

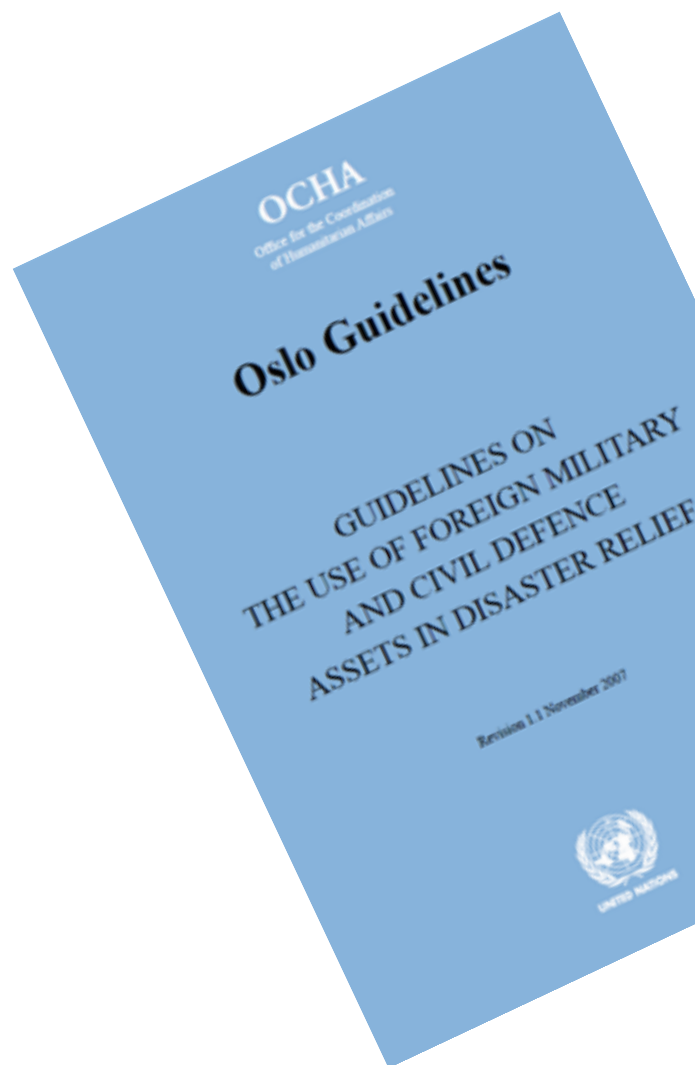


# OCHA

## Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination and the Oslo Guidelines

[www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org)





**Rationale:** The Oslo Guidelines address the need for **principles** and **standards** and to provide **improved coordination** in the use of military and civil defence assets.

They establish the basic framework for formalizing and improving the **effectiveness** and **efficiency** of the use of military teams, assets and expertise in international disaster relief.

**Scope:** Response to **natural**, **technological and environmental** emergencies in **peacetime**.

**Target audience:**

- UN humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners;
- Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC);
- Military Commanders in charge of deployment of foreign or UN MCDA to support humanitarian operations;
- All humanitarian actors;
- Member States and International Organizations.

# Key Paragraphs

**Para 5:** *Last Resort*: Foreign military and civil defence assets should be requested only where there is **no comparable** civilian alternative and only the use of military or civil defence assets can meet a critical humanitarian need. The military or civil defence asset must therefore be **unique** in capability and availability.

**Para 24:** Military and civil defence assets should be seen as a tool **complementing** existing relief mechanisms.

**Para 25:** All disaster relief...should be provided **at the request or with the consent of the Affected State** and, in principle, on the basis of an appeal for international assistance.

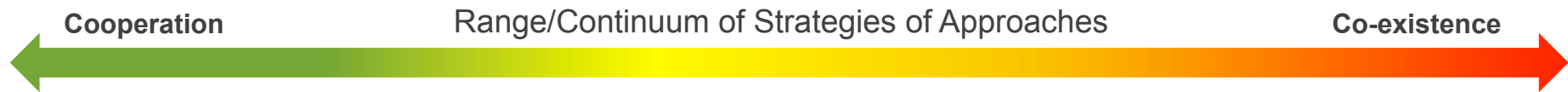
**Para 34:** As a general principle, UN humanitarian agencies **must avoid becoming dependent** on military resources and Member States are encouraged to invest in **increased civilian capacity** instead of the ad hoc use of military forces to support humanitarian actors.

# Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination

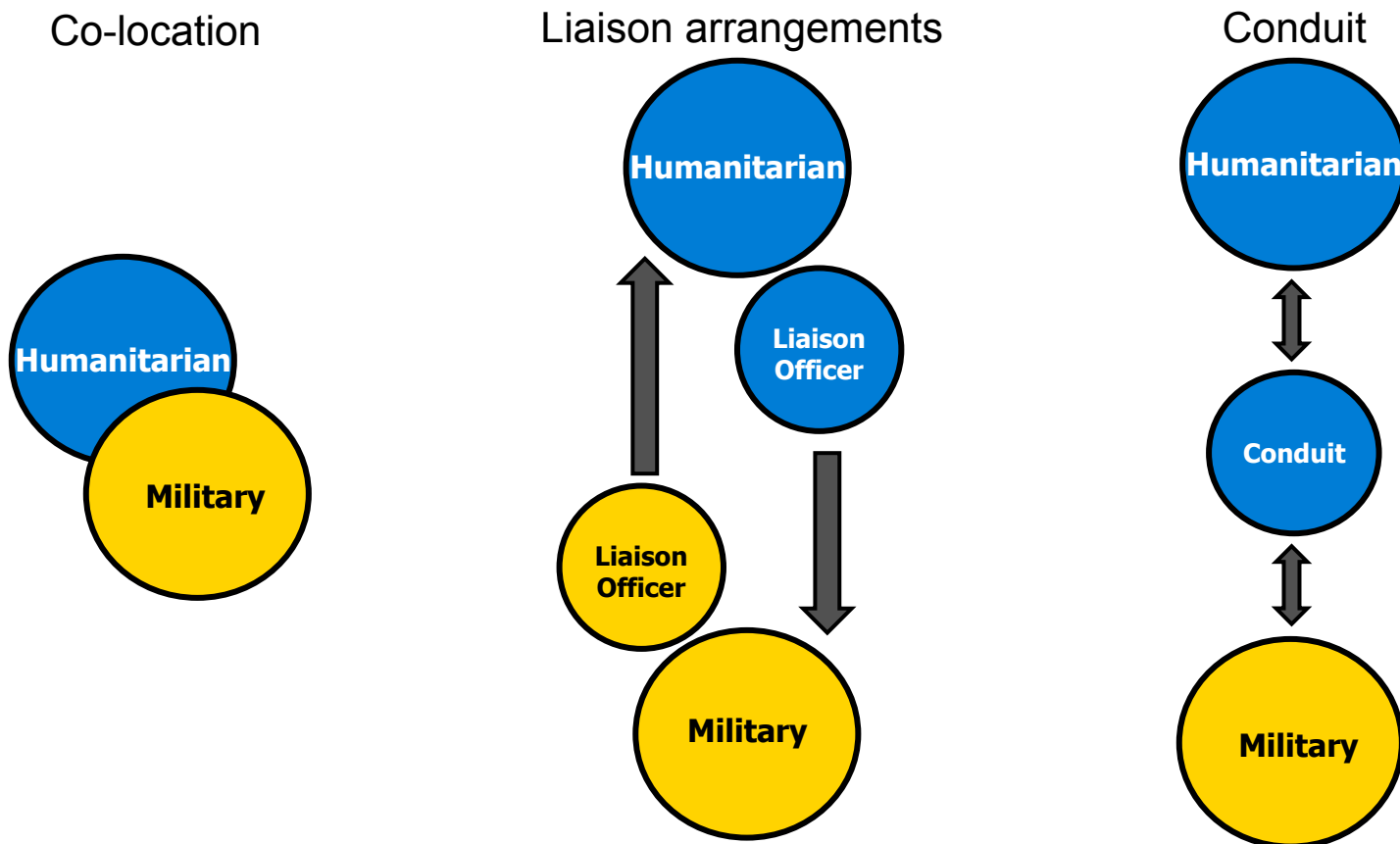
- Humanitarian assistance must be provided IAW the core principles of **humanity, neutrality** and **impartiality** and with full respect for **sovereignty** of states.
- The **humanitarian imperative** is the basic principle and condition for humanitarian assistance
- Assistance based on actual needs and delivered by actors that have **no political interest or stake** in the situation.
- Appropriate use of MCDA contributes to the **safety and long-term perception of humanitarian workers** as neutral agents in the field.



# Range of Interfaces for Humanitarian-Military Liaison

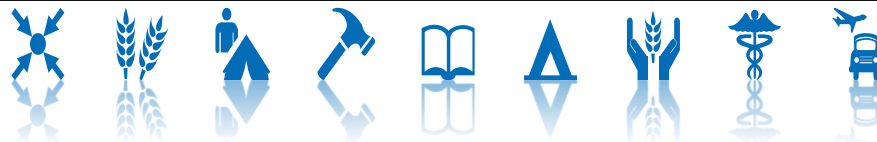


*The UN-CMCoord function facilitates the establishment and maintenance of all possible interfaces*



# Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination in Response Operations

- **Security is the Primary Expectation**
- **Key Engagement Areas:**
  - **Security/Deconfliction**
  - **Logistics**
  - **Medical/Health**
  - **Engineering**
  - **Planning Assistance**
  - **Information Technology**
- **Direct vs. Indirect Support**





# Hierarchy of Humanitarian Tasks Performed

## Direct Assistance:

Face-to face distribution of goods and services - handing out relief goods, providing first aid, transporting people, interviewing refugees, locating families etc.



## Indirect Assistance:

At least one step removed from the population - transporting relief goods, building camps and shelters, providing water sources, clearing mines and ordinance, etc.

## Infrastructure Support:

General services that facilitate relief, but are not necessarily visible to, or solely for, the benefit of the affected population - repairing infrastructure, operating airfields, providing weather info, ensuring access to communications networks, etc.



# Appropriate Relief Tasks of Military Actors

- based on missions

*Availability and impartiality of forces decreases*

<div>Mission of Military</div> <div>Humanitarian Tasks</div>	Peaceful	Peace & Security Activities		Combat
		Peacekeeping	Peace Enforcement	
Direct	Maybe	Maybe	No	No
Indirect	Yes	Maybe	Maybe	No
Infrastructure Support	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Maybe

*Visibility of task decreases*



# Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination

- Information Sharing as the basis for relationships
  - Challenges:
    - No common operating picture
    - Classification
    - Proliferation of systems
    - Sharing of Best Practices
- Liaison and engagement more standardized
- Coordination based on Context
  - Early guidance on the humanitarian relationship with military actors.
  - Country-specific guidelines
  - Wider responsibility throughout the humanitarian community to coordinate
  - Limited predictability in number/type of military assets that are provided





# OCHA

United Nations Office  
for the Coordination of  
Humanitarian Affairs

Coordination Saves Lives

La coordination sauve des vies

La coordinación salva vidas

Координация спасает жизни

بالتنسيق ننقذ الأرواح

致力协调，挽救生命

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