

Research Report

General Assembly

Establishing guidelines for humanitarian aid during political instability

MUNISH '11



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Forum	General Assembly 3
Issue:	Establishing guidelines for humanitarian aid during political instability
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Introduction

Humanitarian aid during political instability has been an issue regarded for many years. A few organisations give humanitarian help to those in need, but during political instability, some are scared to get caught in the conflict. Sending people in the country needing assistance may bring them in danger as there can be a repression or an attack at any moment. However, a few Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) help fund those needing help and do their best to improve the human rights within the country.

The total amount of money given by donors for humanitarian assistance was at its highest-ever level in 2010, but the costs for the assistance are also at their highest. Reports show that assistance is spent on the same countries every year.

Definition of Key Terms

Humanitarian aid: Humanitarian aid refers to support provided for humanitarian purposes. These concerns are saving lives, making a population respect human rights or reduce the misery. Humanitarian aid is usually a consequence of a humanitarian crisis

Political instability: A country in political instability is one that does not respect the rights of a population and may have the army to suppress any kind of manifestation in the city.

General Overview

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) gives help in 80 different countries with quite a few known to be in political instability. The Global Humanitarian Association (GHA) also helps the funding of the humanitarian aid around the world, whether it to be during political instability or not. In the world, the main regions where political is most prevalent are Sub-



Saharan Africa, a few Middle-Eastern countries and the region of Southern Africa. North Korea is also seen as an area of political instability, but almost no humanitarian assistance is given there. Other NGO's act further than just funding the countries in difficulty, which is the case for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which provides aid workers to go to the countries which require the assistance and give material help.

Global view

From the GHA 2011 report, it can be seen that 18 out of 20 states are politically unstable and numerous people are affected by disasters. This shows that, when an NGO decides to help a country, they have more than one goal to surpass.

The Case of Chad

In 1960, Chad became a nation, after being colonised by France. Within the country, there are various cultures and beliefs from Islamic and Christian beliefs to local tribal beliefs. Since 1965, political instability was prevalent as Christians refused an Islamic government to be set up and vice versa. Since 1990, a multi-cultural party has been implemented; however, a few rebellions broke out in the capital city in 2008. Following these events, 3700 peacekeepers were sent to eastern Chad to protect the country. However, apart from that help, the population has not had any psychological, nutritional or physical help.

The Case of Democratic Republic of the Congo

In this country, acts against international humanitarian law have been reported. Those include rape, looting and destruction of property and murder. In the north of DRC, there are often armed conflicts between the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the government. Because of those armed conflicts, humanitarian assistance is only given to main towns as it is too dangerous to interfere in the armed conflicts. In those towns, the ICRC provides the help necessary, which include goods, food and water, but the situation in the northern regions have, as of yet, not been tackled.

The Case of Syria

This state in a constant change of government needs help from external sources. Many states and NGO's are giving a hand to the Syrian Arab Red



Crescent (the rebellion party of the country). While the ICRC only help the SARC by delivering essential items such as kits, stretches and medical supplies, the other states in favour of the change help the rebellious party politically. Syria could be seen as a state with decent humanitarian aid from NGO's and states.

The Case of Somalia

This country is probably one of the most difficult countries to provide any form of aid to. Not only is it the second least peaceful country in the world, but 3.2 million Somalis (more than a third of the total population) are in need of assistance and it is still the tenth largest recipient of humanitarian aid. With all the help, problems still arise and people are in further need. The fact that it remains constantly unstable makes it hard for NGO's to actively participate in a reconstruction of the country. The south of Somalia is even a "no-go" zone as workers refuse to go there. Many NGO's and states have given money to the country, but the corruption within the government makes it hard for the economy to start-up.

World-wide Cases

These four cases are examples, but parallel occurrences can be found around the world (for example, Ethiopia and Somalia have similar problems as Syria with ex-Libya). The problem always originates from the same source: the difficulty to enter certain regions due to their unstable condition. These can be due to human rights violations or a suppressing government. In both cases, the political instability plays a huge role in the need for humanitarian assistance. Tackling the problem at its source could be an effective idea.

Major Parties Involved

The Global Humanitarian Association (GHA)

The GHA is an NGO which provides information on how much each country gives for humanitarian affairs, where the money goes and for what purpose the money sent is used for.

The United Nations office for the Coordination of Humanitarian affairs (OCHA)

The OCHA is a branch of the UN which brings a logical response to emergencies. They are here to improve the effectiveness of the aid given and



have a funding branch and monitor the money to check it is used for the right purposes.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The ICRC is an NGO which, established in 1863, provides help in countries effected by violence and political instability. They are considered as neutral.

Previous attempts to resolve the issue

In the past, many NGOs have been created to tackle the humanitarian affairs during political instability. Some organisations like the ICRC have succeeded very well; however, the people blocked inside the conflict are not helped. No real resolution or speech has combined both political instability and humanitarian assistance, however, many attempts in improving human rights situation in the unstable countries have been made. The OCHA is a branch created to take action in countries with political instability and is there to monitor any kind of human rights violation. Any further action is not taken by the OHCA itself, but requires NGOs and states to intervene.

Possible solutions

Very recently, the Libyan population had the support of the government and NGOs which helped the nation to construct a new government at the population's demand. The solution required is just like the one in Libya. NGOs themselves cannot do all the work as they do not have the required resources to effectively help a population. Having the media and other state governments help is a big part in the reconstruction of a country. Although Libya may have been slightly too mediatized in certain people's perspective, tackling the situation in that way showed itself very constructive and useful.

Another useful way to tackle the solution would be to educate the population in a way to find a diplomatic consensus. Also, in those democratic Sub-Saharan African states, elections should be organised by exterior parties so that corruption cannot directly affect votes.

Appendices

The official websites of a few major parties involved:

<http://www.icrc.org>

<http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/>

<http://www.unocha.org/>



On this website, the full report of the GHA on the funding and the actions taken in diverse countries can be found:

<http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/report/gha-report-2011>

On the same GHA website, some facts and figures on each country is provided:

<http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/country-profiles>

