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## DISASTER MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION, UN AND NATO<sup>2</sup>

### (KATASZTRÓFÁK ELLENI VÉDEKEZÉS AZ EURÓPAI UNIÓ, ENSZ ÉS A NATO KERETEI KÖZÖTT)

„*Servamus vitam atque servimus*”- „megvédeni és szolgálni az életet”. A Semmelweis Egyetem mottója nemcsak az orvoslás terén fontos szempont, hanem az emberi életet veszélyeztető bármely esemény, katasztrófa bekövetkező védelme mindenképp felett áll. A természet, vagy ember által okozott katasztrófa bárhol és bármikor előfordulhat, ezzel gazdasági és környezeti károkat okozva, és veszélyeztetve az emberi életet is. Világszerte évente közel 200 millió embert sújtanak katasztrófák a környezet pusztulása, a szélsőséges időjárási viszonyok hatásai, és a technológiai fejlődéssel együtt járó civilizációs katasztrófák következtében. Az emberi élethez és biztonsághoz való alapvető, egyetemes emberi jog védelme érdekében minden országnak alapvető feladata polgárai védelme.[1]

**Kulcsszavak:** védelem, katasztrófa, szolgálat, veszély, emberi élet, biztonság

„*Servamus vitam atque servimus*”- “*protect and save life*”. The motto of Semmelweis University is an important idea, not only in the field of medicine, but it is a leading idea in case of any event or disaster endangering human life. Natural or man-made disasters may occur anywhere, any time, causing economic and environmental damages, endangering human life. Globally about 200 million people are affected by disasters every year due to the deterioration of the environment, the effects of extreme weather conditions and the civilization disasters following technological development. In order to protect the universal right of the right to life and security each country shall protect their citizens. [1]

**Keywords:** protection, disaster, service, danger, human life, security

## THE RIGHT TO PROTECTION

The right to protection is a fundamental human right, universal value. [2] Security is a state without threat, in addition to which it means the system of all goals and tools with which threat may be reduced and danger may be eliminated.

The lack of security may not only endanger life, but it also hampers the sustainable development of society. The components of security: social (legal, social), political (diplomatic), military, IT, economic, environmental (ecological), financial, health and internal security. [3]

The protection of individuals and groups shall be the basic element of the national security of all developed states. In lack of the protection of the whole system the individual elements will not be safe, and without the protection of the elements the system is unable to operate properly. [3]

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In lack of properly trained and technically well-equipped civil protection service the normal operation of a state and the security of its people cannot be ensured. Experiences show that the quick and effective management of wide-scale, long lasting disasters may cause difficulties even to the most developed countries. [4]

Sources endangering our security are different in each country, region and continent. Many types of disasters are unknown in Hungary and Europe (e.g. tsunami, tropical storm), but in the past years we have had to face the effects of several phenomena which had been unknown before. Extreme temperatures, heavy rains and storms hit the region. We have to live with them and prepare for them. In order to prevent and eliminate disasters it is essential that states shall unite their efforts globally in order to prevent tragedies.

Nationally, regionally and internationally harmonised answer is needed for the protection of our close environment, our home, our country and our continent, in order to send and get help in time.

With its HUNOR<sup>3</sup> and HUSZÁR<sup>4</sup> central rescue teams Hungary is able to participate in the disaster relief globally. For this the rescue teams possess qualification which meet the INSARAG guidelines<sup>5</sup>.

Primarily the relevant professional organisation is responsible for the management of disasters, but without social cooperation long-term results cannot be reached.

Therefore, in addition to the official professional disaster management organisation, the National Directorate General for Disaster Management, Ministry of the Interior (herein after referred to as: BM OKF) great tasks are given also to volunteer citizens, civil organisations, mayors, leaders of protection committees, law enforcement agencies, the Hungarian armed forces and the members of sectoral protection organisations.

It is the state's obligation to protect its citizens and ensure their rights, which may be limited only in special circumstances. [5] The protection of the environment is such task. The right to the environment means the state's obligation to protect and environment and preserve the natural basis of life. The protection of natural values is important because it also means the protection of the conditions of staying alive. This is why the protection of the environment and disaster management are closely related.

According to the Fundamental Law of Hungary protection, and the protection of the state is the task of the Hungarian Armed Forces. Within this all adult Hungarian citizens shall perform civil

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<sup>3</sup> HUNOR: Hungarian National Organisation For Rescue Services. A special, heavily equipped research-rescue organisation used in special situations, established under the aegis of the BM-OKF. [http://www.katasztrofavedelem.hu/index2.php?pageid=polgarivedelem\\_hunor](http://www.katasztrofavedelem.hu/index2.php?pageid=polgarivedelem_hunor)

<sup>4</sup> HUSZÁR: medium research-rescue group, which is composed of voluntary special research-rescue units. Its alert, and in case of international mission its management is performed by the BM OKF. [http://www.katasztrofavedelem.hu/index2.php?pageid=polgarivedelem\\_huszar](http://www.katasztrofavedelem.hu/index2.php?pageid=polgarivedelem_huszar)

<sup>5</sup> INSARAG guidelines: provides methodology for those countries which are hit by devastating, large-scale, sudden disasters and for the international USAR (Urban search and rescue) teams responding at the request of the concerned country. [https://www.insarag.org/images/stories/INSARAG\\_Guidelines\\_and\\_Methodology\\_2011\\_edition\\_Hungarian\\_translation.pdf](https://www.insarag.org/images/stories/INSARAG_Guidelines_and_Methodology_2011_edition_Hungarian_translation.pdf)

protection obligations for the protection of the state and for the prevention of disasters. In addition to this natural and legal persons residing in Hungary shall have material and property obligations as well, regardless of their nationality. [5]

This is how the protection obligation of the state is supplemented by the role taking of citizens and businesses, which may be performed also voluntarily, in addition to the legal obligations.

Among the protection tasks regulated in the Fundamental Law and in related cardinal acts an essential one is the prevention of disasters.<sup>6</sup>

## PREVENTION AND PREPARATION

“The inviolable and inalienable fundamental rights of MAN shall be respected. It shall be the primary obligation of the State to protect these rights.”<sup>7</sup> [5]

The main part of disaster management is prevention. With well-organised and effectively realised prevention activities the negative effects of any disasters may be reduced, or the disaster does not occur at all.

One of the main tasks of the official professional disaster management organisation established as of 1 January 2000 is the performance of prevention tasks.

The motto of the professional disaster management organisation: “In Hungary’s service for its security.” Its main task is to guarantee security, with which it is part of the security system of Hungary. [6]

This includes the protection of Hungary against natural and industrial disasters, in which the protection of critical infrastructures has an important part<sup>8</sup> [7], protection against nuclear accidents, for this the conclusion and enforcement of and compliance with bi- and multilateral agreements, and the preparation of citizens and organisations. [8]

The goal of prevention is to reduce the possibility of any disasters, delay their occurrence, and to establish the conditions of successful intervention, emergency management, damage management and reorganisation. [9]

Prevention includes, among others, official and expert activities, preventive planning, organisation activities, the operation of the national disaster management information system, the notification and inclusion of the population, national and international cooperation, and the financial management of the costs of the activities.

The main criteria of effective prevention is to identify the sources of danger and to find the proper tool and task system.

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<sup>6</sup> Act CXIII of 2011 on the protection of the home land and the Hungarian Armed Forces, and on measures applicable in special legal situations

Act CXXXVIII on disaster management and the modification of related acts

<sup>7</sup> [5] Article 1 paragraph (1)

<sup>8</sup> [7] Government decision 2080/2008. (VI.30.) 3.2.

During the preparations risk assessment<sup>9</sup>, the identification of the level of danger, forecasting, while in the planning period official and expert activities are important. The disaster management organisation performs prevention tasks within integrated official activities. [10]

The goal of civil protection is a set of planning, organizing and decision preparation activities, which is performed for the protection of the civil society and the material values. [11]

Part of these planning, organizing activities are the preparation of disaster prevention plans, of information booklets for the population, the establishment and preparation of voluntary and obligatory civil protection organisations at local and regional level.

It is important to stress that disasters do not stop at borders, therefore national protection systems shall be able to cooperate with foreign states and international organisations. [12]

## INTERNATIONAL LEVEL – EUROPEAN UNION

Hungary is member of the North-Atlantic Treaty Organisation (herein after referred to as: NATO<sup>10</sup>) [13], the United Nations (herein after referred to as: UN<sup>11</sup>) [14], and several expert organisations of the UN.

During its disaster prevention activities the BM OKF closely cooperates with the members states and organisations of the European Union (herein after referred to as: EU) within the civil protection mechanism.

Togetherness, brotherhood, selflessness, mutual obligations and assistance = solidarity. [15]  
After the approval of the Lisbon Treaty the solidarity clause was included into the Treaty of the European Union. [16].

The solidarity clause means that

“(1) The Union and its Member States shall act jointly in a spirit of solidarity if a Member State is the object of a terrorist attack or the victim of a natural or man-made disaster. The Union shall mobilise all the instruments at its disposal, including the military resources made available by the Member States, to:

b) assist a Member State in its territory, at the request of its political authorities, in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.

(2) Should a Member State be the object of a terrorist attack or the victim of a natural or man-made disaster, the other Member States shall assist it at the request of its political authorities. To that end, the Member States shall coordinate between themselves in the Council.” [16]

Solidarity strengthens the closeness of citizens, the central power organises mutual assistance. This assistance does not only cover solidarity within the EU, among member states, but also the external activities of the EU. [18]

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<sup>9</sup> Risk assessment: a process which includes the identification and evaluation of possible risks identified for the given area [10]

<sup>10</sup> NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

<sup>11</sup> UN: United Nations

The notions of disaster, response, etc. are defined by the Council regulation issued for the execution of the solidarity clause. [19]

Disaster means any situation which has or may have a severe impact on people, the environment or property, including cultural heritage. Response means any action taken in the event of a disaster or a terrorist attack to address its immediate adverse consequences. [19]

In the event of a disaster or terrorist attack, the affected Member State may invoke the solidarity clause if, after having exploited the possibilities offered by existing means and tools at national and Union level, it considers that the crisis clearly overwhelms the response capabilities available to it.

As it may be observed, prevention is important here too. For the EU it is important to establish the resistance ability of EU and non-EU member states, which means that they maximize the added value of the most necessary EU funds provided for the most vulnerable groups. This is important because the basic goal of humanitarian response has always been the proper management of long-term restoration and development needs. The strategy of the Commission harmonises the establishment of resistance and the programs aiming at disaster-risk reduction and the DIPECHO<sup>12</sup>, programs to increase general effectiveness and realise the action plan aiming at establishing resistance. The program aims at establishing resistance within humanitarian actions and establishing national and local capacities.

In order to mitigate the devastating effects of disasters and to improve the possibilities of sustainable development the close cooperation of the humanitarian and development fields is crucial. The EU has established a disaster risk management framework using holistic approach of risk of natural and man-made disasters, which may be used in all sectors. This framework includes risk assessment and planning, perfectionised data and information collection, and the sharing of best practices (e.g. through INFORM<sup>13</sup> and expert evaluations), the development of the minimum standards of disaster prevention, and the establishment of the resistance to disasters by introducing disaster risk management into other professional fields, like adaption to climate change, development, impact studies in the field of environmental protection, internal security strategy, research, health care, nuclear security and protection initiatives.

According to the report of United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR<sup>14</sup>) published in 2009 in the period between 1975 and 2008 2,283,767 people died all over the world in 8,866 events (except for epidemics), based on the figures of the Emergency Disasters Database (EM-DAT). [20] [21] In this period 23 mega-disasters happened, such as

- 2003 – European heat wave: 56,809 victims
- 2004 – South-Indian Ocean tsunami: 226,408 victims
- 2008 – China, Sichuan earthquake: 84,476 victims
- 2008 – Myanmar, Nargis cyclone: 133,655 victims

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<sup>12</sup> Disaster Preparedness ECHO (DIPECHO) is a unique programme designed for preparation for disasters. The programme targets the extremely endangered communities living in those regions of the world which are most threatened by disasters.

<sup>13</sup> Risk management figure

<sup>14</sup> UNISDR: United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The economic damage caused by disasters in the mentioned period was approximately 1,526.7 bn USD. [20]

In comparison, according to the report of UNISDR in 2015 world economy suffers approximately 250-300 bn USD loss annually due to natural disasters, cyclones and floods. According to forecasts in 2017 the loss increases to 314 bn USD. [21]

In addition to the enormous economic disadvantage the disasters endanger human life. Between 2000 and 2013 1.3 million people became victims of natural disasters or industrial disasters all over the world, and 47% of all the population of Earth were affected by disasters in some ways. [22]

In addition to the loss of human life and direct economic damages disasters cause long-term, permanent problems in economy, production, the psychological condition, everyday life of the population, in services, infrastructure, and as result of these in the quality of human life.

Resistance to disasters is one of the crucial elements of sustainable development. Therefore this aspect shall be considered in the future funds and projects of the EU. In the past decade the intensity and frequency of disasters has significantly increased, tens of thousands of people become victims of natural disasters every year globally, and the emerging damages burden the member states with tens of billions EUR direct costs. The death toll is usually higher in the developing countries, while the level of economic damages is higher in the developed economies. With the support of national, regional and local risk management strategies, within this with the definition of targets, figures and schedules, and with the review of existing strategies and plans we may improve our resistance abilities. For border regions it is especially important to harmonise their strategies effectively and establish joint, cross-border strategies.

It is obvious that during disaster management it is not enough to respond to emerging disasters, but preparation and prevention are equally important.

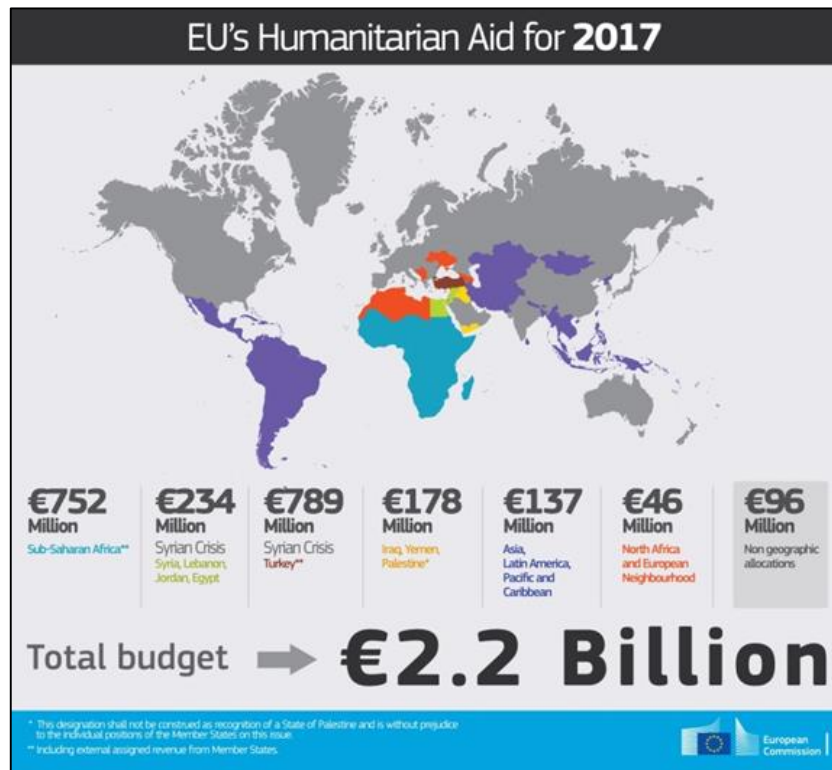
By setting sustainable development goals the EU promotes the strengthening of resistance and disaster risk management at international forums. [23] The disaster risk reduction measures of the European Civil Protection And Humanitarian Aid Operations of the European Commission (herein after referred to as: ECHO<sup>15</sup>), financed by the EU allowed local communities and institutions to prepare for natural disasters, to mitigate their effects and respond quickly and effectively, by this strengthening their resistance and reducing their vulnerability.

The ECHO closely cooperates with the member states' civil protection authorities in the prevention of disasters, and in improving preparation and response. Due to the frequency and complexity of disasters occurring in the EU and all over the world ECHO also aims at improving the coordination and planning of EU civil protection measures, by this maximally exploiting the available expertise and resources. It also ensures that the EU civil protection and the humanitarian assistance supplement each other perfectly. It establishes effective prevention and preparedness policies with the member states, while it tries to balance between the national responsibilities and the European solidarity.

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<sup>15</sup> ECHO: European Civil Protection And Humanitarian Aid Operations

As part of the international humanitarian system the EU also plays important role in encouraging other countries and regions to increase their contribution to the humanitarian preparedness and response. This includes cooperation with developing economies in order to have more effective resources in the field of humanitarian actions and disaster response.



Picture 1 – EU Humanitarian aid in 2017<sup>16</sup> [24]

As the above chart shows, within humanitarian aid the EU spent 2.2 bn EUR in 2017. Most of this amount, 2,136 bn EUR was used in non-EU countries and regions, mainly for the management of the situation related to the Syrian crisis in Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and the Sub-Sahara region. The EU provided humanitarian aid for 120 million people in 80 countries, it provided food, shelter, education and health care services, by this proving that it shows solidarity with people globally.

Montecuccoli [25] said three things are needed for war: money, money and money.

Well, these are the three most important things for disaster management, too. Therefore the European Commission has recommended the establishment of the rescEU system and the significant increase of the budgetary framework of the EU civil protection mechanism, in order to strengthen the new EU civil protection response. This means that for the period of 2021-2027 it will provide 1.4 bn EUR for these purposes, contrary to the 577 million EUR of 2014-2020. [26]

<sup>16</sup> EU Civil Protection Humanitarian Aid.

<https://www.facebook.com/ec.humanitarian.aid/photos/a.377376547905.160317.146955527905/10156141582672906/?type=3&theater> (downloaded on: 12 July 2018)

What is rescEU? Emergency situation response ability. It consists of two related forms of action: disaster response and prevention/management.

During disaster management (rescEU) the new civil protection capacities of the EU – like fire fighter airplanes, high pressure water pumps, urban search-rescue capacities, field hospitals – make reserves. In case of extra needs this reserve supplements national capacities. This is EU capacity, which is 100% financed from EU funds. With the expansion of national capacities – European civil protection tools – the revision, fixing, transportation and operative costs of the existing resources of the member states are also financed by the EU. This means that the mentioned tools will be part of the total emergency response resources of the European civil protection equipment, and will always be available in case of disaster. In this case the EU funding is 75%. This is solidarity.

Disaster prevention and management are the responsibilities of each member state. These are realised with the support of national disaster prevention and management, within which member states share their national disaster prevention strategies with the Commission and provide guidelines. The establishment of a European civil protection knowledge network is essential for the education of national civil protection authorities and for the sharing of information. The relationship of this field with other EU policies is also important, and strengthening harmony is an important goal.

In order to reduce time necessary for starting lifesaving actions it is important to simplify administrative procedures and to reduce bureaucracy.

The EU's external and security policy focuses on international peace and security, on development cooperation, on the promotion of human rights and the rule of law, and on reaction on humanitarian and weather-related emergency situations.

## THE HUMANITARIAN INVOLVMENT OF NATO

Based on the European protection cooperation against the German aggression after World War II Great Britain and France signed the Dunkirk Treaty on 4 March 1947. In the meantime negotiations started on the American continent, as result of which the Rio Treaty was signed on 2 September 1947 with the participation of the United States of America (herein after referred to as: USA) and twenty Latin-American countries. A common idea of the two treaties is that they adopted the goals of the UN and declared their close cooperation with the UN.

On 17 March 1948 Great Britain, France and the Benelux states signed the Brussels Treaty (Western-European Union) which in addition to joint protection it promoted close economic cooperation. The Brussels Treaty was an indication for the USA showing that the five countries are ready to make material sacrifice for joint protection. Due to the political situation in the Soviet Union and the cold war the US Congress enacted a law regulating cooperation with European states on April 1948, by this allowing the USA to start negotiations with the signatories of the Brussels Treaty: Great Britain, France, Benelux states, and Italy, Portugal, Iceland, Norway and Denmark. [27] The founding document of NATO was signed in Washington on 4 April 1949, and it defined the main goal of the NATO: the protection of member states against



any external attack. This means that if the area of any member state is attacked, the others respond as if their territory was attacked.

Member states and their partners provide opportunity for consultation about security issues, building trust and preventing conflicts. The NATO and its partners face the new security challenges with practical cooperation and multilateral initiatives.

Its basic tasks are the following:

- collective protection
- crisis management
- establishing cooperative security through partnerships.

It possesses those military abilities which are necessary for the realisation of effective protection and crisis management actions, either alone, or in cooperation with partner countries and international organisations (EU, UN). [28]

The NATO primarily performs military tasks, but it also takes part in disaster management in case of humanitarian and natural disasters by establishing response. Within this the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (herein after referred to as: EADRCC<sup>17</sup>) performs the coordination of response management within partner countries and member states all-around-the-clock. In the past period the Centre made efforts for managing the consequences in more than 45 emergency situations (usually after floods, earthquakes and fires). One of such actions was the sending of research-rescue teams after the earthquake hitting Turkey in 1999, providing health care, warm clothes, blankets and psychologists. In 2000 they sent sand bags, water cleaning equipment to parts of Romania and Hungary hit by flood. The requests were made by the concerned states, and NATO provided assistance in cooperation with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (herein after referred to as: UNOCHA<sup>18</sup>).

At the time of the Kosovo crisis in 1998-1999, upon the request of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (herein after referred to as: UNHCR<sup>19</sup>) it delivered aid to Kosovo by plane. [29]

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<sup>17</sup> EADRCC: Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre

<sup>18</sup> UNOCHA: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs source: <https://www.unocha.org/>

<sup>19</sup> UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees source: <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>



**Picture 2 - NATO helicopter rescues the victims of the Pakistan flood in August 2010 <sup>20</sup> [30]**



**Picture 3 – NATO soldiers guard the aid packages which arrived for the victims of Matthew hurricane hitting Haiti <sup>21</sup> [31]**

The humanitarian actions of NATO may be initiated in case of natural, technological or man-made disasters for the protections of civilian population and mitigate human suffering in those cases when states are unable or unwilling to guarantee the life and property protection of civilians. In case of both natural and civilization disasters, intervention may happen upon request, which may be sent to by the representative of the concerned state to the UN or a NATO member state. The NATO decides about the response in consideration of the abilities and capacities of

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<sup>20</sup> Atlantic Council. : <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/natosource/nato-responds-to-pakistani-request-for-relief-assistance> (downloaded: 12 July 2018.)

<sup>21</sup> abc news of 10 Oct 2016. <https://abcnews.go.com/International/haiti-desperate-massive-humanitarian-response-aid-groups/story?id=42700881> (downloaded on: 12 July 2018)

its member states, just like in case of peace support actions. NATO's forces may be used in humanitarian actions in earthquake, flood, starvation, radioactive or chemical pollution, and in war-related situations which do not require armed response, like the management of refugees or the protection of ethnic groups in refugee camps. These humanitarian actions and conflict prevention measures are part of the peacekeeping missions or are separate actions.

The three types of humanitarian actions are the following:

**Disaster relief:** During the disaster relief actions it is very important to keep constant contact and coordination with the main expert organisations of the UN (UNOCHA), because it is able to provide the best abilities offered by the member states based on the summary reports of certain organisations (UNHCR) and the information provided by the UN-NATO contact person.

**Support of refugees and those temporarily leaving their home:** This may include logistic tasks (organisation of traffic, transportation of food, etc.) and security measures (the protection of refugee camps).

**Humanitarian aid:** Cooperation with international governmental and non-governmental organisations in the distribution of aid, organisation of programs and their operation.

Within NATO the largest non-military program is the Civil Emergency Planning (herein after referred to as: CEP<sup>22</sup>), which aims at harmonising the activities and includes member states, as well as cooperating partner states. The Civil Emergency Planning Committee (herein after referred to as: CEPC<sup>23</sup>), which operates in permanent and plenary sessions (two times a year, with the participation of national disaster management leaders) ensures planning and administrative activities, as well as proper cooperation with the military and civil organisations of NATO. CEPC helps national CEP organisations with its recommendations in adapting the CEP Ministerial Guidelines containing the relevant NATO tasks and directions, and supervises the activities of EADRCC.

Hungary has successfully participated in the CEP since 1995 as Peace partner. After becoming NATO partner in 1999, the professional cooperation has become closer.

After the establishment of the professional disaster management organisation as of 1 January 2000, the BM OKF continues international cooperation.

According to NATO principles CEP is national responsibility. Its role is to help states in planning, preparations and to enhance effective international response, if the concerned state is unable to handle the disaster or crisis and their consequences.

In addition to traditional civil protection tasks the NATO CEP has to face new challenges.

Battling the new security challenges defining the future tasks of NATO (e.g. cybercrimes, energy security, terrorism, and climate change) is an important responsibility of CEP. [32]

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<sup>22</sup> CEP: Civil Emergency Planning

<sup>23</sup> CEPC: Civil Emergency Planning Committee

Effective preparation for these new types of challenges require the closer cooperation of the military and civil participants of NATO.

The BM OKF has appointed the National Point of Contact, the task of which is the effective coordination and realization of cooperation.

The CEPC is responsible for the management of the following expert groups:

- Industrial Resources and Communication Services Group
- Public Health and Food / Water Issues Group
- Transportation Group
- Civil Protection Group.

In Hungary in the Civil Protection Group the BM OKF performs direct professional representation and also participates in the activities of other working groups, in which it has cooperation and executive tasks:

- Critical Infrastructure Ad hoc Working Group
- Non-obligator Guidelines and Minimum Standards Ad hoc Working Group
- Protection against Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Terrorist Attack.

## THE PROTECTION OF PEOPLE WITHIN THE UN

Earlier the intervention of third states and countries in case of disasters hitting another country was spontaneous, because it is the sovereign right of each state is to decide how to protect itself and its citizens. There have always been countries which did not want their “secrets” to be revealed in case of intervention of another country.

The establishment of international disaster management happened around the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when in 1799 the transportation of gunpowder by carriage was regulated. In 1890 Switzerland and Germany regulated the railway transportation of hazardous materials between the two countries. In the Solferino battle of 1859 Swiss businessman Henry Dunant decided to establish the International Red Cross after he witnessed the suffering of wounded soldiers in the battlefield. [33] The establishment of The First Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field, in which a minimum level of humanity is ensured for soldiers wounded in the battlefield, is also related to this battle.

Henry Dunant called upon the world to ban cruel treatment of wounded soldiers, by this establishing humanitarian law.

Humanitarian law – *ius in bello* – protects persons and objects in international and non-international armed conflicts and imposes restrictions regarding the methods and tools of warfare. The Geneva Conventions of 1949 regulate the treatment of wounded soldiers and prisoners of war, as well as the protection of civilians in times of warfare. The obligation to protect civilians not only in warfare but in all kinds of armed conflicts was regulated in the Additional Protocols of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, approved in 1977. In Hungary it was declared for the first time in law decree 20 of 1989 that the protection of civilians shall be guaranteed not only in armed conflict, but also in time of disasters:

“...a) “civil protection” is the performance of all or some of the following humanitarian tasks, which aim at protecting the civil population in conflicts or disaster situations, and at eliminating the direct consequences of these, as well as providing the conditions of staying alive.” [34]

In disaster management the former bilateral agreements proved to be insufficient by the 1970s, because the emerging natural and industrial disasters endangered larger areas, more countries and more people.

After World War II, in 1945 the UN was established by 51 countries for promoting international peace and security, improving friendly relationships between nations, and enhancing social development, higher life standards and human rights.

The framework of international aid management in case of larger disasters requiring international assistance was provided by the UN.

Act CXXVIII of 2011 on disaster management and the modification of certain related acts allows foreign states and the Hungarian government to directly turn to the UN, the NATO or the EU in case of international disaster assistance and request for help. [12]

In case of natural, industrial disaster or humanitarian disaster the UN provides first aid, assistance and support on the spot all over the world.

The UN is present and active in cases of refugees escaping war or armed conflict, in case of natural disasters or any events endangering life, health, education or nutrition.

Among the programs of the UN the World Food Program (WFP<sup>24</sup>) and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO<sup>25</sup>) provide food for those in need and provides assistance to the same to make their own food.

The UNHCR and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM<sup>26</sup>) establish and maintain camps and other facilities for those who have to leave their homes.

The World Health Organisation (WHO<sup>27</sup>) supports the health care of those who have to leave their homes due to natural or man-made disasters by providing medical care, medicine and vaccination.

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF<sup>28</sup>), in cooperation with the International Children’s Safety Services and other organisations performing similar activities provides education for children living in areas hit by disasters. In the period following the disasters the United Nations Development Program (UNDP<sup>29</sup>) ensures proper restoration.

The delivery of aid to areas hit by war or disaster is ensured and supervised by the peacekeepers of the UN. The humanitarian and disaster relief activities of the UN are coordinated by UNOCHA, which assesses the needs, ensures the availability of funds for unexpected costs, and provides the necessary humanitarian programs. In addition to this it provides information about

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<sup>24</sup> WFP: World Food Programme source: <http://www1.wfp.org/>

<sup>25</sup> FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations source: <http://www.fao.org/home/en/>

<sup>26</sup> IOM: International Organization for Migration source: <http://www.iom.int/>

<sup>27</sup> WHO: World Health Organization source: <http://www.who.int/>

<sup>28</sup> UNICEF: United Nations Children’s Fund <https://www.unicef.org/>

<sup>29</sup> UNDP: United Nations Development Programme source: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home.html>

emergency situations globally and organises international actions for the mobilization of aids in order to promptly assist those in need.



**Picture 4 – Aid arrives to Haiti to help the victims of Jeanne tropical storm<sup>30</sup>[35]**

The Central Emergency Response Fund (a herein after referred to as: CERF<sup>31</sup>) is a fund established by the UN General Assembly in 2006 for humanitarian goals, which supports the victims of natural disasters and armed conflicts. Material contributions are supplied annually by governments, private persons and foundations. According to the figures of CERF between 2006 and 2017 Great Britain contributed to the fund with 1,027,726,824 USD, Sweden with 763,488,914 USD, The Netherlands with 684,793,300 USD, Norway with 671,371,338 USD, and Canada with 333,594,930 USD. [36]

With its programs and expert organisations the UN does all it can to prevent disasters, and to provide quick, targeted and effective response once they occurred. [37]

## SUMMARY

“This year, more than 100 million women, men and children need life-saving humanitarian assistance. The amount of people affected by conflict has reached levels not seen since the Second World War, while the number of those affected by natural and human-induced disasters remains profound”, said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on World Humanitarian Day on 19 August 2015. [33]

Despite all effort the responsibilities of the EU, NATO, UN and other international organisations, as well as states have been increasing for the mitigation of the suffering of people resulting from graver and graver natural disasters military conflicts emerging all over the world. These tasks may be managed properly only in close international cooperation, providing material and human resources, with focus on human life and dignity, and with special focus on prevention.

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<sup>30</sup> Unis Vienna. United Nations International Service. <http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/hu/topics/humanitarian-affairs.html> (downloaded on: 14 July 2018)

<sup>31</sup> CERF: Central Emergency Response Fund source: <https://cerf.un.org/>

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