

East, Southeast Asia and the Pacific

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

(European Commission funding)

Humanitarian assistance (2013-2014):
€ 90.69 million

Disaster preparedness (2013-2014):
€ 14 million

Through EU funding, over 120 million people are helped each year in over 90 countries outside the EU. Funds by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) are implemented by over 200 partner organisations (International non-governmental organisations, the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement, and UN agencies).

Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel.: (+32 2) 295 44 00
Fax: (+32 2) 295 45 72
email: echo-info@ec.europa.eu
Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/echo>



* All the latest ECHO Factsheets:
bit.ly/echo-fs



ECHO provides assistance to those affected by natural and man-made disasters – EU/ECHO

Key messages

- The Asia-Pacific region is the most disaster-prone region in the world. The three largest disasters worldwide in the past four years have occurred in East and Southeast Asia.
- Together with implementing partners, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) carries out rapid assessments of needs and delivers immediate help to those affected by natural and man-made disasters. In the period 2013-2014, the Commission allocated more than € 90.69 million in humanitarian funding to the region.
- Strengthening the resilience of communities affected by natural disasters is a key priority for ECHO. Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures into humanitarian assistance helps to achieve this objective. In 2013-2014, € 14 million has been allocated to DRR projects in Southeast Asia and the Pacific region.

Humanitarian situation and needs

Background

Asia is one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world. Southeast Asia is particularly susceptible to the negative effects of seasonal floods and storms, which are increasing in number and strength. The region also straddles the Pacific "Ring of Fire", characterised by frequent powerful earthquakes and a string of active volcanos.

In 2013, Southeast Asian countries were again badly affected by a series of natural and man-made disasters. For instance, the Philippines were hit by super Typhoon Haiyan (locally known as "Yolanda"), killing over 7 000 people with many others missing. Reports indicate that between 14 and 16 million people were affected and over a million homes damaged or destroyed.

In addition to natural disasters, conflict and violence cause serious humanitarian situations. Notably, it has caused the internal displacement of civilians in Myanmar/Burma in the States of Kachin and Rakhine. Also, thousands of refugees from Myanmar/Burma still live in camps along the Thai-Myanmar border.

Major needs

Major natural disasters and conflicts leave inhabitants in need of temporary shelter, food, clean water and sanitation, primary health care, basic household items and hygiene awareness. In both man-made and natural disasters, access to those in need can be difficult either because of security concerns and/or the destruction or lack of infrastructure.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

Funding

In 2014, the European Commission continues to support a range of projects in response to floods and other natural disasters with an allocation of €21.69 million. In addition to funding disaster response, ECHO also supports community-based disaster preparedness activities with €14 million of funding for 2013-2014. This support is channeled through two separate 'DIPECHO' programmes: the Pacific (€3 million for 2013-2014) and Southeast Asia (€11 million for 2014-2015).

Outreach and coordination with humanitarian partners

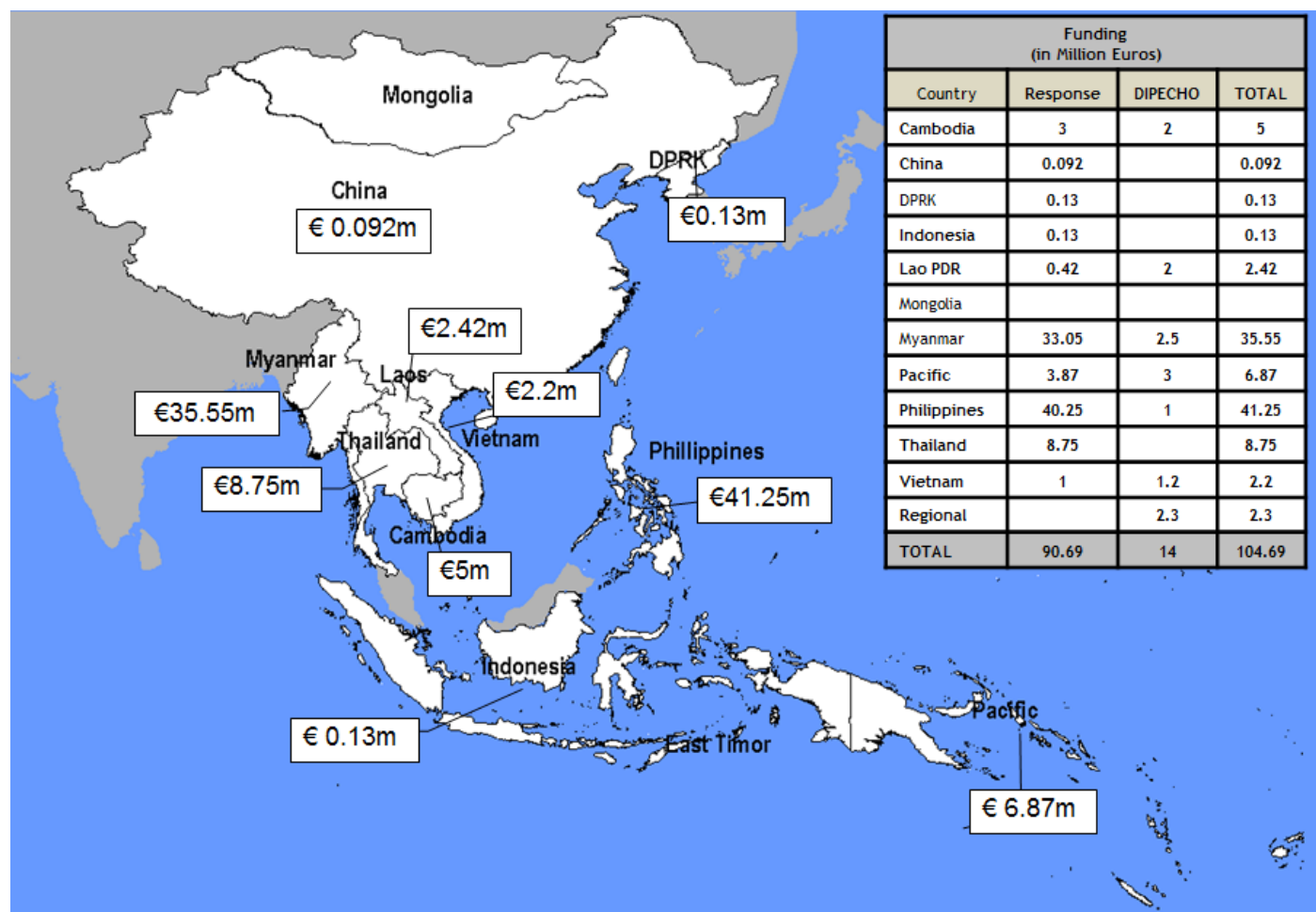
One of ECHO's six Regional Support Offices is located in Bangkok, Thailand. The Bangkok Office was set up in 2004 to cover crises in East and Southeast Asia and the Pacific region.

Together with the country offices in Yangon and Manila, the Regional Support Office supports and monitors humanitarian aid operations funded by the European Commission in Myanmar/Burma, Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Philippines, Mongolia, North Korea (DPRK) and the Pacific region.



European Commission's funding for East, Southeast Asia and the Pacific

2013 – 2014



*All the latest ECHO Factsheets:
bit.ly/echo-fs

Examples of EU-funded operations



Picture Credit: EU/ECHO

In the [Philippines](#), survivors of the super-Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda that shattered many communities in 2013 and affected some 14 to 16 million people try to recover what they can from the wreckage of their homes. PLAN is using EU funding to provide jobs to local communities in their efforts to clear the huge mountains of debris. ECHO has committed €30 million to assist people to rebuild their lives while providing funding for basic health care food, clean drinking water and shelter.

In [Myanmar/Burma](#), the communal violence between Rohingya and Rakhine communities in June and October 2012 resulted in thousands of homes being burnt down, over 115,000 people displaced and more than 200 people killed. ECHO has since then committed some €22 million to the UN and a number of international NGOs to provide humanitarian assistance to the affected communities in Rakhine State, irrespective of their religious or ethnic background. However, attacks on INGOs, the UN and other aid organisations in March 2014 seriously impacted on the provision of life-saving assistance.



Picture Credit: EU/ECHO



Picture Credit: EU/ECHO

Rates of family and sexual violence in [Papua New Guinea](#) are amongst the highest in the world according to the United Nations. In 2013, the European Commission identified the widespread sexual and family violence in the country as a "forgotten crisis". It allocated €1.5 million to support protection and care systems for violence victims in the period 2014-2015. Médecins sans Frontières-Holland is using these funds to provide emergency first aid and psychological counselling, as well as safe haven accommodation, to the victims and their families.

