

# Disaster preparedness in ECHO

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# I. Introduction of ECHO

Humanitarian Aid department of the European Commission:

**Provides financial support to international humanitarian stakeholders for:**

- Emergency assistance and short term relief activities to respond to humanitarian crisis in countries outside EU – focus on most vulnerable populations
- Natural disaster preparedness actions

**+/- 770 MEUR annual initial budget** (*without EC emergency reserve*)

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# Disaster Preparedness in ECHO:

Using Hyogo Framework of Action & EU strategy on DRR for developing countries – 3 pillars in approach:

- Disaster preparedness and mitigation programmes (*since 1996 - DIPECHO . Amount allocated to DP actions in last years: +/-7% initial ECHO annual budget*)
- Integration of DRR into relief operations
- Advocacy, coordination, capacity building and dissemination of good practices

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# ECHO Disaster Preparedness in Africa:

2 programmes on going:

- Disaster preparedness action plan in SE Africa and SW Indian Ocean (*5 MEUR, 10/2008 - 03/2010*)
- Drought Preparedness in Horn of Africa (*50 MEUR, 07/2006 – 06/2010*)

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## Disaster Preparedness specific programmes in ECHO:

- ✓ Focus on natural hazards
- ✓ Short-term, community-based preparedness
- ✓ Focus on the most vulnerable groups in high-risk areas
- ✓ Very concrete, very practical - strong local ownership
- ✓ Create awareness, provide trainings and build local capacities
- ✓ Drought preparedness programme specificities:
  - Focus on one natural hazard
  - Regional, cross border approach
  - Mixing DRR aspects and early response



## Some lessons learnt:

- ✓ Clear added value of community-based DRR initiatives in protecting lives and livelihood:
  - Recognized cost-effectiveness
  - DP as primary emergency response at community level
- ✓ Response to disaster create opportunities for DRR (*lessons learnt from disaster, building back better*)
- ✓ Choices made immediately after disaster affect long term recovery.
- ✓ Flexibility in funding for drought cycle management as key factor for appropriate response

## Some challenges faced with:

- Sequenced approach to disaster cycle management (*continuum rather than contiguous*)
- Lack of effective dissemination / application of lessons learnt and good practices
- Low level of replication and scaling up of pilot programmes.
- Low level of sustainability of short term actions

**Humanitarian aid actions alone cannot be the solution. Need for strong involvement of development actors**

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## EU DRR perspective:

The EU strategy supporting DRR in developing countries will be adopted in May 2009.

- Increased synergies between humanitarian actions and development programmes
- ECHO DP projects still community based with focus on most vulnerable, but:
  - passing from a demonstrative approach to a geographic/sector focused approach
  - seeking to participate in larger DRR initiatives



**Thank you...**

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