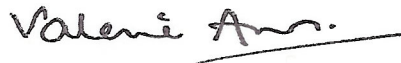


Note to the Secretary-General

FUNDING TO LEVEL 3 HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

1. Concern has been expressed that funding to major crises has decreased as a result of the declaration of level 3 humanitarian emergencies (L3) in a number of countries. This note provides an analysis of funding to L3 emergencies, which are declared through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to ensure the highest level of system-wide surge in leadership and coordination. Although the declaration of an L3 is not intended as a fundraising tool, an L3 declaration has been useful in keeping crises at the top of the agenda of the international community.
2. The OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS) data shows that funding levels to a crisis increase significantly around the time an L3 is declared. FTS data also shows that pledging conferences and other advocacy events coincide with spikes in funding. This suggests a correlation between increased public attention and donor awareness leading to an increase in funding.
3. In protracted or conflict-based crises, spikes in funding occur at times of intensified violence. For the Central African Republic funding increased after the L3 declaration, but for Syria, South Sudan and Iraq the L3 declaration came during funding spikes amid the escalation of the crises. In all four cases, the launch of funding appeals or humanitarian strategic response plans appears to have had a significant effect on funding.
4. For natural disaster, an L3 declaration does not appear to have a particular impact on donor behaviour. Funding for the Philippines (December 2013) was similar to that for the floods in Pakistan (July 2010) which predated the development of the L3 classification system. Donor response is generally concentrated in the first months following a major natural disaster and the extension of the L3 status for three months for Typhoon Haiyan does not appear to have influenced funding.
5. 2014 was an exceptional year. Despite donors contributing a record US\$10.3 billion towards UN coordinated appeals - 25 per cent more than in 2013 - funding requirements were so high (\$17.9 billion) that in relative terms, funding coverage registered as the lowest in the last ten years (58 per cent). 65 per cent of this funding was directed towards L3 emergencies. L3 humanitarian response appeals have been funded at 62 per cent compared to 50 per cent for non-L3 appeals. Crowding out of smaller emergencies in 2014 is likely to have been a result of the L3 crises capturing public and donor attention.

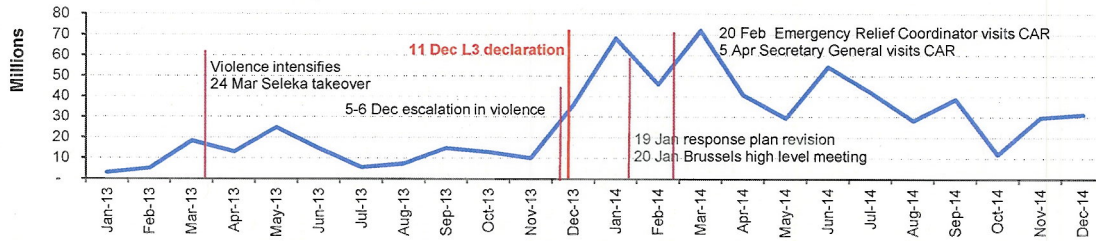


Valerie Amos
12 March 2015

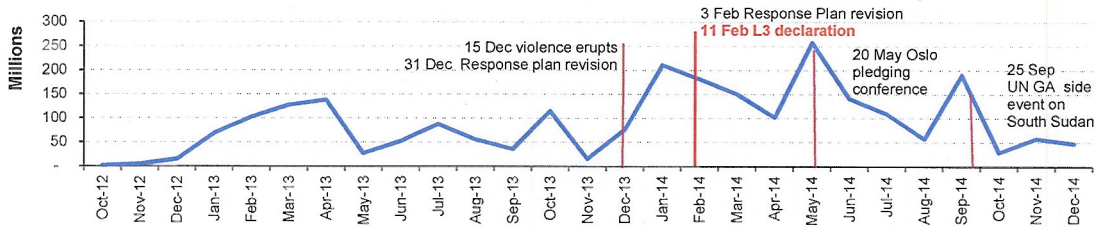
cc: Mr. Eliasson
Ms. Malcorra

ANNEX I – FUNDING TRENDS IN L3 EMERGENCIES

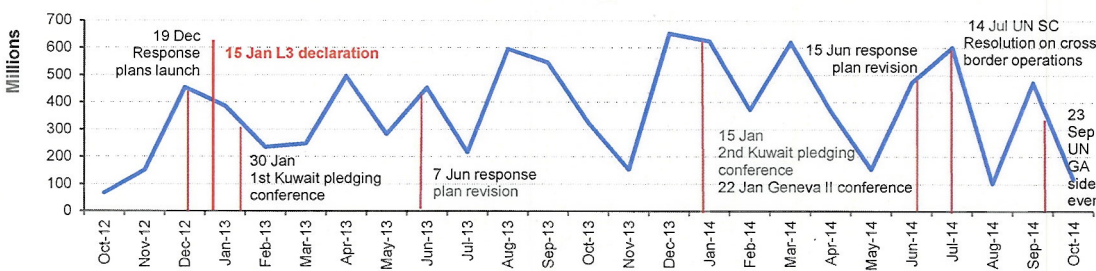
Graphic 1: Central African Republic



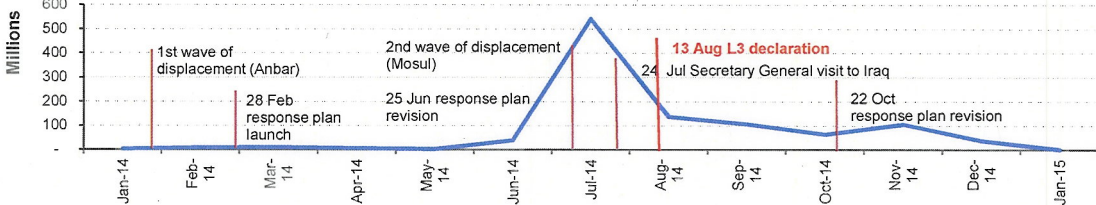
Graphic 2: South Sudan



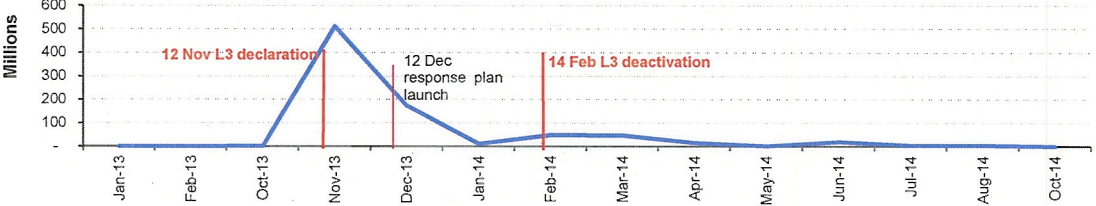
Graphic 3: Syria



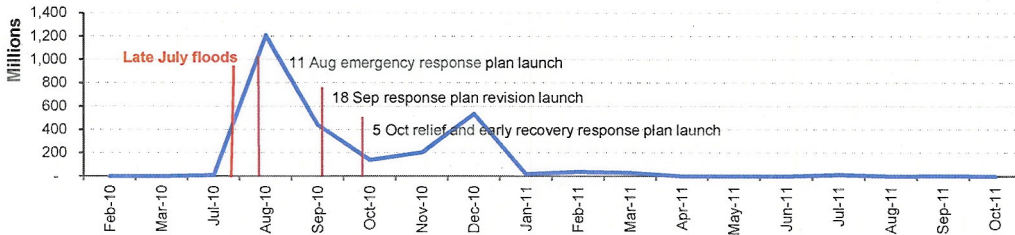
Graphic 4: Iraq



Graphic 5: The Philippines – Typhoon Haiyan



Graphic 6: Pakistan floods



Source: Financial Tracking Service (FTS) – Jan 2015

Note: The graphs represent donors funding decisions by month. When funding has been contributed prior to the crisis, it may be due to donors re-programming initial funding allocations (see Pakistan and Philippines).