



Term	Definition
Acceptable risk	Degree of human and material loss that is perceived by the community or relevant authorities as tolerable in actions to minimize disaster risk.
Accountability	International aid agencies shall hold themselves accountable to both the beneficiary communities (that their needs for assistance are met with dignity) and the donors (that assistance is provided for the proposed purpose). Coordination with other actors is a key part of this principle.
Alert	Advisory message that hazard is approaching but is less imminent than implied by warning message. See also "warning".
Arbitrary displacement	Includes displacement based on policies of apartheid, "ethnic cleansing", in situations of armed conflicts where security concerns do not demand it; in cases of natural disaster unless safety requires it; and when used as collective punishment.
Armed conflict	A dispute involving the use of armed force between two or more parties. International humanitarian law distinguishes between international and non-international armed conflict. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Armed group	Groups that have a potential to employ arms and the use of force to achieve political, ideological or economic objectives; are not within the formal structures of states, states-alliances or intergovernmental organizations; and are not under control of the state(s) in which they operate.
Assessment	Survey of a real or potential disaster to estimate the actual or expected damage and to make recommendations for prevention.
Assistance	Aid provided to address the physical, material and legal needs of persons of concern. This may include food items, medical supplies, clothing, shelter, seeds and tools, as well as the provision of infrastructure, such as school and roads. "Humanitarian Assistance" refers to assistance provided by humanitarian organizations for humanitarian purposes (i.e. non-political, non-commercial, and non-military purposes). In UNHCR practice, assistance supports and complements the achievement of protection objectives. -- UNHCR Master Glossary of Terms, 2006.
Assisting state or organization	State or organization providing international disaster relief assistance. -- Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief, "Oslo Guidelines", 2006.
Capacity building	A process by which individuals, institutions and societies develop abilities, individually and collectively, to perform functions, solve problems and set and achieve their goals. -- UNHCR Master Glossary of Terms, 2006.

Term	Definition
Central Emergency Response Fund	The Central Emergency Response Fund is a United Nations emergency relief fund officially launched on March 9, 2006 by Secretary-General Kofi Annan. The objective of the CERF is to provide urgent and effective humanitarian aid to regions threatened by, or experiencing, a humanitarian crisis. The CERF was adopted by resolution of the General Assembly on December 15th 2005, and upgrades the loan mechanism under the 1992 Central Emergency Revolving Fund from US \$50 million to a total of around \$450 million. The CERF is administered by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator in consultation with humanitarian agencies and coordinators.
CIMIC in EU-led CMO (September 2002)	"Civil-Military Co-operation (CIMIC) is the co-ordination and co-operation, in support of the mission, between military components of EU-led Crisis Management Operations and civil actors (external to the EU), including national population and local authorities, as well as international, national and non-governmental organisations and agencies."
CIMIC NATO March 2001	The co-ordination and co-operation, in support of the mission, between the NATO Commander and civil actors, including national populations and local authorities, as well as international, national and non-governmental organisations and agencies.
Civil Affairs	Civil Affairs is a civilian component of a UN integrated mission with a role to engage and assist local civilian authorities and communities in efforts to consolidate peace by restoring the political, legal, economic and social infrastructures that support democratic governance and economic development. In missions that have a transitional administration mandate the Civil Affairs component can become a civil administration, responsible for directly managing all aspects of civilian life while simultaneously working to devolve its responsibilities to local authorities. -- DPKO Draft Directive on Civil-Military Liaison in UN Integrated Mission, 2006.
Civil Affairs	Civil Affairs (CA) are designated active or reserve component forces and units organised, trained and equipped specifically to conduct civil affairs activities and to support civil-military operations. -- USA, JP 3-57, FM41-10 and JP 1-02 Civil Affairs activities are performed and supported by civil affairs to : (a) enhance the relationship between military forces and civil authorities in areas where military forces are present and (b) involve application of civil affairs functional speciality skills, in areas normally the responsibility of civil government, to enhance conduct of civil-military operations. -- USA, JP 3-57, FM 41-10 and JP 1-02
Civil Assistance	Civil Assistance is a support function that includes two types of related activities undertaken by the military component of a UN integrated mission: support responding to requests for assistance from humanitarian and development actors; and support to the local civilian population and authorities. These are referred to as Community Support Projects. Community Support Projects, which are normally related to physical infrastructure repair/rehabilitation, can be requested by the local civilian population, or initiated by elements of the military component. Both types of activity could be implemented as a QIP by the military. -- DPKO Draft Directive on Civil-Military Liaison in UN Integrated Mission, 2006.

Term	Definition
Civil Defence	The system of measures, usually run by a governmental agency, to protect the civilian population in wartime, to respond to disasters, and to prevent and mitigate the consequences of major emergencies in peacetime. The term "civil-defence" is now used increasingly.
Civil Society	Refers to structures independent from governments such as non-governmental organizations and human rights groups, independent activists and human rights defenders, religious congregations, charities, universities, trade unions, legal associations, families and clans. Domestic civil society represents one of the most critical source of humanitarian assistance and civilian protection during humanitarian emergencies. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Civilian Personnel	UN non-military staff members who form part of a peacekeeping operation and perform duties, among other things, relating to the humanitarian or political situation on the ground, and the financial and administrative management of a mission. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Civilian Populations	Groups of unarmed people, including women, children, the sick and elderly, refugees and internally displaced persons, who are not directly engaged in the armed conflict. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Civil-Military Liaison	Civil-Military Liaison is a staff function in UN integrated missions that deals with the interaction between the military and civilian actors. The purpose of CML is to facilitate links between the military and various civilian actors and deconflict activities. It does not seek to provide a buffer between these two elements. It does not have the capability, nor does it seek to replace direct interaction, for example as part of the normal intelligence, current operations management, and planning functions, elsewhere in military or joint mission structures. -- DPKO Directive on Civil-Military Liaison in UN Integrated Mission, 2006.
Civil-Military Operations	Civil-Military Operations (CMO) are the activities of a commander that establish, maintain, influence or exploit relations between military forces, governmental and non governmental civilian organisations and authorities, and the civilian populace in a friendly, neutral or hostile operational area in order to facilitate military operations, to consolidate and achieve operational US objectives. Civil-military operations may include the performance by military forces of activities and functions normally the responsibility of the local, regional, or national government. These activities may occur prior to, during or subsequent to other military actions. They may also occur, if directed, in the absence of other military operations. Civil-military operations may be performed by designated civil affairs, by other military forces, or by a combination of civil affairs and other forces. -- USA, JP 3-57, FM 41-10 and JP 1-02.
Code of conduct	A common set of principles or standards that a group of agencies or organizations have agreed to abide by while providing assistance in response to complex emergencies or natural disasters. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Combatant	A person who takes an active part in hostilities, who can kill, and who, in turn, is a lawful military target. S/he can be a member of the armed forces, other than medical personnel and chaplains, or of any other organized armed group. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.

Term	Definition
Complex Emergency	A multifaceted humanitarian crisis in a country, region or society where there is a total or considerable breakdown of authority resulting from internal or external conflict and which requires a multi-sectoral, international response that goes beyond the mandate or capacity of any single agency and/or the ongoing UN country programme. Such emergencies have, in particular, a devastating effect on children and women, and call for a complex range of responses. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Conflict prevention	Conflict prevention involves the application of structural or diplomatic measures to keep intra-state or inter-state tensions and disputes from escalating into violent conflict. Ideally, it should build on structured early warning, information gathering and a careful analysis of the factors driving the conflict. Conflict prevention activities may include the use of the Secretary- General's "good offices," preventive deployment or confidence-building measures. -- United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Principles and Guidelines, 2008.
Contingency planning	A management tool used to ensure that adequate arrangements are made in anticipation of a crisis. This is achieved primarily through engagement in a planning process leading to a plan of action, together with follow-up actions. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Contribution Agreement	An agreement with the State sending or contributing personnel and equipment to the peacekeeping operation, currently based on the Model Contribution Agreement adopted by the General Assembly in 1991 (A/46/185). The Model Contribution Agreement outlines the troop size, equipment, type of force, etc. and other responsibilities of the troop contributing country. It also cross-references the Model SOFA, specifying that peacekeeping personnel shall enjoy the privileges and immunities provided for in the SOFA and that questions relating to jurisdiction over personnel for criminal offences and civil liability shall be settled according to the SOFA procedures. Furthermore it provides that responsibility for disciplinary action with respect to military personnel made available by the participating State shall rest with that State, and that it shall keep the UN's Head of Mission informed regarding the outcome of such exercise of jurisdiction. Peacekeepers remain in their national service while a part of a peacekeeping operation, but are acting under the command and operational control of the UN, as exercised by the UN's Head of Mission. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	Adopted in 1951, the Convention is the key legal document in defining who is a refugee, their rights and the legal obligations of state parties. Includes the fundamental principle of non-refoulement. In 1967, the Optional Protocol removed geographical and temporal restrictions from the convention.
Coordination	Coordination is a process through which actors involved in humanitarian assistance response , as a result of emergencies, work together in a logical and concerned effort towards an agreed common end (namely to protect the victims, save lives and help resume normal activities), and in order to ensure maximum efficiency with the resources available. -- IASC Working group interim report on Coordination, 27 September 1996.
Culture and Custom	Understanding local customs and traditions is important in carrying out humanitarian work and when connecting them to universally recognized human rights.

Term	Definition
Direct Assistance	Face-to face distribution of goods and services – handing out relief goods, providing first aid, transporting victims, interviewing refugees, locating families, etc... -- Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets to Support UN Humanitarian Activities in Complex Emergencies "MCDA Guidelines"
Disaster	The occurrence of a sudden or major misfortune which disrupts the basic fabric and normal functioning of a society (or community). An event or series of events which give rise to casualties and/or damage or loss of property, infrastructure, essential services or means of livelihood on a scale which is beyond the normal capacity of the affected communities to cope with unaided.
Disaster response	A sum of decisions and actions taken during and after a disaster, including immediate relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction.
Displacement	Forcible or voluntary uprooting of persons from their homes by violent conflicts, gross violations of human rights, natural disasters and other traumatic events or threats thereof. Internally displaced persons remain within the borders of their own country while refugees are forced to flee outside the borders of their state of nationality or residence for reasons based on a well-founded fear of persecution on the grounds identified in the 1951 Refugee Convention or to flee conflict in the case of States Parties to the 1969 OAU Convention or 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Do No Harm	Humanitarian organizations must strive to "do no harm" or to minimize the harm they may be inadvertently doing by being present and providing assistance. Humanitarian actors need to be aware if aid is used as an instrument of war or if aid is an indirect part of the dynamics of conflict.
Donor Government	Government intervening for historical diplomatic, economic, and political reasons by funding bilaterally or through intergovernmental/private organizations prior, during, and after emergency.
Emergency relief	The immediate survival assistance to the victims of crisis and violent conflict. Most relief operations are initiated on short notice and have a short implementation period (project objectives are generally completed within a year). The main purpose of emergency relief is to save lives. -- UNHCR Master Glossary of Terms, 2006.
Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC)	The Emergency Relief Coordinator is the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and coordinates the international response to humanitarian emergencies and disasters. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA)	One of the four Committees created by the Secretary-General in 1997 in the framework of the UN reform with the aim of enhancing the coordination between UN Agencies in various fields. Chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs / Emergency Relief Coordinator and composed of executives at the highest level, ECHA meets on a monthly basis in New York. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.

Term	Definition
Gender	Gender refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being a male or a female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, as well as the relations between women and those between men. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through the socialization processes. They are context/time-specific and changeable. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a woman or a man in a given context. In most societies, there are differences and inequalities between women and men in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities. Gender is part of the broader socio-cultural context. Other important criteria for socio-cultural analysis include class, race, poverty level, ethnic group and age. -- OCHA Gender Equality booklet, 2005.
Gender balance	Gender balance refers to the equal representation of women and men at all levels of employment. The General Assembly has set the goal of achieving a 50-50 representation between women and men in all professional posts, particularly in decision-making and senior positions. -- UN General Assembly Resolution on Improvement of the Status of Women in the United Nations System, 30 January 2003 (A/RES/57/180).
Gender Equality (Equality between women and men)	Gender equality refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that women's and men's rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration, recognizing the diversity of different groups of women and men. Gender equality is not a "women issue" but should concern and fully engage men as well as women. Equality between women and men is seen both as a human rights issue and as a precondition for, and indicator of, sustainable people-centered development. -- OCHA Gender Equality booklet, 2005.
Gender Mainstreaming	The strategy of mainstreaming is defined in the ECOSOC agreed conclusions, 1997/2, as "...the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality."
Gender-based violence	Violence that is directed against a person on the basis of gender or sex. It includes acts that inflict physical mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion or other deprivations of liberty. While women, men, boys, girls can be victim of gender-based violence, because of their subordinate status, women and girls are primary victims. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Humanitarian access	Where protection is not available from national authorities or controlling non-state actors, vulnerable populations have a right to receive international protection and assistance from an impartial relief operation. Such action is subject to the consent of the State or parties concerned and does not prescribe coercitive measures in the event of refusal, however unwarranted. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.

Term	Definition
Humanitarian assistance	Aid that seeks to save lives and alleviate suffering of a crisis-affected population. Humanitarian assistance must be provided in accordance with the basic humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality and neutrality as stated in General Assembly Resolution 46/182 and with full respect for the sovereignty of States. Assistance may be divided into three categories - direct assistance, indirect assistance and infrastructure support - which have diminishing degrees of contact with the affected population. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Humanitarian coordination	Coordination is the systematic use of policy instruments to deliver humanitarian assistance in a cohesive and effective manner. Such instruments include: (1) strategic planning; (2) gathering data and managing information; (3) mobilising resources and ensuring accountability; (4) orchestrating a functional division of labour; (5) negotiating and maintaining a serviceable framework with host political authorities; and (6) providing leadership. Sensibly and sensitively employed, such instruments inject an element of discipline without unduly constraining action. -- Minear and Chellia, 1992:3
Humanitarian coordination	An approach based on the belief that a coherent response to an emergency will maximize its benefits and minimize potential pitfalls. In each country, the coordination of UN humanitarian assistance is entrusted to the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator. OCHA under the direction of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, is responsible for the coordination of a humanitarian response in the event of a crisis and carries out this role according to the approved policies and structures set by the IASC. This coordination involves developing common strategies with partners both within and outside the UN system, identifying overall humanitarian needs, developing a realistic plan of action, monitoring progress and adjusting programmes as necessary, convening coordination forums, mobilizing resources, addressing common problem to humanitarian actors, and administering coordination mechanisms and tools. It does not involve OCHA in the administration of humanitarian assistance. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Humanitarian engagement	The involvement of humanitarian agencies and organizations within a complex emergency to deliver protection, assistance and relief. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Humanitarian imperative	This implies a right to receive and to offer humanitarian assistance. Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found, with particular attention to the most vulnerable in the population.
Humanitarian Information Centres	A semi-permanent facility established by OCHA in cooperation with other agencies and NGOs during a complex emergency that serves as an information and data resource and provides infrastructure and professional services to humanitarian organizations as they implement relief and rehabilitation projects. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Humanitarian intervention	While there is no agreed upon international definition of "humanitarian intervention" yet, it is a doctrine generally understood to mean coercive action by States involving the use of armed force in another State without the consent of its government, with or without authorization from the UN Security Council, for the purpose of preventing or putting to a halt gross or massive violations of human rights or international humanitarian law. The UN's operation in Kosovo have all been termed humanitarian intervention. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.

Term	Definition
Humanitarian negotiations with armed groups	Humanitarian negotiations are a tool to enable, facilitate and sustain humanitarian action, and therefore must be undertaken in accordance with the three core humanitarian principles of Humanity, Neutrality and Impartiality that underpin humanitarian action. Humanitarian negotiations are negotiations undertaken by civilians engaged in managing, coordinating and providing humanitarian assistance and protection for the purposes of: ensuring the provision of humanitarian assistance and protection to vulnerable populations; preserving humanitarian space; and promoting better respect for international law. Because of their exclusively humanitarian character, humanitarian negotiations do not in any way confer legitimacy or recognition upon armed groups, nor do they mean that the humanitarian negotiators support or agree with the views or perspectives of an armed group. -- Guidelines on Humanitarian Negotiations with Armed Groups, 2006.
Humanitarian Operating Environment	A key element for humanitarian agencies and organizations when they deploy, consists of establishing and maintaining a conducive humanitarian operating environment, sometimes referred to as "humanitarian space". The perception of adherence to the key operating principles of neutrality and impartiality in humanitarian operations represents the critical means by which the prime objective of ensuring that suffering must be met wherever it is found, can be achieved. Consequently, maintaining a clear distinction between the role and function of humanitarian actors from that of the military is the determining factor in creating an operating environment in which humanitarian organizations can discharge their responsibilities both effectively and safely. Sustained humanitarian access to the affected population is ensured when the receipt of humanitarian assistance is not conditional upon the allegiance to or support to parties involved in a conflict but is a right independent of military and political action. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Humanitarian Operations	Operations conducted to relieve human suffering, especially in circumstances where responsible authorities in the area are unable or unwilling to provide adequate service support to civilian populations. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Humanitarian principles	As per UN General Assembly resolution 46/182 (19 December 1991), humanitarian assistance must be provided in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality. Adherence to these principles reflects a measure of accountability of the humanitarian community. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Humanity	Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found, with particular attention to the most vulnerable in the population, such as children, women and the elderly. The dignity and rights of all victims must be respected and protected. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Impartiality	Humanitarian assistance must be provided without discriminating as to ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political opinions, race or religion. Relief of the suffering must be guided solely by needs and priority must be given to the most urgent cases of distress. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Implementing and cooperating partners	Partners who sign an implementing agreement with and receive funds from UN Programmes and Funds and Specialized Agencies.

Term	Definition
Indirect Assistance	At least one step removed from the population -- transporting relief goods, building camps and shelters, providing water sources, clearing mines and ordinance, etc... -- Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets to Support UN Humanitarian Activities in Complex Emergencies "MCDA Guidelines"
Infrastructure Support	General services that facilitate relief, but are not necessarily visible to or solely for the benefit of the affected population -- repairing infrastructure, operating airfields, providing weather info, ensuring access to communications networks, etc... -- Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets to Support UN Humanitarian Activities in Complex Emergencies "MCDA Guidelines"
Integrated Mission	A strategic partnership between a multi-dimensional United Nations peacekeeping operation and the UNCT based on a shared vision among all United Nations actors as to the strategic objectives of the United Nations presence at country-level. -- United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Principles and Guidelines, 2008.
Integrated Mission	Integration is the guiding principle for the design and implementation of complex UN operations in post-conflict situations and for linking the different dimensions of peacebuilding (political, development, humanitarian, human rights, rule of law, social and security aspects) into a coherent support strategy. An integrated mission is based on a common strategic plan and a shared understanding of the priorities and types of programme interventions that need to be undertaken at various stages of the recovery process. Through this integrated process, the UN system seeks to maximize its contribution towards countries emerging from conflict by engaging its different capabilities in a coherent and mutually supportive manner. -- Note of Guidance on Integrated Missions of the Secretary General, 2006
Inter-Agency Standing Committee	A body established in June 1992 in response to General Assembly resolution 46/182 to serve as the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance in response to complex and major emergencies. The IASC is chaired by the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) and has the membership of all UN operational humanitarian agencies, with standing invitation to ICRC, IFRC, IOM, UNHCHR, the Representative of the Secretary-General on IDPs, the World Bank and the three NGO consortia (ICVA, InterAction and SCHR). The IASC meets at least twice a year to deliberate on issues brought to its attention by the ERC and the IASC Working-Group, which is formed by senior representatives of the same agencies and meets four to six times a year. The IASC develops and agrees on system-wide humanitarian policies and a common ethical framework for all humanitarian activities. It advocates common humanitarian principles. It identifies areas where gaps in mandates or lack of operational capacities exist and it resolves disputes or disagreement about and between humanitarian agencies on system-wide humanitarian issues. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Internally displaced person	Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situation of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or man-made disaster, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border. A series of 30 non-binding "Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement" based on refugee law, human rights law and international humanitarian law articulate standards for protection, assistance and solutions for internally displaced persons. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.

Term	Definition
International Committee of the Red Cross	Established in 1863, it is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. ICRC also prevents suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.
International Disaster Relief Assistance (IDRA)	Material, personnel and services provided by the international community to a Receiving State to meet the needs of those affected by a disaster. It includes all action necessary to grant and facilitate movement over the territory, including the territorial waters and the airspace of a Transit State. It is exclusively humanitarian and impartial in character. It is based on the respect of the principle of the sovereignty of States and is executed without discrimination of any kind based on race, colour, sex, language or political or religious convictions.
International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)	On 20 December 2001 the UN Security Council approved the establishment of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) by UN mandate (Resolution 1386). This UN resolution was sanctioned in accordance with the Bonn Agreement on 5 December 2001, which requested the UN Security Council to mandate a security force for Kabul and its vicinity. In October 2003 the UN Security Council authorized the expansion of the NATO mission beyond Kabul. Since then ISAF has been under permanent mandate to expand its security assistance mission throughout Afghanistan. ISAF's primary role is to support and assist the Government of Afghanistan in providing and maintaining a secure environment in order to facilitate the rebuilding of Afghanistan, the establishment of democratic structures and deepen the influence of the central government.
Joint Logistics Operations Centre (JLOC)	A joint uniformed/civilian organization which provides functional interface for the Integrated Support Service (ISS) with the rest of the mission. The JLOC oversees and manages the routine receipt, analysis, and tasking of all requests from within the mission for logistics support, on behalf of the Chief ISS. -- DPKO Policy, Authority, Command and Control in United Nations Operations, February 2008
Joint Mission Analysis Centre (JMAC)	A joint uniformed/civilian entity that manages the collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of the mission's operational information analysis. The Chief of JMAC ensures that the JMAC serves as a decision support-and planning-support tool for the Head of Mission and Mission Leadership Team in safeguarding and implementation of the mission's mandate. The Head of Military Component and Head of Police Component should also utilise the JMAC to support planning for any discrete component operations. -- DPKO Policy, Authority, Command and Control in United Nations Operations, February 2008
Joint Operations Centre (JOC)	A joint military, police and civilian entity which monitors situation reports and operational reports from all sources within a UN peacekeeping operation on behalf of the Head of Mission. The JOC collates reports received from all possible sources and ensures these are disseminated in accordance with the guidance of the Head of Mission. During crises, the JOC acts as the mission crisis management centre and provides support to the Mission's Crisis Management Team. -- DPKO Policy, Authority, Command and Control in United Nations Operations, February 2008

Term	Definition
Last resort	Use of military assets, armed escorts, joint humanitarian-military operations and any other actions involving visible interactions with the military must be the option of last resort. Such actions may take place only where there is no comparable civilian alternative and only the use of military support can meet a critical humanitarian need. -- IASC Reference Paper, 2004.
Military and Civil Defence Assets (MCDA)	As defined in the 1994 "Oslo Guidelines", "comprises relief personnel, equipment, supplies and services provided by foreign military and civil defence organizations for international humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, civil defence organization means any organization that, under the control of a Government, performs the functions enumerated in Article 61, paragraph (1), of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 1949". When these assets are under UN control they are referred to as UNMCDA. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Neutrality	Humanitarian assistance must be provided without engaging in hostilities or taking sides in controversies of a political, religious or ideological nature. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Non-Discrimination	The principle that a measure of general protection for civilian populations against certain consequences of war without any adverse distinction based, in particular on race, nationality, religion or political opinion (e.g. the establishment of hospitals and safety zones and of neutralized zones, the protection of civilian hospitals and their staff, the free passage of relief supplies, etc.). Also the principle under human rights law that States must undertake measures to respect and to ensure to all individuals within their territories and subject to their jurisdiction the rights recognized in the 1966 International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights, and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. This principle applies equally in times of peace as in times of war. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Non-Governmental Organizations	An organized entity that is functionally independent of, and does not represent, a government or State. It is normally applied to organizations devoted to humanitarian and human rights causes, a number of which have official consultative status at the United Nations. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Non-state entities	Actors not directly connected to the state in which they operate and include: non-government organizations, rebel groups, armed groups, and private corporations.
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Created in 1998, the office's mandate includes the coordination of humanitarian response, policy development and humanitarian advocacy. It carries out its coordination function through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.
Participation	The humanitarian aid community has a responsibility to give aid in a way that realizes the right of affected populations to participate in decisions that affect their lives, and which builds on capacities in the affected population.
Peace	Peace is a condition that exists in the relations between groups, classes or states when there is an absence of violence (direct or indirect) or the threat of violence. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.

Term	Definition
Peace enforcement	<p>Coercive action undertaken with the authorization of the United Nations Security Council to maintain or restore international peace and security in situations where the Security Council has determined the existence of a threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression.</p> <p>Peace enforcement involves the application, with the authorization of the Security Council, of a range of coercive measures, including the use of military force. Such actions are authorized to restore international peace and security in situations where the Security Council has determined the existence of a threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression. The Security Council may utilize, where appropriate, regional organizations and agencies for enforcement action under its authority. -- United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Principles and Guidelines, 2008.</p>
Peacebuilding	<p>Measures aimed at reducing the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict, by strengthening national capacities for conflict management, and laying the foundations for sustainable peace.</p> <p>Peacebuilding involves a range of measures targeted to reduce the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities at all levels for conflict management, and to lay the foundation for sustainable peace and development. Peacebuilding is a complex, long-term process of creating the necessary conditions for sustainable peace. It works by addressing the deep-rooted, structural causes of violent conflict in a comprehensive manner. Peacebuilding measures address core issues that effect the functioning of society and the State, and seek to enhance the capacity of the State to effectively and legitimately carry out its core functions. -- United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Principles and Guidelines, 2008.</p>
Peacekeeping	<p>Action undertaken to preserve peace, however fragile, where fighting has been halted and to assist in implementing agreements achieved by the peacemakers. Peacekeeping is a technique designed to preserve the peace, however fragile, where fighting has been halted, and to assist in implementing agreements achieved by the peacemakers. Over the years, peacekeeping has evolved from a primarily military model of observing cease-fires and the separation of forces after inter-state wars, to incorporate a complex model of many elements – military, police and civilian – working together to help lay the foundations for sustainable peace. -- United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Principles and Guidelines, 2008.</p>
Peacemaking	<p>Action to bring hostile parties to agreement.</p> <p>Peacemaking generally includes measures to address conflicts in progress and usually involves diplomatic action to bring hostile parties to a negotiated agreement. The United Nations Secretary-General, upon the request of the Security Council or the General Assembly or at his her own initiative, may exercise his or her “good offices” to facilitate the resolution of the conflict. Peacemakers may also be envoys, governments, groups of states, regional organizations or the United Nations. Peacemaking efforts may also be undertaken by unofficial and non-governmental groups, or by a prominent personality working independently. -- United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Principles and Guidelines, 2008.</p>

Term	Definition
Post-conflict transition	The tenuous period immediately following the termination of conflict during which humanitarian needs must still be met and programs such as those for disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and rehabilitation and for rebuilding infrastructure remain at an early stage. This period may also involve the temporary transfer of government functions to a UN transitional administration, as occurred in Kosovo and East Timor. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Preparedness	Activities designed to minimise loss of life and damage, to organize the temporary removal for people and property from a threatened location and facilitate timely and effective rescue, relief and rehabilitation. See also "prevention".
Prevention	Encompasses activities designed to provide permanent protection from disasters. It includes engineering and other physical protective measures, as well as legislative measures controlling land use and urban planning. See also "preparedness".
Private military firms (PMFs)	PMFs are businesses that provide governments with professional services intricately linked to warfare; they represent, in other words, the corporate evolution of the age-old profession of mercenaries. [...] The industry is divided into three basic sectors: military provider firms (also known as "private security firms"), which offer tactical military assistance, including actual combat services, to clients; military consulting firms, which employ retired officers to provide strategic advice and military training; and military support firms, which provide logistics, intelligence, and maintenance services to armed forces, allowing the latter's soldiers to concentrate on combat and reducing their government's need to recruit more troops or call up more reserves.[...] Peter W. Singer (2005-03-01). "Outsourcing War". Foreign Affairs.
Proportional means	The scale, duration and intensity of the planned military intervention should be the minimum necessary to secure the defined human protection objective. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Protected areas	Areas designated by the UN to be demilitarized to protect civilians and facilitate circumstances for a peaceful, negotiated resolution to the conflict. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Protected persons	Persons accorded protection under International Humanitarian Law, who take no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed forces who have laid down their arms and those placed hors de combat by sickness, wounds, detention or any other cause, shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without any adverse distinction founded on race, colour, religion or faith, sex, birth or wealth, or any other similar criteria. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Protection	A concept that encompasses all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and spirit of human rights, refugee and international humanitarian law. Protection involved creating an environment conducive to respect for human beings, preventing and/or alleviating the immediate effects of a specific pattern of abuse, and restoring dignified conditions of life throughout reparation, restitution and rehabilitation. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.

Term	Definition
Protection of civilians in armed conflict	Structures and policies developed by the UN, States and other humanitarian actors, and based in international humanitarian law, human rights and refugee law, to protect vulnerable populations from the effects of armed conflict, ranging from the most immediate priorities of minimizing civilian casualties to more long-term priorities of promoting the rule of law and security, law and order within a State. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Quick Impact Projects	United Nations Mission Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) are funded from the peacekeeping budget and are intended to provide a flexible disbursement facility to support, at short notice, local level, non-recurrent activities in the areas of health, education, public infrastructure and social services, that are designed to promote and facilitate the UN peace support effort in a given country.
Receiving state	A state which has requested or concurred with the offer of IDRA.
Reconstruction	Actions taken to re-establish a community after a period of rehabilitation subsequent to a disaster. Actions include construction of permanent housing, full restoration of all services and complete resumption of the pre-disaster state.
Recovery	A focus on how best to restore the capacity of the government and communities to rebuild and recover from crisis and to prevent relapses into conflict. In so doing, recovery seeks not only to catalize sustainable development activities but also to build upon earlier humanitarian programmes to ensure that their inputs become assets for development. -- UNHCR Master Glossary of Terms, 2006.
Refugee	A person, who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, or for reasons owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order in either part or the whole of his country of origin or nationality, is compelled to leave his place of habitual residence in order to seek refuge outside his country of origin or nationality and is unable or, owing to such a fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of his country of origin or nationality. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Rehabilitation	The operations and decisions taken after a disaster with a view of restoring a stricken community to its former living conditions, whilst encouraging and facilitating the necessary adjustments to the changes caused by the disaster.
Resident Coordinator (RC) and Humanitarian Coordinator (HC)	The Resident Coordinator is the head of the UN Country Team. In a complex emergency, the RC or another competent UN official may be designated as the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC). In large-scale complex emergencies, a separate HC is often appointed. If the emergency affects more than one country, a Regional HC may be appointed. The decision whether to and who to appoint as HC is made by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. In countries where large multi-disciplinary UN field operations are in place the Secretary-General might appoint a Special Representative (SRSG). The relationship between the SRSG and the RC/HC is defined in a note issued by the Secretary-General on 11 December 2000 and in a note of 2006 regarding integrated missions. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.

Term	Definition
Responsibility to Protect	A concept that imposes a responsibility on the international community to protect a population that is suffering serious harm, as a result of internal war, insurgency, repression or state failure, and the state in question is unwilling or unable to halt or avert it. The 2001 Report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty notes that the responsibility to protect encompasses three essential components: 1) the responsibility to prevent a human catastrophe by addressing root causes and direct causes of internal conflict and other man-made crises; 2) the responsibility to react to an actual or apprehended situation of compelling human need, should one occur, with appropriate measures, which may include coercive measures such as sanctions, international prosecution and military intervention in extreme cases; 3) the responsibility to rebuilt after the intervention through the provision of full assistance with recovery, reconstruction and reconciliation. The responsibility to protect is founded on the obligations inherent in the concept of state sovereignty, the responsibility of the Security Council under Article 24 of the UN Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security, specific legal obligations under human rights and human protection instruments, international humanitarian law and national laws, as well as, in the developing practice of states, regional organizations and the Security Council. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Safe Areas / Safety Zones	Areas, zones, or locations established to protect civilians during a time of conflict. The terms and conditions of establishing safety zones are governed by the law of armed conflict. -- UNHCR Master Glossary of Terms, 2006.
Search and rescue	The process of locating and recovering disaster victims and the application of first aid and basic medical assistance as may be required.
State responsibility	The principle that States bear primary responsibility for the functions of protecting the physical security and lives of their citizens and promoting their welfare. During complex emergencies occurring within their territories, this includes initiating, organizing, coordinating, and implementing humanitarian assistance programs. State responsibility also means that national political authorities are responsible to the citizens internally and to the international community through the UN, and are accountable for their acts of commission and omission. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
State sovereignty	A concept that signifies the legal identity of states in international law and provides order, stability and predictability in international relations since sovereign states are regarded equal, regardless of comparative size or wealth. Sovereignty is not a grant to states of unlimited power to do all that is not expressly forbidden by international law rather, it entails the totality on international rights and duties recognized by international law. The principle of sovereign equality of states is enshrined in Article 2.1 of the UN Charter and means that sovereign state is empowered to exercise exclusive and total jurisdiction within its territorial borders without intervention from other states (principles of non-intervention). Membership of the UN is viewed as the final symbol of independent sovereign statehood and the seal of acceptance into the community of nations. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.

Term	Definition
Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA)	An agreement with the host country in whose territory the peacekeeping operation will be deployed, currently based on the Model SOFA adopted by the General Assembly in 1990 (A/45/594). The Model SOFA refers to the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations in according exclusive criminal jurisdiction to the sending state over military personnel of peace support operations. Accordingly, military personnel are immune from criminal prosecution by the host state for crimes committed on its territory, but may still be subject to criminal jurisdiction of their national authorities. In comparison, where a civilian member of a peace support operation commits a crime, the SOFA leaves open the possibility of criminal proceedings by the host country. Both military and civilian personnel may be subject to civil liability by the host country. A SOFA is also known as a Status-of-Mission-Agreement (SOMA). -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
Transit state	Any State whose territory, including its airspace and/or the territorial waters, are traversed for the delivery of IDRA.
Transitional Administration	A transitional authority often arising from a negotiated peace process and established by the UN Security Council to assist a country during a government regime change or passage to independence. It typically consists of three segments: 1) public administration, including civilian police; 2) humanitarian assistance, and; 3) UN Peacekeeping Force. e.g: East Timor (UNTAET), Kosovo (UNMIK). -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
UN Military and Civil Defence Assets (UNMCDA)	Military and civil defence resources requested by the UN humanitarian agencies and deployed under UN control specifically to support humanitarian activities and military and civil defence resources that might be available. -- OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms, 2003.
United Nations Humanitarian Civil Military Coordination (UN-CMCoord)	<p>“The essential dialogue and interaction between civilian and military actors in humanitarian emergencies necessary to protect and promote humanitarian principles, avoid competition, minimize inconsistency, and when appropriate pursue common goals.”</p> <p>The key elements are information sharing, task division, and planning. Basic strategies range from coexistence to cooperation. Coordination is a shared responsibility facilitated by liaison and common training.</p>
United Nations Security Phases	The five security phases, taking into consideration the particular political, geographical and other relevant circumstances of the duty station concerned are as follows: 1) Phase One - Precautionary: Warn staff that the security situation in the country or a portion of the country is such that caution should be exercised. Travel to the duty station requires advance clearance from the Designated Official. 2) Phase Two - Restricted Movement: All staff members and their families will be required to remain at home, unless otherwise instructed. No travel, incoming within the country, will occur unless specifically authorized by the Designated Official as essential travel. 3) Phase Three - Relocation: Indicates a substantial deterioration in the security situation, which may result in the relocation of staff members or their eligible dependants. 4) Phase Four - Emergency Operations: Apart from staff directly concerned with emergency or humanitarian relief operations or security matters, other internationally recruited staff members who heretofore were considered essential to maintain programmes activities will be evacuated. 5) Phase Five - Evacuation: The decision to initiate Phase Five, declared following approval by the Secretary-General, signifies that the situation has deteriorated to such a point that all remaining internationally recruited staff members are required to leave. -- UNHCR Master Glossary of Terms, 2006.