



Disaster Risk Reduction

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

In 2016, 9% of the EU's humanitarian funding went to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities, more than €175 million

The EU is committed to strengthening resilience worldwide. Resilience is embedded into the majority of humanitarian and development actions. For example, more than **57% of all ECHO funded projects include DRR activities**

In 2016, EU funding for DRR activities reduced disaster risks for approximately 24 million people worldwide

Food, water and sanitation are the sectors where most ECHO funded DRR activities are undertaken

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- Natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods, drought and cyclones **cannot be prevented** but **the number of lives they take and the damage they cause can be greatly reduced** thanks to preparation and protection measures. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) saves lives and strengthens the resilience of communities enabling them to anticipate, absorb, and bounce back from shocks.

- **DRR programmes aim to protect lives and livelihoods.** Communities are empowered to strengthen their capacities with simple measures such as training and community organising, establishing early warning systems and contingency plans, making shelters safe, and protecting livestock and assets from natural hazards.

- DRR is cost effective: on average, every euro spent of DRR activities saves between four and seven euros that would be spent to respond to the impact of disasters.

- In June 2016, the European Commission launched an action plan to implement the Sendai Framework and promote the integration of disaster risk reduction in EU policies.

EU's contribution to Disaster Risk Reduction

The European Commission's investment in DRR contributes to **global efforts to build a culture of safety and resilience** among vulnerable communities around the world.

- For nearly 20 years, the European Commission's Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations has consistently funded Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programmes, in particular through the "DIPECHO" programme, with an aim of reducing the impact of natural disasters on populations and allowing early warning and early action.

- Since 2015, a new, more strategic and operational approach to DRR has been implemented with the purpose of strengthening coherence with other EU-funded humanitarian projects, better complementarity with local systems and EU development co-operation, and a clearer portrayal of the Commission's added value.

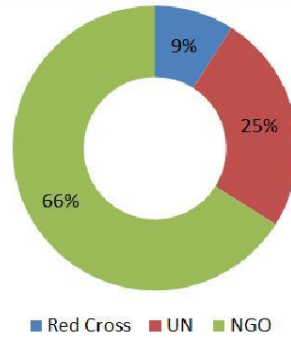
- In response to increased political commitments and support to DRR by governments and institutions across regions, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid is progressively re-focusing its approach on preparedness and people centred disaster management, based on its unmatched expertise in the EU.

- The Commission addresses DRR also in the area of civil protection within the European Union, within the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy and in enlargement countries.

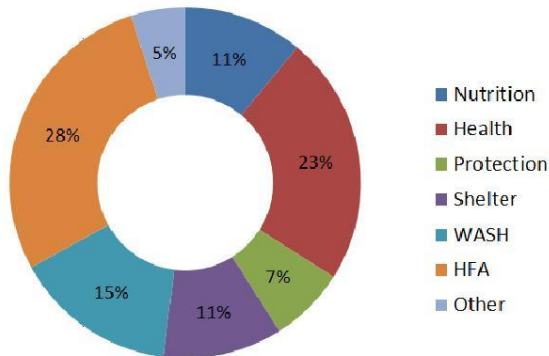
ECHO's DRR Funding in Numbers (2016)

Region/Sector	Million EUR
Asia and Pacific	50.3
Africa	36.5
Middle East	39.8
Americas	20.2
European Neighbourhood	19.5
Civil Protection and ERC	9.0
Total	175.3

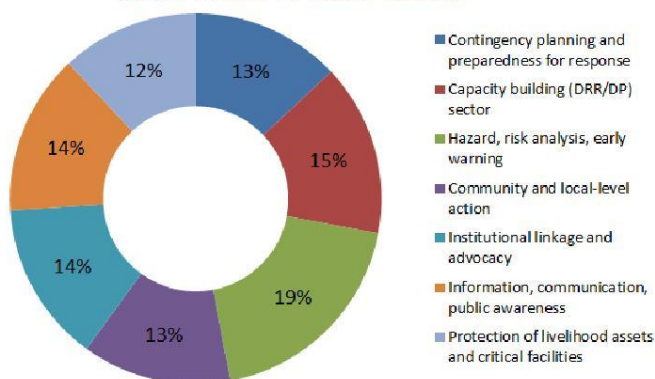
EU 2016 DRR partners
(per number of actions funded)



Integrated DRR funding per sub-sector
(as per number of actions funded)



Targeted DRR funding per sub-sector
(as per number of actions funded)



DRR in main humanitarian sectors – Good Practices

ECHO requires all humanitarian action to be risk-informed - analysis and design should be based on a sound assessment of risks and interventions should seek to reduce both immediate and future risks.

Disaster Preparedness – DIPECHO



The DIPECHO programme is present in nine disaster-prone regions throughout the world. It helps the most vulnerable communities in rural and urban areas to be better prepared for and more resilient to natural hazards. It does this through activities such as setting up disaster committees, developing contingency plans, early warning systems and

evacuation routes, and identifying safe places to evacuate to. Projects also promote coordination between disaster management institutions at all levels, from local to national and supra-national, in order to ensure that legislation is adopted or adapted and budgets are foreseen for preparedness and timely response.

Good Practice: In December 2012, category 5 Typhoon Bopha devastated the Eastern part of Mindanao, leaving 1067 reported dead and affecting 6.2 million people, many of which lost their homes. In La Flora Barangay, located in Mindanao, the impact of the event was lessened due to steps taken through a DIPECHO project. Thanks to an established contingency plan the inhabitants were able to quickly evacuate the area after being informed a day before about the anticipated landfall of Typhoon Bopha. Houses were 'anchored' to withstand the strong winds and flooding; no loss of houses was reported, demonstrating that preparedness paid off.

Photo: Mindanao 2013
©EC/ECHO

Health



DRR is relevant in every aspect of health sector interventions in disaster-prone countries. Investment in making health systems accessible and more disaster-resilient should always be based on an assessment of local hazards, vulnerabilities and existing capacities. Following a disaster or epidemic, health systems should be further strengthened to cope with current and future risks.

Good Practice: Epidemiological surveys warn of the risks of post-disaster outbreaks of diseases such as dengue, malaria and cholera. In the most at-risk communities, by improving the water and sanitation of the most vulnerable and reducing threats such as water pollution or mosquitoes, these outbreaks can be prevented or reduced.

Photo: 'Essential family practices' message provided in health centre, Niger.
© EC/ECHO/Jean De Lestrangre

Food Security and Livelihoods



There is a direct correlation between disaster risk and food insecurity. Food-insecure people are the least able to cope with disasters. When a disaster occurs, exposure to high levels of disaster risk and lack of capacity to manage these risks trap poor households in a cycle of food insecurity and poverty that quickly deteriorates into a food crisis and acute under-nutrition.

Food assistance interventions contribute to disaster risk reduction mainly by protecting livelihood assets (particularly human and social capital). The EU's humanitarian food assistance seeks to avoid undermining community resilience and their coping capacity.

Good Practice: In dry pastoral areas drought leads to less water, less pasture and a heightened risk of disease and death in animals. A deterioration of their animals' health has a direct impact on the herder's food security. In the short-term, food consumption is seriously compromised while in the medium term, livelihoods are jeopardised and leave herders more vulnerable to future crises. In this situation, pre-emptive 'de-stocking' (i.e. exchanging some animals for cash in order to buy food, maintain a core herd and access the services they need) is one tool to reduce the impact of food crises caused by drought.

Photo: Building resilience against hunger and malnutrition in Burkina Faso.
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Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



DRR considerations in WASH interventions are dependent on the type of hazard faced and a community's level of vulnerability. A rapid-onset event (e.g. flood, earthquake, hurricane) can destroy or severely damage infrastructure and limit the capacity of service providers (e.g. community, government or private sector) to operate and maintain systems. A slow

onset or chronic event, such as drought, can critically reduce normal water resources by drying up surface water and lowering groundwater tables.

Good Practice: By improving planning and placement of temporary sanitation facilities (latrines, leaching fields) the contamination of groundwater used for human consumption, which is especially critical in areas of high ground water tables, can be prevented or limited. Innovative designs for excreta disposal services in flooded areas, including raised latrines, pit liners or sealed septic pits also limit the risk of contamination, as do preparedness measures such as improving water and sanitation systems, distributing 'safe water' kits and working with HIV/AIDS and nutrition clusters.

Photo: ECHO-funded wells in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
© EC/ECHO/Damien Blanc

Shelter

DRR is relevant to most aspects of shelter operations. Shelter represents a key asset for any family, and its loss or damage can result in increased vulnerability and exposure. A lack of adequate and safe shelter presents major risks to people affected by disaster. Shelters which are poorly located, designed, constructed and/or maintained are a leading cause of death during natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods or typhoons.

Although the provision of shelter during the immediate response phase following a disaster tends to be temporary or transitional, people generally start repairing or reconstructing their homes very early. This stage presents an opportunity for **building back better** by raising awareness about how to reduce risk against future hazards. Building back better and prioritising assistance to the most vulnerable has driven EU support for recovery and reconstruction after the 2015 Nepal earthquake.

When rebuilding it is important to address the underlying causes that made previous shelters vulnerable. By considering durability and sustainability during reconstruction efforts, risks to disasters are reduced in the long-term. For example, by incorporating construction elements such as bracings and struts in earthquake-prone regions or by elevating the level of homesteads or building multi-purpose evacuation centers in flood-prone areas. These interventions can provide essential protection.



Good Practice: In the aftermath of a disaster, shelter is one of the most pressing needs for the displaced. The need to act quickly increases the risk of creating camps in at-risk areas. This happened in Haiti after the earthquake. In an attempt to reduce the risks faced by people in these camps, DG ECHO funded actions to help partners promote disaster preparedness. This involved supporting early warning systems for storms, emergency intervention teams and community-based vulnerability assessments. Risk assessments were conducted to identify the camps at greatest risk and to support the risk mitigation measures for these camps, for example by improving flood drainage. This example illustrates the importance of incorporating risk analysis, and associated risk reduction measures, into the design and implementation of humanitarian interventions.

Photo: ECHO funded flood-resilient houses built on stilts and raised platform, using locally available materials such as bamboo.
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