

## Overview of Key Simplifications and New Elements in the [Policy on Emergency Preparedness and Response \(UNHCR/HCP/2023/01\)](#)

SIMPLIFICATIONS	
Theme	Changes in Policy
<b>Risk Analysis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aligns emergency risk analysis and monitoring with Enterprise Risk Management, to avoid parallel systems and streamline the process in one tool for all country operations (CO).</li> </ul>
<b>Preparedness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthens the predictability and effectiveness of UNHCR’s engagement in climate and natural hazard-induced humanitarian crises by emphasizing the importance of strategic thinking, and decision making on UNHCR’s engagement, in the preparedness phase.</li> <li>Instead of all CO undertaking obligatory Minimum Preparedness Actions (MPAs) on a yearly basis, only COs identifying high risk of an emergency will undertake key preparedness actions, including contingency planning.</li> <li>Advanced Preparedness Actions (APAs) are embedded into the Contingency Plan as preparedness actions.</li> <li>Aligns with Results-Based Management (RBM) by integrating Contingency Plans into COMPASS (as of the second quarter of 2023).</li> <li>Includes references to UN system-wide concepts of anticipatory and early action.</li> </ul>
<b>Response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updates and introduces emergency-related simplifications for:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership agreements (partner selection without a new Call for Expression of Interest and prior UN Portal registration; LOMI, and partner procurement);</li> <li>Supply (increased RFQ ceiling, procurement approval authority of the Representative and of LCC; reduced floating periods);</li> <li>HR procedures (expedited recruitment of temporary personnel, simplified position changes and re-deployment, when required).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Special procedures apply at all emergency levels for the duration of the declaration period, including any extension.</li> <li>Reinforces the <i>Policy on UNHCR’s engagement in situations of internal displacement</i> by aligning with its provisions on UNHCR’s role in RC/HC-led humanitarian responses through cluster leadership and operational response based on a sound protection and context analysis.</li> <li>Aligns with UNHCR’s Strategic Framework for Climate Action.</li> <li>Reinforces the Decentralization and Regionalization process through clear division of Roles and Responsibilities at country, regional and HQ levels.</li> </ul>

## MAIN NEW ELEMENTS

Theme	Changes in Policy
<b>Definition &amp; Scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “UNHCR defines an “emergency” as any humanitarian crisis or disaster which either (i) has caused or threatens to cause new forced displacement, loss of life and/or other serious harm; or (ii) significantly affects the rights or well-being of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), stateless persons, returnees and other persons of concern, unless immediate and appropriate action is taken; and (iii) which demands exceptional measures because current government and UNHCR capacities at country and/or regional levels are inadequate for a predictable and effective response.”</li> </ul>
<b>Disasters: Definition, Engagement, Coordination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition: disasters defined as “...the seriously disruptive impact of a variety of hazards, including the adverse effects of climate change, acting alone or in combination, on exposed and vulnerable populations and their assets.”</li> <li>• Engagement: “The level of involvement in natural hazard-induced crises is linked to UNHCR’s presence and added-value operational capacity in the country and/or expertise compared to other humanitarian actors.”</li> <li>• Country-Level Coordination in Internal Displacement Emergencies: “In cases of natural hazard-induced internal displacement, assess capacity for operational response and Cluster leadership, based on an adequate UNHCR in-country presence and in consultation with the government and other humanitarian actors as appropriate.”</li> </ul>
<b>Principles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “No Regrets Basis” and “Do No Harm” considerably revised. “No Regrets Basis” is grounded in a risk-based approach.</li> <li>• Adds Centrality of Protection, and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.</li> <li>• Climate action: includes reference to collective UN system objectives on climate action and disaster risk reduction, and link to Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.</li> </ul>
<b>Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elaborates on country operations integrating security-related considerations into planning to ensure that the response is delivered in a manner consistent with UNHCR’s occupational health and safety principle.</li> </ul>
<b>Response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expands Level 1 emergency declaration to initial response in addition to proactive preparedness.</li> <li>• Simplified, emergency-related procedures for partnership agreements, supply and HR now also apply to Level 1 emergencies, for the whole duration of the declaration.</li> </ul>
<b>Inter-Agency Coordination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarifies country-level coordination mechanisms in refugee and other types of humanitarian emergency through the Refugee Coordination Model and Cluster System respectively, including inter-agency preparedness process.</li> </ul>
<b>Post-Emergency Phase</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of a post-emergency declaration phase. From the beginning of an emergency, country operation(s) shall initiate planning for a transition out of the emergency response.</li> </ul>

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Visit [Emergency Service on the Intranet](#) or DESS [Emergency Preparedness and Response Portal](#) for the latest information, templates, guidance, resources and more on UNHCR emergencies. For any questions or feedback, please reach out to Oleg Zhdanov ([zhdanov@unhcr.org](mailto:zhdanov@unhcr.org)) or Esmé O’Keeffe ([okeeffe@unhcr.org](mailto:okeeffe@unhcr.org)).