engage with a range of prospective humanitarian coordination mechanisms. These may be international coordination mechanisms, particularly the cluster system, usually led by United Nations agencies or coordination mechanisms established by the host government or other NGO coordination fora.

The cluster system¹ at the country level aims to strengthen the collective humanitarian response by establishing sectors of humanitarian work while also defining roles, responsibilities, and targeted communities within a sector. Current cluster lead agencies by sector are:

Cluster	Lead
Camp Coordination and Camp Management	IOM/UNCHR
Early Recovery	UNDP
Education	UNICEF and Save the Children
Emergency Telecommunications	WFP
Food Security	WFP & FAO
Health	WHO
Logistics	WFP
Nutrition	UNICEF
Protection	UNHCR
Shelter	IFRC/UNHCR
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	UNICEF

¹ <https://emergency.unhcr.org/coordination-and-communication/cluster-system/cluster-approach>

