

HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

Party Portrait

As global challenges including civil wars, climate change, and forced displacement increase, states are less able to address the growing need with the resources they have. Humanitarian organizations have mobilized to address these challenges across the globe through access, assistance, and protection. These organizations maintain neutrality and impartiality and serve populations in need through independent and humane means, including negotiation and mediation. This table represents a broad range of UN organizations and international non-governmental organizations.

Key Interests

- Alleviate suffering and protect populations from harm through coordinated assistance efforts
- Promote human rights, economic growth, sustainable development, and adherence to international law
- Maintain organizational flexibility and autonomy as much as possible
- Ensure sustained, safe access to populations in need

Sources of Leverage

- Soft Power** – can credibly act as mediators in certain cases
- Economic** – Relationships with donors provide financial resources for use as leverage
- Convening Power** – Drawing on their neutrality, may be able to bring other parties to negotiations, particularly concerning cease fires, access to resources and aid, and other humanitarian concerns
- Political** – Can mobilize political support, though must be consistent with principles of neutrality and impartiality
- Technology** – Can provide technological assistance, needed resources, new models of partnering with local communities

Regional Strategy

Organizations coordinate with one another, local organizations, local government, and donors. Humanitarian actors use the cluster system to prepare, mobilize, offer assistance and protection, and coordinate efforts across sectors and regions, ensuring that mobilization is swift, targeted, and efficient. Humanitarian actors often negotiate with governments and armed groups for cease-fires and access to populations in need.

Powerful Individuals

Stephen O'Brien (Under-Secretary General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, UNOCHA), Filippo Grandi (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

Potential Negotiation Moves

- Act as Mediator** - Mediate as neutral party for humanitarian corridors and cease-fire agreements;
- Restructure System** - Restructure cluster system and inter-organizational coordination to better meet pressing needs in cross-cutting issue areas;
- Threaten Cessation** - Threaten to cease all aid if certain conditions are not met (i.e. cease fire);

Internal Conflicts

In many cases, humanitarian organizations compete with one another for funding and support, which can hinder collaboration, coordination, and innovation. Organizations disagree on the extent to which one should compromise on neutrality to provide aid and on the best strategies for implementing aid programs. Organizations include but are not limited to: CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Doctors Without Borders, International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, International Rescue Committee, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Mercy Corps, Oxfam International, Save the Children, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UNICEF, UNRWA, World Food Program, World Health Organization, World Vision.

Memberships

N/A -- the label of 'Humanitarian Actors' is too broad to allow for categorizations of memberships. Some organizations listed above are organizations within the UN system.

Allies

CHINA, EUROPEAN UNION, FRANCE, GERMANY, HOLY SEE, JAPAN, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED NATIONS, UNITED STATES

Partners

ALGERIA, ARAB LEAGUE, SAUDI ARABIA, DJIBOUTI, INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, IRAQ Secular Nationalist Parties, IRAQ State of Law Coalition, JORDAN, KURDS of Iraq, KURDS of Iran, KURDS of Syria, KURDS of TURKEY, LEBANON Government, LIBYA Government of National Accord, MOROCCO Government, OMAN, PALESTINE Civil Society, PALESTINE Fatah, SOUTH SUDAN, SUDAN, TURKEY

Rivals

IRAQ Islamic Supreme Council, IRAQ Sadrist Movement, PALESTINE Hamas, SYRIA Government, SYRIA Jabhat Fatah al-Sham, SYRIA Other Opposition Groups, RUSSIA, SOMALIA Government, YEMEN Government, YEMEN Houthis

Adversaries

AQAP, ISIS

Active Armed Opponents

N/A

Proxy

N/A

External Sponsor

N/A

Aid Recipient

IRAQ State of Law Coalition, JORDAN, KURDS of Iran, KURDS of Iraq, KURDS of Syria, KURDS of Turkey, LIBYA Government of National Accord, PALESTINE Fatah, PALESTINE Hamas, SOMALIA Government, SOUTH SUDAN, SUDAN, SYRIA Government, SYRIA Other Opposition Groups, TURKEY, YEMEN Government, YEMEN Houthis

Aid Donor

CHINA, EUROPEAN UNION, FRANCE, GERMANY, HOLY SEE, JAPAN, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED NATIONS, UNITED STATES