



INDIA

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

Total EU humanitarian funding since 1995: over €128.9 million

Total EU humanitarian aid to India in 2015-2016: €4.3 million

Total EU Disaster Risk Reduction dedicated funding since 2001: €8 million



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Key messages

- India is highly vulnerable to natural disasters including cyclones, floods, earthquakes and drought; strengthening people's resilience to natural disasters is an essential part of the humanitarian effort.
- Three protracted crises, Jammu & Kashmir, the North-Eastern States and Naxal-affected areas in central India have created emergency needs. Years of conflict have displaced populations and left many without means to provide for themselves. Providing protection, health and nutrition remains a priority.
- It is very important to continue targeting marginalized communities such as low caste groups or religious and tribal minorities, who are frequently the hardest hit by natural and man-made disasters, but often fall through the social safety nets and are excluded from relief efforts.

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Humanitarian situation and needs

Over the years, floods, cyclones, earthquakes, droughts and landslides have inflicted tremendous suffering on the people of India. Schedule Castes and Tribes, whose social and economic indicators lag behind national averages, are often the worst affected.

Over 700 000 people in Jammu & Kashmir, mostly inhabitants of the Kashmir valley and border areas of Pakistan, are directly affected by the instability in the region. Tens of thousands have suffered injuries, lost family members, or have relatives either detained or missing. There are other less obvious scars: many civilians, traumatised by over two decades of violence, suffer from depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress. Years of violence have stifled economic activity, leaving many people with limited means to earn a living.

The Naxal insurgency is spread across several states in India, but the indigenous people of southern Chhattisgarh living in remote areas with little or no access to basic government services, are the most affected. Up to 50 000 people are displaced, living in precarious conditions in neighbouring states.

Several insurgency groups are also active in the North-East Indian states. The resulting violence continues to affect thousands of people in the region. The prolonged insurgency situation has also disrupted access to education of thousands of children who have been forced to flee their homes. Living in congested relief camps, these children are deprived of access to health care services and exposed to sexual or labour exploitation. According to the 2016 Global Report of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, an estimated 612 000 people were displaced in India as a result of armed conflict and inter-communal violence as of December 2015.

Although India has seen a decline in the child malnutrition rates, particularly over the past decade, with the percentage of underweight children under five years old dropping from 42.5% in 2006 to 29.4% in 2014, the country is still home to a very large number of under-nourished children. According to data from the Government of India, 38.7% of children under the age of five are stunted and 15.1% (18.3 million) are wasted – 4.6% (5.6 million) of whom suffer from severe acute malnutrition*. A combination of reasons – gender inequality, exclusion from government services and welfare schemes, food price increases, land right issues, lack of support for appropriate child-feeding practices, and natural hazards – contribute to food insecurity and poor nutrition among the most vulnerable in India.

**Information from the Rapid Survey on Children 2013-2014 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development*

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

JAMMU & KASHMIR

The European Commission is providing support to projects focusing on providing healthcare and protection, particularly in the Kashmir valley and areas close to the Line of Control. Through its partners, the European Union's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) provides essential health care support to people directly or indirectly affected by the violence. Paying particular attention to the needs of people living with disabilities, EU-funded projects have helped address child protection concerns and support the promotion of respect for International Humanitarian Law. European Commission also provided support to projects assisting people with psycho-social care on an individual or group basis as well as through occupational therapy and livelihood assistance.



*For all latest ECHO Factsheet:
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CHHATTISGARH

In the past years, EU-funded projects helped provide healthcare and protection to civilians directly or indirectly affected by the insurgency in areas affected by Maoist insurgency. ECHO partners focused their relief efforts in the most affected Southern districts of Bijapur and Sukma of Chhattisgarh. ECHO also channelled assistance through its partners to support displaced people in Khammam and Warangal districts of Telangana, as well as East and West Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh.

NORTH-EAST

In 2015, the European Commission allocated €1 million to address the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected people in North-East India through the provision of psychosocial care, water and sanitation facilities, and livelihood support to those suffering from years of ethnic conflict and insurgencies across the States of Assam, Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur.

In 2016, the European Commission has provided €500 000 to a project aiming to ensure that displaced children in conflict-torn areas of Assam have access to education, which has helped reduce the risk of engaging in hazardous earning activities such as joining insurgency groups or being exposed to labour exploitation. The project also provides health care assistance and increased protection to affected children.

NATURAL DISASTERS

Over the years, the European Commission has provided relief assistance following several major natural disasters in India, including the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004, the Kashmir earthquake in 2005, the Bihar floods in 2007, Cyclone Aila in 2009, and the 2011 monsoon floods. Following a devastating cyclone (Phailin) that struck Odisha in October 2013, ECHO urgently released €3 million to provide [food assistance](#)*, disaster-resilient shelters, basic healthcare, water and sanitation services and livelihood assistance to marginalised fishing and farming communities.

In more localized crises, the European Commission funds relief efforts through its Small Scale Response Instrument. Through the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), EU support has been provided to the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) in Tamil Nadu floods in 2016 and in Assam during 2016 monsoon floods.

Preparing communities to minimise natural disaster risk has been central to ECHO's work in India. Between 2001 and 2014, ECHO's Disaster Preparedness programme, known as DIPECHO, invested over €8 million in projects dedicated to reducing the impact of floods, cyclones and other natural hazards on local communities across the country. This included, amongst other things, the creation of early warning systems and the construction of adapted physical infrastructure, with a special focus on coastal areas which are regularly affected by cyclones.

Over the past decade, [Disaster Risk Reduction](#)* has also been mainstreamed into ECHO's humanitarian response projects, making sure, for example, that shelters, latrines and water pumps that are built in flood prone areas are designed to better withstand future inundations.

