

Cluster Approach

Aim and scope of the cluster approach

At the global level, the aim is:

- to strengthen system-wide preparedness and technical capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies
- by ensuring that there is predictable leadership and accountability in all the main sectors or areas of humanitarian response

Aim and scope of the cluster approach

At the country level the aim is:

- to strengthen humanitarian response by demanding high standards of predictability, accountability and partnership in all sectors or areas of activity.
- to achieve more strategic responses and better prioritization of available resources by clarifying the division of labour among organizations, better defining the roles and responsibilities of humanitarian organizations within the sectors

Cluster Lead Responsibilities on International Level

Standards and policy-setting

Consolidation and dissemination of standards; where necessary, development of standards and policies; identification of 'best practice' Building response capacity

Training and system development at the local, national, regional and international levels

Establishing and maintaining surge capacity and standby rosters

Establishing and maintaining material stockpiles

Operational support

Assessment of needs for human, financial and institutional capacity

Emergency preparedness and long term planning

Securing access to appropriate technical expertise

Advocacy and resource mobilization

Pooling resources and ensuring complementarity of efforts through enhanced partnerships

Cluster Lead Responsibilities on Local Level

Sector/cluster leadership on local level

- Inclusion of key humanitarian partners
- Establishment and maintenance of appropriate humanitarian coordination mechanisms
- Coordination with national/local authorities, State institutions, local civil society and other relevant Actors
- Participatory and community-based approaches
- Attention to priority cross-cutting issues (e.g. age, diversity, environment, gender, HIV/AIDS and human rights)

Sector/cluster leadership on local level

- Needs assessment and analysis
- Emergency preparedness
- Planning and strategy development
- Application of standards
- Monitoring and reporting
- Advocacy and resource mobilization
- Training and capacity building
- Provision of assistance or services as a last resort

- Contingency planning and application of the cluster approach in major new emergencies
- Strengthening partnerships and complementarity amongst humanitarian actors
- Ensuring appropriate links with Government/local authorities, State institutions, local civil society and other stakeholders
- Accountability of sector/cluster leads to the Humanitarian Coordinator

Global “cluster leads”

Technical areas:

1. Nutrition UNICEF
2. Health WHO
3. Water/Sanitation UNICEF
4. Emergency Shelter: *IDPs (from conflict)* UNHCR *Disaster situations* IFRC(Convener)

Cross-cutting areas:

5. Camp Coord/Management: *IDPs (from conflict)* UNHCR. *Disaster situations* IOM
6. Protection: UNHCR/OHCHR/UNICEF
7. Early Recovery UNDP

Common service areas:

8. Logistics WFP
9. Emerg. Telecommunications OCHA/UNICEF/WFP