



European
Commission

From A to Z

*EU's humanitarian aid
and civil protection
across the globe*

Europe helps globally

Across the world people suffer from crisis situations, man-made or natural disasters. The world's leading donor of humanitarian aid is the EU.

Saving lives is the primary mandate of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO). Since its creation in 1992, ECHO has financed humanitarian aid in more than 140 countries.

ECHO provides relief assistance through humanitarian aid and civil protection actions. ECHO helps over 120 million victims of conflicts and disasters each year and addresses forgotten crises, which escape the attention of media and the international community.

Humanitarian aid is not a political tool.

It is about helping people in need.

Without favouring any side and without a political agenda.

The dignity of all victims must be respected.

ECHO's actions adhere to 4 humanitarian principles: **humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.**

Meeting most vulnerable people's needs

EU humanitarian aid takes many forms:



food assistance via food supplies, cash or vouchers, tackling malnutrition and food insecurity;



tents and other types of shelter for those people whose homes have been destroyed;



basic health care to crisis victims, deployment of emergency medical teams and vaccination campaigns;



clean drinking water and proper sanitation, so as to prevent the spread of diseases.



In parallel, ECHO helps affected communities to better **prepare for and prevent future disasters**, while strengthening the resilience of **local populations**.



© European Union (ECHO) Susana Perez Diaz

Civil Protection

Under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism 32 participating states coordinate the European response to disasters worldwide.

The European Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) monitors disasters worldwide and enables a rapid European response to populations affected by catastrophes, such as earthquakes, floods and forest fires.



© European Union / ECHO/Dina Baselin



© European Union / ECHO/Thea rat Touch

A.

Afghanistan: The European Union (EU) has been providing humanitarian assistance to people affected by armed conflict and natural disasters for over two decades. In 2013, more than 1.6 million people in need benefited from EU-funded operations in emergency health care, shelter, food assistance, water, sanitation and livelihood support.

Angola: Following severe droughts in 2011-12, malnutrition spread to over 1.8 million people, including 800 000 children. EU funds, channelled through the United Nations (UN) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), supported the ministry of health in providing life-saving treatment in hospitals, health centres and communities.

B.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Following catastrophic floods in 2014, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism was activated with 23 Member States deploying relief workers, rescue and evacuation helicopters, motor boats, generators, sandbags, tents, blankets and humanitarian aid kits. The civil protection (CP) teams deployed on the ground directly rescued over 1 700 people.

Burkina Faso: In 2013, the EU ensured that 120 000 severely malnourished children received treatment, 650 000 children and pregnant women gained access to free health care and over 200 000 of the poorest people were given cash and vouchers for food provisions.

Burundi: Between 2002 and 2011 half a million refugees received help to return home and reintegrate into their communities. This included assistance to refugees of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the reintegration of expelled Burundian migrants from Tanzania.

C.

Cambodia: 255 000 people affected by typhoons Wutip and Nari in October 2013 received EU-funded emergency shelter, food aid, water, sanitation and hygiene and benefitted from rehabilitation of livelihoods and small-scale infrastructure and medium-term food assistance.

Cameroon: The EU helped over 15 000 severely malnourished children get appropriate treatment in 2013, while emergency assistance has been provided to tens of thousands of refugees from the Central African Republic.

Central African Republic: as the largest donor of life-saving assistance through relief aid and airlifts, the EU provides with health, nutrition, food assistance and access to clean drinking water to over half of the Central African Republic's 4.6 million population affected by the conflict and 600 000 internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Central America: More than 15 000 people in the region have benefited from pilot actions to improve resilience to drought, which causes recurrent food insecurity in the region.

Chad: €3 million were allocated at the start of 2014 for emergency food aid in the form of cash grants to 26 000 poor households most affected by food insecurity in the Sahel region of the country.

Chechnya: From 1999 to 2011, the EU provided €239 million in emergency relief aid to victims of the conflict, and extended support to the most vulnerable families to settle in safety.

Colombia: Since 1994, assistance has been provided for over 2 million IDPs, refugees and rural victims of the four-decade-long conflict, alongside relief and preparedness efforts addressing natural disasters.

Côte d'Ivoire: Following the 2011 post-election crisis, a partnership for transition initiated by the EU reached 2.2 million Ivorians with free health care, food assistance or programmes aimed at strengthening social cohesion.

Cuba: 3 million people were affected and 11 people lost their lives following the 2012 hurricane Sandy. The EU supported the distribution of stocks of emergency items at an early stage, prepositioned under the Disaster Preparedness ECHO (DIPECHO) action plan. The EU provided €4 million in relief assistance, rehabilitation of houses, restoration livelihoods and reroofing activities.

D.

Democratic Republic of the Congo: Tens of millions of refugees, IDPs and vulnerable local populations have received vital humanitarian relief since 1994.

Djibouti: since 2010-11, the EU has been providing life-saving assistance to over 300 000 drought victims and 23 000 Somali and Eritrean refugees. ECHO actions also comprise disaster risk reduction and resilience-building through the regional 'supporting the Horn of Africa's resilience' (SHARE) initiative.



© 2011 — Save The Children

E.

ECHO Flight: This humanitarian air service enables the transport of goods and personnel to remote locations where access is limited due to logistical or security reasons. In 2013, for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kenya programmes, ECHO Flight transported 19 132 people and over 2 million tonnes of cargo in 4 043 flight hours.

El Salvador: ECHO's response to the humanitarian consequences of violence in the region benefitted 250 000 people. An action plan was elaborated to address the protection needs of IDPs.

Ethiopia: Since 2012, the EU has been supporting resilience-building programmes in cooperation with SHARE and the European Development Fund for 2.5 million vulnerable people. It also enables multisector interventions for 540 000 refugees from South Sudan and Somalia, while ensuring a rapid response to address the needs of 400 000 displaced people.

F.

Fiji: The EU has focused on disaster preparedness and risk reduction projects to boost local response capacities in this disaster-prone region. Following devastating floods in 2012, 4 500 affected families received food parcels.

G.

Guatemala: In early 2014, over 500 000 people were affected by food insecurity due to consecutive shocks on local livelihoods. The EU supported the most affected population with food assistance through agricultural production and cash-for-work and/or unconditional cash transfer.

Guinea: Following the outbreak of Ebola in March 2014, the EU provided €1.4 million to help contain the spread of the virus in west Africa through tracing, clinical management and community sensitisation.

H.

Haiti: Years after, humanitarian needs triggered by the 2010 earthquake are still being addressed. As of March 2014, 137 500 persons continue to live in camps. Adequate housing solutions remain a major need but also access to water, sanitation and health services to contain cholera outbreaks. The EU also supports disaster risk reduction activities in Haiti, making communities more resilient to future disasters.

Honduras: More than 130 000 people received EU-funded medical assistance following the dengue outbreak in 2013 and consequences of collective violence. Integrated models of health treatment were developed in violent urban settings where access was jeopardized.

Honduras: following droughts and fires in 2012, emergency assistance reached over 114 000 people and focused on strengthening local health services with equipment and training in areas of difficult access.

Horn of Africa: ECHO continues to provide humanitarian assistance to 9 million people in need, including 2.7 million in Ethiopia, 1.3 million in Kenya, 3 million in Somalia and 1.5 million IDPs. In 2012, a new approach: Supporting SHARE was developed, aiming at breaking the vicious cycle of crises and strengthen resilience to crises in the region.

I.

India: In 2014, ECHO provided psychosocial support, livelihood means, health services and emergency assistance to displaced families following the 2013 clashes between the Karbi and Rengma Naga communities and cyclone Phailin. Between 2002 and 2012, ECHO also provided humanitarian aid to over 100 000 Sri Lankan refugees in India.

Iraq: In response to the humanitarian needs of the internally displaced populations and Syrian refugees, the EU has allocated €20.5 million in 2013 to support assistance including food, shelter, distribution of basic non-food items (NFIs) and protection, reaching some 190 000 people.

J.

Japan: 8 000 families displaced by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami received 17 tonnes of food, 33 000 portable water units, and household equipment for cooking and heating. In parallel, seven shipments of 400 tonnes of in-kind assistance to respond to the needs of the population were channelled through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

Jordan: The EU Civil Protection Mechanism has supported refugees fleeing from Syria (2012, 2013 and 2014) to the Zaatari and Azraq camps with field hospitals, ambulances, blankets, high capacity heaters and household items.

K.

Kenya: ECHO helped over 4 million people affected by drought in 2011 through EU-funded disaster mitigation actions to strengthen resilience. ECHO supports over half a million refugees mainly from Somalia and South Sudan with protection, healthcare and nutrition, access to water and food assistance.

Kyrgyzstan: Following interethnic violence in 2010, 300 000 IDPs received emergency relief including food supplies, water, tents, medicine and protection. 75 000 Kyrgyz refugees in Uzbekistan were also assisted. Since then, the focus is on disaster preparedness projects.

L.

Laos: In July 2013 over 33 000 cases of dengue were reported (including 76 deaths). 120 000 people in 270 villages benefitted from EU-funded actions to contain the epidemic, including training of health staff, monks and school teachers, as well as mosquito control measures.

Lesotho: ECHO assisted more than 650 communities affected by food insecurity in 2011–2012 with cash for work that built erosion control infrastructure, agriculture inputs and training in conservation agriculture.





© Oxfam

Liberia: From 1992 to 2013, the EU allocated more than €180 million in support to humanitarian relief programmes which ranged from emergency relief to rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Libya: In 2011, 130 000 IDPs and 90 000 refugees received relief support through water, food, shelter and medical assistance, and 56 000 third country nationals were assisted with repatriation.

M.

Madagascar: ECHO supports a series of disaster risk reduction activities ranging from community sensitisation and mobilisation to cyclone-resistant infrastructure and flood and wind-resistant crops and short cycle seeds to help communities better recover and prepare for disasters.

Mali: The EU has been a major humanitarian donor providing emergency aid for hundreds of thousands of displaced and affected Malians, while enabling a drastic scale-up of nutrition care, from 52 000 severely malnourished children in 2012 to 120 000 children in 2013.

Malawi: 100 000 people living in flood-prone areas have benefited from disaster risk reduction initiatives since 2008, and 30 000 people affected by floods and drought in 2012-13 received emergency assistance, while the EU also funded cholera prevention projects.

Mauritania: Life-saving nutrition care is being provided in regions where one in five children is acutely malnourished, while tens of thousands of Malian refugees' basic needs are being addressed.

Mexico: 50 000 people living in areas controlled by armed groups received medical assistance during the peak of a regional dengue outbreak in 2013. 58 000 people were affected by simultaneous impact of hurricanes Manuel and Ingrid in September 2013, and ECHO has been providing targeted humanitarian assistance to communities still living in temporary shelters 6 months after.

Mongolia: The EU provided urgent humanitarian aid and fire prevention training to 5 600 people in need, including shelter support, basic household items, winter clothing and psycho-social care in 2011 and 2012.

Mozambique: 200 000 of the most vulnerable people have been assisted with life-saving aid addressing the impact of flooding and endemic cholera outbreaks through water, sanitation, health access and protection support since 2008.

N.

Namibia: Since 2008, over 37 000 people have received emergency relief assistance from flooding and funding to feed the most vulnerable.

Nicaragua: In April 2014, an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.2 struck Nicaragua. ECHO provided targeted non-food items, shelter, water and sanitation and health assistance to more than 6 000 affected people.

Niger: 400 000 severely malnourished children received treatment in 2013 thanks to EU funding, while another 400 000 people received supplementary food assistance, in-kind food donations or cash grants.

Nigeria: ECHO enabled the treatment of 235 000 acutely malnourished children in 2013, responded to severe flooding in 2012 and a cholera outbreak in 2013, and supports relief and protection programmes for Nigerian displaced people and refugees.

North Korea: In response to floods in summer 2013, some 5 000 affected families received household items, clean water and hygiene advice.

P.

Palestine: Since 2000, the EU has been addressing the humanitarian needs of 2 million refugees and non-refugees, with a focus on emergency preparedness and rapid response to unpredictable but recurrent emergency needs, both in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Philippines: Emergency relief combined with civil protection efforts were immediately deployed to communities in need following the devastating typhoon Haiyan in November 2013, directly assisting 1.2 million women, children and men in affected areas.



© European Union



© European Union/ECHO/Faava Baroud



R.

Rwanda: Millions of refugees and displaced people from the 1994 genocide were assisted with basic needs. Support was also extended to 25 000 refugees fleeing from Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo to Rwanda: following the 2012 explosion in Brazzaville, the EU civil protection team, alongside the UN, took part in disaster assessment and coordination efforts. ECHO also provided unexploded ordnance clearance and water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) support for IDPs.

S.

Sahel: in 2013, 900 000 children were treated for acute malnutrition while 1.2 million people received food assistance thanks to EU funding. The EU has been instrumental in the regional 'global alliance for resilience' (AGIR) initiative aimed at achieving zero hunger by 2032.

Senegal: Over 40 000 severely malnourished children received care in 2013, and food assistance is being provided in regions where one in five Senegalese is food insecure.

Serbia: following catastrophic floods in 2014, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism was activated with the assistance of 22 Member States offering relief workers, rescue and evacuation helicopters, motor boats, generators, sandbags, tents, blankets and humanitarian aid kits. ECHO also deployed humanitarian experts to assess needs on the ground.

Somalia: ECHO has been supporting projects since early 1994. In 2014, €37 million was made available to bring life-saving assistance to Somalia; populations displaced by ongoing conflict as well as tackling the impacts of natural disasters.

South Sudan: following the 2013 eruption of violence in the world's youngest country, displacing hundreds of thousands of people within weeks, the EU has provided 2.4 million people with food assistance, nutrition, health, water and sanitation, shelter and protection.

Sudan: ECHO has been active in Sudan since 1993. It focuses its assistance mostly towards conflict-affected populations and reached over 2.5 million people in 2013 with humanitarian assistance. Access is the major obstacle in reaching the population in need.

Syria: The EU contributes to supporting the over 9.3 million people affected by the Syrian Conflict inside the country, as well as over 2.8 million Syrian refugees fleeing to the neighbouring countries, with medical emergency relief, protection, food provisions, shelter, WASH, domestic items and logistic services.

T.

Tajikistan: The EU supported relief operations for the victims of the civil war in 1993; additionally, the EU supported 50 000 people in 2012 affected by food crises, addressing livelihood deterioration and access to food. Since then, the focus is on DIPECHO projects.

Tanzania: Since 2002 ECHO has provided repatriation support and 800 000 Burundian, Rwandan and DRC refugees received basic needs and protection support in 13 camps.

Thailand: In 2012, rice was provided to 73 000 refugees, while 100 000 received access to medical services, including immunisation and mother and child care programmes.

Turkey: Since the beginning of the crisis, the EU has contributed €21 million to assist over 160 000 Syrian refugees in Turkey with emergency assistance including food, shelter and the distribution of basic non-food items for both camp and out-of-camp refugees.

U.

Uganda: Over 100 000 South Sudanese and 100 000 from DRC refugees in the country are receiving humanitarian assistance from the EU. Also, since 2002, around 1.5 million uprooted people have received basic-needs and relief assistance such as food, water, shelter and protection, alongside monitoring for disease outbreaks and small scale disasters.

United States: in response to the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, EU civil protection delivered cutting-edge, environmentally sensitive European oil spill containment technology.

V.

Vietnam: Almost 20 000 people were involved in 2013 in community-based activities, local capacity-building, small-scale mitigation actions and public awareness campaigns in DIPECHO projects.

W.

Across the world: EU humanitarian assistance annually reached around 120 million people.

Y.

Yemen: In 2014 appropriate treatment and relief is provided to over 2 million people suffering from malnutrition or affected by food insecurity and armed clashes, including IDPs, refugees and children.

Z.

Zimbabwe: 2.8 million people benefited from aid in the areas of water and sanitation as well as food assistance (cash and in-kind food) for those affected by poor harvest in 2012–13. This approach tackled potential epidemics through vaccination campaigns, disease surveillance and emergency treatment facilities.





© Asad Zaidi

Thanks to the support from ECHO, we now have 5 400 children attending schools in refugee camps. We have increased access to education from 27 % to 32 %.

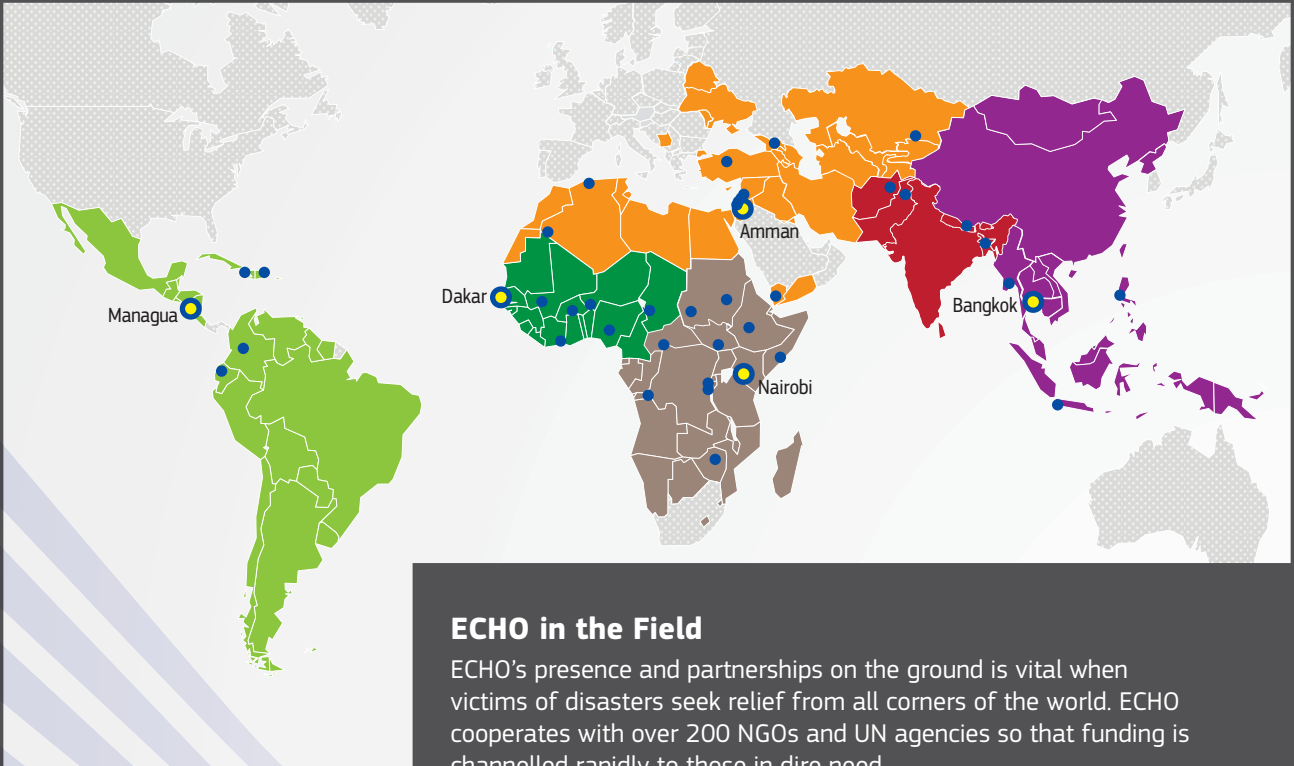
BIRANU WAKA,
Aid worker in an EU-funded education project for Somali refugees.

With less than  1% of the EU budget amounting to just over  €2 per EU citizen

we help over 120 million people every year



© Ikram N'Gadi



ECHO in the Field

ECHO's presence and partnerships on the ground is vital when victims of disasters seek relief from all corners of the world. ECHO cooperates with over 200 NGOs and UN agencies so that funding is channelled rapidly to those in dire need.

300 staff members working at the headquarters in Brussels coordinate humanitarian response and policies. 450 field experts work in 44 field offices in over 39 countries, and five regional offices: Amman, Bangkok, Dakar, Managua and Nairobi.



For further information:

Tel.: +32 22 95 44 00

E-mail: echo-info@ec.europa.eu

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/echo>

 <https://www.facebook.com/ec.humanitarian.aid>

 https://www.twitter.com/eu_echo/

 <https://www.flickr.com/photos/69583224@N05/>

 <http://youtube.com/user/HumanitarianAidECHO>



Publications Office

Publications Office of the European Union, 2014
ISBN 978-92-79-37494-4, doi:10.2795/28729

© European Union, 2014

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

Printed in Belgium