



# ANNUAL REPORT

2004

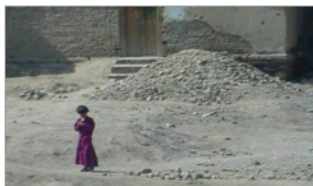
PROGRAM ON HUMANITARIAN POLICY AND CONFLICT RESEARCH

HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH





*Exploring new challenges  
in human security, international law,  
and conflict management*



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## Director's Remarks



Credit:  
Richard Chase

Welcome to the Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research's fourth Annual Report.

In reflecting back on the past year, one recognizes the unprecedented challenges that world events have posed for the humanitarian community. Yet we also enjoy a unique opportunity to enhance our understanding of the sources and effects of conflict.

In such context, I am pleased to report that 2004 was a defining year at HPCR in terms of new staff, novel products, and deeper insights. Our collective successes have continued to enrich our understanding of the Program's mission in researching ways to prevent and manage conflict, as well as our belief in the value of our strategic approach, focusing on human security.

The past year witnessed the launch of a major research project on Air and Missile Warfare, as well as the debut of a new publication series, and the significant expansion of policy research in the Middle East. In particular, the Program worked closely with the United Nations to design an innovative professional training curriculum on international law serving UN staff in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In terms of events, the second High-Level Expert Meeting on Current Challenges to International Humanitarian Law (IHL), as well as the annual ICRC-HPCR Advanced Seminar, offered in-depth discussion on opportunities for development of the law.

Above all, I am delighted to report increasing recognition for HPCR's work, including its applicability and impact in conflict areas. Timely undertakings, combined with a strong focus on transparency and accountability, have contributed to the Program's heightened profile in academic, diplomatic, and policy circles. Notably, the Program presented a series of informal briefings on critical legal and human security issues in New York, Brussels, and the Middle East. Increasing circulation of HPCR policy briefs, growing demand for our technical services,

and expanding professional networks all underscore the possibility for strategic institutional impact.

In May, we were delighted to welcome Dr. Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou as HPCR's first-ever Associate Director. Previously Director of Research at the International Council on Human Rights Policy in Geneva, Mahmoud brings substantial experience managing policy projects with tangible influence. In his short time at HPCR, he has already played an important role in expanding HPCR's global presence, as well as in initiating new research activities.

Administratively, HPCR embarked on an internal restructuring to better focus our resources and our project methodologies. Inevitably, some projects reached their natural conclusion. In December, we neared completion of our work on 'Building Human Security' in Indonesia, which began in 2001 as one of HPCR's earliest portfolios. Positive community response spoke to the residual success of this project in building a local dialogue around human security issues.

At the same time, the Program began development on several new initiatives, including projects on the security of humanitarian personnel and an integrated human security assessment for the Gaza Strip. Building on our capacity to apply innovative analytical frameworks to current policy issues, we look forward to tackling these new challenges in the months ahead.

Finally, I thank our partners and donors for their trust and support, as well as HPCR staff and affiliates for their superb contributions in 2004; we appreciate your continued interest in Program activities.

Claude Bruderlein  
Director

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## ABOUT HPCR

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The Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research (HPCR) is a research and policy program that provides technical assistance and information support for international organizations engaged in conflict prevention and management. The Program was established in August 2000 as a collaborative effort of the Harvard School of Public Health, the Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary-General, and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

With the government of Switzerland serving as its core donor, the Program services international organizations, in particular the United Nations, with innovative and coherent policy inputs on humanitarian law, human security, conflict management, and conflict prevention. Special attention is devoted to the role of new information technologies in the policymaking work of governments and international organizations.

Situated in one of the world's most dynamic academic and policy environments, HPCR applies its unique access and resources to address new policy challenges. Valuing flexibility and entrepreneurship, the Program measures success in terms of practical impact.

The Program employs a diverse professional research staff as well as a number of undergraduate and graduate student research assistants.

### HPCR Team

Claude Bruderlein, *Director*

Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou, *Associate Director*

Cindy Smith, *Program Manager, Head of Administration and Grant Management*

Eleanor Benko, *Researcher*

Bérengère Cusin, *Travel and Event Coordinator*

Yoram Dinstein, *Program Advisor*

Lynsey Fitzpatrick, *Program Associate, Communication*

Alexander Gupman, *Junior Associate, Research*

Devorah Isaac, *Program Manager, Production Unit*

Michael Kleinman, *Program Associate, Middle East*

Margaret Kowalsky, *Program Associate, Research and Teaching*

Angharad Laing, *Junior Associate, Research and Production*

Daniel Moren, *Junior Associate, Technology*

Ben Shoemaker, *Program Associate, Technology*

Laura Tarvin, *Junior Associate, Accounting and Procurements*

## **Mission**

The central mission of HPCR is to advance human security in times of conflict by promoting new institutional approaches focusing on people-centered strategies. In undertaking new activities, the Program is guided by a commitment to humanitarian principles.

HPCR's primary goals are:

- To conduct research and provide policy input on international humanitarian law, human security, conflict management, and conflict prevention;
- To advise international agencies, governments, and non-governmental organizations on the management of humanitarian issues, with a view to enhancing their capacity to develop strategies to address conflict situations;
- To provide online platforms for policymakers and practitioners to gain access to information, resources, and discussion fora related to international law and human security; and
- To cooperate closely with operational and academic institutions on a global basis.

HPCR's record of success also reflects its unique methodological approach. An emphasis on multilateral engagement enhances the impact of Program activities by promoting dialogues and commonalities between the academic community, international organizations, and governments working on humanitarian issues. Further, a multidisciplinary approach allows the Program to draw from a wide range of relevant sources and materials in formulating effective strategies to manage the causes of insecurity.

## **Governance**

In March 2004, HPCR installed a new governance structure to better reflect the underlying tripartite relationship between Harvard University, the Swiss government, and the United Nations. Meeting twice each year, the new Executive Committee is tasked with reviewing programmatic activities and submitting recommendations regarding project development. The Program is based at the Department of Population and International Health at the Harvard School of Public Health.

## **Networking**

As a Harvard-based organization, HPCR cooperates closely with programs and centers throughout the university community. In addition, the Program pursues opportunities for operational and academic exchange with institutions around the world. In developing its activities, HPCR maintains strong ties with the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and media representatives. Individual projects have also established formal partnerships to share research and technological expertise.

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## HPCR PORTFOLIOS: RESEARCH AND POLICY SUPPORT

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In 2004, HPCR activities were organized under four separate portfolios: the International Humanitarian Law Research Initiative, IHL in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Monitoring IHL in Iraq, and Human Security. Each sector achieves substantial impact through unique policy and research objectives as well as the cultivation of target audiences and networks. All Program activities are designed to complement one another through the application of shared principles, research methodologies, information technology, and assessment standards.

### **The International Humanitarian Law Research Initiative:**


#### *Developing New Strategies for the Protection of Civilians*

The International Humanitarian Law Research Initiative (IHLRI) is a research, policy, and information project dedicated to the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law (IHL). Founded in 2002, the project is based at the Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research.

IHLRI seeks to develop new strategies to address challenges to the protection of civilians and persons “hors de combat” in conflict situations, particularly in view of the increasing targeting of civilians, the evolution of methods of warfare, and the fragmentation of states in conflict areas. The project reflects the Program’s focus on issues of human security as a key strategic aspect of a standardized approach to the protection of civilians in conflict situations. To that end, IHLRI seeks to enhance dialogue on humanitarian issues and to foster the creation of an international network of scholars, policy makers, and humanitarian practitioners — including the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations, and non-governmental organizations — that share a common commitment to the protection of civilians under international law.

Within this framework, IHLRI serves as a central resource for a number of initiatives related to the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law. In collaboration with the Swiss government as depository of the Geneva Conventions, the project regularly co-hosts an informal, high-level expert meeting at which state experts survey the development of the law and assess the need for further research on selected themes.

IHLRI’s networking goals are supported by a range of educational initiatives — the foremost being the IHL Research Initiative portal. Finally, in cooperation with the United Nations, IHLRI offers training programs and specialized web portals on IHL. Tailored to the needs of policymakers and practitioners, these activities provide background materials on IHL, as well as concise information on specific conflict situations.



*“Protected persons are entitled, in all circumstances, to respect for their persons, their honour, their family rights, their religious convictions and practices, and their manners and customs. They shall at all times be humanely treated . . .”*

*Article 27, Fourth Geneva Convention, 1949*

## **Web portal**

The IHL Research Initiative Portal furthers policy discussion on current challenges for IHL through the use of information technology. Updated regularly by a team of Harvard-based researchers, the portal offers access to a comprehensive database of online academic and policy-oriented research material related to international humanitarian law. Indexing links to more than eight thousand documents, this site offers briefing notes on the latest issues and debates, and sponsors electronic conferences on key aspects of implementation.



The portal features resources for information sharing, communication and networking, original policy research, and regional and thematic sub-pages. It serves as a gateway to the latest IHL news, research and analysis, judicial decisions, and legal instruments, organized by region and topic. The portal also provides access to a network of legal scholars, government experts, civil society advocates and humanitarian practitioners involved in the appli-

cation of IHL, and links to a calendar of related events. In its role as a communications platform, the site hosted an e-conference on “Challenges for IHL in Contemporary Conflict Situations” for participants from Harvard Law School and the University of Bern in early 2004.

## **Informal high-level expert meeting on the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law**

This series of meetings is intended to facilitate information sharing between state and independent experts on key challenges to IHL, and in doing so, help to promote research and policy activities on development of the law. In January 2003, IHLRI co-organized with the Swiss government the Informal High-Level Expert Meeting on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law, bringing government experts from more than twenty countries, representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations, and a small group of academic independent experts together to discuss challenges stemming from contemporary conflict situations. With the goal of developing an action-oriented research agenda, meeting participants identified a short list of themes in need of further study. A second meeting, which elaborated further some of the key issues identified during the first year of activities, was convened in June 2004 at Harvard University.

## **Advanced seminar for UN and NGO professionals**

In July 2004, HPCR and the International Committee of the Red Cross again presented an advanced training course on “IHL and Current Conflicts: New Challenges and Dilemmas” for mid-career United Nations, government, and NGO professionals. This annual seminar is designed to provide practical training to humanitarian aid workers, policymakers, and practitioners engaged in the development and application of IHL and to create a space for informed dialogue. This was the fifth such course on IHL and current conflicts co-sponsored by the ICRC and HPCR, with the next to be offered in Cambridge in summer 2005.

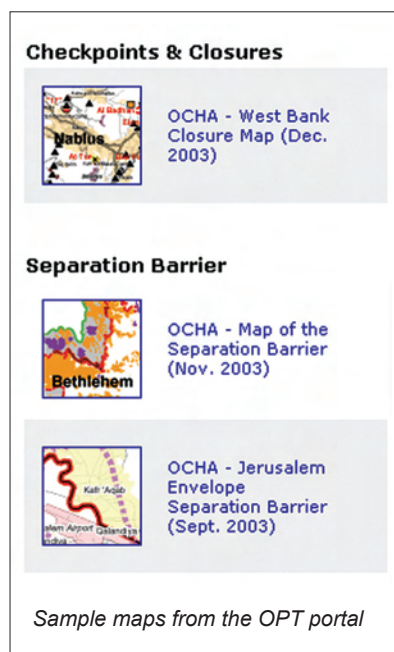


## IHL in Air and Missile Warfare

In early 2004, HPCR launched a new academic research project to codify the rules of IHL applicable to air and missile warfare. This project aims to make an original and timely contribution to the application of international humanitarian law through a contemporary methodical reexamination and restatement of existing law. Driven by a series of expert working group meetings, the project also seeks to engage independent experts, governments and other stakeholders, as well as policy and academic centers working on themes related to international humanitarian law. Dr. Yoram Dinstein, a prominent scholar on international law and former President of Tel Aviv University, serves as senior academic advisor of the initiative.

## IHL in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Developed in response to a request from the United Nations and other international agencies active in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), this project aims to provide policy and training support on humanitarian and peacebuilding affairs in the region. By improving access to concise and balanced information on international humanitarian law and promoting greater acceptability of IHL references among the parties to the conflict, the project seeks to promote the integration of humanitarian values and legal methods in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Roadmap framework.



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The main operational goals of the project are to provide basic training on IHL for senior UN staff, facilitate sharing of information on IHL within the UN and the local humanitarian and human rights community, develop briefing notes on selected operational issues, and build a network of practitioners and other relevant operators in the region. Issues being considered include the protection of civilians in the OPT, the conduct of hostilities by all the parties involved, and the compliance of the occupying forces with the rules of international law.

In gathering resources and developing related activities, HPCR places particular emphasis on the presentation of diverse legal perspectives and viewpoints. In December 2004, the Program completed a fifteen-hour training program, conducted as a series of five sessions, during which more than eighty-five UN staff received training. In 2005, HPCR anticipates launching new training activities in the region, while continuing to develop timely policy briefs on critical topics.

In April, an associated portal was launched ([www.ihlresearch.org/opt](http://www.ihlresearch.org/opt)). Designed as an online information resource, this portal has expanded to include eight original policy briefs, seven featured topics, and close to nine hundred reference documents. To further enhance access to information, the research team also offers a selection of materials translated into Arabic and Hebrew.

## Monitoring IHL in Iraq

Launched after the outbreak of hostilities in Iraq in 2003, HPCR's site on Monitoring IHL in Iraq ([www.ihl-research.org/iraq](http://www.ihl-research.org/iraq)) has continued to provide targeted information on the evolving legal situation throughout the past year. The portal organizes IHL-related news and offers access to central legal texts and explanations of the legal principles applicable to the latest developments. The goal of this service has been to provide governments, international agencies, legal experts, humanitarian and human rights organizations, journalists, researchers, and military policymakers with access to key reference and analysis texts and summaries of essential resources on the application and interpretation of IHL.

In March, the Program launched a redesigned "IHL in Iraq" portal, featuring enhanced navigation and search mechanisms. Throughout the year, attention was devoted to critical questions raised by the ongoing conflict: What legal provisions apply to the conduct of hostilities in urban environments? What are the obligations of an Occupying Power? What constitutes the end of occupation? In addition to the publication of two new policy briefs, the research team highlighted resources in response to new developments, providing, for example, an updated information page on the situation in Fallujah in the fall of 2004. HPCR staff also presented an informal briefing on the end of occupation for legal and regional specialists representing UN Security Council members in New York.

## Human Security in Conflict

In broad terms, HPCR views human security as the prioritization of people's security needs alongside those of states, minimizing risks and adopting preventive measures, reducing vulnerabilities, and taking remedial action when preventive measures fail. In contradistinction with the traditional approach to security, which rests on the security of nation-states and national defense structures, human security approaches seek to promote stability by focusing on threats to individuals and their communities. These dangers are understood commonly to include such factors as economy, food, health, and environment as well as issues such as drugs, terrorism, organized crime, landmines and gender-based violence. Within a long-range, multidisciplinary approach, HPCR recognizes that human security is an evolving concept in



the field of security studies and uses this particular prism as a means of contributing a more diversified perspective to security interests. In this context, the Program articulates analyses and policy recommendations to support international organizations in identifying new strategies to address sources of insecurity.

In late 2004, HPCR established the intellectual framework for a planned human security assessment in the Gaza Strip. Through collaborative partnerships with local institutions, the Program intends to map projected health, education, and employment needs and evaluate their implications for the next five years. It is hoped that the results of this survey will have practical value in improving the planning and management of targeted aid initiatives, based on a better understanding of the underlying demographic and social dynamics of the Gaza Strip.

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## SUMMARY OF 2004 ACTIVITIES

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### HPCR-Sponsored Events

HPCR organizes a wide range of events in support of its four portfolios. In terms of methodology, HPCR's primary areas of expertise are briefings and advanced trainings, particularly in the fields of international humanitarian law and new information technology. The Program works closely with host organizations in shaping the format of such sessions as well as in identifying the issues of greatest interest. Briefing sessions are offered on a regular basis to policymakers, journalists, staff of international and non-governmental agencies, government officials, and other interested professionals.

- On-site Training and Technical Support for the Geneva Humanitarian Forum (Geneva, January)
- E-conference on "Challenges for IHL in Contemporary Conflict Situations: A Trans-Atlantic Dialogue" (IHLRI portal, January)
- First Meeting of the Expert Working Group on IHL in Air and Missile Warfare (Cambridge, January)
- Colloquium on the Interplay between IHL and Human Rights (Tehran, April)
- Seminar on IHL for International Donors (Jericho, May)
- Professional Briefing for Journalists on IHL (*Boston Globe* Headquarters and Washington, DC Bureau, June and July)
- Emergency Response Training, UN World Food Programme (Stockholm and Rome, May and November)
- Informal Briefing for Senior Diplomats and UN Officials on the Legal Aspects of the End of Occupation in Iraq (New York, June)
- Second High-Level Expert Meeting on Current Challenges to IHL (Cambridge, June)
- ICRC-HPCR Advanced Seminar on IHL (Cambridge, July)
- Briefing for EU Working Group on Legal Implications of Israel's Disengagement Plan (Brussels, September)



*Government experts discuss international humanitarian law at Harvard University*

- Second Meeting of the Expert Working Group on IHL in Air and Missile Warfare (Lucerne, September)
- Seminar for Diplomats and UN Officials on Humanitarian Access (New York, October)
- Policy Roundtable for Senior Diplomats and UN Officials on the Legal Implications of Israel's Disengagement Plan (New York, November)
- Professional Briefing for Journalists on IHL (BBC World Service, London, December)
- Training on IHL for UN Staff (Jerusalem and Gaza, February, May and December)

### **Academic Lectures and Conferences**

Affiliated with the Harvard School of Public Health, HPCR both sponsors and engages in academic exchanges as a cornerstone of its activities. Aiming to bridge the divide between the scholarly and policy-making communities, the Program promotes the transfer of information resources from one sphere to the other through its expanding professional networks. Activities in 2004 included the following.

- The Challenge of War to IHL – *Winter Term Course* (Harvard Law School)
- People in War – *Spring Term Course* (Harvard School of Public Health)
- International Human Rights Law – *Guest Lecture* (Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, June)
- Hans Von Sponeck on the Oil-for-Food Program – *Lecture* (HPCR, March)
- IHL and Humanitarian Intervention – *Panel* (Harvard Law School, March)
- Aid, Diplomacy, and Facts on the Ground – *Colloquium* (Jordan, Royal Institute of International Affairs, June)
- Implementing the ICJ Ruling on the Wall – *Lecture* (Washington, Jerusalem Fund, September)
- Effects of 9/11 on the United Nations and Human Rights – *Conference* (Harvard Law School, October)

## Website Development

A trademark of the Program is its innovative use of technology to promote new information environments for policymakers. In practice, HPCR has applied in-house expertise to create a series of online resources to provide policymakers and practitioners with easy access to critical issues related to the protection of civilians, humanitarian assistance and the effects of conflict on populations. Combining up-to-date news, policy-driven content, and expert analysis, the portals offers links to HPCR-produced feature articles; relevant academic materials; links to international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and experts working on local conflict prevention strategies; maps and other images. The portals also feature e-conferencing and online dialogue facilities providing unprecedented capacity for communications in policymaking.

In related activities, the production team provides development support for humanitarian organizations seeking new technological products. The team also works to facilitate workshops, briefings, and round-tables on humanitarian and conflict issues. Since January 2000, HPCR's technology team has overseen the development and maintenance of seven portals — amounting to a combined total of twelve thousand registered users and over twenty-one thousand documents.



[www.preventconflict.org](http://www.preventconflict.org)



[www.ihlresearch.org/opt](http://www.ihlresearch.org/opt)



[www.ihlresearch.org/iraq](http://www.ihlresearch.org/iraq)



[www.genevahumanitarianforum.org](http://www.genevahumanitarianforum.org)

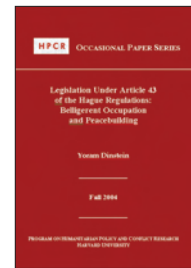


[www.ihlresearch.org](http://www.ihlresearch.org)

## Publications

In 2004, HPCR continued to publish informative legal and policy briefs related to international law and human security. Additional materials included articles prepared for conferences and external publications. HPCR also launched an original publication cycle known as the Occasional Paper Series. With four original essays each year, the series addresses important topical issues in IHL and aims to provide authoritative yet accessible commentary for an international audience of scholars, policymakers, and practitioners.

- Brief on the Legality of House Demolitions in Rafah (Office of the UN Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories and the Humanitarian Emergency Policy Group)
- Legal and Policy Brief on Israel's Disengagement Plan and IHL (European Union Political Working Group on the Middle East Peace Process)
- Essay on Human Security Challenges and the Impact of International Humanitarian Aid in the OPT (Royal Institute of International Affairs)
- Paper by Yoram Dinstein on Legislation under Article 43 of the Hague Regulations: Belligerent Occupation and Peacebuilding (HPCR Occasional Paper Series)
- Policy Brief by Adam Roberts on the End of Occupation in Iraq
- Essay on the Relevance of Occupation Law in the Protection of the Palestinian Population (Overseas Development Institute, *Humanitarian Exchange*)



OPS, Fall 2004

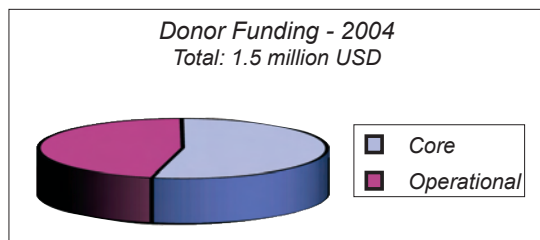
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## ADMINISTRATION

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### Funding

In late 2003, HPCR entered the second cycle of its core grant with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The Swiss government also provides important operational funding to support a range of activities. In developing individual projects and grants, the Program maintains ongoing relationships with the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Norwegian Royal Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence, the U.K. Department for International Development, the United Nations World Food Programme, the Geneva Humanitarian Forum, and the International Committee of the Red Cross. In total, the Program's operating budget for 2004 was approximately \$1.5 million.



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## **Partner Organizations**

- Center for Population and Development Studies, Harvard School of Public Health
- Crisis Management Initiative, Helsinki
- FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard School of Public Health
- Center for Human Rights Studies, University of Tehran
- Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Geneva
- Diakonia, Jerusalem
- Geneva Humanitarian Forum
- Graduate Center for International Studies, University of Tehran
- Human Rights Program, Harvard Law School
- International Committee of the Red Cross
- International Peace Academy, New York
- Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg
- Social Research Center, The American University in Cairo
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- UN Department of Political Affairs
- UN Executive Office of the Secretary-General
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- UN Office of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process
- UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
- UN World Food Programme
- UNICEF

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