



ECHO FIELD NETWORK

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

Locations:

- 48 field offices
- Present in more than 40 countries

Staffed by:

- 150 international humanitarian experts
- 315 national staff

ECHO Field Network



Background

- The European Commission carries out its humanitarian aid operations with the help of Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department's (ECHO) **global network of 48 field offices**;
- This worldwide network of humanitarian experts provides **up-to-date information and analysis** on needs in a given country or region and contributes to the **development of humanitarian intervention strategies**;
- EU humanitarian experts also give **technical support** and **monitor the implementation of EU funded projects**;
- The field offices also ensure vital contact and coordination with humanitarian organisations in the field;
- In January 2016, 150 international humanitarian experts and 315 local staff members were in place in 48 field offices located in more than 40 countries.

ECHO Field Staff

One of the European Union's key strengths in responding to humanitarian emergencies is its global network of field offices, staffed by humanitarian experts and national support staff. In fact, ECHO has significantly more people working on the ground than in Brussels (465 field employees compared with approximately 340 at headquarters).

European Commission –
Humanitarian aid and Civil
Protection:

B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel.: (+32 2) 295 44 00

Fax: (+32 2) 295 45 72

e-mail:

echo-info@ec.europa.eu

Website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo>



* For all latest
ECHO factsheets:
bit.ly/echo-fs

A high degree of flexibility is crucial for the efficient functioning of the field network. This means that offices can quickly open in new location or close down as crisis situations develop and new needs emerge. It also means being able to ensure a rapid 'surge' response by redeploying staff between offices or regions for longer or shorter periods. ECHO's overall field architecture is subject to regular reviews to ensure the presence of staff close to evolving humanitarian situations, to balance the global presence and maintain the ability to respond rapidly to new crises world-wide. The last major restructuring began implementation in 2015.

Many ECHO experts support operations with a specific thematic expertise in areas such as food, health, nutrition, water and sanitation, shelter or gender. Others have a more national or regional expertise, or provide security or logistics support to operations. In addition to their operational responsibilities, EU humanitarian experts also make sure that the latest develops on the ground are taken into account in the development and implementation of the Commission's humanitarian policies, and support ECHO's advocacy and coordination efforts with partners on the ground.

ECHO Field Offices

The field network is composed of different types of offices at regional (multi-country), national and sub-national level. **Country offices** are located in crisis zones where EU-funded relief aid is being delivered. For very large countries, and when humanitarian actions are necessary in a specific area, additional **sub-country offices** may be opened. The **Regional Offices (RO)** provide technical and administrative support to the other offices in their region and to ECHO headquarters. They also coordinate operations that are funded on a regional basis, and arrange for rapid deployments of humanitarian experts when there is a new emergency. There are also smaller, temporary offices called **antennas**, which are often run by national staff. Staff in these offices monitor operations and provide logistical and administrative support.

Testimonies from the Field



Patrick Barbier, Field Expert, Mali

"The humanitarian community is faced with a complex emergency in Mali and the nutrition crisis is threatening millions with food insecurity. Conflict in the north of the country has worsened the nutrition crisis and is threatening millions of Malians with food insecurity. The key issue since the beginning of the crisis has been to maintain access to the most vulnerable populations. Every day we have to emphasise the neutral and impartial nature of humanitarian aid in order to avoid restrictions which could have dramatic consequences on our capacity to reach those in danger on the ground."



Rehmat Yazdani, Project Assistant, Pakistan

"The direct connection with affected communities is what motivates me to work in humanitarian assistance. One example was during a monitoring mission to an outpatient therapeutic clinic in a nondescript village in Sindh province. Funded by ECHO, the clinic provided nutrition support to malnourished children under five, and pregnant and breastfeeding women. On the same day that we were visiting the clinic, there were a few children who were successfully discharged from the nutrition programme as they were now healthy. Their mothers were all smiling and thankful to have received the much needed support."



Sylvie Montembault, Global Expert for Disaster Risk Reduction, Bangkok

"Thinking risk has become my motto in ECHO: natural hazards will always exist – but they need not always result in disasters. When people know what type of hazard they face, what risks they run and how they can prepare for such events, the probability of being hurt can decrease significantly. With a minimum investment, one can avoid the worst from happening! However, complications in anticipating the likelihood of a climatic or man-made catastrophe and building synergies with the country involved or development actors to ensure the systems are in place to respond to the needs of vulnerable communities remain amongst our key challenges."

Hilaire Avril, Regional Information Officer, Latin America & the Caribbean

"Covering a region spanning most of the Western Hemisphere is incredibly rewarding, as we have all types of climates, peoples, customs and vulnerabilities - in a given month I can travel to the top of the Andes to understand early-warning systems for volcano eruptions, to the Amazon jungle where victims of Colombia's ongoing conflict are so isolated they have no access to health services, to Haiti's flood plains turned into dust bowls by the current extreme drought, interviewing people and documenting response. Ultimately, informing the world about ECHO's work around the globe demands the solid partnerships we enjoy with our implementing agencies".



| ECHO's field network

The EU's humanitarian aid operations are carried out with the help of its global network of field offices. There are over 40 offices located in crisis areas around the world, staffed by 150 international experts and more than 300 local support personnel.

- Regional Office (RO)
 - Country Office
 - Sub-country Office
 - Antenna
- Africa**
- Dakar RO
 - Yaoundé RO
 - Kinshasa RO
 - Nairobi RO
- Middle East**
- Almaty RO
 - Amman RO
 - Cairo RO
- Asia & Pacific**
- Islamabad RO
 - New Delhi RO
 - Bangkok RO
- Central & South America, the Caribbean**
- Bogota RO
 - Managua RO
- Civil Protection Mechanism solely

