

VIRTUAL OSOCC FOR THE UNDAC TEAM

Virtual OSOCC is a real-time online coordination tool for disaster response professionals. In particular, it brings together OCHA, national disaster management authorities, UNDAC and USAR teams, as well as bilateral responders to share information in the initial phase of response to major natural disasters.

What does the Virtual OSOCC offer to the UNDAC team?

1. UNDAC teams are **alerted and mobilized** through Virtual OSOCC.
2. Immediately after a major disaster, the demand for information is great, but its supply is often unpredictable and patchy. Virtual OSOCC pulls together information from OCHA, national authorities and other organizations for a better **situational awareness**: the scale and scope of the disaster, if the affected country has requested or accepted international assistance, as well as the immediate response priorities.
3. Virtual OSOCC serves as a one-stop-shop for information about the **operational environment** in the field: basic country information, operational priorities, the rules and regulations for equipment entry and visas, security situation, logistical constraints, available and working communications systems, the location and contacts of the OSOCC, RDC and other relief teams, etc.
4. Especially in case of earthquakes, Virtual OSOCC is used as a planning tool for **search and rescue operations**. The team can see which USAR teams are arriving, when and with what capacity.
5. Furthermore, UNDAC teams can use the Virtual OSOCC to **broadcast announcements** and share information with bilateral responders in the field and at headquarters.

What kind of information is the UNDAC team expected to post, when and where?

1. UNDAC members are usually one of the first responders to be deployed to the affected area. We have learned from previous large-scale emergencies that many responding organizations are expecting the UNDAC team to **share information** as soon as possible, including priority areas of assignment for relief teams and the type and quantity of required assistance. At the same time, mobilizing teams can benefit greatly from timely information about the operational environment in the affected areas. The UNDAC team leader should nominate one team member – usually the information manager - to update the Virtual OSOCC with relevant information. [*Illustration: 1*]
2. The **structure of the Virtual OSOCC disaster discussion** will be tailored to the given disaster. The default setting foresees one OSOCC whereby the operational area is not divided into USAR sectors. The UNDAC team has to analyse the situation as soon as possible and decide how many OSOCCs need to be established, and where operational USAR sectors need to be assigned. This information should be posted as a comment under the title Relief Coordination. Virtual OSOCC discussion moderators will adapt the structure accordingly. [*Illustration: 2*]
3. During the operations phase, the UNDAC team should use the Virtual OSOCC to **broadcast important information** to other responders. This information includes: contact details of the UNDAC team, locations of the OSOCC and the RDC, planned assessments, daily situation reports, as well as updates on security situation, mobile and internet connectivity, logistical constraints and scheduled meetings. Comments and attachments should be posted under the appropriate title. [*Illustration: 3*]
4. **Questions or requests for the UNDAC team** or to the OSOCC should be posted as comments or in reply to previous comments, as appropriate. [*Illustration: 4*]



SUPPORT DURING DEPLOYMENT

If you experience any problems or need any support with the Virtual OSOCC during your UNDAC deployment, contact the Virtual OSOCC team at OCHA: virtual-osocc@un.org, cc. abalos@un.org, petert@un.org, eidimtaite@un.org. Lorena Abalos is the Virtual OSOCC focal point for the Americas and her phone number is +41794770826.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alerted Rosters Situation Situation overview Request for international assistance Comments Operational environment Country baseline data Operational priorities Customs and immigration Security situation Access Communications Comments Response coordination Coordination setup Reception/Departure Centre (RDC) LEMA updates Assessments and reports Comments OSOCC Situation Announcements Assessments USAR coordination Sector A USAR Coordination Sector B Medical teams coordination Comments 	<p>Situation</p> <p>Situation overview - Gintare Eidimtaite, OCHA on 21-Aug-2014 18:06 add comment edit subtitle</p> <p>OCHA Philippines Flash Update No. 1: Typhoon Rammasun (Glenda)</p> <p>On 15 July, Tropical Storm Rammasun (known locally as Glenda) intensified into a typhoon as it moved across the Philippine Sea. As of 4 p.m. (local time - NY 4 a.m.), the centre of Typhoon Rammasun was located about 60 kilometres east of Legazpi City, Albay province with maximum sustained winds of 130 kilometres per hour (km/h) and gusts of up to 160 km/h according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA). Typhoon Rammasun is projected to make landfall over Albay in the evening, reach Metro Manila before 12 p.m. on 16 July and move across Bataan province before leaving the Philippine Area of Responsibility on 17 July afternoon. The path of the typhoon slightly shifted south from its initial projected track over the last 24 hours and is moving across highly populated areas.</p> <p>Flooding, flash flood and landslides are expected in the affected areas. According to PAGASA, Rammasun could generate storm surges of up to three metres in coastal areas. An estimated 43 million people may be affected including 11.5 million people in Metro Manila according to the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development-Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center. Among the estimated affected people, about 136,000 households (68,000 households are below the poverty line) are considered to be highly susceptible to landslides and storm surges as identified by PAGASA.</p> <p>The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) has issued regular advisories and alerted local authorities and residents along southern and central Luzon and northern Visayas, particularly coastal areas to implement preparedness measures. School classes have been suspended in seven regions (III, IV-A, IV-B, V, VII, National Capital Region and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao). As early as 13 July, the NDRRMC convened a pre-disaster risk assessment meeting to prepare for the typhoon and relief supplies and personnel have been pre-positioned for emergency response. About 31,600 households were preemptively evacuated in Regions V and VIII.</p> <p>The Humanitarian Country Team is monitoring the effects of the typhoon in collaboration with the Office of Civil Defense. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is also on alert with non-food items and hygiene kits for 20,000 families and 10,000 tarpaulins mobilized.</p> <p>Request for international assistance - Gintare Eidimtaite, OCHA on 21-Aug-2014 18:07 add comment edit subtitle</p> <p>The Government of the Philippines has announced it is accepting international assistance. Please find the official communique attached.</p> <p>Comments add comment edit subtitle</p> <p>New comments since last update</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> VO User (OCHA) on 22-Aug-2014 17:08 reply edit comment</p> <p>Attached is the first report from LEMA, indicating the seriousness of the situation. The areas most affected are in the east of the country. National disaster management authority has deployed its rapid response teams, national military is providing food and water assistance.</p> <p> UNDAC Handbook.pdf 4</p>
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What if I want to learn more?

You can find a full Virtual OSOCC Handbook on our homepage (<http://vosocc.unocha.org>). There are many other ways in which UNDAC members can follow new developments and provide feedback:

- Subscribe to the [Virtual OSOCC](#) YouTube channel;
- Follow [@VirtualOSOCC](#) and [@GDACS](#) on Twitter;
- Attend events related to GDACS, INSARAG, UNDAC and the OSOCC concept where Virtual OSOCC is always presented;
- Contact the Virtual OSOCC team at OCHA if your organization would like a tailored training session on the platform through Webex. Subject to availability of funds, the team can also offer in-person training.



Should you have any questions or would like to request a training, do not hesitate to contact us at virtual-osocc@un.org. Our focal point for the Americas is Lorena Abalos (abalos@un.org).