



# Role of customs In natural disaster relief



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Why worry about customs challenges in international disaster response?

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## PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CONFLICTS AND NATURAL DISASTERS IN 2013

# 97 MILLION

PEOPLE AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS IN 2013

**CHINA**

27.5 million



**PHILIPPINES**

25.7 million



**INDIA**

16.7 million



**VIETNAM**

4.1 million



**THAILAND**

3.5 million



Top five countries by number of people affected by natural disasters

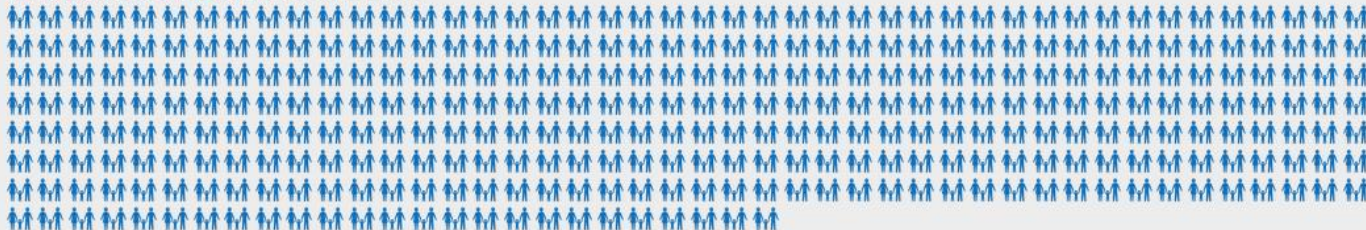
# Why worry about customs challenges in international disaster response?

**51.2 MILLION**  
PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CONFLICT IN 2013

ASYLUM SEEKERS: 1.2 MILLION



INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE: 33.3 MILLION



REFUGEES: 16.7 MILLION



16% INCREASE IN IDPs

# Main issues reported by international responders :

- Duties, taxes and fees
- Clearance problems
- Re-exportation
- Physical examination
- Several governmental entities involved

... but also many problems from responders

- Inappropriate emergency goods
- Poor quality
- Poor documentation
- Abuse of relaxed procedures

# On-going activities

Implementation of the resolution on the role of customs (2011)

Regional seminars on the role of customs

Participation to simulation exercises

Participation to GARD exercises

Istanbul convention (annex B9)

RKC (annex J-5)



# Recent activities & opportunities

- Marketplace session in Geneva
- Development of a new tool
- Explore means to enhance cooperation between Customs and humanitarian operators
- Use of the TRS

# Recent activities & opportunities

## Creation of a working group

**Target audience:** Disaster-prone countries, Donors, Customs administrations, Global Logistics Cluster, Users of automated systems for customs data, Emergency stockpile holders, UN Agencies, Private sector, NGOs, etc.

# Best practice

## Implementation of OSS (Philippines)

**Bureau of  
Customs**

**Procedure on  
Expedited Release  
of Foreign  
Donations in Times  
of Calamities**



BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

### **Objective**

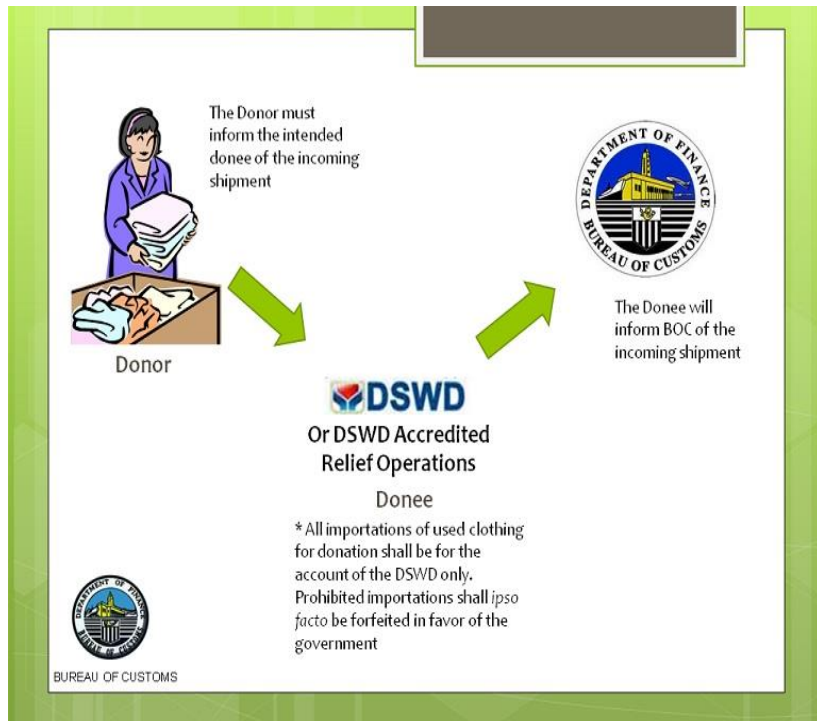
To ensure the prompt facilitation of the processing and release of foreign donations in times of calamities through the creation of a One-Stop Shop in all the Collection Districts of the Bureau of Customs



BUREAU OF CUSTOMS



# Best practice Implementation of OSS (Philippines)



# Best practice

Ebola: Guinea – Liberia – Sierra Leone

Nomination of a focal point

+ Clearance procedures available

Malawi: Nomination of a focal point

# Why worry about customs challenges in international disaster response?

Awareness of the role of customs in natural disaster relief operations

Understand and participate to the on-going activities to streamline customs procedures in emergencies



OCHA

United Nations Office  
for the Coordination of  
Humanitarian Affairs

Coordination Saves Lives

La coordination sauve des vies

La coordinación salva vidas

Координация спасает жизни

بالتنسيق ننقذ الأرواح

致力协调，挽救生命