



### Facts & figures

- €103 million humanitarian aid to assist Burmese refugees on the Thai-Burma border (1995-2011).
- €2.61 million in response to natural disasters, including floods in 2011 and 2010 and tsunami in 2004
- ECHO, together with the international community and the Thai government endeavour to jointly identify more durable solutions for the refugees by assisting them to expand their self-reliance.

## ASSISTING BURMESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND

***For over twentyfive years, thousands of people have fled from armed fighting in Burma/Myanmar, crossing the border into Thailand. Since 1995, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) has been one of the major donors assisting the refugees and internally displaced people on the Thai-Burma border.***

Some 145,000 Burmese refugees are living in nine camps spread along the Thai border. Many have lived in these camps for more than 20 years, and a whole new generation has grown up knowing nothing but the life inside a refugee camp. The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) has been providing assistance to Burmese refugees in Thailand since 1995, funding mainly food aid, health care and the provision of clean water and sanitation. In 2011, €8 million was provided to support the refugees in six of the nine camps, bringing the total funding since 1995 to some €103

million. Implementing partners include Thai Burma Border Consortium (TBBC), Aide Medicale Internationale (AMI), Malteser International, International Rescue Committee (IRC), ZOA and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR). Key food items are provided for more than 65,000 refugees in the three camps Mae La, Umpiem Mai and Nu Po. 100,000 refugees also have access to basic medical services funded by ECHO in five camps, including immunization and mother and child care programmes. Health workers in the camps are receiving additional training.

## FROM RELIEF TO SELF-RELIANCE

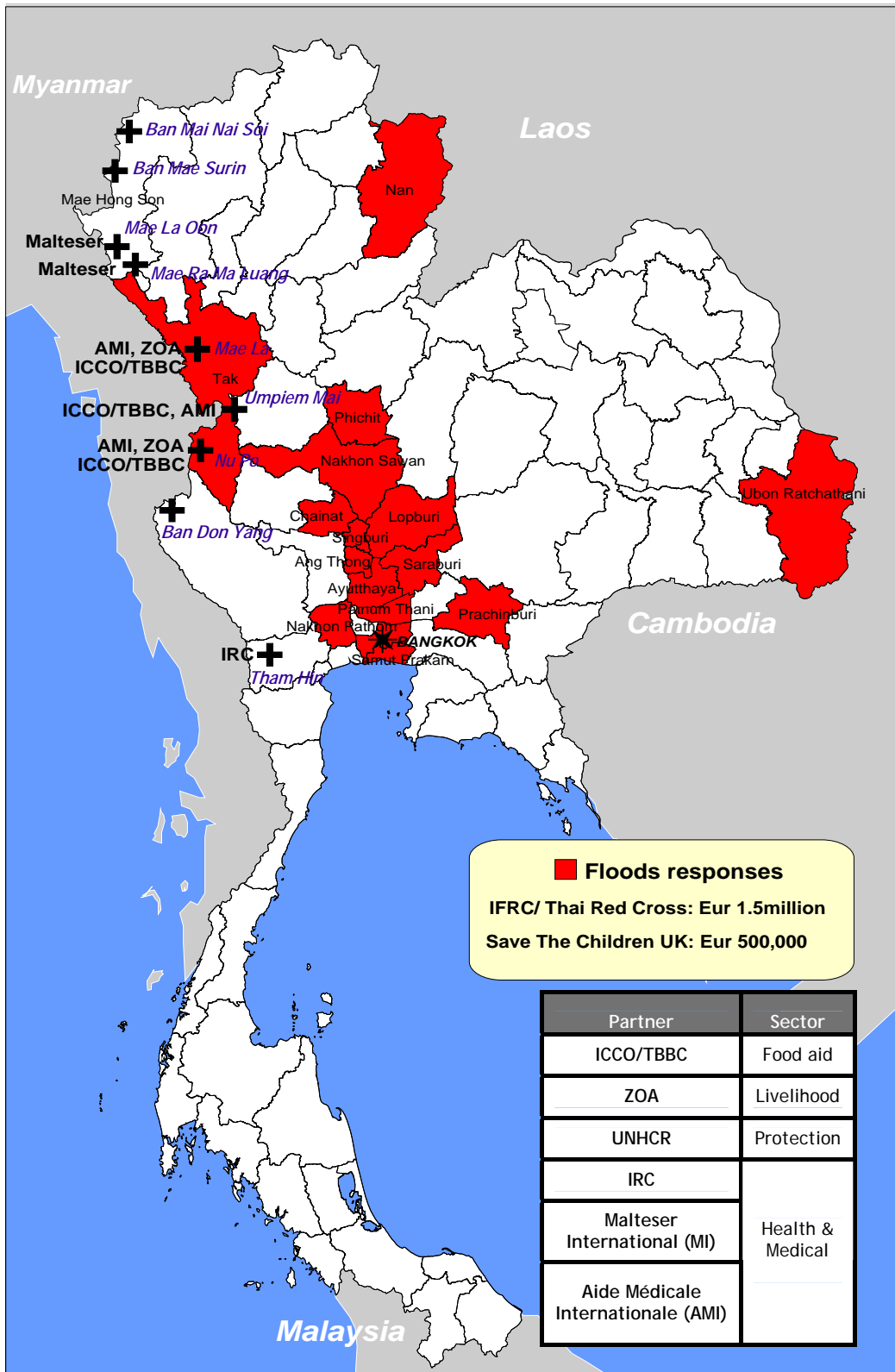
Through funding instruments other than humanitarian aid, the European Commission finances basic as well as vocational education, livelihood and complementary health programmes for both refugees and people living in surrounding villages. This additional assistance

totals some €45 million since 1995. Resettlement in a third country is one option open to refugees and twelve countries currently offer the refugees the possibility of starting a new life abroad through a resettlement programme.

## RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

The European Commission provided €1.5 million in humanitarian assistance to the Thai Red Cross through the International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) for people affected by the floods, which affected Thailand during the second half of 2011. The funding allowed the provision of food

items, drinking water, non-food items, boats and boat engines to assist some 100,000 displaced persons. In addition, €500,000 was provided to Save the Children UK to support families with non-food items and assist children in evacuation centers.



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