

Working-Level Brainstorming Session
on
**Meteorological Services in
Support of Humanitarian
Response**

UNOCHA Geneva
17 April 2009

OCHA's mission

- Coordination of Humanitarian Response
- Promotion of preparedness and prevention
- Advocacy for the rights of people in need

OCHA's Role in Disasters

- International coordination
- Resource mobilisation
 - Appeals, Experts
- Preparedness
 - Hydro meteorological hazards responsible for about 80% of disaster victims: increased by climate change
 - N°1 worldwide concern: FLOODS

Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS)

- Alerts
 - Near real-time alerts about natural disasters
 - Automatic impact estimation
- Network of disaster managers
 - Exchange of operational information in disasters
 - Simulations
- Synchronisation
 - Automatic synchronisation of web-based disaster information systems
 - GLIDE (unique identifier for disasters)
- www.gdacs.org

Virtual OSOCC

- Disaster coordination in major disasters
- Facilitates decision-making
- Real-time information exchange
- Access only for international disaster response community
- www.gdacs.org/virtualosocc

REDHUM

- La Red de Información Humanitaria para América Latina y el Caribe en caso de Desastres
 - Network of major stakeholders in the region
 - Facilitates knowledge sharing and access to humanitarian information
- Aim:
 - Enhance disaster preparedness and response
 - Support decision makers in the region.
- www.redhum.org

WMO – OCHA Cooperation

- Provision of data to GDACS alert and impact estimation
- GDCAS simulation exercises
- Contingency planning with Governments

Considerations

- No need for meteorological data or contacts
- Need for well informed Govt counterparts (NDMAs or equivalent)
- NMHS and Reg Specialized Met Centres
 - Involvement in preparedness activities
 - Involvement in National Disaster Risk Reduction coordination mechanism (outcomes of WMO Workshop Nov 2007 – Guidance note)

Information Flow

