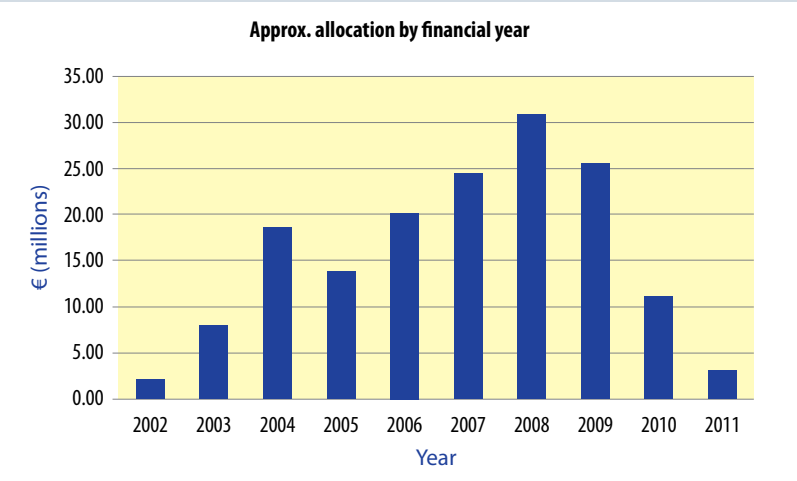




## EUROPEAN COMMISSION HUMANITARIAN AID FUNDING: 2002-2011

Over the past 10 years the Commission has allocated €158 million towards assisting people affected by disasters in Uganda. This funding has contributed to saving lives, providing food and essential services, meeting early recovery needs, and preparing communities to better face the effects of natural hazards.



## HUMANITARIAN AID IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union (EU) is the largest donor of humanitarian aid in the world. The European Commission in Brussels, together with the 27 EU Member States fund more than half of the world’s humanitarian aid work.

Since 1992, the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection department has financed and coordinated assistance to victims of natural disasters and conflicts outside of the European Union. Relief is provided through its partners in the field directly to the victims, irrespective of nationality, religion, age, gender, ethnic origin or political affiliation. In 2010, the Commission provided humanitarian assistance to more than 135 million people in 80 countries. It allocated €1.115 billion (over US\$1.5 billion) which excludes the aid given separately by EU Member States.

Humanitarian relief provided by the EU is founded on the fundamental principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

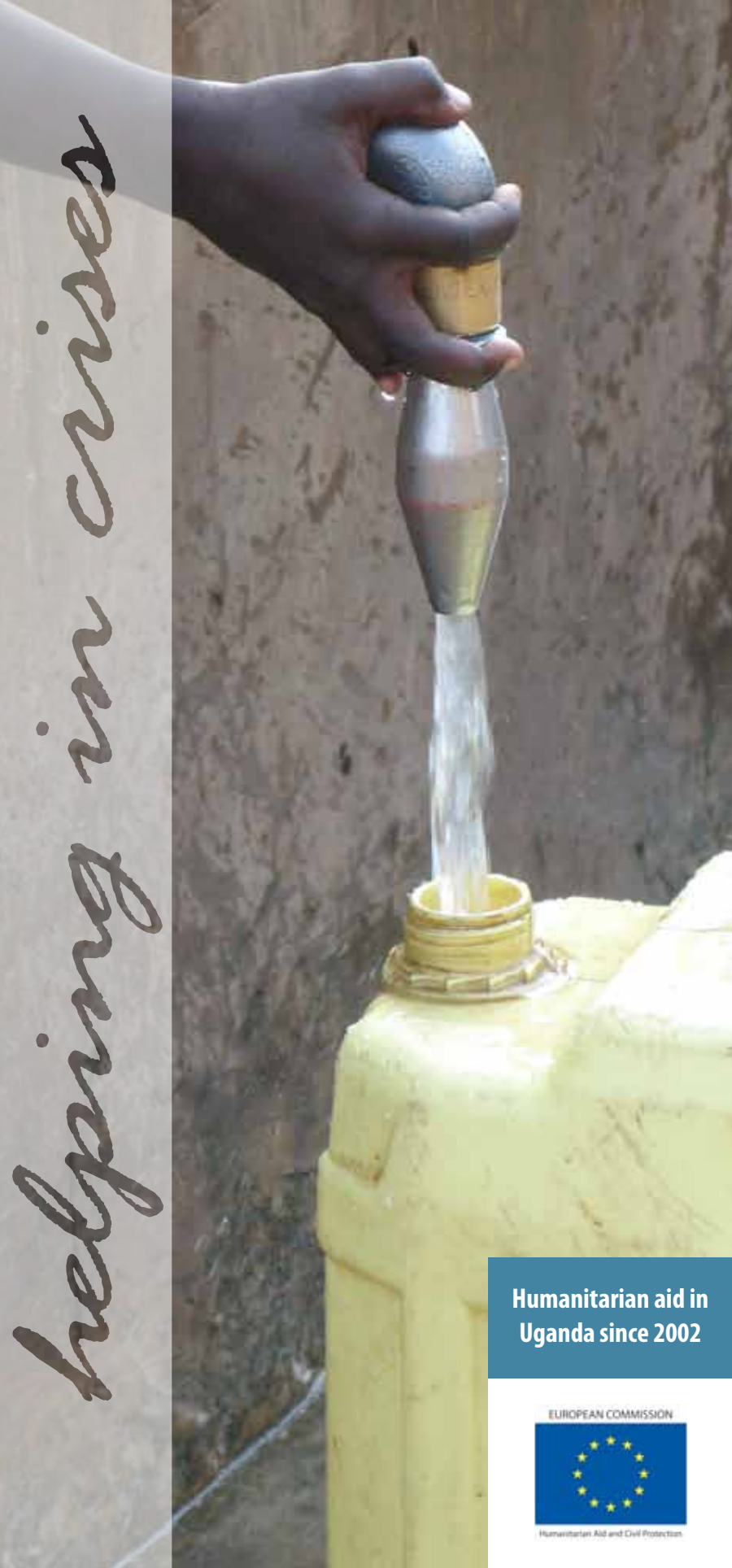
For more information visit our website.  
[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en.htm)

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Helping when  
 needed most



*helping in crises*

**Humanitarian aid in  
 Uganda since 2002**





## ASSISTING PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CONFLICT

The violent conflict between the government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army has lasted for a quarter of a century. Families caught in the middle of this war have suffered immense physical and mental trauma. By 2005, around 1.8 million people had been uprooted from their homes and were living in over 250 crowded and squalid camps in northern Uganda. The European Commission was instrumental in supporting the supply of food and essential services such as health and nutrition, psychosocial support, water and sanitation, camp management, and protection in the camps throughout the years of displacement.



The 'Cessation of Hostilities' agreement reached between the warring parties in 2006 has been maintained to date in northern Uganda, despite the conflict shifting to neighbouring Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan. The government of Uganda eased the restrictions on movements allowing the displaced populations to start returning home in 2007. After so many years of displacement, the challenges of returning home are vast. Houses and infrastructure such as water, sanitation, health and school facilities have to be built; land ownership disputes must be resolved; and the people have to re-establish their livelihoods.

In order to stimulate durable solutions for the internally displaced population, the European Commission has supported the 'early recovery process'. In so doing, the Commission has provided the resources to build homes for the extremely vulnerable members of the community, install safe water points, improve health services, construct classrooms, and start agricultural activities. By January 2010 it was estimated that only 125,598 persons remained physically displaced, either living in camps, dismantled camps areas, or transit sites. Significant development programmes are now directed towards northern Uganda, including programmes funded by the European Union.



## INCREASING RESILIENCE TO DROUGHT

Emergency responses to the frequent droughts threatening lives and livelihoods in the Horn of Africa region have been commonplace for many decades. The majority of the populations that live in the arid and semi-arid lands of the region are herders who rely on seasonal water sources and pastures spread over large geographical spaces. The increasing vulnerability to drought being experienced by the populations of the Horn can be attributed to a large number of factors including restrictions of mobility, loss of grazing land, encroachment onto cattle corridors, poor water point management, conflict, and social change. In the Karamoja region, the Commission has financed relief food operations as well as projects aiming to improve people's access to services in areas affected by insecurity.

Since 2006, the Commission has also allocated significant resources aimed at increasing the resilience of the populations living in the Horn, including the Karamoja region, to drought. Drought preparedness activities include agro-pastoral field schools, strengthening animal health services and disease surveillance, improved water harvesting methods and better management of water points, and establishing early warning systems.

Given the high degree of poverty and marginalisation experienced by the populations of the Horn, humanitarian aid alone cannot hope to resolve these complex issues. Government commitment and large-scale development funding are considered fundamental, and the Commission will continue to advocate for such support.



## RESPONDING TO EPIDEMICS

Uganda is very susceptible to outbreaks of deadly infectious diseases. Recent examples include the Ebola hemorrhagic fever outbreak in Bundibugyo district in 2007, the Hepatitis E outbreak in Kitgum district in 2008, and the Yellow Fever outbreak in northern Uganda in 2010. The Commission has supported vaccinations and treatment campaigns in response to such outbreaks.