

Sources of relief news and information

Up-to-date information about the country or countries affected by disaster, the nature of the disaster, and the relief effort is essential to ensure appropriate responses.



NOTES

In addition to individual agency sites, several other excellent websites exist to support an effective response in an emergency:

ReliefWeb - www.reliefweb.int

- main UN humanitarian coordination website, with daily news about complex emergencies and humanitarian relief programmes worldwide. Most major aid agencies post reports here during an ongoing emergency.

Alertnet - www.alertnet.org

Reuters service for aid agencies, including latest humanitarian news.

Humanitarian Information Centres - www.humanitarianinfo.org

The UN often opens a Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC) in a major humanitarian emergency.

OneWorld Country Guides - <http://uk.oneworld.net/guides/countries>

- over 50 useful country guides.

International Crisis Group - www.crisisgroup.org

- an NGO working to prevent and resolve conflict, its website has comprehensive information about current conflicts around the world.

Emergency Disaster Database - www.em-dat.net

- contains essential data on all disaster events occurring in the world from 1900 to present, with country and disaster profiles.

MapAction - www.mapaction.org

- provides accurate, up-to-date maps showing the locations of groups of affected people, passable routes, which medical facilities are functioning,

IRIN - Integrated Regional Information Networks - www.irinnews.org

- useful country profiles for sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia with daily and weekly news updates. and much more vital information.

BBC News - http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/country_profiles/default.stm

- Full profiles provide an instant guide to history, politics and economic background of countries and territories, and background on key institutions