

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 5-7 June 2007, Geneva



Workshop on Incorporation of Disaster Risk Reduction into Preparedness

DG ECHO – EC Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid



**Panel II: Strategies to Support Incorporation of Disaster Risk Reduction
into Preparedness at the Local and National Level**

DG ECHO's mandate

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid

EU Council regulation concerning Humanitarian Aid (1996)

Article 1: The Community's humanitarian aid shall comprise assistance, relief and protection operations.... help people in third countries, particularly the most vulnerable among them, and as a priority those in developing countries, victims of natural disasters.... *Such aid shall also comprise operations to prepare for risks or prevent disasters or comparable exceptional circumstances.*

The 23 Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship (2003)

Principle 1: The objectives of humanitarian action are to save lives, alleviate suffering... as well as to prevent and strengthen preparedness for the occurrence of such situations.

Principle 8: Strengthen the capacity to prevent, prepare for, mitigate and respond to humanitarian crises...

Overview of DG ECHO's response to hazards & preparedness funding

	2004	2005	2006
Nat. disasters	€ 67.4 mio.	€ 204.4 mio.	€ 94.5 mio.
Nat. disasters %	11.77 %	31.33 %	14.13 %
DIPECHO budget	€ 13.7 mio.	€ 17.5 mio.	€ 19.05 mio.

In 2006 DG ECHO mainstreamed Disaster Preparedness in its relief to a level of approx. € 32 mio.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid



DG ECHO Disaster Preparedness activities

1. Advocacy
2. Mainstreaming of disaster preparedness
3. DIPECHO programme
4. Drought preparedness



Advocacy for Preparedness

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid

DRR engagement & community-based preparedness

- EU member states and other EC services
- UN ISDR, other UN organisations
- World Bank
- IFRC
- NGO partners
- National authorities and local authorities

Why engage with a humanitarian donor?

Mainstreaming of Preparedness

- Preparedness reflected in relief responses
- Vulnerable groups are often very eager to engage
- Do no harm

Key questions:

- Analysis of practices - when, how and what works?
- Preparedness in relief, rehabilitation and development ?
- Sensitization and capacity-building of local / national authorities ?





DIPECHO - 1

- More than EUR 130 million investment 1998-2006
- Targets 6 highly disaster prone regions
- Smaller-scale, people-centred preparedness
- Create awareness, offer trainings and build local capacities
- National and regional coordination
- Contribution to overall preparedness
- Very concrete, very practical
- Strong local ownership





DIPECHO - 2

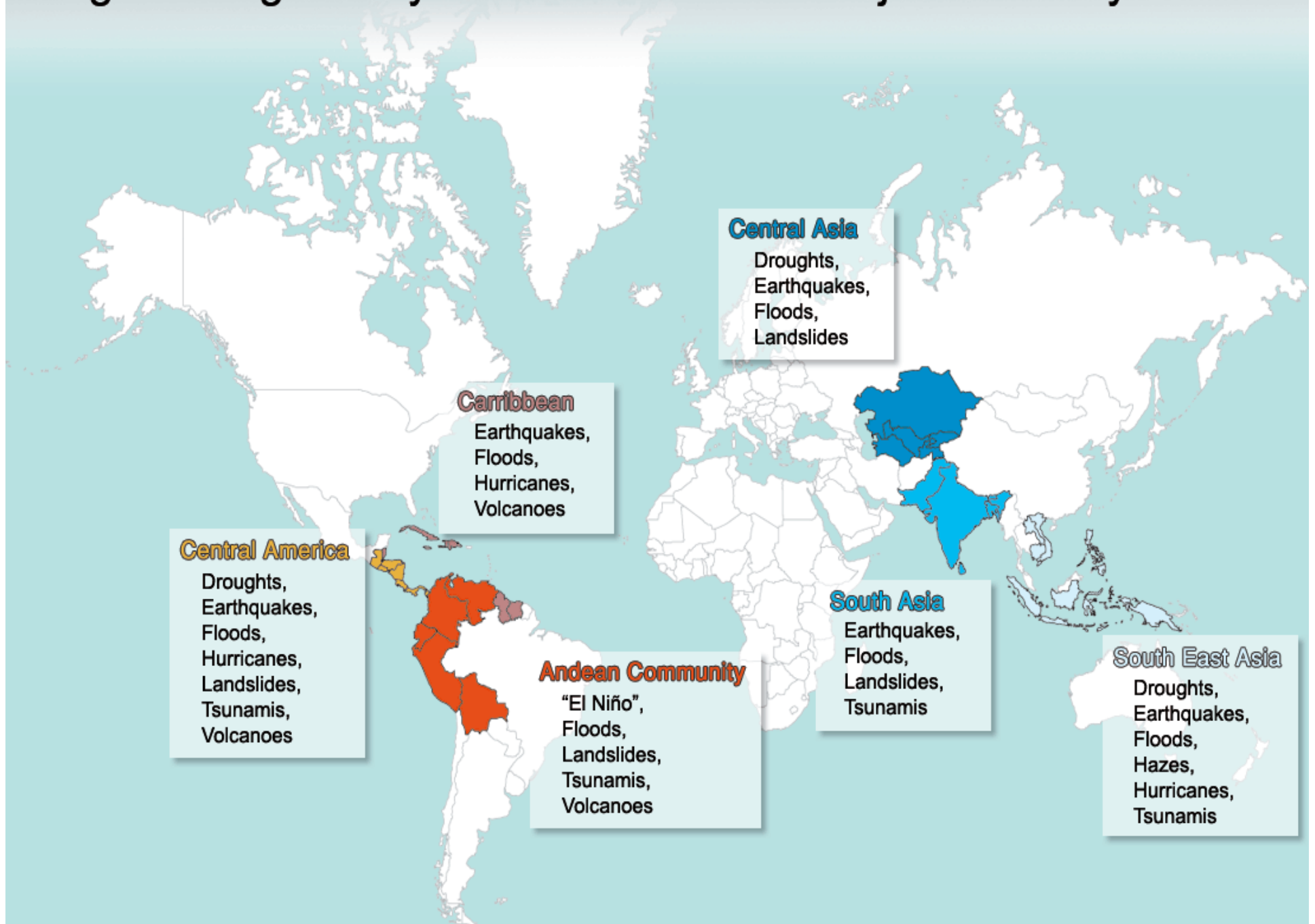
Where we are:

- Piloting of innovative and effective initiatives
- Positive impact for direct beneficiaries
- Strong visibility + advocacy frame
- Our disaster preparedness is often the first response

Key questions:

- From passive to active support to HFA 2005-2015
- How to share best practices and create ownerships?
- How to get longer-term development stakeholders engaged?
- How to measure benefits of preparedness?
- How to measure funding to preparedness and wider DRR?

Regions targeted by DIPECHO and the major risks they face





Drought Preparedness in Greater Horn of Africa

- 1st Disaster Preparedness Decision in Africa - EUR 10 M
- Key sectors – community capacities, EWS, contingencies
- Local, national and regional stakeholders
- Innovative approach – midterm review being conducted

Key questions:

- Longer-term ownership and sustainability?
- How to get other stakeholders onboard?





DG ECHO's capacities and concerns

Capacities:

- Effective approach at community level
- Strategy and tools for better mainstreaming in relief
- Comprehensive training offered to DG ECHO staffs in 2007
- Continuous dialogue with partners

Concerns:

- Levels of preparedness remain too low
- Our relief can substitute rather than strengthen local response capacities – how to change this?
- How to learn from local communities and get local communities to better share experiences?
- Our mandate is limited; hand-over to longer-term partners?



What next at global level

- Focus efforts: active commitment in hot-spot countries by all stakeholders
- Proper preparedness require a people-centred approach and definition of responsibilities
- Regional approaches are good but not a substitute for national efforts and local engagement
- Relief providers to develop common tools and standards for proper mainstreaming of preparedness
- It is time to move from paper to action!