



## ECHO Flight facts and figures

Number of aircraft: **3**

Operation areas: **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Kenya**

Destinations currently served: **36**

Flights hours per month: **236**

Passengers transported per month: **1,200**

Cargo transported per month: **43,000 kg**

Emergency evacuations since 1994: **200**

Accidents since 1994: **0**

Number of agencies currently served: **100**

Number of projects currently served: **180**

Annual budget: **€8.5 million in 2009**

## Basic operating principles

ECHO Flight:

- is a humanitarian facility, and is not available for political missions; the choice of destinations, and the frequency with which these destinations are served, is guided solely by humanitarian imperatives;
- applies the highest air safety standards;
- services are free-of-charge;
- operates in accordance with a general schedule; flights outside this schedule are possible, depending on the demand and the specific circumstances;
- does not compete with bona-fide commercial operators offering cost-effective humanitarian air transport capacity;
- grants priority access to agencies implementing projects funded by the European Union and its Members States.

### HUMANITARIAN AID DEPARTMENT (ECHO)

European Commission

B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel. (+32 2) 295 45 72

E-mail: [echo-info@ec.europa.eu](mailto:echo-info@ec.europa.eu)

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

Helping when  
needed most

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid

Photos credits:  
DAC Aviation

© European Communities, 2009  
KR-80-09-447-EN-D



**Saving lives in  
extreme conditions**

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid





**ECHO Flight is a vital partner for most of the humanitarian agencies operating in the Horn and Great Lakes regions of Africa. It transports personnel and relief supplies to dozens of remote locations that would otherwise be cut off from the outside world.**

## **An airborne lifeline supporting humanitarian operations in the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa**

From its bases in Goma (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Nairobi (Kenya), ECHO Flight provides free air transport capacity to aid agencies operating in the DRC and Kenya. Aid workers and cargo are flown aboard scheduled flights using a fleet of three aircraft. Since its launch in May 1994, the service has clocked up more than 50,000 missions, carrying more than 200,000 passengers and 6,000 tonnes of food and medical supplies to some of the world's most needy populations. The service has also carried out more than 200 emergency medical or security evacuations.

In addition to two modern DASH 8 passenger aircraft, ECHO Flight runs a versatile single-engine Cessna Caravan enabling it to move staff and supplies into small dirt airstrips in areas cut off due to impassable roads or insecurity. Thanks to the high standard of its planes and pilots, ECHO Flight can boast a 100% safety record in one of the world's most hostile flying environments.

While most ECHO Flight operations are concentrated in the DRC and Kenya, operational flexibility has enabled the service to react immediately to humanitarian disasters throughout the region. In the 14 years it has been running, ECHO Flight has also been deployed in response to crises in Rwanda, Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan.

Today, ECHO Flight has proved its worth as a life saving-vehicle for EU-funded and other humanitarian action throughout the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region. With a budget of €8.5 million in 2009, ECHO Flight continues to be a concrete expression of Europe's humanitarian commitment to the region.

