

# INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY MECHANISMS AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



United Nations Disaster Assessment and  
Coordination and Disaster Risk Reduction in  
Shaping National Security

Warsaw/online, 15.09.2022

## **ABSTRACT**

It is clear that preparedness and fast response to any type of the disaster has to be of growing importance. The aforementioned is caused by growing number and scale of the man-made and natural disasters caused, respectively, mainly by increase of human population, general technologization of societies and occurrence of extreme weather conditions resulting from the climate change.

Since 1993 the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) operates as a part of the international emergency response system for sudden-onset emergencies. It has proven to be an important element of disaster management efforts mechanisms.

By design, UNDAC exists to help the UN and governments of disaster-affected countries in the first phase of a sudden-onset emergency. It's role also includes coordination of incoming international relief at national level and/or at the site of the emergency.

UNDAC teams are designed to be deployed at 12-48 hours notice to any place in the world. They are provided free of charge to the disaster-affected country, and deployed upon the request of the United Nations Resident or Humanitarian Coordinator and/or the affected Government.

Despite of numerous, generally successful, engagements there is still room for improvement to better shape national security with UNDAC activities in the age of uncertainty and the Authors focus on that matter.

## **MOTIVATION AND OBJECTIVE(S) OF THE RESEARCH**

Authors understood the necessity of conducting such a research combined by the use of the hand-on experience and conclusions of Gen. Feltynowski (who has participated in UNDAC activities) create opportunity to obtain synergy and come up with new quality of recommendations. The aforementioned was the main motivation and objective of this research.

In Particular the motives behind conducting the research were:

- relevancy of the issue and its growing importance,
- lack of significant number of scientific publications regarding this subject,
- personal experiences and participation in activities of UNDAC (prof. Feltynowski).

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS USED**

Authors decided to undertake the research in order to organize and analyze the present state of their knowledge combined with their experience and general interest and necessity to further explore the issue of UNDAC and Disaster Risk Reduction in Shaping National Security.

The Study was conducted with use of the data, materials and outcomes of previous studies conducted by the Authors in field of humanitarian law, disaster risk reduction, international cooperation in internal security, critical infrastructure and civil protection, defense as well as territorial defense

The part of the study took place in 2022 when the informations were organized in order to identify the need for further research, gathered, analyzed and conclusions were obtained.

Main methods used in this work were based on the analysis of the scientific research results and a synthetic description of the key conclusions drawn from the review of the literature describing various aspects of the chosen issues. Among others, methods used in the chapter are - critical literature review, comparative analysis, analysis of available data and desk research.

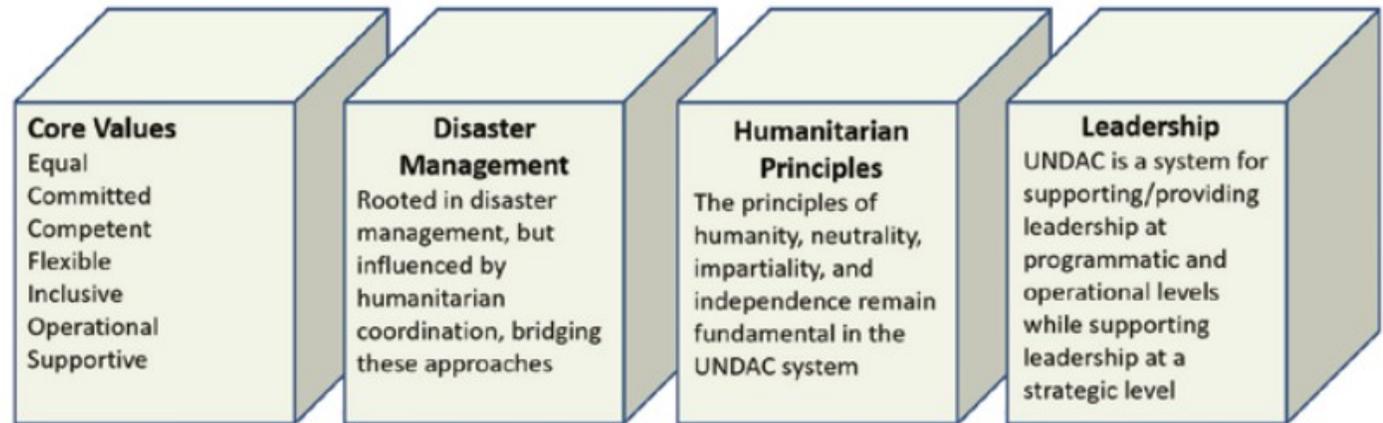
## RESULTS OBTAINED

As a result of conducting the study Authors identified areas where UNDAC regulations and operations can be improved and provided some recommendations. UNDAC has several principles that are followed during the actions, still factual situations are oftentimes challenging and require adaptation and training to improve receiving the help.

### UNDAC operational space



### UNDAC cornerstones

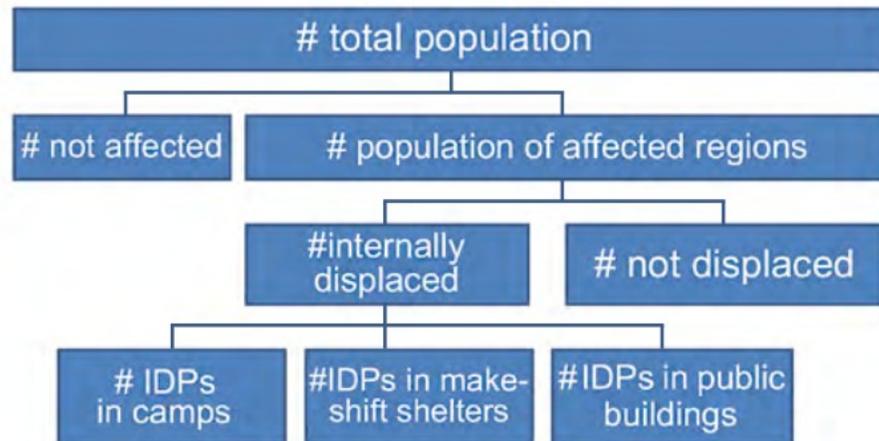


Source: OCHA, UN, *UNDAC Field Handbook*, 2018

## RESULTS OBTAINED

The main recommendations would promote introduction of greater number of trainings among individuals who live in countries with danger of exposure to sudden-onset emergencies. That would help to act faster and establish better manners of communication and cooperation, that not only aims at helping, making sure that it is well received but also assists with contacts with media and strategic planning.

### Example humanitarian profile



Source: OCHA, UN, *UNDAC Field Handbook*, 2018

### Sample field visit plan

- **Mission Objective**
- **Site selection**
  - What sites will be visited
- **Methodology**
  - Techniques
  - Form / questionnaire

- **Team composition**
  - Roles
  - Assignments
  - Team locations
- **Logistics**
  - Transport, comms, routing, etc.
- **Admin**
  - Interpretation, supplies, etc.

- **Safety**
  - Clearance
  - Escort
  - Emergency procedures
- **Pre-departure**
  - Training (KoBo, etc.)
  - Equipment check
  - Briefing

- **Data Sensitivity**
- **Uploading to database**
- **Reporting**

## RESULTS OBTAINED

Vast majority the Authors that address UNDAC issues focus upon the process of improvement that the UNDAC in its operational and organizational development showed throughout the years.

Also numerous reports make it visible how the evolution of the mechanism along its procedures, regulations and devoted people was happening.

Despite of the fact that UNDAC system was used to help countries recently and the whole Emergency Response System adapted quickly to the COVID-19 pandemic reality with dedication and professionalism of people involved, still it could react quicker. The key to the prompt response is having a base of trained individuals living in countries exposed to disasters. They should come from that country, understand the mentality of the local people and government representatives and the culture as well as be able to explain and use the UNDAC system so the help can be accepted and crisis tamed. It is recommended to organize trainings for individuals identified as future local part of the UNDAC system. This kind of approach would greatly optimize the efficiency of the system and give it a chance to play more prominent role.

Despite of the extended research conducted in order to explore the researched issues, due to the complexity of the matter, there is still space to explore it's development in the scientific manner.

Further details will be presented future works.

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

Detail information about the findings is available after direct contact with authors.

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