

# The world of disasters

## A brief introduction to international disaster management

IDIRA workshop Assisi, Italy 2012



Emergency Response Units



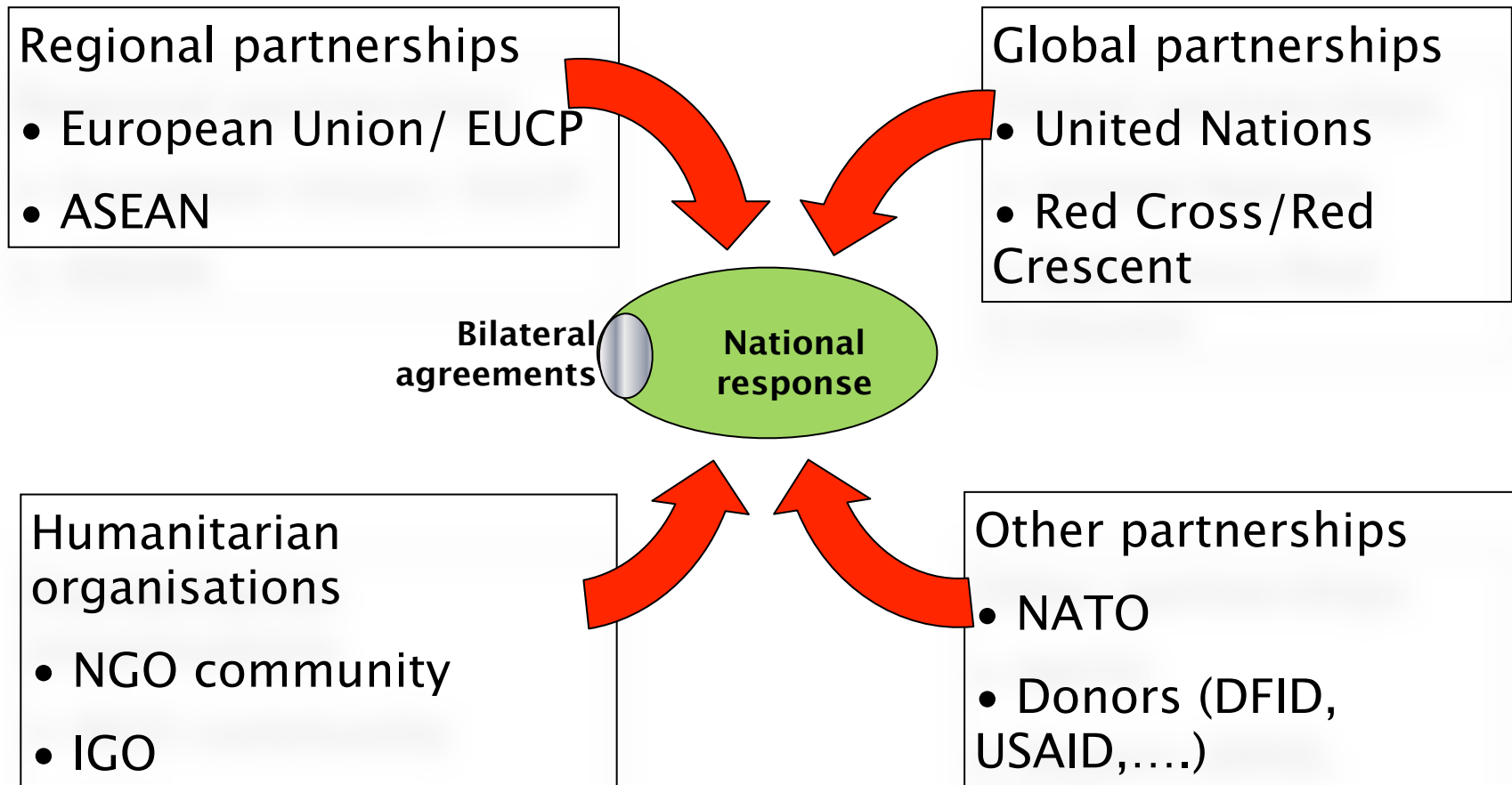
AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

# Example EQ Haiti



Disaster Management

# International response



# Actors in the field

- Beneficiaries
- Governmental agencies of the stricken country
- UN, other Intergovernmental Organisations (IGOs)
- Governmental aid (other countries)
- National and international Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- Institutional donors

may include military assets („last resort“)

# RC-actors in the field

- National Society (NS) of affected country  
("Host National Society" – HNS)
- International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC, Federation)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Supporting National Societies  
("participating RC/RC Societies" - PNS)

# Main actors

- NGOs:

- Oxfam
- Care
- Caritas



# MEDIA

- UN:

- OCHA
- WHO
- UNICEF

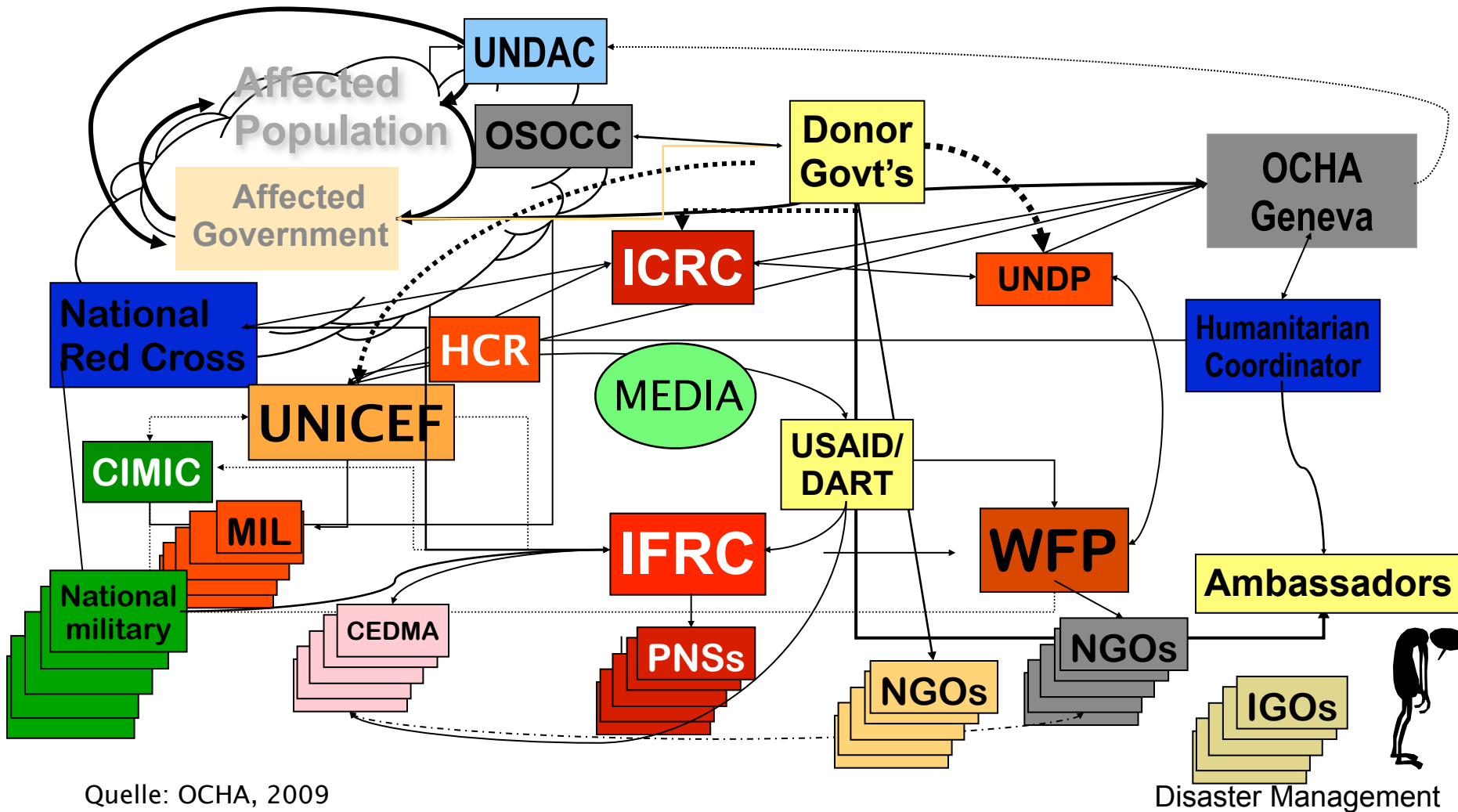


- Governmental

- USAID
- EU – ECHO / EUC



# The reality?



Quelle: OCHA, 2009

Disaster Management

# A lot of coordination ...

## ▪ Capital

- National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO)
- United Nations Disaster Management Team (UN DMT)
- United Nations Humanitarian Country Team (UN HCT)
- Donor Councils
- Regional organisations

## ▪ On-Site

- Local Emergency Management Authority (LEMA)
- On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC)
- FACT (IFRC)
- Regional coordination mechanism
- Cluster / Sectoral Coordination Groups
- NGO Coordinating Councils
- Civil-Military Operations Center (CMOC)



Disaster Management

# ... and regulations

- Global International law and norms
- Organisational mandates
- Conventions
- Resolutions and declarations
- Regional law and norms
- Political influence
- Humanitarian principles
- Guidelines and best practice



# Coordination /

- Coordination
  - ... agreed, that it is needed
  - ... but

Everybody wants to coordinate, but nobody wants to be coordinated!

(Kühne, 2001)

... is the ability of a system or a product to work with other systems or products without special effort (Source: EU, Civil Protection)

- mental
- structural / systematic
- technical / equipment-wise

(Source: Eidgenössisches Departement Verteidigung, Bevölkerungsschutz und Sport,

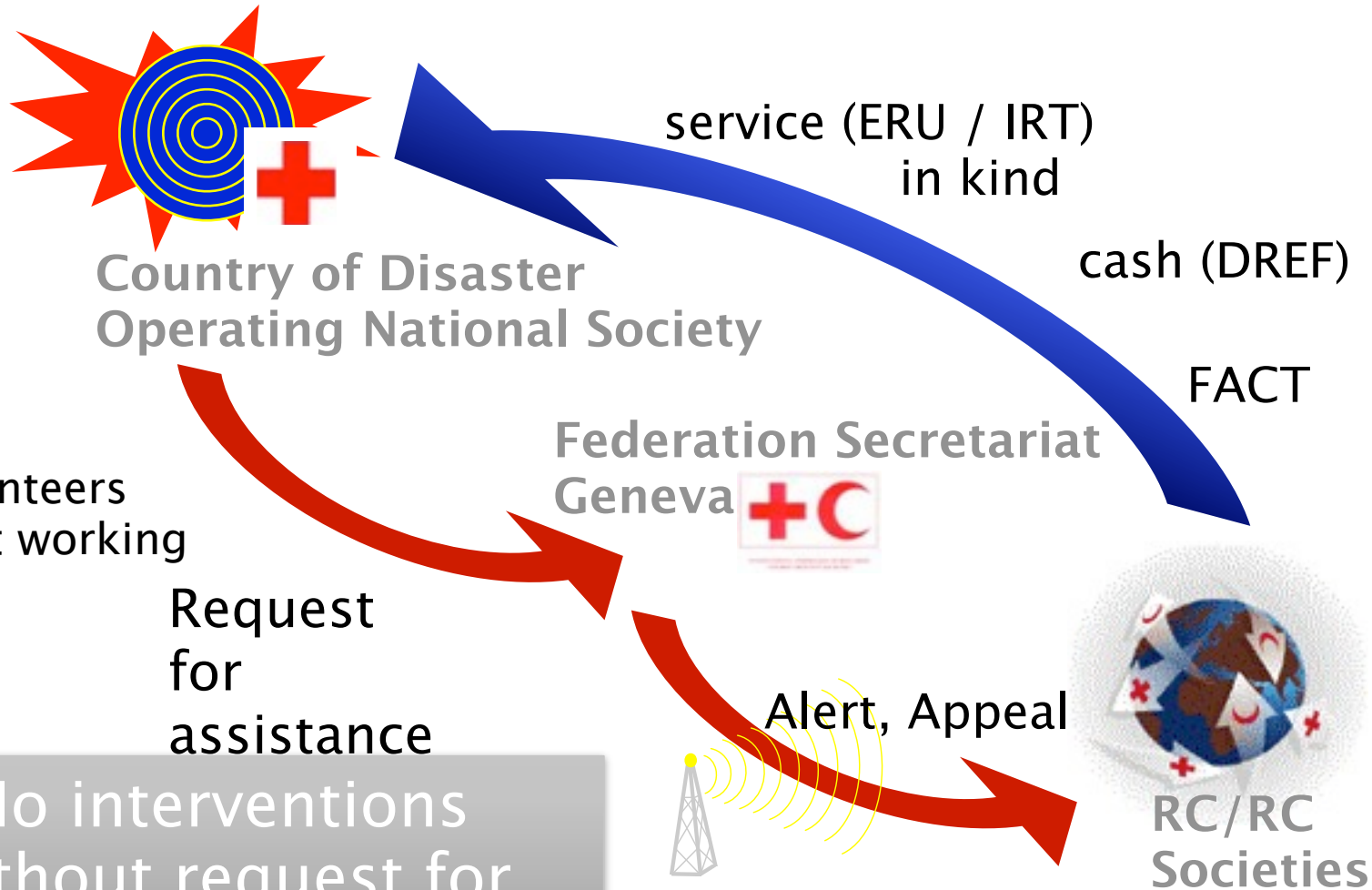


We all agree that a coordinated response  
is more effective  
than uncoordinated intervention by  
competing organisations,  
but we all seems to forget this  
when we are heading the relief teams

(Peter Kaas-Claesson, Danish Emergency Management Agency)



# RC/RC work-flow



HNS  
volunteers  
start working

Request  
for  
assistance

No interventions  
without request for  
assistance!

Federation Secretariat  
Geneva



Alert, Appeal

RC/RC  
Societies

Disaster Management

# Some Fed-response tools 1

- **DMIS**- Disaster Management Information System
  - Web based information tool
  - to boost operational readiness
  - to monitor potential & ongoing disasters
  - to give RC/RC disasters managers the data they need to make informed decisions
  
- **DREF** – Disaster Relief Emergency Fund
  - Quick money (fill the gap between the onset of a disaster and the donor response)
  - Max. 500.000 CHF/disaster
  - Support to minor disasters

# Some Fed-response tools 2

- **FACT** - **F**ield **A**ssessment and **C**oordination **T**eam
  - Specially trained RC-delegates
  - Departure within 12 hours
  - Assessment and reporting to Geneva
  - Kicking off international RC/RC-relief
  - Internal and external coordination
  
- **ERU** – **E**mergency **R**esponse **U**nit
  - Worldwide standardised in personnel / equipment
  - Ready for operation on site within 76 hours
  - Specific tasks

# Humanitarian reform 2005

## **HUMANITARIAN COORDINATORS**

Ensuring effective  
leadership

## **HUMANITARIAN FINANCING**

Adequate, timely and  
flexible financing

## **PARTNERSHIP**

Strong partnerships  
between UN and non-UN  
actors

## **CLUSTER APPROACH**

Adequate capacity and  
predictable leadership in all  
sectors

# Cluster approach

- High standards of predictability, accountability and partnership in all sectors or areas of activity
- Better linkages with Government/national authorities
- More strategic response
- Better prioritization of available resources



# The Cluster's



# Government/ National Authorities

- The host Government has primary responsibility for organizing humanitarian response in emergency situations (GA Resolution 46/182)
- The Sector/Cluster Lead is responsible for promoting close cooperation and linkages with Government/national authorities

# When to use .....

- Contingency Planning for major new emergencies
- Response to major new emergencies
- Eventually in all countries with Humanitarian Coordinators

# What Cluster approach is not

- Not UN-centric
- Does not overtake the role of the government



# **Grazie per l'attenzione !**