



Photo: ECHO/Beleza Suato

Facts & Figures (2012)

- In the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) people face a protection crisis marked by a lack of respect for their basic rights and respect of International Humanitarian Law.
- In the oPt, European Commission humanitarian aid contributes to addressing the protection needs of the most vulnerable, and to ensuring access to basic services such as food, water and health care.
- In Lebanon, aid goes to those refugees who do not receive support from UNRWA.
- European Commission humanitarian funding: €45 million for 2012 alone.

A LONG LASTING HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGE

Since 2000 and until today, the European Commission has provided over €640 million in humanitarian aid to help meet the basic needs of Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), as well as Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon.

Occupied Palestinian territory

The humanitarian needs of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza are primarily caused by the constant violation of their basic human rights, including their freedom of movement. This long-lasting situation limits access to basic services and the ability to develop or even maintain livelihoods.

In response, the Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) funds projects to the benefit of around 2 million Palestinians affected by movement restrictions, harassment and settler violence, demolitions or evictions, and forced displacements. These issues threaten households and livelihoods and deprive people of access to land and to services. ECHO funded-projects include food assistance, water and sanitation, but also aim at improving accountability for the respect of international humanitarian law.

In 2012 €40 million have been allocated to the following type of activities:

- **Protection of the vulnerable:** ECHO is gearing its assistance towards the protection of the Palestinians affected by the occupation. Through its partners, ECHO monitors what is happening in the West Bank, in the Gaza Strip and in East Jerusalem in terms of respect of humanitarian law. It also provides emergency assistance and/or legal assistance to families at the risk of/ or forced to abandon their homes and livelihoods.
- **Feeding the most vulnerable:** Food is provided to 1.2 million people including 70,000 who receive fresh vegetables. ECHO also supports cash-for-work programmes that offer short-term employment to help the most vulnerable make ends meet.
- **Access to healthcare and psychosocial support:** Restricted movement in the West Bank makes it difficult for Palestinians to access basic healthcare. The blockade of Gaza and the recurrent conflicts have resulted in many specialised and life-saving medical treatments being unavailable. ECHO contributes to the functioning of clinics and to the provision of essential medicines so that over 1 million Palestinians can access primary healthcare. Psychosocial support is provided to strengthen the resilience and positive coping mechanisms of the population.
- **Providing clean water:** Access to water is one of the most difficult issues faced by Palestinians, particularly in Area C in the West Bank, and even more when the population is affected by drought. ECHO finances programmes that provide 300,000 Bedouins and herders with clean water, through water trucking or through the rehabilitation or construction of cisterns and wells.

Vulnerable Palestinians In Lebanon

In Lebanon, ECHO's support goes to those Palestinians whose legal status or geographical location do not allow them to receive comprehensive support from UNRWA, the United Nations Agency responsible for Palestinian refugees in the Middle East. UNRWA's mandate is limited to camps and refugees registered with them. Some Palestinians did not have the possibility to register with UNRWA on time and others found no place in the densely populated camps.

In 2012, €5 million have been allocated for projects in Lebanon. This includes continued assistance to around 100,000 vulnerable Palestinians mainly for shelter, safe water and sanitation, access to secondary health care, elderly health outreach, protection and legal aid.

Food assistance is also being provided to the most vulnerable Palestinians still displaced since the fighting that destroyed the camp of Nahr el-Bared in 2007.



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ABOUT EUROPEAN COMMISSION HUMANITARIAN AID

The Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) is part of the European Commission, the European Union's executive arm. Through ECHO funding, millions of people are helped each year in more than 70 countries through 200 partners (international NGO's, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, and specialised UN agencies).



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