

FINAL REPORT

**ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBLE ECHO'S
2001 ACTIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

Assessment carried out at request of the European Community
Humanitarian Office
ECHO-EU-Brussels

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NOTE

Ms. Mirta Demare and **Mr. Allert Schokker** conducted together the **Evaluation and Assessment Mission to Middle East**. Mr Schokker was in charge of the evaluation and Ms. Demare was responsible of the assessment. Some texts have, therefore, been written in collaboration and the same version is to be found in both reports. The identical texts are: Mission Overview and Methodology.

SUMMARY

Mission overview

Palestine refugees are the main reason for the presence of ECHO in the Middle East. Since 1993, ECHO has developed an aid programme that covers this target group of the four countries in the region where most of the refugees have settled. These are the West Bank and Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. The characteristic "perennial emergency" defines the Palestinian situation, and ECHO's contribution through the years has accounted for EUR 68 million. Whilst needs in this context are overwhelming, the programme strategy is to target emergency and relief-related matters. Somehow, ECHO interventions have been fluctuating in "a grey zone" between emergency and development. Since 1995, "Global Plans" have been used to define the framework in which ECHO operations are carried out. Up to the present, the health sector has received the greatest allocation of ECHO funds. In recent years, ECHO programmes have aimed at assisting the most vulnerable groups, focusing on emergency shelter rehabilitation, Bedouins and communities affected by the long lasting drought, and an emergency response to cope with the new situation in Southern Lebanon resulting from the withdrawal of the Israeli Army. The Commission wishes to refocus ECHO operations within the original mandate as stipulated in the Council Regulations. It was decided that a mission should be undertaken to evaluate the suitability of ECHO programmes in the region and to provide the basis to assess the situation, leading to clear and practical guidelines for further ECHO actions in the Middle East. This report combines an outline of the experiences gathered by the consultant who undertook an evaluation of ECHO's 1999 and 2000 Global Plans in the Middle East, respecting the tasks outlined in the Terms of Reference.

Findings and Recommendations

GENERAL ASSESSMENT

1. The present crisis in the Palestinian Territories requires that ECHO intervention needs mainly to focus on the Palestinians affected by the armed conflict in general, and on refugees in particular, targeting the most vulnerable groups. ECHO actions might be extended to all Palestine refugees living in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.
2. Bedouins should be treated as a group of Palestine refugees who need additional attention, due to the special character of their social and political situation.
3. Since the withdrawal of Israel from Southern Lebanon, in principle no immediate emergency relief action is needed. In practice, due to the unsettled political situation, the area is still sensitive to conflicts and crisis. An ECHO presence is indispensable to provide immediate response to any new critical situation.
4. Different priorities were identified for ECHO interventions, due to the different situation of the vulnerable populations in the four countries in Middle East.
 - ❖ **Palestinian Territories:** The consequences of the armed conflict are such that high priorities for action should be: 1) to reinforce the emergency system in order to create a network of well equipped emergency rooms in hospitals and main health centres, ambulances and means of communication ; 2) the upgrading of the surgery and the intensive-care departments by supplying specific instruments and equipment to treat injuries produced by bullets; 3) the provision of treatment and rehabilitation for handicapped victims of the armed conflict; and 4) psychosocial counselling to help Palestinians to cope with the stress and trauma

produced by the violent events. Also needed, but as a secondary priority, are the rehabilitation of shelters, destroyed social facilities and care for the mentally and physically disabled. Bedouins will need assistance primarily in water, fodder and in veterinarian services for their livestock due to the accumulative effects of the last years drought. Substantial reduction of their present vulnerability, can be achieved by the provision of semi-permanent construction materials to improve their living conditions and the construction of high capacity underground cisterns.

- ❖ **Lebanon:** Due to the political fragility and the underlying tensions in the Palestine camps, high priority for ECHO actions is to put in place an emergency system, as mentioned above. The actual shelter conditions in the official and 'unofficial' refugee camps are frequently very bad and any kind of assistance allowed by the Lebanese government should also have a high priority.
 - ❖ **South-Lebanon:** Assistance to the Lebanese Red Cross as a neutral counterpart in this former occupied area has a medium priority. Another area of intervention might be the extension of the present projects for psychosocial counselling.
 - ❖ **Syria:** The emergency system, shelter rehabilitation and the mentally and physically disabled are high priorities for intervention in the Palestinian camps. Actions directed towards the Bedouins in Syria are only justified in relation to the effects of drought.
 - ❖ **Jordan:** Due to the poor quality of shelters in official and 'unofficial' camps, shelter rehabilitation is a high priority. Another sector, with lower priority, is support for those with mental and/or physical disabilities.
5. The most significant threat causing delays or obstacles to the implementation of ECHO projects is the still inconclusive political and military situation in the region, particularly in Palestine and Lebanon. ECHO must be prepared and alert to manage an increase in emergency and relief actions if the armed conflict escalates.
 6. It is recommended that ECHO, together with local and International NGOs, set up a contingency plan, primarily for the West Bank and Gaza Strip and eventually for South Lebanon.
 7. A strategy based on caution and reliable assessment of difficulties and danger must be used to safeguard staff at all operational levels.

PROJECT CYCLE MANAGEMENT

8. ECHO participation in the project cycle begins with the appraisal of proposals, reducing its degree of involvement during the identification phase. The primary sources for need assessments are local partners and some European NGOs. There is a low degree of target group participation in identifying and selecting projects.
9. Authorities prefer to be more involved with ECHO actions at the initial phases, when identification and selection of actions are defined. It is not the case in Syria and Jordan, where the national government provides the framework to develop any kind of humanitarian and development aid.
10. Even though long-term indicative programming is incompatible with ECHO interventions, it is advisable for ECHO to play a substantial role in the initial phases of project management. It is recommended to search for additional methodologies to increase pro-active ECHO involvement. One option could be sub-contracting consultants/ institutions/ associations/ NGOs on short-term basis to undertake in-depth assessment.

11. The sustainability of projects needs to be taken more seriously in the assessment and appraisal stages. The context of a perennial emergency allows for the insertion of a programmatic mechanism to streamline actions with sustainable results
12. The document "Guidelines for ECHO Activity in the Middle East" is more concerned with specific issues related to the project cycle than with an overall humanitarian programmatic approach.
13. It is advisable that ECHO shares all types of information with Partners and local authorities. Workshops should be considered as a permanent management tool for ECHO.
14. The workload of the ECHO team increases when a political crisis or natural disaster happens abruptly, provoking an emergency situation. It is advisable that ECHO HQ should take into consideration the appointment of another field/ technical officer.

CO-ORDINATION

15. Many donors are present in the region, resulting in diverse interests and a lack of coherence. This complicates co-ordination and blocks the linkage of projects. Most bilateral aid is based on development strategies that do hardly allow emergency or relief actions, and if donors do intervene, the actions are not co-ordinated or communicated with ECHO.
16. The information passed to EU Member States about ECHO Programmes in the region has significantly improved in the last 2 years due to the regular meetings organised by the ECHO Co-ordination Unit. It is advisable that Member States Bilateral Programmes are included on the agenda of the ECHO information meetings to strengthen reciprocity with respect to information and possible co-ordination.
17. In spite of the presence of donors funding all sort of projects in all kinds of sectors, no unacceptable duplication of actions or services was observed in ECHO interventions. Even so, it is recommendable that ECHO verifies Global Plan interventions before their acceptance in order to avoid overlapping of activities. ECHO Partners should ensure ECHO's interventions are in accordance with national strategies.

VISIBILITY

18. The visibility of ECHO interventions is low, as NGOs trying to safeguard their independence in the field tend to pay more attention to their own image, at the donors' expense. Promotion amongst beneficiaries is a time-consuming effort, which does not render high results.
19. The funds allocated for ECHO promotion in each project have been reduced in recent years. It is recommended that a general budget be centralised at the ECHO Co-ordination office. Partners together with the ECHO Co-ordination office could propose activities to promote their achievements.
20. More radical changes in the ECHO Visibility issue could be obtained using a forceful media strategy. A professional Public Relations approach at a higher and broader level is advisable.
21. ECHO interventions could also be promoted on the INTERNET with the help of a user-friendly web site.

1. METHODOLOGY

Members of the ECHO Evaluation Unit held a two-day briefing session at ECHO Headquarters to deal with logistics and the T.O.R. In the meetings, the ECHO Desk Officer for the Palestinian Territories, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan provided background and specific information and material and documentation about the ECHO programme; EC-Relex Desk Officers for Lebanon and Palestine did the same for their interventions in Middle East.

The mission arrived in Amman, Jordan, on the 17th of September. The next two days were spent at the ECHO Co-ordination Office. The Co-ordinator and Technical Officer briefed the mission and a tentative itinerary was prepared and discussed. Following the itinerary, the mission spent 11 days in the Palestinian Territories, 11 days in Lebanon, 3 days in Syria and 6 days in Jordan, including travel time between countries. Although the travel schedule was completed as per the original plan, political events and the outbreak of the Al Aqsa Intifada (29/09/00) in the Palestinian Territories prevented a second field trip to Gaza.

Visits to the Palestinian camps in Lebanon and Syria were limited for security reasons. Nevertheless, with the assistance of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society and UNWRA, the mission was able to visit the hospitals located in the camps to meet the inhabitants of the settlements. Due to the political situation in Jerusalem, the mission conducted some of the interviews scheduled for the last two days by telephone.

The mission met a large number of stakeholders and counterparts involved in ECHO operations related to the last two "Global Plans" in the four countries visited. Most local and European NGOs were introduced to the mission in the annual ECHO-NGO meetings that took place in Jerusalem and in Beirut. Interviews with representatives of the ECHO-Partners were conducted within the framework of a pre-prepared questionnaire. These interviews resulted in findings which are incorporated in this report.

Meetings were held with national and local authorities, staff of donor agencies; members and scholars of institutions; ambassadors and representatives of EU Member States; EC Delegations in the four countries; representatives and staff of some local and international NGOs not involved in ECHO financed projects; representatives and staff of several UN agencies and with the Red Cross-Red Crescent Movement. Observation and Rapid Assessment Techniques were applied to enable the collection of information on needs and living conditions. Meetings and conversations took place with beneficiaries and a cross section of target groups. The mission reviewed project files and materials issued by ECHO and other humanitarian aid and development organisations.

Though not all of the implemented projects could be visited due to time constraints, the mission was able to achieve a good understanding of the ECHO financed programmes and their general and specific background.

2. CONTEXT

Vulnerability is the word which best describes the Palestinian social, political and economic situation. Alongside traditional economic prerequisites, peace and a stable political environment are essential for consistent economic growth and sustainable social conditions in any society. This is certainly not the case in West Bank and Gaza Strip.

2.1. Political situation

The expectations and hopes for a Palestinian State and consequent self-determination for the Palestinian people were severely damaged with the visit of Likud leader Ariel Sharon to the Temple Mount on 27 September of this year. Interpreted by the Palestinians as an open provocation, a Palestinian mob demonstrated in Jerusalem after Friday prayers on the 29 September. Israeli armed forces, overreacting in their efforts to contain the crowd, triggered the start of a new, Al Aqsa Intifada.

After 20 days of bloodshed, the Sharm El Sheikh Summit resulted in a short cease-fire. The conflict escalated, however, and at the time of this report, it has not been controlled as expected from the Summit. This has worsened the political situation in the region and no immediate possibility of mutual understanding can be expected, rather we have seen an explosion of violence on both sides, based on the principle of action-reaction.

The accumulated, untenable political and social tension in the area has probably caused the death of the Oslo peace process and will increase the vulnerability of the Palestinians in West Bank and Gaza Strip.

2.1. Economic situation

Economic development patterns depend strongly on political stability. The Palestinian economy is the best example of this. Most incidents result from the vulnerability of the Palestinians, since they cannot control their borders. The closure of borders by the Israeli Authorities nearly always triggers a humanitarian emergency due to the control of the mobility of people and goods, constraining all possible planning strategies for the Palestinian economy. The recession between 1993-97 in the Palestinian Territories was provoked by frequent closure of the connection between the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Israel. During this period the GNP of the Palestinian Territories declined by 11,9 %. Considering the high rate of population growth, the real decline per capita can be estimated at just less than 36%.

The closures had a direct impact in four main areas: 1) The internal economy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (WBGs) in terms of income lost by labourers who need to cross daily the borders to Israel for work opportunities. 2) The agricultural economy, as agricultural products can not be exported. 3) Reduction in overall trade and volume of exports as well as increased overheads costs due to time delays, leading to loss of the competitiveness for Palestinian products. 4) Investors' confidence, affecting efforts to promote investment projects and growth.

In Jordan and Syria, the economic recession has had a profound effect on the middle and low-income classes, which is where most of the Palestinian refugees are to be found. The long lasting drought affecting the whole region has increased the chronic shortage of water. It are not only the refugee camps that are facing water constraints, but also other groups such as farmers and Bedouins, which depend on rainfall for agriculture and animal husbandry to generate their basic income. The harsh winter of

2000 worsened the already critical situation in rural areas. Some of the basic needs for survival have been covered by humanitarian aid from donors. Apart from humanitarian aid, these groups often rely on the income generated by family members working abroad to maintain a fragile balance.

2.3. Palestine Refugees

During 52 years the displaced Palestinians have continually suffered hardship amid fragmented Palestinian communities scattered across the Middle East. According to recent statistics provided by UNWRA, there are 3,74 million Palestinian refugees spread across the countries of the Middle East. Approximately 38% of this population (about 1.21 million) have settled in 59 camps located in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

Already two generations of Palestinians have been born and died, most of them in refugee camps. Host-country policy determines the legal and social situation of these scattered communities, and this differs in all 4 countries visited. In Jordan and Syria, the refugee community is to some extent integrated within the host-country society, Palestinians have settled in camps, but they also live in cities and villages mingled within the local population, sharing mostly similar civil and humanitarian rights. In Lebanon, the majority of refugees live in camps, and are banned from exercising 70 professions and trades, with their mobility restricted. In WBGS, they live in cities and rural areas encroached on by Israeli settlements.

Despite their differences in status, the living conditions in the camps are in many ways similar, regardless of the country. Overcrowding, poor water and sanitary infrastructure, basic social services and few possibilities to extend shelter and other vital social functions are common problems. The camps provide shelter to the most vulnerable and poorest groups of Palestine refugees. Even when there is strong political commitment to stay in the camps to promote the Palestinian right to repatriation, most of the refugees would be ready to move out of the camps if their economic situation allowed it.

3. IMPACT OF THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE ECHO ACTIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The most significant cause of delays or obstacles to the implementation of projects is the inconclusive political and military situation, particularly in WBGS and Lebanon. In WBGS, due to the prolonged and unfinished peace process, tension is the norm in everyday life. Any small incident immediately alters the fragile balance, aggravating the volatile political situation and the already deteriorated social conditions. ECHO has provided aid in this context with its much needed and respected interventions since 1993. At present, the escalation of the armed conflict between Palestinians and Israel may oblige ECHO to increase those interventions aimed at providing emergency relief.

ECHO interventions are undertaken in partnership with European NGOs which, for their part, work with implementing local counterparts. In the case of WBGS and Lebanon, there is a long tradition of local, civil associations and NGOs. These institutions, operating for years in a crisis situation, have become strong and effective. In both countries, the population has a highly developed sense of solidarity and spirit of duty. The institutions are capable of efficient mobilisation and quick response to emergencies in the most difficult political environments. If foreign aid workers have to be repatriated due to the armed conflict, these capacities could be boosted to implement ECHO actions. It is advisable to put in place a strategy based on extreme caution and continued, close monitoring of the political situation to safeguard the staff at all operational levels.

Closure of borders of the Palestinian Territories drastically disrupts the economy and everyday life. It constrains the mobility of people and goods, causing deterioration of the already poor social and financial situation of the majority of the population. As before, this will have a particularly profound impact on the more populated, poorer, and vulnerable Gaza Strip, which is particularly dependent on the Israeli labour market. It will also, however, have a crippling effect on the West Bank.

In the past, the Palestinians adapted to long periods of closure in a number of ways, notably by reducing household consumption and by returning to work in agriculture on the family plot or as tenants. Meanwhile, humanitarian help and relief are very necessary to avoid hunger, malnutrition and disease. Immediate humanitarian aid is also needed to support the victims of the violence, the families who have lost their breadwinners, and long-term assistance for those who have sustained major injuries and are physically and mentally handicapped as a result.

The implementation of some ECHO rehabilitation projects in the Palestinian Territories has been restrained by the present situation, as labour and building materials are not available due to the border closure. In the case that the political situation persists, ECHO could give lower priority to such activities.

4. THE PROJECT CYCLE MANAGEMENT

4.1. ECHO involvement in the current approach

Analysing the phases of the project cycle, the outcome indicates that ECHO has a low degree of involvement during the identification phase. In practice, ECHO's incidence in the need assessment is very limited as it is mainly delegated to NGOs.

Local NGOs present in an area or acting in a specific sector are the primary sources for need assessments. Sometimes they work closely with the local authority and collaborate with Line Ministries. Among ECHO partners, there are some European NGOs, based and well established in the country or the region, capable of in-depth assessment. UN agencies and the Red Cross/Red Crescent also present reliable proposals due to their long experience in the region and their operational capacity and network. These organisations mostly work in co-ordination with the national and local authorities, donors and national and international NGOs.

ECHO participation in the project cycle actually begins with the appraisal of the proposals presented by above-mentioned sources. Closing this phase, ECHO prepares the "Global Plan", which is the result of all selected projects and the approved annual budget. Before the submission of the project proposal this current year, ECHO provided the possible partners with "Guidelines for ECHO Activity in the Middle East". This document is more concerned with specific issues related to the project cycle than with an overall humanitarian programmatic approach.

On the West Bank, this approach had negative reactions from several PA high officials. They would prefer to be more involved with ECHO at the initial phase of programming and selection of criteria. ECHO could have more responsibility in the preliminary stages of the project cycle by managing the information and ranking the priorities. ECHO could be in control of a more coherent operation, in-tune with real needs, when the vulnerabilities (social-politic-economic related issues) in the region are being mapped out. In order to achieve this, ECHO staff would need to visit the field more often, monitoring projects and contexts more closely.

At present, the ECHO Co-ordination Office is located in Amman, Jordan with two staff members: one co-ordinator and one technical officer. The scope of co-ordination tasks is extended to the Palestinian Territories, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, Iraq and Yemen.

4.2. Recommendations

Long-term indicative programming would be incompatible with ECHO actions because of the emergency-relief character of its operations and the short implementation timeframe of the projects. Even so, it is advisable for ECHO to play a critical role in the initial phases of the project cycle, taking responsibility for conducting in-depth assessment.

The context of perennial emergency allows the insertion of a programmatic mechanism in order to streamline actions with sustainable results. A comprehensive Humanitarian Programme could offer the support for formulating consistent proposals. This framework might enable the development of contingency plans, when the vulnerabilities (socio-politic-economic related issues) in the region are being mapped out.

Although it is advisable to keep the ECHO field team lean and to delegate through sub-contracting those other than its main tasks, the ECHO HQ should consider to appoint another field/ technical officer. Being able to spend more time in the field, both officers would increase their assessment awareness. The Co-ordinator could concentrate his activities more in co-ordination issues and the remaining countries.

4.2.1. Possible new methodology

In order to secure a more pro-active involvement of ECHO during the assessment, identification and formulation of project, it is recommended the research of new methodologies. The following is proposed:

- Sub-contracting consultants / institutions / associations/ NGOs to undertake in-depth assessment in one country, area or region as well as in their expertise on a specific sector.
- This means that ECHO delegates the groundwork of identifying needs, problems and constraints to local and/or to international experts. ECHO should be very selective in sub-contracting this expertise in order to ensure the quality of the outputs. This expertise would be sub-contracted on a short term basis or by applying ECHO procedures for international evaluation.

The contracted experts will also require a basic introduction to ECHO's mandate and procedures. They should be selected for their specific knowledge and professional background in humanitarian aid and ECHO operations. This provides ECHO with the flexibility to hire assistance and a greater accessibility to ignored or hidden needs and relegated target groups.

4.2.2. Workshop

The information and facts gathered by these external sources should be shared and discussed in a workshop where all ECHO partners should be invited. The objective of such a meeting will be to define a framework in which to place ECHO future operations, the strategies to be followed and the selection of priorities to address the actions.

This approach will allow 1) The involvement of ECHO in the identification of needs. 2) National authorities and NGOs to be aware of and informed about the programming and ECHO emergency regulations, standards, practices, problems met, lessons learnt, etc. 3) A better co-ordination of ECHO actions with donors and on-going interventions in the fields of humanitarian aid and development.

5. LINKAGE AND CO-ORDINATION WITH OTHER DONORS

5.1. Co-ordination

ECHO financial interventions take place in a very competitive and difficult environment. The nature of the historical moment and the political context of the Middle East attracts many international donors, which must make their presence felt by financing projects through bilateral, multilateral and international agencies.

Donors may select interventions in one or other area and/or sector that responds to their own political, cultural, religious or technical interests. For instance, donors try to avoid financing emerging issues, which may clash with the tradition and culture in the region, such as HIV-Aids or drug addiction. Too many donors results in too many interests and a lack of coherence. This complicates the co-ordination and blocks the linkage of projects. As a corollary, no platform for Humanitarian Aid exists in the region. There is no general co-ordination mechanism for development or humanitarian aid in place.

In Jordan and Syria, the international aid effort is managed in co-ordination with the Government and is focused on national strategies and plans. In Lebanon, the long lasting conflicts have eroded the capacity of national authorities. Donors, agencies, and local and international NGOs therefore undertake interventions following their own agendas. The actions of ECHO Global Plan have not been placed within national governments' framework, as they provide support outside structural interventions.

In general, there exists an awareness of ECHO humanitarian aid among donors and partners in the region. ECHO's presence is perceived as essential in the donor field and certainly seen as much needed by Member States. Primarily, for most governments, policies on emergency only imply short-term interventions. Furthermore, for most of the Member States, Palestinian issues are politically sensitive, and humanitarian aid in this perennial emergency is not considered a high priority. Moreover, most bilateral aid is based on development strategies and large allocations of earmarked funds that allow for very little emergency or relief intervention. And if they do intervene in such aid, the actions are specific ones and not co-ordinated with ECHO.

5.2. Co-ordination with UNWRA

Even though UNWRA is not a donor, it plays a critical role in terms of funding and thus will be considered in this section, since it has an important relationship and co-ordination with ECHO.

Since 1949, UNWRA has been present in all Palestinian refugee camps, assisting the population in their basic needs. However, since the Oslo agreements, its funds have been considerably reduced and the agency is going through difficult times, trying to fulfil its duty with fewer financial resources. Nevertheless, it delivers very good services, especially in health and education.

ECHO and UNWRA are partners in humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees. ECHO funds specific UNWRA interventions. The ECHO co-ordinator has good communication and understanding with all five UNWRA delegations in the region, as they are a reliable source of information for ECHO needs assessment. ECHO, UNWRA and EU NGOs working in the same sector have co-ordinated and planned activities as well as projects to be developed in the camps.

PRCS and UNWRA are also partners, both received funds from ECHO and other donors for different projects, and they co-ordinated actions between themselves, avoiding overlapping.

5.3. ECHO and the EU Members State

The dissemination of information about ECHO Programmes to EU Member States in the region has significantly improved in the last 2 years. In this context, the role played by the ECHO Co-ordinator must be praised for his efforts to build up a communication strategy, channelling the message of ECHO actions to Representatives and Ambassadors of the EU Member States. Once a year the ECHO Co-ordinator organised information meetings to present the Annual Global Plan.

Most of the Member States Officials interviewed appreciated being informed about ECHO interventions, while, on the other hand, very little is known about interventions financed by Member States. Taking into consideration the significant financial resources involved, it is difficult to obtain detailed information about previous activities, which gives only a vague, general concept of present or future interventions. They give as their reason the top-down and "government to government" character of their development interventions, admitting that bilateral aid does not usually reach directly the lower ranks of society.

Notwithstanding, EU Member States would like to be informed at the initial stage of the Global Plan formulation, when there is still room for the exchange of ideas and information, and the chance to co-ordinate action. They also expect the communication attempt to be more structured by regular briefings, in order to update information and to follow up the interventions. However, Member States communicate late and less about the sectors and the objectives of their activities.

The co-ordination among Member States has improved in the region, since more frequent meetings are organised by the Member State holding the EU Presidency. Member States agreed that more has to be done in the co-ordination sphere, and they point the finger at the EU Delegation. During the EU meetings with Member States, they usually received no clear overview of the whole range of interventions undertaken by the EC, and no feedback on needs assessed. ECHO activities during emergencies have not been specifically highlighted in these gatherings. However, ECHO provides the opportunity for the Commission to be "on the spot" without political nuances or compromises. The EU Delegations complained about the lack of human resources to follow up these issues.

5.4. Conclusions and Recommendations

In spite of the large presence of donors sponsoring all sorts of projects in all kinds of sectors, no unacceptable duplication of action or services has been observed in ECHO interventions. However it is recommendable that ECHO verify the Global Plan interventions before their acceptance. ECHO partners could ensure that project activities are in accordance with national strategies, following local, acceptable standards and in agreement with other similar involvement in the sector, avoiding overlapping of activities, means and funds or duplication of services or facilities.

It is advisable to improve the reciprocity of information. Member States could make use of the ECHO information meetings to inform about their interventions in humanitarian aid and in development, as well as to co-ordinate possible action in emergency or relief. ECHO could also report about needs assessed or follow-up actions that ECHO could not fund owing its mandate, but they could be helped bilaterally.

6. VISIBILITY of ECHO INTERVENTIONS

6.1. Reasons for low visibility

The importance of ECHO interventions is not openly perceived due to lack of information, but rather to the low profile assumed during the identification, negotiation and implementation phases, which are completely in hands of NGOs. Trying to safeguard their independence in the field, NGOs tend to pay more attention to their own image, at the donors' expense.

Even when promotion amongst beneficiaries has been undertaken by implementing NGOs, and very positive examples can be found in the field, they should not be forced to do much more. It is a time-consuming effort, which does not render high results. The funds allocated for this purpose in each project have been reduced in recent years to a level that does not allow for much more than the well-known "inauguration reception" during the project hand over.

6.2. Recommendations

The situation could be easily modified through a more focused and widespread information campaign at regional level. Instead of funds for visibility being segmented among projects and countries, a general budget could be centralised at the ECHO Co-ordination office. In close collaboration, partners and the ECHO Co-ordination office should propose activities to promote their achievements. These funds could be used to organise (perhaps fewer) activities with a higher impact at local (national) and regional level. Even the EC Delegation PR Officer could be involved and have a possible role in passing detailed information about ECHO Projects to the media.

More radical changes could be obtained by means of a forceful media strategy. There is a need for a professional EU Public Relations approach at a higher and wider level. More important than to convey the message to beneficiaries is to spread the news "at home" in Europe. The importance of ECHO aid has to be promoted in order to inform the taxpayers about the effective use of their money.

A 3 second TV spot about the long-term ECHO aid to the Palestinians, shown after the TV news of the Al Aqsa Intifada, might have been very effective in creating awareness in the European audience of the EU presence in such a crisis. There are a number of serious and highly professional media enterprises, with proven track records, which could be engaged to develop comprehensive campaigns.

ECHO could be promoting its relief and emergency actions on the INTERNET with the help of a user-friendly web site, which clearly lays out its aims and areas of intervention. Other donors (USAID) and agencies (UN, especially UNICEF) have successfully reached a wide audience by publishing their annual reports on the Internet.

7. FUTURE ECHO INTERVENTIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

7.1. Findings

Since 1993, and apart from actions related to natural disasters, the ECHO presence in the region has centred mainly on the Palestine refugees. Enduring expulsion and hardship for more than 50 years, the people settled as refugees in the Palestinian Territories, the Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. Among this population, the people staying in the camps are the most socially, politically and economically exposed, living in a perennial state of emergency, they are the most susceptible to the effects of any kind of disturbance.

The present crisis in the Palestinian Territories requires that future ECHO interventions should be focused on the Palestinians affected by the armed conflict in general and on refugees in particular, targeting the most vulnerable groups among them. Even though Bedouins are both Palestine refugees and a vulnerable group they should be treated separately due to the special character of their social and political situation.

Since the withdrawal of Israel from Southern Lebanon, ECHO has funded some emergency and relief activities in this region. Even though, presently, no emergency activities are required, due to the unsettled political situation the area is still sensitive to armed conflicts. Southern Lebanon therefore is the other priority for an ECHO presence in the region.

7.1.1. Palestinians and Palestine refugees

After the Oslo Agreement, the international donor community apparently focused its actions on a transfer from long-lasting assistance towards a development-oriented approach. The present situation does not however offer the necessarily stability or framework for a consistent developmental approach. ECHO is therefore the best mechanism to use to continue to provide aid. At present, additional emergency and relief actions have to be implemented in a volatile environment and a complicated political situation.

The consequences of the armed conflict are immediate, and represent additional responsibility for governments, humanitarian donors and institutions. The socio-economic situation within the Palestine refugee camps has certainly slowly deteriorated during the last few years. This is mainly due to the general economic crisis affecting the region, which has provoked as a consequence a form of 'natural selection' in the camps. The strongest families with a greater economic capacity have taken the opportunity to move out of the camps, leaving the socially weaker and more vulnerable groups as "left-overs" in need of real assistance. Previous experience suggests that the impact of border closure is likely to disrupt dramatically the economy of the West Bank and especially of Gaza, as well as trigger a rapid decrease in reserve capacity among the Palestinians. After some weeks of unemployment and mobility constraints, people start consuming their financial savings and reducing, in quantity and quality, their basic needs.

Evidently, the impact of the current crisis will not only be economic in nature. Since the start of the Al Aqsa Intifada at the end of September up until November 2000, some 400 people have died and the number of injured has risen to above 4,000. Among them, 50 children have been killed and 1,973 children under 18 years of age have been injured, around 20% critically. Many of the injured are expected to suffer long-term or permanent disabilities. As a result of injury, people will become and remain physically

and/or mentally handicapped, i.e. blinded, paralysed, paraplegic, and/or suffering from mental handicap brought on by physical injury.

Palestinians, adults and children have suffered psychological damage, especially those in areas which have been attacked by the Israeli military, including shelling by tanks, heavy artillery and from helicopters. The attacks on refugee camps, the Palestinian military and political targets also destroyed social facilities, mainly schools and civil buildings in the surroundings, and left some already vulnerable groups without shelter.

Immediate support for basic needs, rehabilitation of shelter and social facilities, short-term medical and psycho-social assistance should be extended to victims of the conflict. These include: injured persons sustaining major disabilities, widows and family of those who have been killed and the most vulnerable groups like children and young people.

7.1.2. Bedouins

The Bedouins are actually a sub-category of the Palestinian refugees. At the moment, they belong to the most affected category of the target group. In recent years, ECHO has funded actions directed towards helping them, but the emphasis has been based on the effects of the drought and not on the Bedouins as a specifically vulnerable group.

The Bedouins' vulnerability is mainly caused by the implications of the Palestine-Israel conflict. Their traditional pattern of life is based on moving from area to area throughout the year, searching for better pasture for their animals. The Bedouins were generally expelled from their historical grazing areas, today mostly located in Israeli controlled C-zones, to the marginal B-zones which tend to be small semi-arid spots encroached on by urbanised areas lacking water sources. The accumulative effects of the present drought have increased the existing shortage of water. These features constrain their mobility and endanger their livestock, which is the Bedouins' main income resource.

There is no doubt that these groups need assistance according to article 2 of the ECHO-mandate. Assistance from UNWRA is very limited or non-existent, as they are not settled within 'official' refugee-camps. Bedouins do not particularly benefit from PA social policies, as they are not considered to be special cases. ECHO assistance during 1999 was mainly focussed on emergency relief, providing fodder and water for their livestock and water reserves for families. Some interventions included veterinarian assistance and basic training to improve the animals' health conditions. New programmes might concentrate on reducing the Bedouins vulnerability by providing tools to improve their economic (i.e. improvement of product quality and marketing) and social conditions (i.e. access to education and health)

7.1.3. Southern Lebanon

In principle there were no immediate humanitarian needs observed during the mission which fit straightforwardly within the ECHO mandate. The absorption capacity for humanitarian projects is limited, due to the small population currently living in the area. Former SLA soldiers do not appear to be an immediate concern as their families receive substantial financial compensation from Israel when they return to their villages in Lebanon. Those who depended for their income on working for the State of Israel have encountered serious economic shortfalls and this has affected the economy of the area in general. There is no realistic expectation of a high influx of 'returnees'; however, one can anticipate that the Lebanese Diaspora belonging to the region might start to construct houses as a kind of family investment.

The main needs are the quick implementation of labour-intensive infrastructure programmes, like rehabilitation of irrigation systems, agricultural schemes and reforestation, which could/will be rapidly implemented by DG-RELEX. USAID has funded five NGOs with a total 10 million-dollar budget programme to be developed during the next two years. Duplication, creation of dependency and lack of absorption capacity are potential limitations for further interventions. If ECHO intervention is used to maintain a desired EU-presence in the area, it is strongly recommend to make use of the assessment and co-ordination provided by the UNDP-funded "Socio-economic Development Programme for Southern Lebanon". Proper short-term projects can be selected from within their framework with a high degree of cost-effectiveness, visibility and 'connectivity'.

7.2. Sectors of interventions

7.2.1. Health

Following the strategy adopted in the Global Plan 2000, the Health Sector will focus exclusively on emergency and humanitarian issues. Phasing out gradually from more development-oriented actions towards emergency and relief work, the interventions planned for the near future will solely depend on the political situation. The assessed needs are related to the following:

a) Emergency System

The latest explosion of violence validates the need to be permanently prepared for emergencies. This can be achieved by the strengthening of the whole health system, the referral system and specifically the system relating to Palestine refugees, wherever they are settled. The PRCS intervention (ECHO Global Plan 1999) to create an emergency network and to train personnel was definitely justified during the latest upheaval in Jerusalem. The emergency services of the Makassed Hospital and PRCS clinics have been intensively used. In the emergency room, very efficient staff have treated 300 Palestinians injured at the outset of the Al Aqsa Intifada, and today they continue to treat effectively the growing number of injured. The possibility of linking the type of intervention funded by ECHO in Southern Bekaa to this emergency system should be researched. The provision of emergency transport and logistic equipment, together with staff training to complement the system and integrate the network, should be considered.

b) Strengthening of surgery room

During field visit to hospitals and clinics, surgeons complained of shortages of specific instruments and equipment in the operating rooms as well as in intensive care departments. In normal circumstances, this problem could be overcome by treating the patient in other better-equipped facilities, but due to the latest events in the Palestinian Territories, it is expected that the absence of specific instruments may restrict the type of surgical intervention possible, and even endanger the life of patients. In the present crisis, when hundreds of people have been and still may be injured and need surgery, the surgical departments of the major hospitals need to be strengthened and supplied with the required equipment. Special attention must be given to eye surgery, as many people to date have been wounded in their eye/s by rubber-coated steel bullets.

c) Disability, medical treatment and rehabilitation

As has been stated above, a large number of people, including children, have been injured during the violent incidents, and are and may remain physically and/or mentally handicapped. Many of them have become partially or totally blind as a result of being hit by rubber coated steel bullets. They will all need special treatment after leaving the hospital and special training to cope with their new situation. There will be an urgent need for integrated health services to cope with disability, combining cure, rehabilitation, provision of prostheses and appliances, social adaptation and reinsertion, and psychological support

d) Psycho-social counselling

Given that the standard of living in the refugee camps is consistently very low and that there is a high birth rate it is not considered necessary to assess space constraints and the lack of mobility that the people, but especially children and teenagers, face living in such an environment. Insecurity produced by the political events has worsened the situation. Intifada is, for the youngest, a political expression born from a combination of frustration and lack of opportunity, and the need to direct their pent up physical energy towards a specific target.

The stress, tension and danger to which the Palestinians are constantly exposed causes deep psychological problems and trauma. Crisis intervention centres with counsellors to treat especially children, young people and women, must be set up. Psycho-social experts are needed to develop programmes to help people to cope with the continuing crisis and to re-establish normal life. These Programmes could be implemented in schools, refugee camps and communities by socially-oriented NGOs. Recreational programmes for children and the young could play a crucial role.

e) Supply of drugs

Supply and distribution of drugs and medical material - disposable, needles, etc - should be phased-out. Eventually, this type of intervention can be used to change attitudes and bad practice. Pharmacies are not properly managed. The prescription of medicines is not rational. Some "conditionally" should be required, by stressing the need to review management and implementation issues, e.g. monitoring of medicine distribution.

Health institutions can not depend indefinitely on ECHO good will and financial assistance to supply drugs over the years. Measures for sustainability must be sought and solutions can be promoted and funded by MEDA, for instance approaches to fund drug production in laboratories, or a factory run by the PRCS or national RC societies.

f) Health management training

The mission visited many hospitals, health centres and clinics, and interviewed a wide range of health staff. One basic conclusion reached is that administrators of health facilities lack essential management skills. This is one of the reasons why there is inefficiency in the interventions funded by ECHO in this sector. Although it is not an issue which fits clearly within ECHO's mandate, it is highly recommended to seek other budget lines to take on the training of health administrators. Such an initiative could help to rationalise health operations and to enhance better sustainability of the means and services provided by donors.

7.2.2. Mental and physical disability

Besides the victims of the armed conflict, 4% of the total population in the Palestinian Territories have some kind of disability. There are two principal reasons for this: 1) among Palestinians in general, but especially amongst refugees, marriage within the blood family is a normal custom, and 2) the poor level of pre and post-natal care and low awareness amongst women. Cultural patterns throughout the Middle East lead to disability being an unspoken, unrecognised area, increasing this group's vulnerability through social exclusion.

Local NGOs and civil groups are the actors most involved in this field; their interventions depend basically on private charity and donor financial aid. ECHO has funded several projects with outstanding results in the field of basic care, treatment and social reinsertion. Involving family members, teachers and authorities, the projects have promoted awareness of the situation of the disabled within society. ECHO interventions should be focused on the following issues.

- Social reintegration, boosting their potential in the community, as above mentioned.
- Adaptation of structures for the disabled. Provision of simple appliances and rehabilitation of structures to facilitate access, mobility and safety of the handicapped in private and public buildings.
- Rehabilitation of physical facilities, institutions and hospitals for the mentally and physically handicapped. Provision of specific equipment and appliances.

7.2.3. Water

Water is a highly political issue in the Middle East. In the Palestinian Territories, the annual average water consumption by Palestinians is 93 m³, an amount that, due to last year's drought, has been reduced to 50 m³. In the Israeli settlements, average water consumption per person is 1,450 m³. In general in WBGS, but particularly in refugee camps, drinking water is of poor quality. An integral development plan, compounding technical, social and political measures, could solve some of the main problems, but this does certainly not suit with ECHO mandate.

ECHO interventions in this sector should be limited to implement able, suitable, technically simple options, based on step-by-step up grading of existing situations, mostly carried out in the refugee camps and aimed at the following:

- Improving water quality and increasing the quantity of available drinking water. For instance: water saving by harvesting rain water from shelters and greenhouse roofs; rainwater catchment from slopes to be collected in simple dams, ponds, underground cisterns, reservoirs; slow sand filtration, etc.
- Maintaining and improving the sanitary conditions related to water. For example, control of waste, using drainage and treatment, sewerage, provision of latrines, etc.

These kinds of approaches could be implemented in most of the refugee camps or neighbourhoods in the four countries where Palestine refugees are settled.

7.2.4. Shelter Rehabilitation

The camps came into existence as a result of two main influxes of Palestine refugees that took place in 1948 and in 1967. At the inception, during the first emergency phase, people stayed in tents that were slowly transformed into shacks, and then into more permanent dwellings, with walls built of cement blocks and roofed with corrugated iron sheets.

Settlements developed throughout the years without taking into consideration control of land use or population growth. The result is overcrowded neighbourhoods often encroached on by overcrowded cities, having as its main features, old, decayed, low quality constructions built on small plots and extended vertically, due to the lack of land, allowing little sun and fresh air to reach the indoor spaces. As a consequence rooms are humid, dark and unhealthy, lacking ventilation. Some of the dwellings are covered with old corrugated sheet roofing, which leak during rains, are cold in winter and hot in summer. These conditions have a harmful effect on the health of especially children and en. Within this panorama, there are refugee families who can afford to rebuild and extent their houses with good quality results; but there remains a sizeable social group with no economic possibilities of improving their living situation.

ECHO has funded a programme to rehabilitate shelter for socially vulnerable groups, i.e. poor families with very low income. The main intervention has been entrusted to UNWRA, which has prioritised the most needed families: the hardship cases such as widows with children, physically or mentally disabled people, etc. The aim of the intervention is to upgrade and rehabilitate dwellings, rather than to reconstruct. There are also two European NGOs developing activities in this area in Jordan, however they use a different method for the selection of beneficiaries and implementation of the programme.

UNWRA's approach has achieved very good quality results and is highly cost-efficient. European NGOs which wish to work in this project line would be advised to co-ordinate closely with UNWRA, using the same criteria in order to avoid disparity in selecting beneficiaries and quality of work.

7.2.5. School Rehabilitation

Since its outset, education has been an important priority for UNWRA. Provision of primary education has been extended to all official refugee camps. Due to the shellings of the camps, schools have been damaged and some buildings have been permanently closed due to unsafe structural damage. The walls and roofs of the buildings are the most damaged structures.

Besides the effects of the conflict, in many schools sanitation services are absent or almost totally inadequate with no kind of provision for water. The most important reason for the high rate of school dropout, especially among girls, is the lack of water supply and/or and the poor sanitary conditions e.g. clogged latrines.

For the reasons given above, ECHO could intervene to support three main activities in the Education Sector:

- The provision of basic water facilities and sanitation for primary schools and educational institutions.
- Physical rehabilitation of education facilities damaged by the present conflict.
- The physical adaptation of school facilities for the special needs of students with disabilities resulting from the present armed conflict.

8. PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE ECHO INTERVENTIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

ECHO interventions in the Middle East do not have the same characteristics in the four countries visited by the mission. Different grades of priorities are given to the different needs identified. Due to the political situation and the status of Palestine refugees, ECHO actions in each of the countries require a separate approach and a certain order of prioritisation.

8.1. West Bank and Gaza Strip

8.1.1. Victims of the armed conflict and refugees

The political situation and the armed crisis in both regions have lent urgency to the character of pure emergency relief of present ECHO interventions in the Palestinian Territories. It is recommended to continue to closely monitor the situation in the Palestinian Territories, to co-ordinate the provision of basic needs, i.e. food and water, and health care provision to the population in the refugee camps in the case that closure and the siege situation persist.

a) High priority

Emergency system

- Special attention must be directed to the emergency system and network of hospitals and clinics run by the PRCS: to create an efficient network in the Palestinian Territories, the existing system could be up graded by replenishing kits, medicines and supplying lightweight equipment. Training of staff and volunteers is indispensable.. As explained in point (a) § 7.2.1.

Improvement and up grading of surgery rooms

- As explained in point (b) § 7.2.1.

Handicapped treatment and rehabilitation

- As explained in point (c) § 7.2.1.

Psycho-social counselling

- As explained in point (d) § 7.2.1.

b) Medium priority

Shelter rehabilitation

- As explained in § 7.2.4.

Mental and physical disability

- ECHO (GP 1999) has funded disability projects in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. More in-depth research is required to assess the need for new interventions. As explained in § 7.2.2, this area should be given less priority. If some activities can be related to treatment and rehabilitation for the disabled, the order of priority would be upgraded
- Rehabilitation of the women ward at Bethlehem Psychiatric Hospital (GP 2000) is at present ongoing. A more relief-oriented approach is recommended to tackle the general problem affecting all the buildings. Main issues are wall cracks and leakage, seepage of moisture due to decayed roofing insulation, and leaking water tanks.

c) Low priority

Water and Sanitation

- As explained in § 7.2.3.

Schools rehabilitation

- As explained in § 7.2.6.

8.1.2. Bedouins

a) High priority

Water Assistance

- Water management: how to control and recycle waste water; the planning of water collection, according to the seasons, aiming at sustainable water provision, when the political situations allows it. Israel prohibits excavation for wells or underground cisterns in its C zones.
- Programmes where different approaches to water collection are researched, like traditional cisterns, underground reservoirs to be filled up with rain water harvested from roofs or collected from hill slopes.
- Plastic water tanks should be supplied only when Bedouins ask for them.

Fodder and Veterinarian assistance and training

- ECHO has funded activities in this area. It is advisable to carry on with the programme. Bedouins will be better able to take care of their livestock in the future by acquiring sufficient know-how and experience.

b) Medium priority

Shelter improvement

- Provision of proper building materials to construct durable, semi-permanent shelters. UNHCR and the Technical Department at Jerusalem University could provide some solutions, for example, design of self-supporting, insulated sandwich panels with appropriate technology materials .

8.2. Lebanon

8.2.1. Palestine refugees

a) High Priority

Emergency system

- As explained in point a of § 7.2.1.

Shelter rehabilitation

- As explained in § 7.2.4. In Lebanon the situation is different, as the Lebanese Government does not allow shelter upgrading in the Palestinian camps located in the south and in the north of the country. However it is advisable in areas where it is allowed, for example in the camps around and near Beirut.

b) Medium priority

Mental and physical disability.

- ECHO (GP 1999) has funded two projects in Palestinian Camps in North Tripoli and Bekaa Valley. It can be assumed that other camps in Beirut and in the Southern region are in need of such interventions. ARCANSIEL is a local NGO specialised in handicap issues with considerable experience in the country and it could provide a good assessment of needs.

Water and Sanitation

- Maintaining and improving sanitary conditions, ie. wastewater control through drainage and treatment, sewerage, provision of latrines, etc.

c) Low priority

Drugs supply.

- As explained in point c of § 7.2.1., the supply of the medicines, disposable, small instruments, should be phased out.

8.2.2. Southern Lebanon

Health is the sector where ECHO can basically continue activities. Two interventions can be considered

a) Medium priority

Emergency system

- Due to the unsettled military situation between the Hezbollah and Israel, the region still is prone to shelling. Cities and villages are attacked without restriction and the civil population is not exempted from injury. The whole region is dotted with health facilities, mostly in very good buildings but with weak services and organisation. In this environment, it is important to strengthen the emergency system and network in the region as already above explained in §7.2.1a. The Lebanese Red Cross is currently in the area with interesting networks. Linking this existing structure to referral hospitals and providing efficient emergency rooms and a means of communication, a system could be created that might relieve the problems faced during previous armed crises.

Psycho-social counselling

- Special attention could be extended to the Lebanese population living in the UNIFIL zone. They are the ones most affected by the Israeli occupation of Southern Lebanon, suffering the real consequences of the conflict between the Hezbollah and Israel. For 22 years they have endured destruction and insecurity from shelling, but at present, all the donors' attentions are directed to the former occupied area.

c) Low priority

There are sectors that, while not being an immediate ECHO priority, could be taken into account, in the case where no activities are being developed by other donors at present.

Mine awareness

- ECHO has funded an intervention on mine clearance, as a first measure to the emergency response. A more appropriate and tailored way to produce relief is to start mine awareness campaigns. Children and teenagers are particularly vulnerable to mines. Most of the time they are injured while playing or collecting wood and scrap metal. Women and farmers working in the fields or collecting water or wood are also exposed to such danger. Actions planned in this field must be co-ordinated with UNICEF, as this agency was given the responsibility for the supervision of documentation, training material, standards, etc used in awareness activities.

Water Supply

- ECHO should bear in mind that water could become an emergency issue if Israel decides to stop the supply, which, up to the present it has continued to provide, as well as electricity to certain villages. As a reprisal for possible Hezbollah attacks, Israel might consider cutting the provision of water and electricity. The Lebanese system of wells and piped water is old and in a poor structural condition. Its reconstruction is a development issue, unfitted to the ECHO mandate; however, in the case of need, ECHO partners in the area could put relief actions in place until a more structured approach could be established.

8.3. Syria

8.3.1. Palestine refugees

a) High priority

Emergency system

- As explained in § 7.2.1 a)

Mental and physical disability

- The kind of activities already implemented could be extended to other camps, but also to neighbourhoods in the suburbs of big cities such as Damascus and Aleppo, where Palestinian refugees are also settled, together with Syrian displaced from the Golan Heights. Further information is given in § 7.2.2.

Shelter rehabilitation

- As explained in § 7.2.4.

8.3.2. Bedouins

Bedouins in Syria are not affected by the political constraints experienced by those in the West Bank. Nevertheless, most of them belong to the poorest strata of society and the drought has had a severe effect on their livestock. Interventions related to the drought could be extended to them.

a) Medium priority

Water and sanitation

- Water management: how to control waste water and recycle and planning of water collection, according to the seasons, aiming at sustainable water provision, when the geographic situations allows it.

- Programmes where different approaches to water collection are researched, such as traditional cisterns and underground reservoirs filled from rain water harvested from roofs or collected from hill slopes.
- Introduction of basic hygiene issues and provision of latrines.

Veterinarian assistance

- It is advisable to evaluate the on-going implementation of veterinarian assistance, and depending on the results, to continue activities. By acquiring sufficient know-how and experience, Bedouins will be better able to take care of their livestock in the future.

8.4. Jordan

8.4.1. Palestine refugees

Interventions to be extended to both registered and unregistered refugee camps.

a) High priority

Shelter rehabilitation.

- Due to the fact that Palestine refugees are integrated into Jordan society, sharing mostly similar civil, social and economic rights, it would be expected that they would have more or less similar standards of living. However the physical and sanitary condition of the shelters and the camps are the lowest in the region. Possible aid could be given following the recommendations and procedures explained in Paragraph 7.2.4.

b) Medium priority

Mental and physical disability

- Projects could be introduced in the camps where the disability issue has not been addressed, but it is a reason for concern.

8.5. Summary of Priorities

INTERVENTION AREA	BENEFICIARIES	HIGH PRIORITY	MEDIUM PRIORITY	LOW PRIORITY
WEST BANK & GAZA STRIP	Victims of the armed conflict and Refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency system • Improvement and upgrading of surgery rooms • Handicapped treatment and rehabilitation • Psycho-social counselling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter rehabilitation • Mental and physical disability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water and Sanitation • Schools rehabilitation
	Bedouins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water assistance • Fodder and Veterinarian assistance and training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter improvement 	
LEBANON	Palestine Refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency system • Shelter rehabilitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental and physical disability • Water and Sanitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs supply
	Southern Lebanon		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency system • Psycho-social counselling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mine awareness • Water supply
SYRIA	Palestine Refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency system • Mental and physical disability • Shelter rehabilitation 		
	Bedouins		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water and Sanitation • Veterinarian assistance 	
JORDAN	Palestine Refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter rehabilitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental and physical disability 	

Itinerary				
Date	Country	Place	Activity	Organisation
6-sept-00	Belgium	Brussels	Briefing	ECHO - HQ
7-sept-00		Brussels	Briefing	Relex ECHO - HQ
17-sept-00	Netherlands	Amsterdam	Departure	
	Jordan	Amman	Arrival	
18-sept-00	Jordan	Amman	Briefing	ECHO Coordination Office
19-sept-00		Amman	Briefing	ECHO - Coordination
			Briefing	ECHO - Coordination
			Interview	MPDL
20-sept-00		Amman	Departure	
	Palestine	Jerusalem	Arrival	
			Briefing	EU-Representation of the EC (West Bank, Gaza)
21-sept-00		Gaza	Meeting	UNWRA
			Field visit	Jabalyia Camp-Houses-School
			Field visit	Jabalyia Camp-Healt centre
			Meeting	UNSCO
22-sept-00		Jerusalem	Fixing appointments	
			Meeting	Consulate General of Sweden
23-sept-00		Jerusalem	Fixing appointments	
		Ramallah	Meeting	PNA-Ministry of Agriculture
		Betlehem	Meeting	ARIJ-Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem
24-sept-00		Jerusalem	Fixing appointm./reporting	
			Meeting	Netherland Red Cross
25-sept-00		Jerusalem	Briefing	EC-Representative Office
			Briefing	EU-Representation of the EC (West Bank, Gaza)
			General Meeting	NGOs representatives and ECHO Team
			Meeting	Consulate General of Belgium
26-sept-00			Meeting	UNWRA-West Bank

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		Huosan-Waadi Foukien-Batteer	Field trip	Solidaridad Internacional
				World Vision
				UAWC-Union of Agricultural Work Cttee
				ADP
		Jerusalem	Meeting	ICRC
			Interview	Solidaridad Internacional
27-sept-00		Betlehem	Field visit	Handicap International
		Arroub-Hebron Area	Field trip	UNWRA-West Bank
				Husan Camp
				Fawaar Camp
				Ramadin
		Jerusalem	Interview	GVC-Gruppo di Volontariato Civile)
28-sept-00		Jerusalem	Meeting	WHO
		Jerico	Field trip	CISP
		Jerusalem	Interview	CISP
			Interview	CRIC
			Interview	PTM
29-sept-00		Jerusalem	Meeting	Consulate General of France
			Meeting	Consulate General of Spain
			Meeting	British Consulate General
			Meeting	UNDP
			Meeting	UNWRA
			Visit	Makkassed Hospital
			Debriefing	EU-Representation of the EC (West Bank, Gaza)
			Debriefing	EU-Representation of the EC (West Bank, Gaza)
30-sept-00		Ramallah	Interview	MAP-UK
			Meeting	LAW
			Phone conversation	Handicapp International
1-oct-00		Jerusalem	Departure	
	Jordan	Amman	Arrival	ECHO- Office
		Amman	Departure	
		During flight	Debriefing	
	Lebanon	Beirut	Arrival	Hotel
2-oct-00		Beirut	Fixing appointments	
			Briefing Cancelled	EC-Delegation
			Meeting	AMEL
3-oct-00			Meeting	UNWRA
			General Meeting	NGOs and ECHO team
			Meeting	UNDP

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			Interview	CISP
			Interview	Movimondo
			Debriefing	ECHO Co-ordinator
			Interview	MPDL
4-oct-00			Meeting	Royal Embassy of The Netherlands
			Meeting	ICRC
			Meeting	UNDP
			Interview	NRC
			Interview	Greek Committee
			Interview	Secours Populaire Libanais
			Interview	MAP-UK
5-oct-00			Meeting	Lebanees Red Cross
			Meeting	UNICEF
			Meeting	French Embassy
			Meeting	Danish Embassy
			Meeting	Italian Embassy
6-oct-00		Tyre	Meeting	UN Office for the Socio-Economic Development of Southern Lebanon
			Meeting	Imam Al-Sadr Foundation
			Meeting	MPDL
		Nakoura	Field trip	
		BentJebail		
		Meis el Jabal		
		Kfar Kil		
		El Khiam	Visit	Health Centre
		El Khiam	Visit	Prisson
		Eber Es Sa		
7-oct-00		Marjaayoun	Meeting	Hospital Marjaayoun
		Nabbatiye	Visit	Secours Populaire Libanais Hospital
				Libanees Red Cross Post Government Hospital
		Tyre		
8-oct-00		Tebnine	Visit	Tebnine Hospital
		Unifil Area		
		Tyre	Visit/Interview	Balza Hospital
			Visit	El Buss Camp
9-oct-00		Saida	Interview	MSF-Holland
		Beirut	Meeting	Consultant Office
			Meeting	NRC
10-oct-00			Telephone calls, Syria, Lebanon EC Delegations	
			Meeting	UNICEF
			Meeting	PRCS
			Visit	Shatila Camp
			Visit	Borj-Al Bragne Camp
			Visit	Haifa Hospital
			Debriefing	EC Delegation

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11-oct-00	Lebanon			Deprature	
	Syria			Arrival	
		Damascus		Fixing appointments	
				Interview	Movimondo
				Meeting	UNWRA
12-oct-00				Meeting	EC-Delegation
				Meeting	PRCS
				Field trip	Khan Dannoun Camp
13-oct-00				Debriefing cancelled	EC-Delegation
				Visit	Palestina Hospital
				Visit	Jarmuk Camp
				Visit	Yaffa Hospital
				Visit	PRCS Medicament Factory
14-oct-00				Meeting	Movimondo
		Damascus		Departure	
	Jordan	Amman		Arrival	
15-oct-00		Amman		Debriefing	ECHO Coordination Office
				Meeting	Int. Fed. Red Cross
				Files review	ECHO Coordination Office
16-oct-00				Field visit ICU Project	Talbiyeh Camp
				Debriefing	ECHO Coordination Office
				Files review	ECHO Coordination Office
				Field Visit MPDL Project	Wadi Abdoun Camp
				Interview	MdM
17-oct-00				Meeting	UNWRA
				Debriefing	EC-Delegation
				Meeting	EC-Delegation
				Debriefing	EC-Delegation
18-oct-00	Jordan	Amman		Departure	
	Netherlands	Amsterdam		Arrival	
20-oct-00		Rotterdam		Debriefing by telephone	Syria EC Delegation

People Met			
Date	Organisation	Name	Position
6-sept-00	ECHO - HQ	Mr. Richard Lewartowski	Acting Evaluation Advisor
		Ms. Raffaella Iodici de Wolff	ECHO Desk Officer
		Mr. Andres Felices	
		Mr. Andreas Burger	Desk Officer-Relex
7-sept-00	Relex	Mr. Michael Ryan	Desk Officer Lebanon
	ECHO - HQ	Ms. Raffaella Iodici de Wolff	ECHO Desk Officer
18-sept-00	ECHO Coordination Office	Mr. Bernard Delpuech	ECHO Co-ordinator
19-sept-00	ECHO - Coordination	Mr. Bernard Delpuech	ECHO Co-ordinator
	ECHO - Coordination	Ms. Gabriella Trudi	ECHO Technical Officer
	MPDL	Mr. Vicente Raimundo	Co-ordinator
20-sept-00	EU-Representation of the EC(West Bank, Gaza)	Ms. Isabel Candela	Officer Economic-Political Issues
21-sept-00	UNWRA	Dr. Ayyoub El-Alem	Chief Field Health Programme
	UNWRA	Mr. Aqil Abu Shammalah	Chief Field Relief & Social Services Programme
	Jabalyia Camp-Houses-School	Ms. Miryam Fariz	UNWRA Social Worker
	Jabalyia Camp-Healt centre	Mr. Mohammed Abu Lehia	Director
	UNSCO	Mr. Salem Ajluni, PH. D.	Chief, Regional Economics Affairs Unit
22-sept-00	Consulate General of Sweden	Mrs. Ingrid Sandstrom	Consul
		Mr. Magnus Cedergren	Vice-Consul
23-sept-00	PNA-Ministry of Agriculture	Mr. Azzam Tubaileh	Deputy Minister
	ARIJ-Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem	Prof. Jad Issac	Director General
		Mr. Leonardo Hosh	UNDP Head of Agriculture, Rural & Economic Development Unit
24-sept-00	Netherland Red Cross	Ms. Paula van Voorthuysen	Project Manager
25-sept-00	EC-Representative Office	Mr. Bernard Delpuech	ECHO-Co-ordinator
	EU-Representation of the EC(West Bank, Gaza)	Mr. Jean Breteche	Representative
	NGOs representatives and ECHO Team		
	Consulate General of Belgium	Mr. Willy Demeyer	Head of Cooperation Section

26-sept-00	UNWRA-West Bank	Mr. Guy Siri	Deputy Director of Operations & Field Technical Officer
		Ms. Makarem Awad	Deputy Chief Field relief & Social Services Programme
	Solidaridad Internacional	Mr. Daniel Peluffo	Regional Field Co-ordinator
		Ms. Matilde Herreros	Project Manager
	World Vision	Paul-Lisbeth	
	UAWC-Union of Agricultural Work Cttee	Mr. Khaled Hidmi	General Director
	ADP	Mr. Ibrahim Bragheth	Director-Project Manager
	ICRC	Mr. Yves Arnoldy	Deputy Head of Delegation in Israel
		Mr. Stephane Jacquier	Head of Misssion- Gaza
		Mr. Marc Widmer	Head of Sub-Delegation, Jerusalem
	Solidaridad Internacional	Mr. Daniel Peluffo	Regional Field Co-ordinator
		Ms. Matilde Herreros	Project Manager
27-sept-00	Handicap International	Dr. Sami Sidarous	Programme Director
	UNWRA-West Bank	Mr. Abdalla Shafout	UNWRA-West Bank Field Relief Services Officer
	Husan Camp	Mr. Issa Abu Khieran	Camp Services Officer
	Fawaar Camp	Mr. Yousef Hleigawi	Camp Services Officer
	Ramadin	Mukhtar Nawwaf Zagalinh	Mukhtar-Director Basis School
	GVC-Gruppo di Volontariato Civile)	Ms. Monica Mazzotti	Project Coordinator
28-sept-00	WHO	Dr. Asmar Karamah	Medical Officer
	CISP	Ms. Luisa Rueda	Project Manager
		Mr. Arturo Avedano	Consultant
	CISP	Ms. Luisa Rueda	Project Manager
		Mr. Arturo Avedano	Consultant
	CRIC	Ms. Carla Pagano	Programme Manager
		Mr. Gianluca De Luigi	Veterinarian
	PTM	Mr. Javier Marti	Projects Coordinator Palestine
29-sept-00	Consulate General of France	Ms. Annie Evrard	Co-ordinator-Technical and Scientific Cooperation
	Consulate General of Spain	Mr. Guillermo Caro	Coordinator General
	British Consulate General	Mr. Chris Metcalf	Consul (Development)
	UNDP	Mr. Willi Scholl	Deputy Special Representative
		Mr. Leonardo Hosh	Head of Agriculture, Rural & Economic Development Unit
	UNWRA	Mr. Guy Siri	Deputy Director of Operations & Field Technical Officer
	Makkassed Hospital	Dr.Arafat Hydny	Director
	EU-Representation of the EC(West Bank, Gaza)	Mr. Jean Breteche	Representative
	EU-Representation of the EC(West Bank, Gaza)	Ms. Isabel Candela	Attache Economy-Politic

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30-sept-00	MAP-UK	Mr. Geoff Mitchel	Project Manager
		Ms. Hanan	Field Officer
	LAW		Staff
	Handicapp International	Ms. Katty Al Ju'baul	Programme Coordinator
1-oct-00	ECHO- Office	Bernard Delpuech	ECHO Coordinator
2-oct-00	EC-Delegation	B. Delpeuch: Meeting cancelled	ECHO Coordinator
	AMEL	Dr. Kamel Mohanna	President
3-oct-00	UNWRA	Mr. Alfredo Miccio	Director of UNWRA Affairs
	NGOs and ECHO team		
	UNDP	Mr. Ives De San	Resident Representative
		Mr. Mohamad Mukalled	Senior Humanitarian Affairs Officer
	CISP	Mr. Georgio Macor	Coordinator
	Movimondo	Ms. Rita Ricci	Coordinator
		Ms. Marie-Helene Kassardjian	Project Manager
		Mr. Bernard Delpuech	ECHO-Coordinator
	MPDL	Ms. Paula Dominguez Lopez	Project Manager
4-oct-00	Royal Embassy of The Netherlands	Jan Piet Kleiweg de Zwaan	Ambassador
	ICRC	Mr. Henry Fournier	Head of Delegation
	UNDP	Mr. Christ De Clerq	UN Office Coordinator & Project Manager Sustainable Development
	NRC	Ms. Ans Groen	Project Manager
	Greek Committee	Ms. Eugenia Papamakariou	Project Manager
	Secours Populaire Libanais	Mr. Moustapha Hessawy	Executive Vice-President
	MAP-UK	Mr. Stuart Shepherd	Project Manager
		Mr. Walid Abo Harb	Co-ordinator
5-oct-00	Lebanees Red Cross	Gen. Salim Layoun	President
	UNICEF	Mr. Ekrem Birerdinc	Representative
	French Embassy	Ms. Nada Fattouh	Attache Humanitarian Aid
	Danish Embassy	Mr. Dani Hanan	Cancelled
	Italian Embassy	Mr. Antonio Righetti	Development Cooperation Office
6-oct-00	UN Office for the Socio-Economic Development of Southern Lebanon	Mr. Tariq Osseiran & Team	Field Coordinator
	Imam Al-Sadr Foundation	Ms. Mahe Salman	Public Relations Officer
		Dr. Ahmad Farhat	Head of Health Department
		Mr. Mohamad Bassan	Public Relations Officer
	MPDL	Ms. Paula Dominguez Lopez	Project manger
	Health Centre		
7-oct-00	Hospital Marjaayoun	Dr. Airallah Mahdi	Director
8-oct-00	Tebnine Hospital		Staff Hospita
	Balza Hospital		Staff Hospita
	El Buss Camp		
9-oct-00	MSF-Holland	Mr. Rendt Gorter	Middle East Representative

	Consultant Office	Mr.Olivier Chadourne	Ex-Pharmaciens Sans Frontiers-Fr
	NRC	Ms. Ans Groen	Project Manager
10-oct-00	UNICEF	Mr. Ekrem Biredinc	Representative
	PRCS	Dr. Mohammad Ossman	President-Lebanon Branch
	Shatila Camp	Dr. Kalthoum Ghandour	PRCS
	Borj-Al Bragne Camp	Dr. Kalthoum Ghandour	PRCS
	Haifa Hospital	Dr. Dieb Aossman	Director
	EC Delegation	Mr. Vincent Depaigne	Commercial and Economic Officer
11-oct-00	Movimondo	Mr. Nicola Migliorino	Country representative
	UNWRA	Mr. Lex Takkenberg	Deputy Director UNWRA Affairs & Chief Field Relief & Social Services Programme
12-oct-00	EC-Delegation	Mr. Alessio Cappellani	Commercial and Economic Officer
	PRCS	Dr. Jishi	Vice-President PRCS & President Syria Branch
	Khan Dannoun Camp	Mr. Nabil Qaddoura	UNWRA Field Sanitary Engineer
13-oct-00	EC-Delegation	Mr. Alessio Cappellani	Cancelled
	Palestina Hospital	Ms. Samia Hawa	PRCS-PR
		Dr. Basel Tamam	Director Emergency Department
		Mr. Abu Jalal	Administrator
	Jarmuk Camp	Ms. Samia Hawa	PRCS-PR
	Yaffa Hospital	Ms. Samia Hawa	PRCS-PR
		Hospital Director & Team	
	PRCS Medicament Factory	Ms. Samia Hawa	PRCS-PR
14-oct-00	Movimondo	Mr. Nicola Migliorino	Country representative
15-oct-00	ECHO Coordination Office	Mr. Bernard Delpuech	ECHO Co-ordinator
	Int. Federation of Red Cross	Mr. Christer Aqvist	Head of Regional Delegation
		Mr. Tenna Mengistu	Deputy Head of Regional Delegation
	ECHO Coordination Office		
16-oct-00	Talbiyeh Camp	Dr. Paul Gasparini	ICU Project Manager
		Mr. Gerardo Dumas	ICU Technical Officer
	ECHO Coordination Office	Mr. Bernard Delpuech	ECHO Co-ordinator
	Wadi Abdoun Camp	Ms. Thais Mendez de Andes	MPDL Project manager
		Mr. Isam Koshebye	MPDL- Interpreter
		Mr. Adel Hamshawi	Project Engineer
	MdM	Ms. Catherine Geboin	Resident Country Representative
17-oct-00	UNWRA	Ms. Beth Kuttab	Director of Relief & Social Services
	EC-Delegation	Mr. James Moran	Head of EU Delegation
	EC-Delegation	Mr.Fernando Garces de los Fayos	First Secretary
	EC-Delegation	Mr. Bernard Delpuech	ECHO Co-ordinator

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20-oct-00	Syria EC Delegation	Mr. Alessio Cappellani	Commercial and Economic Officer

TERMS OF REFERENCE

for an assessment of possible ECHO's 2001 actions in the Middle-East

ECHO/EVA/210/2000/01003

Name of firm: TRANSTEC S.A.
Name of consultant: Mrs. Mirta Demare

1. INTRODUCTION

Since its inception, ECHO has focused interventions in the Middle East on the Palestinian refugees, as one of the longest lasting crises of the XXth century.

ECHO's commitment to Palestinian refugees began in 1993 and gradually developed to encompass the populations of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Almost ECU 68 million were allocated between 1993 and 1999. Throughout that period ECHO took due account of the distinctive nature of the Palestinian crisis. Its duration and complexity gave it a chronic character stemming essentially from the inability to find a solution to the question of a Palestinian state. Some 3.6 million Palestinian refugees are currently registered by UNRWA, of whom 33% live in 59 camps in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

2000 is a crucial year for the Middle East peace process. The Labour Party victory in Israel in May 1999 brought the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations back on track and talks between Israel and Syria resumed. The outcome of these two processes remains uncertain. A peace treaty between Palestine and Israel is due to be signed in September 2000 but questions concerning water, the status of Jerusalem, the return of the refugees and the borders of the future Palestinian state remain unresolved. Talks between Israel and Syria have been at a standstill since January 2000. The situation in southern Lebanon remains tense, even after the withdrawal of Israeli troops.

While continuing aid in the health sector, which in recent years has been the main recipient of ECHO assistance in the Middle East, the global plan for 2000 focuses on assisting the most vulnerable sections of the population. In addition to health, three priorities have been identified: upgrading the shelters of the people with the most inadequate housing in the refugee camps, assisting the West Bank Bedouin communities which have been victims of drought (depleting their herds) and forced displacement, and setting up an emergency response system in the conflict zone of southern Lebanon.

The will to refocus on the original ECHO mandate as defined by the Council Regulation has been increasing in the Commission. Therefore, actions to be undertaken in the future should be designed to bring immediate relief and avoid focussing on longer term development issues. Nevertheless, given the need to link relief with rehabilitation and development, any action which suits this purpose should also be taken into consideration.

2. CONSULTANT'S ROLE

During the course of the mission, whether in the field or while the report is being drawn up, the consultant must demonstrate common-sense as well as independence of judgement. She must provide answers that are both precise and clear to all points in the terms of reference, while avoiding the use of theoretical or academic language.

3. PURPOSE OF THE ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

The main purpose of this assessment is to have clear guidelines for future ECHO actions in the Middle-East (Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan).

Taking into account the specific features of the long-lasting and complex crisis in the Middle-East and its close relationship with the dynamics of the peace process, and having assessed the suitability of the ECHO operations in the region and the level at which the different programmes in the various sectors of activity has been implemented, the evaluator should:

- Comment on the possible impact that the difficult political environment could have on the capabilities of ECHO partners;
- Define the methodology and means for securing a pro-active role for ECHO in the identification, appraisal and project design.

- Assess the linkage and co-ordination between EC and other donors' financed programmes, as well as their degree of coherence;
- Formulate recommendations on the future of ECHO's interventions, should ECHO actions still be deemed necessary. In this case the consultants should define geographical regions (in the four areas) to focus on and precise sectors of intervention in order to allow ECHO to concentrate on specifically targeted beneficiaries (very vulnerable groups, neglected sectors of the society...);
- The visibility issue is a very sensitive one: it should be rethought and redesigned in order to secure the donor's right to acknowledgement in a very politically sensitive area. The evaluator should recommend some means of action in this respect.

4. SOURCES OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE

For the purpose of accomplishing her tasks, the consultant may use information available at ECHO, via its correspondents in the field, in other Commission services, the local Commission offices, ECHO partners in the field and at their headquarters, aid beneficiaries, as well as local authorities and international organisations.

The consultant will analyse the information and incorporate it in a coherent report that responds to the objectives of the assessment.

5. PHASES OF THE EXERCISE

The assessment study will last 45 days, spread out between the date of signature of the contract and its end on the 30 November with the submission of the final reports.

The phases of the assessment exercise will be as follows:

- Briefing at ECHO with the personnel concerned, for 2 days, during which all documents necessary for the assessment will be provided.
- Mission on the field: 11 days in Palestine; 6 days in Jordan; 11 days in Lebanon, and 3 days in Syria. During her mission on site the consultant must work in close collaboration with the delegations on the spot, the ECHO correspondents, the ECHO partners, local authorities, international organisations and other donors.
- The consultant should devote the first two or three days of her mission to the area to preliminary and preparatory discussions with the ECHO co-ordinator and will convene a meeting for this purpose.
- The last day of her mission to the area should be devoted to a discussion with the ECHO co-ordinator and ECHO partners on observations arising from the study.
- Debriefing of 3 days in Brussels.
- The draft report (in 8 copies) should be submitted to ECHO-Evaluation 9 days before its presentation and its discussion during the debriefing.
- Submission of the final report (20 copies) which should take account of any remarks which may have been raised during the debriefing.

6. CONSULTANTS

This survey should be carried out by experts with good experience in the field of humanitarian aid its assessment. Good experience in relevant fields of work and in the geographical areas where the evaluation takes place is also required. Good knowledge of English is obligatory.

7. REPORT

At the end of the field visit, the consultant will submit to the Evaluation Service 9 days before the debriefing visit to Brussels a draft report in conformity with the schema laid out in the contract. During the above meeting, ECHO may include certain comments, which will entail amendments to the draft report. Once these have been incorporated, the revised text will be submitted back to ECHO, which should mark its agreement within 15 days. At that time the payment order for the fees and expenses will be processed.

The report will be written in English, with a maximum length of 20 pages including the summary that should appear at the beginning of the report.

The report format appearing under points 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, and 7.5 below must be strictly adhered to:

7.1 Cover page

- Title of the report "*Assessment of possible ECHO's 2001 actions in the Middle-East*";

- Period of the assessment mission;
- Name of the consultant;
- Indication that the report has been produced at the request of the European Commission, that it has been financed by it and that the comments contained therein reflect the opinions of consultants.

7.2 Table of contents

7.3 Summary

7.4 The **main body** of the report should start with a section on the method used and should be structured in accordance with the specific objectives formulated under point 3 above.

7.5 Annexes

- List of persons interviewed and sites visited;
- Terms of reference
- Abbreviations;
- Map of the areas covered

ABBREVIATIONS

CBO	Community Based Organisation
CBR	Community Based Rehabilitation
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
EU NGO	European Non Governmental Organisation
ICRC	International Committee of Red Cross
IFRCS	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
LRC	Lebanese Red Cross
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NRC	Netherlands Red Cross
PNA	Palestinian National Authority
PR	Public Relations
PRCS	Palestinian Red Crescent Society
PWA	Palestinian Water Authority
SRC	Syrian Red Crescent
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSCO	United Nations Special Co-ordinator for the Middle East Peace Process
UNWRA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East
WBGS	West Bank and Gaza Strip
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation

NGOs

ICU	(Italian NGO)
MPDL	Movimiento por la Paz, el Desarme y la Libertad (Spanish NGO)
MdM-E	Médicos del Mundo (Spanish NGO)
MdM-F	Médecins du Monde (French NGO)
Movimondo	Movimondo Molisv (Italian NGO)
MSF-NL	Médecins Sans Frontières-Netherlands (Dutch NGO)
HI	Handicap International (French NGO)
GC	Greek Committee for International Democratic Solidarity
SI	Solidaridad Internacional (Spanish NGO)
MAP-UK	Medical Aid for Palestinian-United Kingdom
SPL	Secours Populaire Libanais (Lebanese NGO)
CISP	Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (Italian NGO)
AMEL	Association Libanaise pour L'action Populaire (Lebanese NGO)
PTM	Paz y Tercer Mundo (Spanish NGO)
CRIC	Centro Regionale d'Intervento per la Cooperazione (Italian NGO)
GVC	Gruppo di Volontariato Civile (Italian NGO)
UAWC	Union of Agricultural Work Committee (Palestinian NGO)
ARIJ	Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem (Palestinian NGO)
ERM	Enfants Refugiés du Monde (French NGO)

La dispersion des Palestiniens

325 132 réfugiés étaient recensés par l'UNRWA au 30 juin 1995 dont un tiers (1 042 705) vivent dans cinquante neuf camps. Il faut y ajouter les personnes déplacées durant le guerre de juin 1967, dont le nombre est estimé à plusieurs centaines de milliers.

Les camps : 1 359 706 réfugiés en Jordanie (dont 742 622 vivent dans des camps) ; 332 436 en Cisjordanie (dont 147 302 dans des camps) ; 718 530 dans Gaza (dont 378 279 dans des camps) ; 352 868 au Liban (182 731 dans des camps) ; 347 391 en Syrie (dont 99 472 dans des camps).

