









FUNCTION 1: RESPONDING TO MASSIVE SUDDEN-ONSET DISASTERS

 <p>Coverage/ sufficiency</p>	 <p>Effectiveness and relevance/ appropriateness</p>	 <p>Efficiency, coordination and connectedness</p>	 <p>Coherence/ principles</p>
			

Typhoon Haiyan (known as Yolanda in the Philippines) was, thankfully, the sole massive natural disaster during the review period. In this emergency, the humanitarian system proved itself capable of timely, effective and relevant responses in terms of meeting immediate objectives and priority needs. It also demonstrated the ability to provide sufficient coverage in terms of mobilising resources and accessing populations, with only moderate trade-offs in efficiency, coordination and connectedness that come with the large size of the response. In natural disasters, moreover, coherence and principled humanitarian action are far easier to achieve than in conflict-driven crises.

While not a natural disaster, the Syrian refugee exodus to neighbouring countries also began as a massive and quickly unfolding crisis. Despite some reported problems in efficiency and coordination, the aid response to the refugees in the region has also been given mostly high marks for effectiveness, timeliness and appropriate focus on priority needs.

These overall positive results were assisted to no small degree by cooperative and capable host governments and an automatic surge of international capacity made possible by the new interagency process for system-wide mobilisation and response to major disasters, termed Level 3 (L3) emergencies. Tellingly, similar success was not seen in the chronic crises of CAR and South Sudan, which experienced sudden conflict escalations during the review period. The system also saw some key early failures in a very different sort of natural disaster: the Ebola outbreak of 2014, a case sufficiently different from the typical rapid-response scenario in challenges and response requirements to warrant separate discussion in the report.