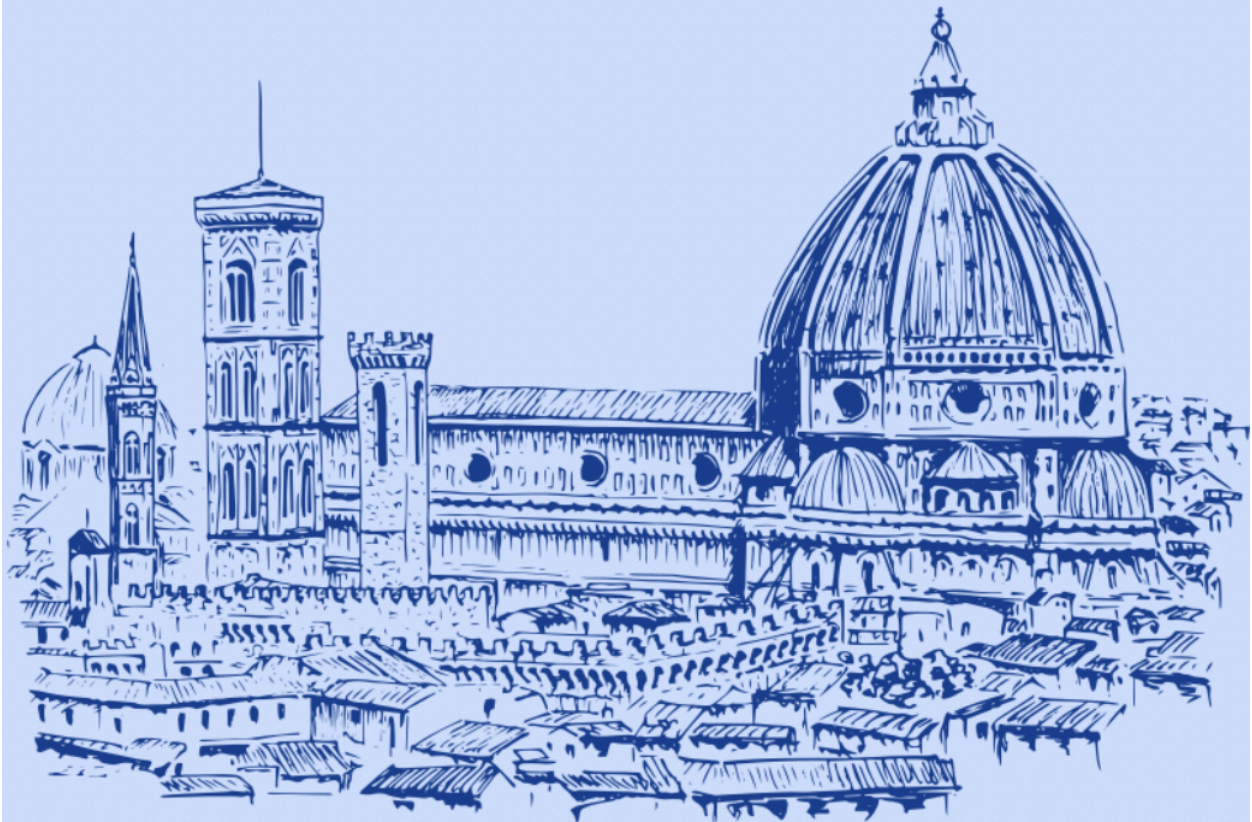


RESEARCH GUIDE

SOCHUM



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Committee: Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee (SOCHUM)

Topic: (2) Evaluation of humanitarian aid towards civilians in Syria

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I. Introduction

The Syria crisis has been one of the most significant humanitarian crises in recent history. It's truly heartbreaking to see the immense loss of life and the displacement of millions of people. Over the course of the five-year conflict, more than 200,000 people have tragically lost their lives, and over half of the country's population has been forced to flee their homes.

The response to the crisis has been massive, with appeals for aid reaching billions of dollars. However, delivering aid within Syria has been incredibly challenging due to the obstruction of aid by fighting parties and the constant targeting of civilians. Despite these obstacles, organizations like the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) have been working tirelessly to provide support and assistance.

OCHA's role in the response to the Syria crisis has been evaluated as part of a broader initiative by the UN and humanitarian partners. The evaluation aims to assess the effectiveness of OCHA's efforts from the start of the conflict in 2011 until August 2015. It focuses on four key areas: OCHA's leadership at the global and country level, their strategy setting, their role in enabling the humanitarian system's response, and their overall management.

This evaluation is crucial in understanding the impact of OCHA's work and identifying areas for improvement in future humanitarian crises. It's essential to learn from past experiences to enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian efforts and ensure better support for those affected by such devastating crises.

II. Definition of Key Terms

- a) **Syria crisis:** Refers to the ongoing conflict in Syria that began in 2011. It has resulted in widespread violence, displacement of people, and humanitarian challenges.

- a) **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA):**
OCHA is a part of the United Nations responsible for coordinating and mobilizing humanitarian response efforts during crises and emergencies.

- b) **Humanitarian crisis:** A situation where there is a widespread threat to the well-being and basic needs of a large population, often caused by natural disasters, armed conflicts, or other emergencies.

- c) **Leadership:** The ability to guide and direct others towards a common goal or objective. In the context of the evaluation, it refers to OCHA's role in providing leadership at both the global and country level in responding to the Syria crisis.

- d) **Strategy setting:** The process of developing a plan or approach to achieve specific goals. In the evaluation, it refers to OCHA's role in determining the strategies and approaches to address the humanitarian needs arising from the Syria crisis.

- e) **Management:** The process of coordinating and overseeing activities and resources to achieve specific objectives. In the evaluation, it refers to OCHA's management of its operations and coordination efforts in response to the Syria crisis.

III. General Overview

- a) **Protests and Uprising:** In 2011, peaceful protests began in Syria, demanding political reforms and greater freedoms. However, the government responded with force, leading to an escalation of violence.
- b) **Civil War:** The protests eventually turned into a full-scale civil war, with various armed groups, including rebel forces and extremist organizations, fighting against the government forces.
- c) **Humanitarian Crisis:** The conflict resulted in a massive humanitarian crisis, with millions of people being displaced from their homes, facing food shortages, lack of access to healthcare, and other urgent needs.
- d) **International Involvement:** The conflict attracted international attention, with different countries and regional powers backing different sides. This further complicated the situation and prolonged the conflict.
- e) **Rise of ISIS:** The emergence of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) added another dimension to the crisis. ISIS took advantage of the chaos and gained control over significant territories in Syria, committing widespread atrocities.
- f) **Ongoing Efforts for Peace:** Despite numerous attempts at peace negotiations, the conflict in Syria continues to this day. Efforts by the United Nations and other international actors continue to seek a political resolution and alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people.

IV. Major Parties Involved and their Views

- a) **Syrian Government:** The Syrian government, led by President Bashar al-Assad, views the conflict as a fight against terrorism and considers itself the legitimate authority in the country.
- b) **Opposition Forces:** The opposition forces consist of various rebel groups and factions that are united in their opposition to the Syrian government. Their views range from seeking political reforms to the complete overthrow of the government.
- c) **International Community:** The international community, including countries like the United States, Russia, Turkey, and Iran, has different views and interests in the conflict. Some support the Syrian government, while others back the opposition forces. Their views are shaped by geopolitical considerations, security concerns, and regional dynamics.
- d) **Kurdish Forces:** Kurdish groups, particularly the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), have played a significant role in the conflict. They have sought greater autonomy and self-governance for Kurdish-majority areas in Syria.
- e) **Extremist Organizations:** Extremist groups like ISIS and al-Qaeda have exploited the chaos in Syria to establish their presence. Their views are rooted in their extremist ideologies and desire for power and control.

V. Relevant UN Documents and Articles

1. https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/dms/Documents/OCHA%20Syria%20Evaluation%20Report_FINAL.pdf
2. <https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/unprecedented-suffering-syrian-children-2016-%E2%80%93-unicef>

VI. Questions to Consider

- How effective has humanitarian aid been in reaching and assisting the civilians in need?
- What are the main challenges and obstacles faced in delivering humanitarian aid to Syria?
- Are the essential needs of the civilians being met, such as food, shelter, and medical assistance?
- Are there any challenges or obstacles in delivering the aid, such as security issues or logistical difficulties?
- How is the coordination between different humanitarian organizations and local authorities in Syria?
- Are there any gaps in the aid response that need to be addressed to ensure comprehensive support for the civilians?

VII. Conclusion

Evaluating humanitarian aid towards civilians in Syria requires considering factors such as the effectiveness of aid delivery, addressing the needs of all civilians, coordination among organizations, and the overall impact on the well-being of the affected population. By asking these questions, we can gain a better understanding of the strengths and challenges of the aid efforts and identify areas for improvement. The goal is to ensure that the aid reaches those who need it most and makes a positive difference in their lives.

VIII. Bibliography

https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/dms/Documents/OCHA%20Syria%20Evaluation%20Report_FINAL.pdf