

# **ECHO ANNUAL REPORT 2014**

## **ANNEX 1 – GEOGRAPHICAL FICHES**

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## 2014 in Afghanistan

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 31 500 000	EUR 300 000	EUR 31 800 000*

\*EUR 31 800 000 is the sum of the initial HIP allocation of EUR 28 500 000 plus a top-up of EUR 3 million following devastating floods in spring 2014 and EUR 300 000 allocated to Afghanistan through "EU Children of Peace".

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Afghanistan is confronted to a complex protracted crisis:

The **armed conflict** mainly affects rural areas in the south, east and south-east regions. There was a large rise in conflict-related deaths and injuries of Afghan civilians in 2014 with 800 000 people living in displacement. Recurrent **natural disasters** affect the central, northern and north-eastern regions like the major floods of spring 2014. Military operations in Pakistan in 2014 also forced thousands to seek refuge in neighboring Afghan provinces.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention

Support to Emergency Healthcare covering trauma care and emergency health services for victims of conflict and to control epidemic outbreaks and emergency vaccination campaigns (measles and polio) was an important sector of intervention.

Funding was provided for protection, non-food items (NFI), emergency shelters, food assistance (both in-kind and cash- based), water and sanitation and livelihood opportunities to displaced people, returning Afghan refugees and people affected by natural disasters.

DG ECHO focused on advocacy for the respect of humanitarian principles and launched a communication campaign to increase access for humanitarian organizations.

Increasing the preparedness and resilience of Afghan communities to recurrent natural hazards continued to be an important component of DG ECHO's programming in Afghanistan.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

**Emergency Response Mechanism (ERM):** In cooperation with existing coordination mechanisms, support is provided to NGOs to build up capacities for enhanced access, emergency needs assessment and response, in order to ensure that timely assistance can be delivered to disaster-affected people or conflict-affected IDPs.

**Assistance to refugees and returnees:** Increasing numbers of returning refugees and displaced people required assistance to meet their immediate humanitarian needs. These needs included protection, access to secure housing, and livelihood opportunities. Assistance and maintenance support to vulnerable Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan was provided as well as to Pakistani refugees in Afghanistan.

**Access:** The operationalization of an access strategy through air transport services, safety and security services, media campaigns and the promotion of humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law has been developed.

An active role has been played in facilitating and supporting the coordination of aid between humanitarian actors, donors and Afghan authorities.

**LRRD:** Strong partnership from programming level to proposals assessment with the EU Delegation but also with other donors has been prioritised to ensure continuity of actions beyond emergencies.

**Disaster Preparedness:** Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) partners have been assisted in developing jointly a methodological model that can be integrated into Government's technical policies and then owned and implemented by local stakeholders in order to build communities' resilience to natural hazards.

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

An estimated total of 3 243 280 persons have benefited from DG ECHO-funded projects in Afghanistan in 2014.

## 2014 in Algeria (Sahrawi crisis)

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 10 000 000	-	EUR 10 000 000

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

The **Sahrawi refugee crisis** is a "forgotten crises".

When Spain withdrew from its colony of Western Sahara in 1975, it handed over control of two-thirds of the territory to Morocco and one-third to Mauritania. The division of the territory triggered armed conflict with the Polisario Front, founded in 1973 by opponents of Spanish colonization, who proclaimed the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) in 1976 and established a government-in-exile.

To escape the worsening violence, Sahrawis began to move to the Tindouf province of Algeria. Mauritania pulled out of the Western Sahara in 1979. Morocco and SADR eventually agreed to a ceasefire and mediation from the United Nations in 1991. But today, the conflict remains unresolved and refugees live in five refugee camps named after cities of Western Sahara - Laâyoune, Ausserd, Smara, Boujdour and Dakhla. The climate in this region is extremely harsh. Access to basic resources such as food, water, healthcare, housing and education is very limited. The largely isolated camps offer almost no employment opportunities, creating a dependency of the refugees on remittances and international aid. In such a remote location, logistics also play a key role to ensure regular distributions of relief items to the refugee population. Another important factor is the security of humanitarian workers, which has improved over the past years but still remains a challenge.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

In 2014, **food aid** was the main component of ECHO's funding: ECHO partners supplied basic food items such as wheat flour, barley, rice, oil, sugar and lentils, as well as fruits and vegetables.

The availability of **safe drinking water** in sufficient quantity remains essential: ECHO funded projects connected the camps to water sources through piped networks and water trucking and maintained the quality of water distributed to families.

ECHO also focused on **hygiene** and **sanitation**, particularly in the national hospital, on the provision of **essential medicines** as well as on the **training** of the health personnel managing drugs.

In order to assist the most vulnerable refugees, ECHO also targeted the **disabled and elderly refugees**, through direct distributions of **special equipment** and the **training of social workers** to improve the support to families and caregivers.

**Logistical support**, such as maintenance of the vehicle fleet and purchase of new water trucks, was essential to ensure that hygiene and household items, as well as water distributions, were carried out throughout the year. The construction of a new mechanical workshop was also started to ensure improved services to the humanitarian community through better upkeep of trucks and other specialized vehicles.

#### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

The absence of a political solution to the conflict and subsequent absence of development programmes in the Sahrawi camps leaves humanitarian aid as almost the sole source of assistance. In a context of increased insecurity in the region and possible radicalization of the Sahrawi youth, this approach is not sustainable in the long term. This issue has been raised and discussed with other EU services as well as with Member States and Algerian authorities.

#### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

Algeria, the host country, officially recognizes 165 000 refugees. On their side, humanitarian agencies and NGOs provide assistance to the 90 000 refugees identified as the most vulnerable.

## 2014 in Bangladesh

#### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 13 500 000	EUR 13 500 000

The initial allocation (EUR 12 500 000) was increased by EUR 1 million in response to the monsoon floods which hit the North-West in July/August 2014.

#### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Bangladesh is affected by several humanitarian crises due to, in particular, the consequences of recurrent natural disasters, the influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar and the food insecurity in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Bangladesh officially became a flagship country for resilience for the EU.

Bangladesh is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, exposed to a variety of natural disasters including cyclones, floods and earthquakes. Bangladesh has made significant developments in terms of early warning for natural disasters, which has resulted in millions of lives being saved. However these natural shocks still continue to impact on the food security, livelihoods and the nutrition status of millions.

Bangladesh hosts one of the most intractable refugee crises in the world, classified by DG ECHO as a Forgotten Crisis: the Rohingya are an ethnic, religious and linguistic minority that face exclusion and severe discrimination in neighbouring Myanmar, from where many have fled since the 1970s. Since 1992 new Rohingya refugees do not benefit from refugee status. With no formal possibility for them to seek protection in Bangladesh, they are rendered vulnerable to persecution, exploitation, and arrest, and are pushed back by Bangladesh Border Guards.

Finally, The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) is also classified by DG ECHO as a forgotten crisis.

The formal conflict ended with the signing of the 1997 CHT Accord, which recognized CHT as a “tribal inhabited” region. The minorities living in CHT continue to be faced with hard challenges such as land disputes combined with demographic pressure, decreased productivity of traditional agriculture and strict control over the area by the Government with limited international access. Since 2005, the EU is supporting the implementation of the CHT Peace Accord by enhancing the local government capacity, as well as social and economic empowerment of local communities, with the aim of reducing poverty and promoting peace in the CHT. Humanitarian food assistance has continued to be provided to help population recovering from an acute food crisis and diversifying their livelihoods.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

**Response to natural disasters:** Food and livelihood assistance, Community based nutritional support to moderate acute malnourished people, and shelter support.

**Rohingya refugees:** Health, nutrition support, water, health, sanitation, shelter and protection.

**Chittagong Hill Tracts:** Food and livelihood assistance.

**Humanitarian coordination:** OCHA, the Food Security Cluster, the Nutrition Cluster and the Cash Working Group.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

In 2014 DG ECHO continued to support the humanitarian architecture in Bangladesh, such as the Humanitarian Affairs Advisor to the UNRC office, the Food Security Cluster - which was recognized as one of the best performing clusters globally - and the nutrition cluster in addition to the work of ACAPs Joint Needs Assessments, all of which have contributed towards better humanitarian preparedness and response in Bangladesh. In 2014 DG ECHO has also supported the new Cash Working Group for cash transfer programmes.

The release of the Government of Bangladesh’s strategy for Undocumented Myanmar Nationals is a positive step by the Government in ensuring the regularization of humanitarian aid to Rohingya refugees and the legalization of INGO projects in Cox Bazar. The EU played a key role in advocating with the Government for the need for continued assistance to refugees.

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

Some 3 200 000 people

## 2014 in Cameroon

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 3 000 000	EUR 6 000 000	EUR 9 000 000

The 2014 HIP for Cameroon had an initial allocation of EUR 2 M for nutrition interventions in the Sahel regions (North and Far North).

In response to the massive influx of population escaping violence in CAR, in March 2014 the HIP was amended with an additional EUR 1 M for emergency assistance to the new refugees.

A regional ad-hoc Decision using EDF funds was subsequently adopted in order to provide further assistance to CAR refugees in neighbouring countries. EUR 6 M were allocated to Cameroun under this decision. ECHO interventions in Cameroon were complemented in 2014 by an emergency education program funded under the Children of Peace Decision (EUR 500 000) and by an intervention against cholera (EUR 120 000) supported via the IFRC DREF (Disaster Relief Emergency Fund). With these operations, the total funding for Cameroon reached EUR 9 620 000 in 2014.

## **2) Context and type(s) of crisis:**

### **Context:**

Cameroon is considered a middle-income country in Central Africa, with an economic growth of 5% in 2014 (estimated GDP growth rate), and ranks 152 out of 187 countries in the 2013 UNDP HDI (Human Development Index). Despite its economic growth, it is marked by large economic disparities. It has had a relatively stable political situation over time, with President Paul Biya in office since 1982, but this stability is fragile. The country faces important internal challenges, such as a high unemployment rate and systemic corruption extended to all sectors; it is now also facing a deteriorating security situation due to the Boko Haram threat.

The Far North and the North regions, located in the Sahel belt, have the highest poverty rates in the country, and lack basic social services. These regions are characterised by poor soil quality and low crop production. It is estimated that 1.74 million people are threatened by food insecurity in the area, and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) rates have exceeded the emergency threshold (2%).

### **Crisis:**

In 2014 Cameroon suffered the outbreak of two major humanitarian crises.

**CAR Refugees:** Around 127 000 refugees fleeing the conflict in CAR arrived in Cameroon during 2014, stretching the country's capacity to assist them. An emergency multi-sectorial response had to be mobilised, in a country not used to facing major humanitarian crises and with limited presence of humanitarian actors. Border areas that received most refugees (Adamawa and East regions) are destitute and difficult to access. The crisis protracts over 2015, due to the uncertain transition process in CAR, resulting in very unclear return prospects for the refugees.

**Nigerian Refugees:** Towards the end of 2014, attacks on civilian populations by Boko Haram in Nigeria as well as cross-border incursions by Boko Haram into Cameroon intensified, causing massive internal displacement and a large influx of Nigerian refugees in the Far North region. By December 2014 there were around 43 000 Nigerian refugees and 40 000 IDPs in the Far North. The vulnerability of this region is compounded by its exposure to natural disasters and epidemics (a cholera outbreak was recorded in the Far North in 2014, with more than 3 100 cases).

## **3) Sectors of activity/intervention:**

**\* In response to the CAR Refugee crisis:** Since refugees arrived in an extremely vulnerable state, and presented high malnutrition rates, interventions funded by ECHO provided access to primary health care (support to health centres in refugee sites and in hosting local communities); nutrition services; food assistance; protection; distribution of materials for temporary/semi-permanent shelters; construction and rehabilitation of boreholes, latrines and distribution of NFIs.

**\* Nutrition in the Sahel belt:** In 2014 ECHO continued funding interventions in the Far North to provide access to nutrition services for children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition; reinforce the Management of Acute Malnutrition in health facilities; and distribute nutritional inputs and essential drugs for the treatment of malnutrition.

## **4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:**

As a first-wave responder to the CAR crisis, since March 2014 ECHO mobilised funds to provide emergency assistance to CAR refugees in Cameroon. It also advocated vigorously to raise awareness on the crisis, to attract humanitarian actors in the country and to put in place an emergency response. Considering the scale



of this crisis and the emerging new crisis in the Far North, ECHO opened an antenna in Yaoundé in June 2014.

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

In 2014 ECHO funded multi-sector interventions to address the basic needs of CAR refugees in all 7 refugee sites and in host communities. The emergency assistance funded by ECHO benefited the entire caseload of CAR refugees in Cameroon in 2014, i.e. 127 000 persons.

In northern areas, 48300 children under 5 suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition benefited from access to nutrition services.

## 2014 in Central African Republic

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 22 500 000	-	EUR 22 500 000

The initial allocation (EUR 14.5 million) was increased by an additional EUR 8 million in response to the deterioration of the situation as of December 2013, in view of the immediate humanitarian needs to be addressed, which ranked CAR at the highest level in terms of scale of needs and vulnerability according to DG ECHO's Integrated Analysis Framework for 2014.

ECHO operation in CAR in 2014 was complemented by an education program (EUR 600 000) funded under the Children of Peace initiative. With this operation, the total amount allocated to CAR in 2014 reached EUR 23.1 million.

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

CAR is one of the poorest countries in the world. During the last decades the country has suffered very poor governance and has proven unable to emerge from the long armed conflict. This already fragile situation deteriorated very significantly during 2013 as a result of the confrontation between SELEKA and ANTIBALAKA militias, the escalation of inter-communal violence and of political instability. In the worst moments of the fighting (end of 2013) almost 1 000 000 people were internally displaced, including more than 500 000 only in Bangui.

During the course of 2014, the extremely dire internal situation led to new waves of population displacement into neighbouring countries, notably to Chad, Cameroon, Republic of Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo. This massive flight, which severely disrupted the socio-economic fabric of the country, had a heavy impact on the situation in CAR. At the end of 2014, more than 800 000 people were displaced in CAR or in neighbouring countries.

In this framework, aid efforts were seriously hampered by the critical security situation (despite the presence of international armed forces in CAR), as well as by access limitations due to very poor or dilapidated infrastructure.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

In a situation of crisis marked by an extremely volatile security situation and large-scale human rights violations the most acute humanitarian needs were identified in the protection sector and concerned the country's minorities in particular.

Health, nutrition, food assistance-food security, water, sanitation and logistics (taking into account the extremely limited access to wide zones of the country) were other high-ranked priorities in CAR.

#### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

Humanitarian assistance from the European Commission to the CAR amounted to EUR 22.5 million in 2014. As a complement to that, the European Commission also provided EUR 4 million to respond to the impact of the CAR crisis in neighbouring countries, notably Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo. In CAR, relief assistance placed a special focus on displaced people both inside and outside IDP camps.

In order to help the populations affected by the emergency, the European Commission funded humanitarian projects to enable free access to primary **health services** through mobile clinics, with a main focus on life-saving interventions and the control of epidemic-prone infectious diseases. Projects seeking to improve the **protection of civilians** were also supported, including tracking of incidents, advocacy, medical, psychosocial and legal support to victims.

**Food assistance** was a priority, so as to prevent a nationwide crisis. Relief efforts aimed at combining food aid and cash transfer initiatives until the resumption of commercial activities. Moreover, the European Commission supported integrated actions to provide safe drinking **water**, re-establish decent **sanitation** facilities and promote better **hygiene** practices (WASH).

Coordination and logistics activities were also supported with a view to ensure the rapid identification and timely coverage of humanitarian needs.

#### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

The entire population of 4.6 million in CAR is considered as affected by the still ongoing humanitarian, security and political crisis. It is estimated that around 2.7 million extremely vulnerable people all over the country have benefited from ECHO funding through a multi-sectorial response in 2014.

## 2014 in Central America

#### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 12 052 796 + 3 500 00	-	EUR 15 552 796*

3 500 000 allocated in 2013 and on-going in 2014

#### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Central America and Mexico are highly disaster prone in terms of recurrence of hazards and their severity, exposed in particular to floods, hurricanes, landslides, droughts, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Earthquakes occurred in Nicaragua (April 2014) and Guatemala (July 2014). An exceptional prolonged dry spell in July/August came on top of several consecutive shocks and put 2.5 million people into high levels of food insecurity. This occurred in a context of deep inequalities, widespread poverty, fast population growth and the effects of climate change. Several countries of the Northern Triangle of Central America are also increasingly affected by the presence of non-political armed groups, leading to forced displacement and confinement of local populations who are victims of high levels of organized violence.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

**Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR):** Activities were carried out to reduce the impact of disasters in Central America, by preparing vulnerable populations in the most affected areas, increasing their capacities and reducing their vulnerability. The 2014-2015 DIPECHO Action Plan put particular focus on the institutionalization processes of DRR tools and to the integration of protection into DRR activities at community level.

**Food assistance, short term food security and livelihood support:** Emergency food assistance was provided in the form of cash and vouchers, targeting food insecure populations living at subsistence and infra-subsistence levels and affected by consecutive shocks.

**Shelter and NFIs:** Basic NFI kits and support to rehabilitation of houses of vulnerable families damaged by earthquakes was provided in the form of vouchers for construction material.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

- The national response in Nicaragua to the earthquake of 10 April in Managua was largely based on results from previous DIPECHO operations. Therefore, only limited external support was needed.
- Field level: 400 communities with improved disaster preparedness mechanisms, 52 municipalities with reinforced early warning systems, 68 health centres and 255 schools with protocols in case of disasters. Some of them were tested during emergencies and lives were saved.
- 68 000 unaccompanied minors from Central America apprehended at US borders. According to UNHCR, 58% of these children meet criteria for refugee status due to high levels of violence. A regional framework led by UNHCR has been elaborated to address forced displacement.

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

The different interventions funded by DG ECHO in the region benefited a total of 600 000 people.

## 2014 in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) in South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
DIPECHO Budget EUR 7 740 000 (allocated in 2014/2015)	-	EUR 7 740 000
DREF EUR 56 401 EUR 35 959 EUR 43 923		EUR 136 283

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

In the Caucasus there are recurrent natural disasters including earthquakes, floods, landslides, mudflows, debris flows, droughts, avalanches and extreme temperature. Earthquakes and floods have affected large

numbers of people and caused significant economic losses over the past 20 years. Furthermore there are "Frozen conflicts" in Nagorno-Karabakh, South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Central Asia is prone to frequent natural disasters including earthquakes, floods, landslides, mudflows, debris flows, droughts, avalanches and extreme temperatures. Earthquakes and floods have affected large numbers of people and caused significant economic losses over the past 20 years.

The harsh winter in Armenia made conditions for the Syrian refugees even more difficult. Humanitarian assistance was provided through the allocation of funds from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), including EUR 56,401 provided by ECHO.

On 11-12 April 2014, floods and landslides occurred in Vose, Shurobod, and Hamadony districts and in Kulob city in the south of Tajikistan as a result of heavy rains. ECHO contributed EUR 35,959 to the IFRC's DREF to support the Tajikistan Red Crescent Society in assisting the population affected by the floods and landslides.

On 10 - 11 May 2014, heavy rainfall caused flooding and flash floods in two provinces and two Direct Ruled District districts in Tajikistan. The affected areas stretch from Khatlon province to Rudaki and Vahdat districts in the south of the country, and in the northern region in Gonchi district of Sughd province. ECHO contributed EUR 43,923 to the IFRC's DREF to support the Tajikistan Red Crescent Society in assisting the affected population.

### **3) Sectors of activity/intervention:**

Through the DIPECHO Action Plan, ECHO covered projects in all countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus, helping to reduce the vulnerability and improve the resilience in areas most prone to natural disasters, mainly working directly with local communities. The Action Plan focused on interventions in the area of disaster risk reduction (DRR) to increase awareness, preparedness and response capacities and general resilience to natural disasters.

In Central Asia, partners were encouraged to adapt previously successful community-based disaster risk reduction models to existing needs and contexts, and to facilitate coordination between development partners and government agencies to ensure disaster risk reduction measures are integrated in local, state and national development plans. It also supported the implementation of programmes related to school safety, hospital preparedness and mitigating urban disaster risks.

In the Caucasus, ECHO funded community-based initiatives that increase the resilience of the population through simple, inexpensive measures such as disaster mapping, evacuation plans, building of safe havens and the pre-stocking of food. ECHO also continued to fund school-based preparedness projects, and advocated with national and regional authorities to integrate disaster risk reduction into school curricula and general school activities.

Under the DREF, ECHO provided funds to assist people in Armenia and Tajikistan:

ECHO provided funds for the response to the needs of 250 vulnerable Syrian refugee families following the harsh winter in Armenia. Selected families received NFIs and vouchers for winterization.

In Tajikistan, 500 families affected by floods and landslides occurred as a result of heavy rains in April 2014, benefited from NFIs and information materials.

In May 2014 as well, heavy rainfall caused flooding and flash floods in Tajikistan. 250 families received basic emergency NFIs, hygiene kits and appropriate tools for shelter improvement and environmental cleaning.

### **4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:**

DIPECHO remains the main ECHO programme implemented in Central Asia and South Caucasus. The programme promoted both the piloting of innovative Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) actions at community level, and the institutionalization of DRR measures at country and regional levels. In total, fourteen projects were implemented across the Central Asia and Caucasus region.

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

A total of 5250 persons have benefited from DREF 2014 projects in Armenia and Tajikistan funded by ECHO.

An estimated 250 000 direct beneficiaries have benefited from DIPECHO 2014/2015 funded projects.

## 2014 in Chad

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 31 500 000	EUR 14 000 000	EUR 45 500 000

The 2014 HIP for Chad was launched with an initial allocation of EUR 29.5 million. In February 2014, in order to give an immediate response to the basic needs of people affected by conflict in neighbouring Central African Republic (CAR), who started fleeing to Chad as of December 2013, an additional funding of EUR 2 million was allocated.

Later in the year, due to the deteriorating food security situation in the Sahel belt and to the continuing negative impact of the CAR crisis, the total envelope for Chad was increased to EUR 45.5 million, with the allocation of EUR 10 million from the Bridging Facility of the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development fund for urgent food assistance in the Sahel belt, and € 4 million - also from the Bridging Facility - to address the continued needs of CAR refugees and returnees in the South of Chad.

The ECHO 2014 intervention was complemented by EUR 0.45 million from the Epidemics decision in response to a cholera outbreak in the West and South-West of Chad. With this operation, the total funding for Chad in 2014 reached € 45.95 million.

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

#### Context:

Chad is a land-locked country located in the semi-desert Sahel belt. It is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 184 out of 187 countries in the UNDP Human Development Index for 2013. Maternal mortality rate is one of the highest in the world; life expectancy at birth is 51.2 years; adult literacy rate is 32%, which means that 68% of adult Chadians cannot read nor write. Access to basic services, such as health care, primary education, clean water or proper hygiene and sanitation, is a major problem for the great majority of Chadians.

Due to its harsh environmental conditions, Chad is affected by chronic food insecurity and recurring food and nutrition crises. There are also recurring droughts, floods and epidemics (such as cholera, meningitis, measles) that make the situation more critical. Chad has endured a widespread internal conflict for a very long period until 2010, which has resulted in large population displacement. It has been furthermore exposed to population movements from neighbouring countries in crisis (notably Sudan, CAR and Libya). New influxes from Nigeria have started towards the end of 2014. In the first quarter of 2015 the country hosts over 478 000 refugees, as well as 110 000 returnees from CAR.

#### Crisis:

In 2014, due to erratic rainfalls and agricultural production failure, 21% of the population (30% in the Sahel belt) was found food insecure, which corresponds to 2 million people (one sixth of the total population), in absolute terms. Of these, 900.000 people required urgent food assistance (of which 811000 in the Sahel belt). In 2014 the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate nearly reached the emergency threshold (15%) in 5 regions of the Sahel belt of Chad and was close to the critical threshold (10%) in 6 others. The humanitarian situation was aggravated by the massive influx of new refugees and returnees from CAR, started at the end of 2013. Towards the end of 2014, a new crisis emerged in the West (Lake Region) due to Boko Haram violence against civilian populations in Nigeria and its spill-over effects in Chad.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

- \* **Nutrition and health:** ECHO supported actions to improve free access to the treatment of malnutrition and health care for children under 5 years and for pregnant and lactating women.
- \* **Food security:** actions were supported to improve access to adequate food, particularly for the most vulnerable populations, through food assistance, cash and vouchers distributions.
- \* **WASH:** WASH activities were integrated in nutrition programs; ECHO-supported health centres were enabled to provide minimum WASH services.
- \* **Populations movements:** multi-sectorial assistance to refugees and returnees was supported, particularly in the sectors of shelters, food assistance, health care and WASH services.
- \* **Logistics:** ECHO Flight has also been deployed for the first 6 months of 2014

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

The close monitoring of the humanitarian situation in different regions of Chad and the improvement of early warning systems gave ECHO the capacity to identify and to give a rapid response to humanitarian crisis and natural disasters. This made possible the allocation of additional funding and the ECHO support to live-saving interventions, particularly to beneficiaries affected by severe food insecurity or to refugees in an extremely vulnerable state. Work on LRRD and resilience processes in the framework of AGIR continued throughout the year.

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

- \* More than 670 000 vulnerable Chadians benefited from the food security programs.
- \* More than 300 000 malnourished children received treatment, of which 150 000 were children affected by severe acute malnutrition.
- \* More than 450 000 refugees and returnees across Chad received multisectoral aid.

## 2014 in Colombia

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 13 529 000	-	EUR 13 529 000

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

The protracted armed conflict in Colombia continues to cause a major humanitarian crisis. Despite the on-going peace dialogue with the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia in its acronym), clashes between the army, FARC, other major guerrilla groups such as ELN (Army for National Liberation in its Spanish acronym), and with post-demobilization armed groups, known by the government as BACRIM (*bandas criminales*, or criminal groups), have continued. Despite the indefinite, unilateral ceasefire declared at the end of 2014 by FARC, the situation has continued to be critical in areas affected by the conflict. Forced internal displacement in Colombia continues to be of serious concern, with the total accumulated number of displaced people reaching 6.4 million and an average of 200 000 new IDPs per year. Other humanitarian consequences of the conflict are restrictions on mobility of people, goods and services (589 000 people affected in 2014<sup>1</sup>), widespread insecurity and violence including forced recruitment of children and youths, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), threats, disappearances and murders. Although the number of new displacements and combats has decreased compared with previous years, other victimization events such as extortion, threats and confinement have increased, changing the shape of the humanitarian crisis.

Colombia is a highly disaster-prone country, and populations affected by the conflict might also be hit by natural disasters, as displaced tend to settle in zones at high risk.

Colombia continues to be considered by DG ECHO as a forgotten crisis, given the limited international attention to its humanitarian crisis, limited media attention and low funding for humanitarian actions.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Given the level of threats, violence and fear among the population, protection is the overarching sector of DG ECHO's funding in Colombia, including legal and psychosocial support to the victims of the conflict, prevention of child recruitment, sensitization on mines, contingency planning, etc. The other main sectors are food assistance, emergency non-food items, health care, access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene and emergency education after displacement. DG ECHO supported Disaster Risk Reduction through targeted projects as well as through integration of Disaster Risk Reduction in humanitarian interventions when possible and appropriate.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

Actions focused on newly displaced populations as well as areas controlled by armed groups and suffering from restriction of access to basic services, confinement and violence.

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

More than 180 000 people and 140 organisations benefitted from DG ECHO actions in 2014.

## 2014 in Djibouti

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 1 000 000	EUR 1 000 000

Djibouti allocation for 2014 amounted to EUR 1 million. 40% of the budget was allocated for the phasing out from drought response operations including resilience building; 60% for support to refugees. Exit from

<sup>1</sup> Source: OCHA Colombia

Resilience can be explained by ECHO limited budget in Djibouti and the commitment from the EU Delegation to take over ECHO-funded project in Food Security and Nutrition with 11<sup>th</sup> EDF funding from 2015 onwards.

## 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

In 2014, Djibouti faced two different types of humanitarian crisis:

- 1) A combination of acute and protracted displacement with some 23 000 refugees, mainly Somalis, living in camps in the country.
- 2) Structural food insecurity, with recurrent droughts, acutely affecting around 100 000 people, while 400,000 people – half the population – are chronically food insecure, thus vulnerable to shocks.

## 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

ECHO focused on:

- 1) Support to refugees, with a threefold objective: (a) to provide basic life-saving services in the sectors of protection, shelter, health, nutrition, food/cash and water, (b) to enhance refugee self-reliance and durable solutions whenever possible with the introduction of cash distribution, (c) to support contingency and preparedness measures to face a potential influx of new arrivals and (d) to accompany and monitor a voluntary and safe returns of Somali Refugees back to Somaliland.
- 2) Response to drought within a resilience-building framework, mostly focusing on integrated DRR, nutrition and food security interventions.

## 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

- 1) ECHO contributed to the resilience of the population of Djibouti through DRR programming.
- 2) LRRD cooperation is working smoothly and opportunities are being considered with the EU Delegation in the framework of the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF programming.
- 3) ECHO funded care and maintenance activities in the camps, supporting UNHCR and NRC in meeting the needs of Somali refugees. ECHO is looking, together with UNHCR and WFP, to long-term solutions to the protracted refugee situation in Djibouti and is planning to engage together with WFP in the distribution of cash to refugees.

## 5) Estimated Beneficiaries: Approximately 120 000.

## 2014 in Democratic Republic of Congo and refugees in the Great Lakes Region

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 51 000 000	EUR 5 000 000	EUR 56 000 000



The initial DRC allocation (EUR 50 million) was increased by EUR 1 million in response to the spill over effect of the CAR crisis into DRC/Congo Brazzaville (influx of centrafricans seeking refuge in neighbouring countries). An additional EUR 5 million was then granted through EDF funding to respond to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Katanga province as a result of renewed violence and fighting between Mayi-Mayi armed groups and the Congolese armed forces (FARDC), as well as clashes between Pygmy and Bantu ethnic groups. DRC also benefited from ECHO flight funding to ensure access to remote places and secure safe air transport to humanitarian actors, as well as Children of Peace and Enhanced Response Capacity funding.

## 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Five main humanitarian situations:

- 1) **IDPs** mainly in the east of the country (North and South Kivu, Katanga and Province Orientale) with important new displacements due to fighting between various armed groups and between armed groups and the Congolese army. Access problems (security and logistics) hampered delivery of relief.
- 2) The protracted situation of Congolese **refugees** in neighbouring countries (Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, and the Republic of Congo).
- 3) Spill over effect of the CAR crisis into DRC (Equateur province) and Republic of Congo (Betou) with influx of **refugees**
- 4) **Nutrition** crisis: Estimated 2million children suffer from severe acute malnutrition annually in DRC (Kasais, Katanga and Bandundu provinces).
- 5) Many regions are affected by **Epidemics** (outbreaks of measles, cholera and malaria) that require life savings intervention to be put in place in a timely manner. In 2014, an Ebola outbreak hit the Province of Equateur and required a specific medical and logistical response.

## 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Vulnerable IDPs and affected local populations received **food assistance, healthcare, water/sanitation facilities, shelter and livelihood** support during displacement and/or to return to their villages and rebuild their lives.

Refugees living both in and outside camps were given access to **water, adequate sanitation, shelter, protection and medical/nutritional care**. Camp maintenance, camp consolidation and repatriation were also part of the main activities.

**Nutrition** programmes focused mainly on treating severe malnutrition and preventing deterioration of the nutritional status of under-fives and pregnant and lactating women. This was done through the use of community-based management of acute malnutrition (the CMAM approach).

Epidemics are responded with **emergency health care**, vaccination campaigns and disease surveillance system

**Logistical support:** ECHO Flight continued operating in DRC with three aircrafts. Around 2500 hours were flown with 10300 passengers transported to almost 30 different destinations.

## 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

While responding to these crises, ECHO continued advocating for:

- increased humanitarian coordination to support better preparedness and improve access to vulnerable groups;
- Long-term activities using development funding.

## 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

Around 3 million people have benefited from ECHO funding through a multi sectorial response to movements of populations, response to epidemic outbreaks and acute malnutrition in DRC.

Around 400 000 refugees in the Great Lakes region have also received ECHO assistance.

## 2014 Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Caribbean

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
		EUR 8 500 000 (allocated in 2013, but on-going in 2014)

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

The Caribbean experiences multiple **natural hazards**, including hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions and is one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world in terms of their recurrence and severity. Climate change is also likely to negatively affect disaster trends in the region and epidemics are frequent and represent challenges for national health capacities. A high risk of disaster is also closely interconnected with socio-economic factors such as high population density, fast demographic growth, inequality and poverty.

In 2014, the region was still recovering from the impact of hurricane Sandy, which impacted more than four million people during 2012, and from the effects of significant flooding which affected around 150 000 people and caused huge economic losses in Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Saint Lucia and Dominica at the end of 2013, highlighting the limited coping capacities of small islands and the low resilience of vital services such as health and water supply.

While the main concerns are linked to climate related events, earthquakes and tsunamis are also a matter of concern in the region.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Most DRR projects focused on strengthening disaster management capacities of local authorities and communities. DIPECHO interventions also aimed to contribute to 1) improving institutional capability in order to reduce the impact of natural events providing adapted and tested tools 2) informing the general public, in particular the most vulnerable groups, about the risks and life-saving preparedness measures to be taken.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

- DG ECHO has continued to advocate for increased investment in disaster preparedness and to integrate DRR in response in sectors such as WASH, health and shelter. Several DG ECHO-funded initiatives have been scaled-up and in the process of being taken over by national authorities.
- During the emergency caused by Hurricane Sandy and by the 2014 end of year floods, DIPECHO projects were successfully put to the test and allowed timely evacuations. Tools and initiatives produced under DIPECHO have been taken on board by key DRR stakeholders.
- Building upon demonstrative and pilot approaches in order to disseminate and institutionalise community-based DRR models, involving local actors who become vectors for DRR dissemination, implementation and monitoring.
- Models of intervention developed included the creation of an index to measure school safety; prioritisation of DRR interventions at national levels (country documents) in more than eight countries and progressively endorsed by National Disaster Management Offices; application of the safe hospital index; EWS based on Common Alerting Protocol integrating different risks; development of mobile and modular shelters; tools for micro-mitigation actions and safe housing for people with disabilities and elderly, among others.

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries: more than 650 000 people in the Caribbean region

## 2014 Emergency Response Toolbox (Small Scale Response, Epidemics and DREF)

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
SSR		EUR 5 062 022,89
Epidemics		EUR 11 500 000,00
DREF		EUR 3 000 000,00

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

#### Small Scale Response:

The Small Scale Response funding instrument helps to provide appropriate assistance to populations affected by disasters in terms of emergency response and preparedness in all countries where DG ECHO operates. Funding under the Small Scale Response Instrument may be provided when local response is insufficient, whether in cases of small-scale disasters or in disasters of a somewhat larger scale where there are unmet humanitarian needs, and for which a **small scale intervention is adequate**. In particular, it allows for a rapid response to those disasters where the number of affected people is low, or the unmet needs are not significant enough to justify a specific Humanitarian Implementation Plan or emergency funding decision. Particular attention is given to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness into the response to the largest extent possible to reduce vulnerability to future events and increase coping capacity. Actions aim to strengthen the capacities of local communities and authorities to respond, thus increasing their resilience.

The total amount of allocated in 2014 to this instrument was EUR 5 062 022.89, covering response to floods, drought and conflict, food security assistance, and support to IDPs and detainees.

#### Epidemics:

The Epidemics instrument includes both preparedness and response components allowing for rapid and flexible interventions in case of epidemic outbreaks in developing countries worldwide.

The **preparedness component** includes: 1) Reinforcement of capacities for rapid field assessment during initial phases of the outbreak and analysis of epidemiological patterns; 2) Improvement of the emergency response capacity through the development of disease specific criteria and technical guidelines; 3) Mobilization of technical expertise for multidisciplinary assessments; 4) Contribution to the constitution and replenishment of emergency stocks of vaccines, drugs, medical and/or water and sanitation supplies; 5) Development of contingency plans and setting up of coordination mechanisms, including the development of an early response capacity in high risk areas; 6) Setting up of surveillance systems – identification of areas to focus environmental actions. 7) Reinforcement of treatment capacity; 8) Awareness-raising, including information, education and communication (IEC) campaigns; 9) Provision of materials for vector control; 10) Pre-positioning of

critical medical and hygiene items; 11) Training for local staff to enhance assessment/surveillance capacity and response.

The **rapid response component** includes 1) Rapid field assessment during initial phases of outbreaks; 2) Provision of free curative primary and secondary health care (case management); Temporary support to existing health centres and facilities through provision of drugs, vaccines, medical/laboratory equipment and water and sanitation products; 4) Organisation, implementation and supervision of mass vaccination campaigns; 5) Environmental health actions designated to control epidemics; 6) Data analysis during the outbreak and impact of action required; 7) Accompanying training of staff.

The total amount allocated to this instrument in 2014 was EUR 11 500 000, covering response to Ebola, cholera, and dengue.

### **IFRC DREF (Disaster Relief Emergency Fund)**

The DREF of the International Federation of Red Cross and Crescent Societies (IFRC) has three main functions: 1) to provide financial assistance to a National Society (NS) whose resources are insufficient to respond adequately to a small- or medium-sized emergency; 2) to provide start-up funding for a response to a large-scale emergency before an appeal is launched and 3) to provide funding to make preparations in the case of an imminent disaster. DG ECHO provides support to the first and third function. Whenever an Emergency Appeal is launched by the IFRC, a DREF allocation becomes ineligible for replenishment. The National Society is often in the best position to provide a first response. There is also an element of capacity building to each DREF operation as volunteers are trained, and resilience thus strengthened. The DG ECHO-DREF Agreement allows for replenishment of the DREF each time an allocation has been made to a National Society by the IFRC.

The IFRC is the pre-selected partner. In 2014 - as in previous years - the total amount was € 3 000 000, covering response to floods, cyclones, earthquakes, drought, volcanic eruption, hail storms, extreme winter conditions, displacement, civil unrest and epidemics (cholera, plague and measles).

### **3) Sectors of activity/intervention:**

Water and Sanitation, Food Assistance and Nutrition, Emergency Livelihood Support, Health, Non-food Items, Emergency rehabilitation of schools and other vital infrastructures, Shelter, Disaster Preparedness, Protection, Support to Emergency Communications, Logistics and Coordination.

### **4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:**

#### Small Scale Response:

- Bolivia, EUR 250 000
- Chad, EUR 200 000
- Ethiopia, EUR 250 000
- Guatemala, EUR 250 000
- Honduras, EUR 250 000
- India, EUR 749 000
- Kenya, EUR 250 000
- Libya, EUR 500 000
- Nepal, EUR 250 000
- Nicaragua, El Salvador, EUR 250 000
- Paraguay, EUR 250 000
- Philippines, EUR 547 604.58
- Solomon Islands, EUR 190 418.31
- Somalia, EUR 250 000
- Sri Lanka, EUR 250 000
- Thailand, EUR 125 000
- Ukraine, EUR 250 000

#### Epidemics:

- Bolivia, EUR 300 000
- Cameroon, EUR 250 000
- Nigeria, EUR 500 000
- South Sudan, EUR 2 550 000
- West Africa, EUR 7 900 000

#### DREF:

- Madagascar, EUR 55 744
- Armenia, EUR 56 401
- Tanzania, EUR 73 446
- Guinea, EUR 49 180
- Seychelles, EUR 28 188
- Zimbabwe, EUR 107 121
- Bolivia, EUR 175 130
- Burundi, EUR 49 099
- Venezuela, EUR 23 267
- Indonesia, EUR 100 000
- Comoros, EUR 36 407
- Kazakhstan, EUR 37 376
- Chile, EUR 119 549
- Tajikistan, EUR 35 959
- Nicaragua, EUR 88 154
- Afghanistan, EUR 117 562
- Tajikistan, EUR 43 923
- DRC, EUR 73 210
- Nigeria, EUR 34 820
- Palestine, EUR 72 566
- Guatemala, EUR 86 111
- Cameroon, EUR 120 000
- Libya, EUR 200 000
- Ghana, EUR 76 380
- Belarus, EUR 63 524
- Ecuador, EUR 32 740
- Russia, EUR 200 000
- Morocco, EUR 105 993
- Cabo Verde, EUR 62 907
- Malaysia, EUR 62 519
- Lebanon, EUR 62 454
- Zimbabwe, EUR 95 312
- Madagascar, EUR 145 511
- Albania, EUR 118 084
- Macedonia, EUR 84 236
- Kenya, EUR 50 943
- Tanzania, EUR 56 184

#### **5) Estimated Beneficiaries:**

Small Scale Response: EUR 712 585 direct beneficiaries

Epidemics: EUR 25 436 700 direct beneficiaries

DREF: EUR 2 383 214 direct beneficiaries

## **2014 in Ethiopia**

#### **1) Total budget allocated in 2014:**

<i>Humanitarian aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 31 000 000	EUR 6 000 000	EUR 37 000 000

The initial HIP allocation of EUR 26 000 000 was complemented by another EUR 6 million from EDF in order to face the needs triggered by the influx of the South Sudan Refugees to Gambella from December 2013 onwards. In October additional EUR 5 million were added to respond to the ever increasing number of refugees entering into the country in dire need of humanitarian assistance. Specifically: 59.5% of the budget was allocated for support to refugees; 26 % to drought response including resilience building; 14.5% for rapid response to disasters and horizontal support and coordination (ICRC, OCHA).

## 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Ethiopia's humanitarian context is characterised by the co-existence of a plurality of complex crises:

1) In 2014 Ethiopia has become the largest refugee hosting country in Africa with an overall caseload of **660 000 refugees**, mainly from South Sudan (197 000 new arrivals since December 2013 in 2014), Somalia, Sudan and Eritrea.

2) **Natural hazards** (droughts, floods, landslides, epidemics and earthquakes) and **internal conflicts/clashes** between ethnic groups causing internal displacements of population and destruction of assets and livelihoods. According to OCHA as of end of December 2014, nearly 835 000 Ethiopians were **IDPs** (protracted and new) out of which some **390 000** were **newly displaced** during October-December 2014.

3) Structural **food insecurity**, aggravated by recurrent droughts, resulting in **2.9 million individuals dependent on relief food assistance** for survival.

## 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

**Support to refugees**, with the twofold objective to a) provide basic life-saving services in protection, shelter, health, nutrition, food and water sectors and b) supporting contingency and preparedness measures to cope with potential influx of new arrivals including advocacy for suitable land allocation for camp establishment.

**Emergency response to natural and human-made disasters**, with a focus on drought-, conflict- and floods-affected IDPs, inclusive of NFIs, WASH and livelihood support.

**Response to drought** within a **resilience-building** framework, through an integrated, multi-sectoral response aimed at addressing nutrition and livelihood needs and tackling local/root causes of under-nutrition and food insecurity. The intervention is taking place in full synergy with the EU Delegation.

## 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

ECHO reinforced its response to address the unmet needs of the increasing number of refugees.

The Resilience building program in Ethiopia (RESET) model is being implemented in strong collaboration with the EU Delegation. There is a potential for synergies with existing Government of Ethiopia programmes and other active Donors in the selected areas. ECHO commitment needs to remain in order not to jeopardise the achievements already gained.

## 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

ECHO provided support to approximately 3 000 000 individuals.

## 2014 in Gambia

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 650 000	-	EUR 650 000

## 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

The situation of food and nutritional security in Gambia in 2014 was worrying not only because a poor harvest in 2013/2014 but the invasions of birds (Red-billed sp.) that affected about 200 hectares of upland rice fields during the 2013 main agricultural season.

In 2014, 202 542 people (13.5% of the rural population of the country) was estimated being in need of emergency food assistance (people in IPC phases 3 and 4) during the lean season period, while the food security situation of 427 786 other people was in stress situation (people in IPC phase 2).

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

ECHO provided in 2014 EUR 400 000 to WFP for emergency food assistance. Regarding the nutrition sector, ECHO provided financial support (EUR 250 000) through the UNICEF regional contract.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

The Gambia lacks a robust food security and nutrition surveillance system. The only nutritional information available to date is a mix of MICS, SMART and DHS data, which does not allow for accurate trend analysis.

The market information system is also poorly functioning in the Gambia. So far it has been impossible to access up-to-date local market information.

The poor information system on this country is a key difficulty to develop interventions on this country.

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

An estimated number of 10000 beneficiaries have been received help from the ECHO emergency food assistance in the Gambia in 2014.

## 2014 in Haiti

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 18 500 000	EUR 5 000 000	EUR 23 500 000

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Haiti is characterized by extreme poverty, political instability, institutional weakness and high vulnerability to recurrent natural disasters, climate change and epidemics such as cholera. The country hosts a United Nations integrated stabilization mission (Minustah). In 2014, Haiti's main humanitarian needs were related to:

(1) Continued large-scale **urban displacement**: In January 2014 an estimated 146 573 individuals (39 464 households) were still living in 271 sites, which constituted a decrease of 90% of the initial IDP caseload. In December 2014, the number of IDPs decreased to 79 397 individuals (21 218 households) in 105 sites. However, five years after the earthquake, those still displaced are facing dramatic living conditions in the camps and are considered to be the most vulnerable population.

(2) One of the largest **cholera epidemic** in the world: 726 177 cases registered from October 2010 to December 2013, and still over 27 000 cases in 2014. In 2014, the number of cholera cases in Haiti was equivalent to one fourth of the cholera cases in the WHO African Region when its population is 95-fold smaller (10 and 950 million respectively).

(3) **Recurrent natural disasters**, particularly affecting the most vulnerable populations. If the cyclonic season 2014 was relatively calm, heavy rains in the north of the country in November 2014 affected over 12 000 families and damaged or destroyed up to 1 000 houses.

(4) In 2014, an estimated 1 000 000 people were suffering from **food insecurity** of whom 165 000 are severely affected, mostly as a consequence of a poor spring harvest due to lack of rains, flash floods and limited public investment.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

#### Internally Displaced Earthquake Victims

The Commission's humanitarian funding continued to support:

- The safe relocation of the remaining IDPs, primarily through rental subsidies coupled with start-up support for income generating activities focused on the most vulnerable, prioritising camps under threat of eviction and situations of clear exposure to natural hazards.
- The provision of basic services in the camps ensuring a minimum of water and sanitation services, prevention of water-borne diseases such as cholera and protection activities with a specific attention to camps with highly sensitive issues (risk of forced evictions, gender-based violence).

#### Cholera

DG ECHO support focused on the rapid WASH and Health response to cholera outbreaks through the provision of adequate medical treatment, rapid and effective community response (sensitization, decontamination), improving the epidemiological surveillance as well as setting-up/reinforcing early warning systems.

#### Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), DIPECHO

DG ECHO support focused on community-based DRR in order to strengthen local authorities' and communities' disaster management capacities with the establishment of *Equipes d'Intervention Communautaires* and enhancing the preparedness of communities to withstand natural hazards. Special focus was also on urban risk reduction and tsunamis through risk mapping and simulation exercises.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

- Support to the elaboration of the UN-led transitional appeal for 2015-2016.
- Support to strategic coordination among humanitarian actors (through clusters) as well as among donors.
- Advocacy for the respect of humanitarian principles and space.
- Linking Relief Rehabilitation and Development, in particular with other EU instruments (EDF, Ifs, FSTP, etc.).
- Launch of the elaboration, in coordination with EU Delegation, of a Joint Humanitarian Development Framework (JHDF) that should support the elaboration of an EU Strategy for Resilience in Haiti.

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

Approximately 1.16 million

## 2014 in India

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:



<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 6 000 000	-	EUR 6 000 000

In addition to EUR 6 000 000 under the Humanitarian Implementation Plan, an amount of EUR 749000 was allocated through the Small-Scale Response Instrument to respond to humanitarian needs stemming from three crises: Ethnic violence in North East India, Floods in Jammu & Kashmir and in Odisha states.

In 2014, implementation of actions financed under DG ECHO's Disaster Preparedness programme (the Seventh DIPECHO Action Plan for South Asia) in 2012 continued in Assam and West Bengal States. The support focused on enhancing communities' preparedness in order to minimise their vulnerability to natural disaster risks, predominantly flooding and earthquakes.

## **2) Context and type(s) of crisis:**

Two main humanitarian situations:

- 1) The protracted and forgotten crises in Jammu & Kashmir, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh (Internally Displaced People originating from Chhattisgarh) and the North Eastern States of India.
- 2) Flooding in Jammu & Kashmir and in Odisha states.

## **3) Sectors of activity/intervention:**

Vulnerable populations affected by floods Jammu & Kashmir and in Odisha states received the following assistance : food assistance, through a combination of cash transfer programming modalities as well as in kind distributions in the early stages of the crises; water/sanitation, through provision of safe water sources, sanitation and distribution of hygiene kits, hygiene awareness; shelter and NFIs. A strong focus was placed on building community resilience to future shocks and advocating for inclusion of the most vulnerable in government social welfare schemes and entitlements.

Vulnerable conflict victims in Jammu & Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and the North Eastern States, including people with disabilities, received healthcare, livelihood support, shelter and NFIs, water/sanitation, psychosocial care and protection to meet needs stemming from protracted, neglected low intensity conflicts.

Preparing communities to minimise natural disaster risk is an important part of DG ECHO's work in India. Vulnerable communities were supported in Assam and West Bengal to reduce the impact of floods, earthquakes and other natural disasters through initiatives like creating early warning systems and adapted physical infrastructure.

## **4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:**

While responding to these crises, DG ECHO promoted:

- Targeting of marginalised communities (low caste groups, religious and tribal minorities) hardest hit by disasters, who often fall through social safety nets and are excluded by local relief efforts.
- Targeting of women, children, elders and other disadvantaged categories, who are among the hardest hit by natural and man-made disasters.
- Strengthening people's resilience to natural disasters.

## **5) Estimated Beneficiaries:**

Over 426 900 people:

- Natural disasters: some 37 000 people
- Conflict and related displacement: some 160 202 people (Jammu and Kashmir 22 453; Chhattisgarh/Andhra Pradesh 80 816; North Eastern States 56 933)
- Disaster Preparedness: 229 699 people

## 2014 in Iraq

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 20 000 000	-	EUR 20 000 000*

\* This figure does not include EUR 27 000 000 that were allocated under HIP Iraq 2014 for actions to be implemented in 2015, in support to Iraqi IDPs, and ECHO support to Syrian refugees in Iraq (EUR 6500000 in 2014 and EUR 2000000 for actions to be implemented in 2015).

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

The crisis in Iraq is a complex emergency, characterised by multiple security, political, and economic challenges. As direct result of the conflict, the crisis has been one of the most rapidly escalating ones in the world. By end of 2014, UNHCR estimates 5.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and 2.1 million internal displaced persons (IDPs). In addition, Iraq hosts over 228 000 Syrian refugees. The fighting continues to push Iraqis to neighbouring countries for protection or economic migration.

The context remains volatile, political and sectarian tensions continue to contribute to the deterioration of the situation, with increased displacement, particularly in central and the disputed areas. Lack of strong humanitarian leadership and coordination by the UN and a skewed humanitarian response, focusing mainly on northern Iraq and camp settings, fail to respond to important needs of most vulnerable populations (in hard to reach and disputed territories and in out of camp settings).

Humanitarian access to those in need remains a major challenge, in particular for those 3.6 million living in ISIL-controlled areas, unable to flee or receive humanitarian assistance. The crisis present serious protection concerns, with gross violations of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law committed by all parties to the conflict. The principle of distinction between civilians and combatants is not respected and civilian populations and structures are purposefully targeted on the basis of religious confession and ethnicity.

The big majority of IDPs (80%) live in out of camps settings. Many receive only ad hoc humanitarian assistance, suffer protracted/multiple displacement, restriction of movement, difficulties in registration, with limited access to basic services, livelihoods opportunities and lack of documentation.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

In assistance to IDPs, in Iraq, ECHO supports an integrated and multi-sector humanitarian response, focusing on life saving assistance, including protection, to most vulnerable affected populations (based solely on needs, regardless of religious affiliation or ethnicity). Due to high humanitarian needs and limited response, ECHO focuses on hard to reach/disputed areas and on out-of-camp settings.

In assistance to new Iraqi refugee arrivals in Jordan and Lebanon, ECHO support mainly protection and cash assistance programmes, targeting the most vulnerable ones, including female-headed households, families with several dependents, the disabled, elderly and medical cases.

#### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

ECHO, throughout the year, has actively increased its humanitarian efforts by constantly scaling up its' funding, in response to four major waves of displacement.

**Support to Iraqi population:** ECHO funds the programme of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for assistance and protection of IDPs, mainly food, essential non-food items (NFIs) and WASH assistance, and for visits to prisons and detention centres. Additional funds support four INGOs for the distribution of emergency aid (food and NFIs) for newly displaced populations in hard to reach areas, through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). Furthermore, ECHO supports IOM for NFI distribution and WFP food assistance for IDPs, both with a focus on hard to reach areas.

**Assistance to Iraqi refugees in Jordan and Lebanon:** ECHO funds UNHCR and CARE.

**Access by humanitarian actors** remains a major challenge due to genuine security concerns, internal security restrictions and impediments by armed actors. Iraq is first and foremost a **protection crisis**. Robust advocacy efforts are urgently needed in order to enhance access negotiations for hard to reach and disputed areas and to set a protection strategy within a principled humanitarian response.

#### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

Around 1.5 million IDPs in Iraq and Iraqi refugees in Jordan and Lebanon.

## 2014 in Ivory Coast

#### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 17 363 097		EUR 17 363 097

- EUR 12 908 849 (External Assigned Revenue - EAR) from an agreement between ECHO and the government of Cote d'Ivoire and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) - Projet de Renforcement du Système de Santé de la Côte d'Ivoire
- EUR 2 million from ECHO contribution
- EUR 2 454 248 (EAR) for response preparedness to Ebola from a second agreement signed between ECHO and the government of Cote d'Ivoire and AFD – Programme de Prevention et de Riposte à la maladie à virus Ebola

#### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Cote d'Ivoire faces two crises: the aftermaths of the political violence in 2010-2011 and the threat of the Ebola epidemic which strikes two neighbouring countries, Liberia and Guinea.

Although the country has largely recovered from the 2011 post-electoral crisis and is now firmly engaged on a steady path toward development and growth, there is a risk that the forthcoming 2015 presidential elections create tensions, possibly with humanitarian consequences. Moreover, most of the root causes of

the past conflicts remain insufficiently addressed, especially the land issues and the difficult co-existence between different ethnic and communities, including migrants from neighbouring countries. In the meantime, in line with LRRD approach, the continuation and consolidation of transitional programs initiated in the health sector after the 2011 crisis remains critical for reducing the maternal and child mortality.

The humanitarian situation is characterised by:

- a) Continuous instability in the Western area bordering Liberia remains a concern; security incidents and armed confrontations in this region are regularly causing small-scale displacements and affect the resilience of the local communities.
- b) The Ebola epidemic affecting the neighbouring countries remains a serious threat and requires supporting the response preparedness of the authorities.
- c) In the areas severely affected by the electoral crisis the access to adequate health care and services remain insufficient for pregnant women and children under five; full resumption of public health services require some additional support.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

**Health:** Increased support was provided to support the authorities to address the risk of an outbreak of Ebola epidemic.

**Health and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion:** Additional support was needed in order to increased access to quality health care, rehabilitate health centres in terms of water and hygiene infrastructure as well as materials and equipment in western Côte d'Ivoire and the peripheries of Abidjan and reduction of maternal and child mortality; supporting the government initiated targeted free health care policy.

**Social cohesion and protection:** Continued assistance in terms of protection and enhancement of social cohesion to support community reconciliation in order to reduce the risk of escalation of violence; particularly to the border regions of Liberia-Côte d'Ivoire with funding of trans-border programs addressing simultaneously protection, land issues and food security.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

ECHO has two priorities: on the one hand, to support the Ebola virus prevention and response programme; on the other, to fill in the remaining gaps in the post-election crisis and support the government in its transition phase to development.

**5) Estimated Beneficiaries:** 1 639 556 people

## 2014 in Kenya

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 21 000 000	EUR 3 000 000	EUR 24 000 000

The initial allocation of EUR 18 million for Kenya included EUR 1 Million for DRR Regional Contracts. The remaining EUR 17 Million was complemented by another EUR 3 million from EDF in order to face the needs triggered by the influx of the South Sudan Refugees to Kakuma from December 2013 onwards. It was later on topped-up by an additional EUR 3 Million from the Emergency Aid Reserve to cope with uncovered needs of the South Sudanese. In total, 60% of the budget was allocated to support the refugees, 35% to drought response including resilience building and 5% for rapid response to disasters.

## 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

In 2014, Kenya faced 3 different types of humanitarian crises:

- 1) **Rapid onset natural disasters** (floods, landslides, epidemics) affecting close to 190 000 people each year.
- 2) **A combination of acute and protracted displacements**, with conflicts/clashes between ethnic groups encouraged by the devolution process causing destruction of assets/livelihoods and internal displacements (estimated 200 000 newly internally displaced people in 2014). In addition, 550 000 refugees are currently living in the Country, mainly from Somalia (491.000) and South Sudan<sup>2</sup>.
- 3) Structural **food insecurity and under-nutrition**, with recurrent droughts, affected some 800 000 individuals in Kenya dependent on relief food assistance for survival.

## 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

In Kenya, ECHO has been focusing on the following interventions:

**Support to refugees**, with the threefold objective to a) provide basic life-saving services in protection, shelter, health and nutrition, food and water sectors, b) enhance refugee self-reliance whenever possible and c) support contingency and emergency response to face influx of new arrivals

**Response to drought** within a **resilience-building** framework, with a particular focus on nutrition

**Emergency preparedness and response** to face new internal displacement of population and natural disasters

## 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

Contribution to the resilience of the populations of Northern Kenya (Arid and Semi-Arid lands) through nutrition programming

ECHO engaged positively with DEVCO and EAS/FPI to go beyond Care and Maintenance activities in Dadaab camps and support the so called "Operation Continuity Plan" aiming at empowering refugees, reducing the dependency syndrome of decades of humanitarian assistance, and building their self-reliance.

## 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

ECHO provided support to approximately 1.5 Million individuals.

# 2014 in Libya

## 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

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<sup>2</sup> In Dadaab and Kakuma camps, Dadaab being the largest refugee camp in the world.

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 2 716 000		EUR 2 716 000

## 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Since July 2014, Libya's political crisis has deepened, despite repeated calls for a ceasefire. Distinctive areas of the country are under the control of militias, factions, splinter cells and terrorist groups fighting for power and control of resources.

Security has become a major issue and humanitarian access has been hampered since the intensification of clashes in mid-2014. Most international humanitarian workers have left the country, leaving local personnel on its own to cope with increased responsibilities and a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian environment.

The conflict has considerably impacted the lives of civilians, causing shortages of medical supplies, displacement, destruction of homes and infrastructure, disruption of basic services and communications and difficulties in obtaining food and fuel supplies.

In addition, Libya is facing a major challenge in addressing mixed migration, now considered as a national security matter. The deteriorating security conditions in Libya negatively affect refugees and asylum seekers, putting them at risk of great harm.

## 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

ECHO's support remained on **emergency response**, providing basic and life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable groups including internally displaced people, migrants and asylum seekers affected by the conflict. ECHO funded the provision of food and non-food items, medical assistance and supplies and as well as psychosocial support across the country.

## 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

During 2014, ECHO remained the main donor for the Libya crisis addressing the most urgent needs of vulnerable groups affected. In order to support the humanitarian response to the Libya crisis and following the developments on the ground, ECHO took a series of funding decisions making a progressive use of the different financial instruments available. At the initial moment of intensification of clashes, ECHO responded to IFRC appeal by replenishing the Disaster Relief and Emergency Fund. This decision was followed by the use of Small-scale envelop to respond to focused needs in the areas where fighting was taking place. In December 2014, an Emergency Decision was launched to continue the provision of life-saving assistance to the Libyan people with projects running until mid-2015.

ECHO also continued efforts to strength coordination and advocated for respect for international humanitarian law and access and security for humanitarian organisations, work that will continue throughout the coming year.

## 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

ECHO's funding supported nearly 30 000 people in Libya in 2014 including vulnerable migrants and asylum seekers. Activities running until mid-2015 are expected to target approximately 80 000 additional beneficiaries.

## 2014 in Mauritania

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 8 669 467	-	EUR 8 669 467

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

In 2014 Mauritania continued to suffer from a multi-dimensional crisis related to food insecurity, the high prevalence of malnutrition, the presence of Malian refugees, and significant flooding that hit the country in 2014.

In 2014 around 635000 people in Mauritania were in a state of food insecurity (182000 in a severe situation) out of a total population of 3.6 million people, unable to meet basic food requirements even under normal conditions. Nutrition situation in five regions in the country (Gorgol, Assaba, Tagant, Hod El Chargui and Hod El Garbi) were classified as serious with GAM rate over 10% while the situation in Guidimakha region remained critical with a GAM rate at 16%, exceeding the emergency threshold.

Humanitarian situation is characterised by:

Structural vulnerabilities: Over-reliance on subsistence rain-fed agriculture and animal husbandry, widespread poverty, limited infrastructure, low levels of education, and limited effective coverage of basic social services, have weakened the resilience of the most vulnerable people. Such structural problems are exacerbated by short term factors: erratic and late rains, negatively impacting on agricultural production (12% reduction compared to previous year) and pasture, high level of prices, etc. Moreover, the poorest and most food insecure populations share highly degraded and shock prone environments and suffer the cumulative impact of recurrent shocks (three major food and nutrition crises since 2005). Indeed Mauritania had not fully recovered from the food price crisis of 2008 when an exceptionally severe drought struck the Sahel region in 2011-2012. The combination of poor harvests, high food prices and loss of livestock left much of the population severely food insecure

Refugees from Mali: Population, Authorities and partners in Mauritania were also confronted in 2014 to the challenges related to the presence of Malian refugees in the M'bera camp and the necessity to cover their humanitarian needs in a difficult context. Amidst the arid and isolated plains of eastern Mauritania, the M'bera refugee camp is the largest Malian refugee camp in the Sahel region. Around 50 000 refugees who fled northern Mali during different stages of the conflict continue to rely on humanitarian assistance to satisfy their most basic needs such as shelter, food, water and nutrition care.

Ebola: other than the response to significant flooding affecting the country, Mauritania, as other countries in the region, faced the difficulty to organize an Ebola preparedness response in the context of the Ebola crisis affecting countries in the West Africa region.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

The ECHO programs have been implemented by NGOs and UN agencies in the most affected regions of Mauritania by the food and nutritional insecurity: Gorgol, Guidimaka, Assaba, Brakna and the Hold El Charghi addressing needs of the Mauritanian population in the in the sectors of food and nutritional assistance as well as needs on water and sanitation sector for the Malian refugees.

Nutrition programmes focused mainly on treating severe malnutrition and preventing deterioration of the nutritional status of children under-fives. The nutrition strategy in Mauritania as in the other countries in the Sahel region include also efforts to facilitate the integration of care of malnutrition into existing health structures while enhancing the quality of intervention, and support the development to the progressive scale of a single circuit medical care and nutrition of children. Regarding the emergency food assistance it focussed on food assistance through cash transfers, food and/or vouchers distributions to most vulnerable people during the lean season.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

In addition to humanitarian assistance and the response to the recurrent food and nutrition crises, ECHO has championed, with the European Commission's Development and Cooperation department of the European Commission (DEVCO) the global alliance aimed at strengthening the resilience of the poorest families in the Sahel and achieving 'zero hunger' by 2032: AGIR.

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

An estimated number of 371 688 beneficiaries have been received help from the ECHO funded operations in Mauritania in 2014.

## 2014 in Myanmar

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 15 200 000	-	EUR 15 200 000

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Over six decades of ethnic conflict in Myanmar have generated population displacements both in-country (IDPs) and to neighbouring countries (refugees). In the current transition context the country is facing multiple challenges compounded by its ethnic and religious diversity. In **Rakhine State**, close to 140 000 people, mainly Rohingya, remained displaced and confined to squalid camps throughout 2014, with no easy solution in sight. The dynamics are extremely complex with strong religious and ethnic polarisation, and risk spiralling out of control and spreading to other parts of the country. In **Kachin and Northern Shan States**, where more than 100 000 people remained displaced since the breaching of a long-standing ceasefire in 2011, renewed fighting put off hopes of finding durable solutions. Despite some slight improvements early in



2014, the intensification of fighting in the last quarter of the year coupled with cumbersome administrative procedures and restrictions prevented a proper humanitarian access to populations in need.

Types of crisis:

- Protracted conflict situation with population displacements and IDP camps in Kachin and northern Shan State
- Severe human rights violations and inter-communal violence with resulting population displacements and IDP camps in Rakhine State

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

**Kachin and northern Shan States:** shelter, non-food items, water/sanitation/hygiene (WASH), food security, health, education and protection for the displaced population

**Rakhine State:** WASH, food security, non-food items, nutrition, education and protection

**Cross cutting:** coordination, protection, disaster risk reduction.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

- **Rakhine State:** Deterioration of the humanitarian situation and operating environment. In February, one health INGO was forced to cease its activities in Rakhine State, creating a massive gap in the health sector; they were allowed to only partly resume by the end of the year. In March, in Sittwe, a well-organized attack on international agencies linked with the 2014 census forced these to leave the State and disrupted heavily and durably the provision of humanitarian assistance in the camps and northern townships.

- **Kachin and northern Shan States:** Despite on-going nationwide ceasefire negotiations, 2014 saw increased hostilities, triggering fresh displacements and increasing the risk of land mine incidents. ECHO continued to provide basic humanitarian assistance and protection in government and non-government controlled areas despite very restricted access for international staff.

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

**Kachin conflict:** 119 000 beneficiaries (displaced population and host communities)

**Rakhine State:** 416 600 beneficiaries (displaced population and local communities)

## 2014 in Nepal

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 500 000 from HIP 2014; EUR 250 000 from Small-scale Response; EUR 800 000 for emergency response	EUR 1 550 000

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

**Refugees from Bhutan:** Nepal has been hosting a large number of refugees from Bhutan of Nepali origin, living in camps since 1992, almost fully dependent on external aid. In the absence of a political solution, the United States and other countries offered resettlement options, and since 2008 more than 94 565 refugees

have been resettled (as of end of 2014). The resettlement process is ongoing. The remaining camp population stands at 23 059 at the end of 2014.

**Natural Disasters:** Nepal faces many natural disasters every year with loss of lives and assets. Besides annual floods and landslides, there is a potential threat of earthquakes, glacial lake outbursts, avalanches as well as cold and heat waves. Heavy rainfall in August triggered floods and landslides across the country that affected 45 430 families, displacing 12 014 and claiming 123 lives. Four districts -Banke, Bardiya, Surkhet and Dang were severely affected where 29 000 families were affected with 5 314 families displaced and nearly 28 000 houses were fully/partially damaged.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Refugees from Bhutan receive **food assistance**. The activities are complemented by other kind of support provided by the different EU instruments for care and maintenance of the refugee camps.

Flood-affected households in the four districts were provided **humanitarian aid** including shelter, drinking water, sanitation facilities and support for the **early recovery** by providing opportunities for income generating activities.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

- By the end of 2015, the group resettlement submissions of the refugees from Bhutan will end, however, individual cases may still be addressed. It is estimated that 8 000 – 13 000 refugees will depart in 2015-2017 but even in the best case scenario some 10 000 refugees could remain in Nepal. This is because some refugees have not expressed their interest in, or are not eligible for resettlement (mix marriage to Nepali or Indian citizen, children of mix marriages, pending criminal cases or court cases etc.). With growing donor fatigue and increasing humanitarian situation around the globe, the funding available to the International Organizations are getting limited, DG ECHO remains one of the most reliable donors for this operation.
- DG ECHO coordinated with key international humanitarian stakeholders during the August 2014 flood response for effective resource mobilization. It also continues to support promoting DRR agenda through the Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium.
- Disaster preparedness programmes of DG ECHO such as health system disaster preparedness, Community-based DRR (CBDRR) and early warning systems played significant role in saving lives and livelihoods during the flood and landslide events triggered by monsoon rain.

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

- 30 000 refugees from Bhutan
- 33 263 flood-affected individuals
- some 630 000 for disaster risk reduction activities

## 2014 in Niger

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid/Food Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 33.1 million	EUR 12.2 million	EUR 45.3 million

## 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

**Food and nutrition:** Food insecurity is a structural phenomenon in Niger, aggravating the severely reduced resilience and coping mechanisms of the most vulnerable households. The burden of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in 2014 was estimated at 1 million children under five years of age including 356000 children under five with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). At the end of 2014, more than 364000 SAM children were admitted and treated in health centres across the country. These high figures are mainly due to the high population growth in the region and a lack of available health services.

**Conflict and displacement of populations:** The Boko Haram acts of violence in Nigeria and around led to the displacement of around 150.000 people from Nigeria to the Diffa region in Niger. Most pressing needs were in the protection, food, nutrition, WASH and shelter domains. The impact on already stretched local communities was highly felt in 2014, especially on food and livelihood opportunities. The conflict in Mali continued to have consequences in Niger in 2014, with the presence of 50000 Malian refugees.

**Other emergencies:** Malaria remained endemic, affecting 3.2 million people in 2014, and had direct incidence on under-five children mortality. The cholera epidemic affected 2.059 people and 80 deaths. Floods forced approx. 68.000 persons to relocate in non-flood prone areas during the rainy season.

## 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

ECHO contributed significantly to the scaling-up of nutrition with the treatment of 300.000 children in 2014, corresponding to 82% of the total number of admissions. A large food assistance programme was also financed through in-kind donations as well as cash transfers combined with nutrition complementation for 28400 vulnerable households so as to prevent further malnutrition around the lean season. In addition, ECHO contributed to securing WFP pipeline through a funding of 12.2 million € targeting close to 1 million people.

In 2014, assistance to displaced people affected by the Boko Haram crisis was provided under the Nigeria Humanitarian Implementation Plan for an amount of 2 M€. Protection and multisectoral assistance was also provided for Malian refugees with a 1.6 M€ contribution under the Mali HIP.

ECHO supported air services through a regional contribution to UNHAS of which 600.000 € for Niger. A protection and education in emergencies project for an amount of 800.000 € was also supported.

## 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

ECHO supported operations were mostly part of the government response plan.

## 5) Estimated Beneficiaries: More than 1.8 million beneficiaries.

# 2014 in the Pacific

## 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 1 738 022.89	-	EUR 1 738 022.89

## 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

The number of incidents of rape and intimate partner violence in Papua New Guinea (PNG) is one of the world's highest. The UN estimates that at least 2 million women and children are affected by Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV), with 80% of women subject to rape and/or sexual violence during their lifetime.

Large scale floods in April 2014 displaced some 9 000 people in the capital of the Solomon Islands, Honiara, and other areas of Guadalcanal.

## 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Health, including psychological care, in PNG.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Promotion (WASH) and provision of Non Food Items, in the Solomon Islands.

## 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

In PNG, DG ECHO supported MSF in providing a comprehensive and thorough set of medical and psychological services for survivors of family and sexual violence.

In the Solomon Islands, in addition to emergency humanitarian assistance, environmental expertise was also deployed through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, as part of a joint EU/UN mission to help assess the risks triggered by the heavy rains.

## 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

108 025 women and children in PNG.

7 000 people in the Solomon Islands.

# 2014 in Pakistan

## 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Man-made crisis HA-FA</i>	<i>Natural disasters HA-FA</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 25 700 000	EUR 16 000 000	EUR 41 700 000

The initial allocation (EUR 40 000 000) was increased by EUR 1 700 000 in response to the influx new IDP families into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Province, triggered by the military offensive launched by the Government in North Waziristan, in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in June 2014.

## 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Pakistan continued to be affected by complex and interlinked humanitarian crises:

- 1) **Complex Emergency** – The protracted armed conflict in FATA, regularly leads to displacement both within the area and to neighbouring KP Province. Two major waves of displacement from North Waziristan (NW) and Khyber Agencies in 2014 resulted in the displacement of over 930 000 civilians, bringing the total caseload to over 1 800 000 IDPs. DG ECHO has classified the protracted IDP crisis as a **Forgotten Crisis**.
- 2) **Nutrition Emergency** -Structural issues combined with four consecutive years of floods have had a significant impact on livelihood and nutritional insecurity, particularly in Sindh Province (72% food insecurity). Sindh was also affected by drought in 2014. National rates of global acute malnutrition (GAM) are critical (15.1%) with district specific GAM rates exceeding 20% (well above WHO's emergency threshold of 15%). These rates are among the highest globally with Pakistan having the 3rd largest caseload of undernourished children worldwide. According to UNICEF, there are 3.7 million acutely malnourished children in Pakistan. ECHO ensures its support for specific nutrition interventions complemented by nutrition sensitive programming in "hotspot" areas affected both by high GAM rates and vulnerability to natural and/or man-made disasters.
- 3) **Afghan Refugees** - For the past three decades, Pakistan has hosted 1 600 000 people officially registered as Afghan refugees. In addition, there are an estimated 1 500 000 million undocumented Afghan refugees. Pakistan has not acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention. The Proof of Registration (PoR) cards which is only a proof of Afghan citizens' legal right to stay in the territory of Pakistan, will expire by the end of 2015. The need for protection and preservation of asylum space has been rising substantively.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Humanitarian assistance encompassing Protection, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Health, Food, Shelter/Non Food Items (NFIs), Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) and Nutrition to conflict affected IDPs and host families in KP.

Assistance to communities affected by periodic natural disasters to meet their basic needs for food, nutrition, WASH, Shelter with a focus on cash based interventions.

Protection including information, counselling and legal services combined with the provision of essential services, in particular health services to Afghan Refugees.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

- Over the past three years, access to deliver independent and principled humanitarian assistance has progressively shrunk for humanitarian organisations. Support to coordination fora such as the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) and UN OCHA, as well as security awareness for humanitarian aid workers implemented by IOM remained crucial.
- ECHO maintains a sustained engagement in promoting a strong humanitarian agenda including advocacy for a principled displacement/IDP return process as a matter of priority.
- Potential opportunities linked to other long-term initiatives and a joint humanitarian – development resilience framework have been building on linkages between on-going life-saving Sindh interventions and the EU Delegation's Women and Children/Infant Improved Nutrition in Sindh (WINS) programme.

**5) Estimated Beneficiaries:** DG ECHO assisted approximately 3 300 000 million people in Pakistan throughout 2014.

## 2014 in Palestine

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 33 500 000	-	EUR 33 500 000

## 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

The 1.76 million inhabitants living in the Gaza Strip under a tight indiscriminate economic and physical blockade imposed by Israel and tightened by the Egyptian Authorities. More specifically, the people have been directly affected by the military operation in July-August 2014. Before the ceasefire, almost 500 000 people were displaced (more than 25% of the Gaza population). Over 100 000 Palestinians have had their homes destroyed beyond repair.

Out of the 2.7 million Palestinians living in **the West Bank**, more than 600 000 are under ever growing pressure to abandon their homes and land, pushed by movement and access restrictions, demolition or threat of demolition of Palestinian homes and livelihood assets, lack of access to basic services, and increasing settler violence.

## 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

In 2014, ECHO maintained a focus on emergency response and protection of people from IHL violations through:

**Direct assistance** provided in the water and sanitation, food assistance, and health sectors;

**Emergency response** and **protection assistance** provided in the form of emergency shelter or Non Food Items, and legal assistance.

**Advocacy and Coordination** to ensure the systematic and collective documentation of all incidents related to IHL violations that have a direct humanitarian impact on the people living in Area C of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza. This feeds common, evidence-based, advocacy initiatives calling for a halt to all international humanitarian law violations.

## 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

In 2014, ECHO confirmed its gradual strategic shift in Palestine from classical service delivery programmes towards emergency response and support to the protection of those affected by IHL violations.

In the West Bank, DG ECHO has promoted the creation of a NGO consortium (active since 1/1/2015) in order to strengthen its strategy focusing on protection through improved coordination between implementing partners. Parallel to this, DG ECHO has also shifted away from the support of cluster coordination (FSS, WASH)

In Gaza, DG ECHO increased its support during the summer war to cover urgent needs for displaced population (in collective centres and host families). Post war, DG ECHO has widened its portfolio of sectors by supporting shelter operations for refugees (UNRWA) and non-refugees (NRC).

## 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

2.3 million Palestinians (refugees and non-refugees) worst-affected by IHL violations such as movement restrictions, harassment, settlers' violence, demolitions, evictions and forced displacements.

## 2014 in the Philippines

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 547 604.583	-	EUR 547 604.58

### 2) Context and type of crisis:

The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. Particularly exposed to tropical storms, the country sees an average of 20 - 25 typhoons every year, while the annual monsoon is regularly enhanced by tropical storms, triggering large-scale floods. Less frequently, the Philippines also encounter earthquakes and volcano eruptions. Due to its good preparedness and emergency response capacity, the Government is only requesting international support for large-scale disasters. The Philippines has experienced long lasting armed conflicts, mainly in Mindanao. In 2014 a peace agreement was signed between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to end decades of fighting, but despite positive signs the situation remains volatile. In 2014, over 20 000 persons remained displaced in evacuation and transitional sites due to clashes in Zamboanga City (Mindanao) in September 2013.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Humanitarian assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) caused by the armed conflict in Zamboanga, in September 2013: transitional shelters including basic communal facilities, water, sanitation and hygiene, health, nutrition, protection and psychosocial support, short term food security and livelihood assistance.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

- Humanitarian actions implemented through consortia composed of INGOs and the International Organisation for Migration are enhancing the comprehensive and integrated response as well as coordination.
- Supporting the humanitarian response to victims of the conflict in Zamboanga through complementary interventions. Advocate with and advise the local authorities on the provision of basic services to IDPs in evacuation and transitional sites, adhering to minimum humanitarian standards.

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries: 4 175 conflict affected IDPs in Zamboanga/Mindanao.

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<sup>3</sup> Funds were allocated through the Emergency Toolbox (Small Scale Response).

## 2014 in Sahel, Mali, Nigeria

Across the **Sahel** region, the persistent food and nutrition crisis continued to jeopardize the lives of millions: almost 18 million people were at risk from lack of food and, among them 6.5 million were in need of emergency food assistance. Conflict and insecurity in the region (Mali/Nigeria) are on the rise and worsen the situation (High level of food prices). Despite, operational conditions are increasingly challenging ECHO and implementing partners, substantially supported the governments of the region to respond to urgent needs of the population within national response plans. ECHO funds contributed to assist more than a quarter of the affected population with emergency food assistance and enabled the treatment of over 580,000 children under five affected by severe acute malnutrition, i.e. half of the targeted caseload. Building resilience for the most vulnerable communities to withstand future crises was also a priority in 2014. To this end, the EU continued being a driving force in the AGIR-Sahel initiative, which brings together all stakeholders around the pursuit of a 'Zero Hunger' goal for the Sahel over the next 20 years. The AGIR process is on the right track. It is a country driven initiative that is also led by the three regional organisations (ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS). In 2014, inclusive national dialogues started in 12 out of the 17 West African countries. Seven countries have so far identified Country Resilience Priorities (CRP).

In 2014, there was no progress regarding the security situation in North **Mali**. While the cease fire agreement signed in May 2014 between Mali's Government and warring armed forces, the peace negotiations started in Algiers did not reach to final agreements before the end of the year. Peace talks should resume in the course of 2015. Populations continue to be affected by the on-going armed conflict in the north. 1.5 million people living in Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal depend entirely on humanitarian actors for the provision of basic services such as health, water and education. Mali also faced with a food and nutrition crises which affected the entire Sahel region. DG ECHO is by far the main humanitarian donor in Mali. In 2014, significant humanitarian support (EUR 61.2 million) has been provided. Access to free and quality healthcare has been ensured for the populations in the North and ECHO continued to support malnutrition care across the whole country through many different partners. 40 000 households benefitted from an EU funded seasonal safety net programme and 900 000 people received food assistance from April to September 2014. The 'Back to School' campaign helped 200 000 students to return to school. DG ECHO also continued to support the 230 000 refugees and internally displaced persons, by restoring access to healthcare and focusing on nutrition and food assistance and providing protection. The EU continued to support AGIR – the Global Alliance for Resilience initiative – which aim is to reach "Zero Hunger" in the West Africa Sahel region by 2032. Despite a few cases of Ebola, the country was declared Ebola-free on 18 January 2015.

In 2014, ECHO provided 12.5 M € to **Nigeria** contributing to the humanitarian assistance provided to the populations victims of the ongoing violent conflict between the Nigerian army and the militant Islamist group Boko Haram, mainly in the North-East of the country. Following the six year insurgency, over 1.5 million people were displaced within the country and over 200 000 had sought refuge in the neighbouring Niger, Chad and Cameroon. Most of the infrastructures in the affected areas were destroyed and people had lost their livelihoods. Few health centres remained operational and people had no access to basic goods and services. The violence limited access to fields and most crops were destroyed, affecting not only the



local markets but having regional consequences as well in terms of availability of food and rising food prices, creating food insecurity and malnutrition for large part of the population. ECHO financed programs to improve access to treatment of malnutrition and related health care for vulnerable children under 5 through supporting community management of acute malnutrition. Assistance was also increasingly provided to the IDPs and the host families supporting them as well as to the refugees, in terms of food assistance, shelter, water, sanitation hygiene, health care and protection. Funding was also provided to contain a cholera epidemic that took place in Bauchi state. Operations were close coordinated with DECVO in order to create synergies and complementary actions, particularly in the health care and nutrition sectors.

## 2014 DIPECHO in South East Asia

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 11 300 000	-	EUR 11 300 000

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

South East Asia is prone to many different types of natural hazards, such as typhoons, cyclones, floods, droughts, tidal surges, earthquakes and landslides. Gaps have been identified in community preparedness and institutionalisation of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in some of the countries. Progress is also needed on the legal framework of some countries.

DIPECHO interventions focused on the Mekong countries (Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao PDR), Myanmar/Burma and the Philippines, including a regional component. The aim was to reduce risk by building the communities' resilience and provide opportunities for those locked in a cycle of crisis, characterized by frequent disasters compounding an underlying vulnerability, to gain access to various tools, including sensitization, capacity-building and training, in order to best preserve their lives and livelihoods in the face of recurrent natural disasters.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

A multi-hazard framework was applied, where community-based disaster preparedness (CBDRR) measures, as well as institutionalisation of DRM/DRR were translated into concrete achievements (in the form of Action Plans, codified laws or standardised methodologies). Capacity-building, advocacy to relevant stakeholders, risk and feasibility assessments, interventions in specific sectors such as water/sanitation/hygiene, shelter and education, including support to international campaigns such as "Safe Schools", was at the core of DIPECHO interventions in South East Asia. Support to the ASEAN Secretariat was consolidated further through assistance for the successful implementation of AADMER (the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response).

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

Vietnam: The National Disaster Management Law was passed in May 2014. It explicitly outlines the roles and responsibilities of the different institutions to prepare for, mitigate and respond to disasters and establishes a Central Steering Committee for National Disasters and Control (CSCNDPC).

Cambodia: Following several years of negotiation, NCDM's National Disaster Risk Management law, was finally approved by the Council of Ministers in January 2015. New initiatives such as Cambodia's first ever Interactive Voice Response Early Warning Systems were also successfully piloted by DIPECHO partners in 2014.

Philippines: One of the most advanced in terms of DRR/DRM in South East Asia, this country has a high level of coordination amongst consortia of NGOs. A review of DRR framework is underway in the light of lessons learned during Typhoon Haiyan.

Myanmar/Burma: The Myanmar Consortium for Community Resilience, active in coastal areas for cyclone preparedness and in major cities for earthquake preparedness, has extended its presence in Rakhine State, where it also contributes to fomenting a better understanding between Muslim and Buddhist communities.

**5) Estimated Beneficiaries:** 2 million

## 2014 in Senegal

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 7 395 077	-	EUR 7 395 077

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

The context in 2014 in Senegal was marked by a critical situation due to a poor harvest in 2013/2014. Delay in the onset of the 2014 rainy season was noticed in the north-western parts of the country, while the south and east experienced long pluviometric pauses. Government and final crop assessment in 2014 showed a decline in grain production by 12% compared to 2012/2013 and 17% compared to the average of the past 5 years. High frequency of climatic shocks, compounded by stagnant poverty, persistently high food prices and limited alternative livelihood opportunities, impacted the food security and nutrition status of vulnerable households in rural areas.

In this context 5% of households in Senegal (or 675,000 people) were estimated severely food insecure and 13.8% moderately food insecure (1,863,000 people). Eight departments (Matam, Ranérrou, Kanel, Podor, Linguère, Tambacounda, Goudiry, and Bakel) were considered be in phase 3.

The prevalence of malnutrition has been growing since 2012 in Senegal. In 2014, 340 224 children were estimated to be malnourished, including 78 888 which suffered severe acute malnutrition. According to SMART 2014 results, the prevalence of global acute malnutrition was at a precarious 9.7% countrywide and exceeded the critical threshold in Matam and Saint Louis regions requiring reinforced intervention during the upcoming lean season. Particular attention was required in Tambacounda where the prevalence was close to the critical threshold.

Regarding the Ebola crisis, Senegal MoH confirmed one Ebola case in August 2014, for which treatment and case tracing capacity was scaled up with support from various partners. No other cases were reported after that.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

With the high prevalence of malnutrition in Senegal, the management of acute malnutrition remains a priority component of DG ECHO in Senegal since 2012, and constitutes a large part of the activities funded by DG ECHO in 2014. This strategy will continue to develop efforts already undertaken to facilitate the integration of care of malnutrition into existing health structures while enhancing the quality of interventions and contribute to the development of a single medical and nutritional circuit for taking care of the child.

In 2014 ECHO also funded projects to improve the food security of the poorest households, which is justified in a context marked by a critical situation at the food security level due to a poor harvest in 2013/2014 as mentioned below. ECHO funding in this area aimed at providing emergency food assistance to the poorest households, access to a balanced diet during the most critical period, preventing the degradation of nutritional status and protecting livelihoods.

All these projects were implemented in areas with acute malnutrition rates and the highest food insecurity. They were also developed on the basis of a community approach: supporting the management of acute malnutrition at the decentralized level (health district) and participatory and community methodology for targeting food assistance.

Regarding the Ebola crisis, the Senegalese authorities approved the opening of Dakar Humanitarian Air Corridor to facilitate flight operations in the context of the response to Ebola. In the same week that Senegal's only case was declared free of Ebola, the country prepared for the opening of a Humanitarian Air Corridor to facilitate Ebola Response flight operations between Dakar and Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, to which ECHO provided early and substantial financial support.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

The strategy of ECHO in Senegal is part of AGIR-Sahel Initiative which aims to "reduce structural and sustainable food and nutritional vulnerability so by accompanying the implementation of the Sahel and West African policies."

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

An estimated number of 135 067 beneficiaries received help from the ECHO funded operations in Senegal in 2014.

## 2014 in Somalia

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>Small Scale Decision</i>	<i>Children of peace</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 49 000 000	EUR 250 000	EUR 600 000	EUR 49 850 000

Under the HIP 2014, ECHO's budget for Somalia amounted EUR 49 million (EUR 39 million initial allocation and EUR 10 million from the Operational Reserve). Further EUR 250 000 from the Small Scale Decision contributed to the response to deportations of Somali migrants from Saudi Arabia and Kenya and EUR 600 000 were attributed to a project under the Children of Peace Decision.

## 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Somalia's humanitarian context is characterised by complex and interlinked crises:

1) **Food and nutrition insecurity**, 731000 people in acute livelihoods crisis are in need of humanitarian assistance. In addition more than 2.3 million people remain highly vulnerable to shocks and at risk of sliding back into emergency food insecurity. In total, more than 3 million people are in need of assistance in the country. Critical levels of acute malnutrition (GAM rates exceeding 15%) persist in many parts of South-Central Somalia and among Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

2) **Enduring conflict** continues to affect the country with enormous costs in terms of human suffering, new displacements and increased vulnerability of the affected populations, aggravated by AMISOM/Somali National Armed Force military operations.

3) The combined effects of drought, food insecurity and conflict resulted in 1 million people taking refuge in the neighbouring countries and a **IDPs caseload**, both acute and protracted, of more than 1.1 million individuals within Somalia. This caseload represents 76% of the people in acute livelihoods crisis.

## 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

In 2014, **life-saving humanitarian response** has supported drought and conflict-affected local population and IDPs countrywide, with a focus on the most vulnerable in the hardly accessible areas of South-Central Somalia. The key sectors of intervention have been protection, food assistance (mainly through cash and voucher schemes), followed by health/nutrition, WASH, shelter and NFIs.

ECHO strategy also included, wherever possible, the strengthening of communities' **resilience to natural and man-made disasters**. Livelihood erosion and detrimental coping strategies were addressed through the revitalisation of livelihoods and the improvement in beneficiaries' food security, maintaining productivity and minimising loss of direct livestock assets.

## 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

ECHO has maintained a strong position in **defending the respect of the humanitarian principles** in the country and guaranteeing that the delivery of humanitarian aid is based exclusively on solid needs' assessment. Keeping humanitarian intervention **separate** from the political and security agendas is essential in Somalia to avoid putting the humanitarian partners at danger, in particular in the Al Shabaab controlled areas.

Support was provided to **IDPs** at the core of ECHO's intervention as this population represents 76% of the people living in acute crisis in Somalia. Supervision of the returns process has been made throughout the year. Partners were requested to integrate **EP&R** (Emergency preparedness and Response) components in all actions in order to be able to respond swiftly to any deterioration of the situation or new emergency.

Finally, humanitarian aid alone cannot face the critical situation in Somalia. Provision of basic services to the population, including the 2.3 million people who are at risk of sliding back into a desperate situation, should be delivered by development actors in order to increase their resilience, avoid a repetition of emergencies and set the basis for stability in the country and the region.

In that respect, discussions are on-going with the EU actors and other donors, to take fully on board the issue of internal displacement in their programming as the political and development challenges of Somalia are inextricably linked to the issue of durable solutions for IDPs and returns of refugees.

**5) Estimated Beneficiaries:** ECHO provided support to more than 2 million people in Somalia in 2014.

## 2014 in Southern Africa and Indian Ocean

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 7 260 000 (DIPECHO) EUR 227 460 (DREF)	-	EUR 7 487 460

### 2) Context and type of crisis

The Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region is extremely vulnerable to weather hazards, namely tropical cyclones, floods, droughts and strong winds. There is lack of resilience to the climate extremes-related shocks that negatively affect highly sensitive agro-based livelihoods and economies. Repeated shocks erode communities' ability to fully recover, leading to increased fragility and vulnerability to subsequent disasters. The population in the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region is mostly practicing subsistence agriculture largely dependent on rain; the food security of those populations is precarious in normal years and deteriorates fast in the years of climate-related hazards.

According to INFORM 2015, Angola, Madagascar, Mozambique, Lesotho and Zimbabwe are categorised as countries with very high risk index, when Malawi, Swaziland, Comoros, Namibia and Zambia as countries with high risk index. ECHO has been supporting DRR activities in the countries most affected by hydrometric hazards. The funding in 2014-2015 was for the 4<sup>th</sup> DIPECHO Action Plan aimed on capitalising on up to date experiences and lessons learned from the previous implemented DIPECHO programmes in Southern Africa and Indian Ocean and continued to focus on local communities exposed to hazards and supporting institutions and organizations involved in DRR/DRM on regional, national and sub-national level.

Exceptionally, 2014 has not brought serious disaster to the region. Some small scale disasters affected vulnerable people in Comoros (cyclone Hellen and earthquake); Madagascar (plague); Seychelles (cyclone Hellen) and Zimbabwe (floods due to weakening of Tokwe Mukosi Dam). ECHO supported emergency response operations through replenishments of DREF.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention

DRR: The DIPECHO HIP for 2014-2015 had a regional coverage, with special focus on the countries where ECHO has been repeatedly reacting to emergency interventions - aiming at emergency preparedness and addressing the context specific vulnerabilities with aim to enhance resilience of the hazards-exposed communities. The 2014-2015 plan targeted the three countries prioritized in the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for this region: Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique. In addition, Lesotho and Zimbabwe had been integrated because large proportions of the population had been recurrently affected by seasonal food insecurity in the last three years. The interventions therefore mainly focused on enhancing pilots in food security DRR, shelter and small scale infrastructure mitigation works, enhanced disaster proof WASH and health initiatives and general DRR activities meant to improve community preparedness and increased coordination among stakeholders.

Emergency WASH and Health, Shelter: In addition, through the International Red Cross Federation, DREF allocations were allocated to Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles and Zimbabwe to respond to small-scale disasters during the reporting period. The support mainly focused on life saving activities soon after the disaster, through provision of non-food items, temporary shelter, WASH and health support.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations

DREF operations assisted people in dire need of emergency shelter as well as emergency WASH support in Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles and Zimbabwe.

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries

The coverage of ECHO support is considered to cover close to 500 000 people in the targeted countries.

## 2014 in South America (except Colombia): Emergency Toolbox, Disaster Risk Reduction

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 15 659 686	-	EUR 15 659 686 *

*\* Disaster risk reduction actions (DIPECHO and Resilience to Drought) started in Fiscal Year 2013 but the duration of the actions ended between October and December 2014.*

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

South America is one of the regions in the world most exposed to disasters linked to natural events. Hydro meteorological events such as floods and droughts are the most significant cause of losses. Geological disasters such as landslides, earthquakes and tsunamis are frequent. Historically, three out of the seventh most powerful earthquakes worldwide have occurred in the South American Pacific Coast. South America registers over 80% of the world's seismic and volcanic activity. Medium scale disasters (mainly hydro meteorological) are on the rise linked to climate change - but also due to the increase of vulnerability caused by unplanned urban expansion (more than 75% of the population lives in urban areas) and increasingly unpredictable climate patterns and environmental degradation (affecting in particular indigenous populations). Vulnerability to these hazards is exacerbated by inequality. Relatively good national economic statistics and levels of human development often mask large pockets of extreme poverty and low local capacities as this region continues to be the most unequal in the world. All these factors together increase the global risks to which South American people are exposed. In 2010, the probability of a Latin American to be affected by a disaster during a year was 3%, compared with 0.7% in 1990. Relatively good national economic statistics and levels of human development often mask large pockets of extreme poverty and low local capacities as this region continues to be the most unequal region of the world.

Most South American countries are reviewing their disaster management legislation and improving their preparedness and response systems, but many communities are still a long way from benefiting.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

**Water & Sanitation:** During the floods in Bolivia and Paraguay, DG ECHO's support helped avoid deterioration of the health of affected people by providing safe drinking water as well as latrines, showers and toilets.

**Shelter and NFI:** Supplies for temporary shelters helped to improve the living conditions of people affected by floods or fires in Bolivia and Chile.

**Food & Livelihoods:** DG ECHO supported livelihood recovery after the floods in Bolivia.

**Health:** During the civil unrest in Venezuela, DG ECHO support to the Red Cross as a neutral humanitarian partner was a key element in providing health emergency supplies to assist people wounded during the peak months of the crisis.

**Disaster Preparedness:** Activities were implemented to reduce the impact of disasters in the region, by preparing vulnerable populations in areas most affected by natural hazards, through supporting strategies that enable communities and institutions to increase their resilience and decrease their vulnerability. The DIPECHO Programme and the drought resilience initiative contributed to increase the resilience of vulnerable populations.

#### **4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:**

During 2014, floods caused major damage in Bolivia and Paraguay. The capacity of the Bolivian state at different levels was insufficient to cover all needs, and emergency support was provided and capacities strengthened. In Paraguay, floods affected the poorest and most vulnerable neighborhoods in Asuncion city as well as vulnerable indigenous communities in the Paraguay River basin. These two events affected more than 585 000 people (including 125 000 displaced people). DG ECHO activated its emergency toolbox with two Small Scale Response actions; one Epidemic; and one DREF action to assist those in need.

In the north of Ecuador, high exposure to volcanic activity regularly affects the region. On the border of Ecuador-Colombia, the Chiles volcano increased its volcanic activity affecting almost 15 000 people.

In Chile, in April 2014, a wildfire burned through Valparaiso city and destroyed 12 000 acres of pasture land. More than 17 500 people lost their homes.

In Venezuela, in February 2014, civil unrest in the main cities caused a major crisis with more than 40 deaths and hundreds wounded. The role of the Red Cross was vital to ensure primary assistance to the wounded.

To respond the last three type of emergencies (volcano, fires and civil unrest), DG ECHO activated the emergency toolbox and contributed to the replenishment of four DREF actions in Chile, Ecuador and Venezuela.

The DIPECHO Action Plan for South America 2013-2014 integrated 25 projects funded in ten countries with EUR 12 million. Actions contributed to prepare communities and strengthen local, regional and national institutions to face disasters, thus reducing the vulnerability of the most vulnerable population. Actions included awareness and advocacy on preventive approaches to disaster management.

In 2014, the final phase of the drought initiative in Paraguay and Bolivia was carried out (EUR 2.5 million, two projects), which aimed at consolidating local experiences from the first phase and creating conditions for replication with local, departmental and national institutions.

#### **5) Estimated Beneficiaries:**

Approximately 143 000 people affected by disasters and one million people covered by disaster risk reduction initiatives.



## 2014 in South Sudan

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 83 530 000	EUR 30 000 000	EUR 113 530 000

The initial allocation (EUR 50 million) was increased on several occasions throughout 2014 to finally EUR 83.53m<sup>4</sup>. In addition, EUR30m were transferred from EDF. All budgetary increases were in response to the humanitarian consequences of the internal conflict in South Sudan which broke out end 2013. The conflict led to a large displacement with around 1.5 million internally displaced and, in addition, nearly half a million new South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Uganda) at the end of 2014.

### 2) Context and type of crisis:

The humanitarian situation had already been complex but deteriorated sharply in 2014 after a political power struggle among the political elite turned violent end of 2013 and escalated quickly into an ethnic-based conflict between the two largest tribes and a de facto **civil war** in large parts of the country. The UN declared South Sudan a level-3 emergency in 2014 – the worst level of humanitarian crisis. The country ranked second in ECHO's Global Vulnerability and Crisis Assessment. It was also classified the world's most fragile state in 2014.

The conflict aggravated an already dire humanitarian situation, including a further deterioration of a **severe food security and nutrition crisis**. When it became independent from Sudan in 2011, the new-born state was also one of the least developed in the world following decades of conflict. Challenges include the absence of infrastructure, lack of basic services (such as health, sanitation, education), seasonal floods which render large parts of South Sudan inaccessible during half of the year, recurrent epidemics and disease outbreaks, continuation of inter-communal hostilities and militias' activities. With the conflict and related insecurity on top, humanitarian access and the delivery of aid was challenging and often reliant on costly air operations. In addition, South Sudan hosted nearly 250 000 **refugees**, mainly from **Sudan**. Relations between the two countries were relatively stable but unresolved issues remain, including the reported but officially unconfirmed Sudanese support for the opposition in South Sudan. Due to the continued lack of definition of the status of **Abyei**, an area contested by Sudan and South Sudan, it remained almost empty of its original population, with 100 000 displaced in South Sudan.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Assistance for internally displaced people, returnees and refugees; provision of food assistance, nutrition programmes, health services, water, sanitation and hygiene services, shelter, protection, as well as logistics and coordination.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

In 2014, the clear focus was on life-saving emergency assistance to conflict-affected people in need and the considerable scaling up of humanitarian operations in the context of the L3 activation.

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

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<sup>4</sup> An additional €2.55 million were allocated from the Epidemics HIP to respond to a cholera outbreak in South Sudan in mid-2014.



A total of 4.8 million people received some assistance in 2014. 3.6 million were reached with life-saving operations, supported by the European Commission, through ECHO.

## 2014 in Sudan

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 29 185 000		<i>EUR 29 185 000</i>

The amount indicated refers to Sudan only. Sudan is funded under a sub-regional HIP covering Sudan and South Sudan, which was initially funded at 80 Million Euro, and progressively topped-up during the year by EUR 20million, EUR 5million and EUR 7.715million, for a final value of EUR 112715million.

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

- **Sudan** is a complex protracted crisis, included since 2014 in the "forgotten crises" list of ECHO. Humanitarian needs emerge mainly on three axes:
  - (1) Armed conflict in Darfur, compounded at times by flooding or drought
  - (2) Armed conflict in South Kordofan (SK) and Blue Nile (BN)
  - (3) Very high levels of **malnutrition** in particular in the Eastern & Darfur States
  - (4) The influx of **refugees from neighbouring countries**, particularly South Sudan and Eritrea.

Aid efforts are severely hampered by access constraints, both due to insecurity and government imposed administrative impediments: access to victims of conflict in areas controlled by the Government of Sudan is very restricted and there is no cross-line access to victims in areas controlled by rebel groups; access in the East of the country is also very restricted; the rebel held area of Jebel Mara in Darfur and, at times, also other areas of Darfur are not accessible to humanitarian workers. The refugee operation in White Nile State, at the border with South Sudan, has consistently suffered from lack of meaningful access for humanitarian partners, which results in a poor accountability framework of the aid provided.

- Due to the continued lack of definition of the status of **Abyei**, the area remained almost empty of its original population, with 100 000 displaced in South Sudan.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Provision of emergency response such as food aid and to basic services such as health, treatment of acute malnutrition, clean water and sanitation, shelter, non-food items for conflict affected populations. Provision of protection services such as family reunification, IDP tracking, prevention and response to gender-based violence constitute a life-saving sector of intervention in Sudan.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

- Provided access to food, safe water, sanitation, nutrition and health services in IDP camps and conflict affected areas in Darfur and Eastern States.
- Provided support for humanitarian coordination, cluster system and for humanitarian air services, notably in air operations and prepositioning in advance of the rainy season.

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

Nearly 3.5 million people in Sudan need humanitarian assistance. ECHO provided support for approx. 3.4 million in Sudan.

## 2014 in Sri Lanka

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 250 000	-	EUR 250 000

An amount of EUR 250 000 was allocated through the Small-Scale Response instrument to respond to humanitarian needs stemming from a drought in the North Province of Sri Lanka.

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Drought in the North Province.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

6 000 people in the northern districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Munnar and Vavunia received Food Assistance through cash-for-work programmes, a mechanism through which funds are channeled to beneficiaries in exchange for participating in community infrastructure projects. The money helped families meet their immediate food needs, while the disaster-resilient infrastructure built in the process helped mitigate future risks arising from extreme weather conditions. Farmers who had lost their crops to the drought were also provided with seeds for the next sowing season.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

While responding to these crises, DG ECHO promoted:

- Targeting of women, children, the elderly and other disadvantaged categories, who are among the hardest hit by natural and man-made disasters.
- Strengthening people's resilience to natural disasters.

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries: 6 000 people

## 2014 Syria

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 79 500 000		EUR 79 500 000

After an initial allocation of EUR 100 million, the Syria Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) was increased several times in the course of the year to finally reach EUR 165 million<sup>5</sup>. These successive allocations allowed covering continuously increased needs due to the escalating conflict. From the Syria HIP, covering the whole region (Syria and 4 neighbouring countries), the share allocated to projects inside Syria amounts to EUR 79.5 million, which is 48% of the total.

## 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

As the conflict enters its fifth year, indiscriminate and disproportionate violence and brutality continues unabated in all 14 governorates inside Syria. Over 200 000 people have been killed and more than 1 000 000 have been injured since the onset of the crisis in March 2011. More than 12.2 million people in Syria are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 7.7 million people internally displaced; more than half of these are children. Some 6 million children are in desperate need of basic assistance, including food, shelter, medicine and psychosocial support.

Cities and villages have been reduced to rubbles; communities are threatened, attacked and subject to multiple displacements. Four years of conflict have eroded the resilience of the communities and increased their vulnerability. Poverty is on the rise. Humanitarian access in Syria remains extremely challenging for humanitarian organisations.

## 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

ECHO provided assistance to address immediate and life-saving needs of millions of Syrians. By order of importance, the main sectors covered in 2014 were: shelter and NFI distribution, food distribution, WASH activities, health, protection and coordination.

An important component of **winterisation** was developed in the second half of the year, mainly related to shelter and non-food items. Syria hosts more than 450 000 Palestinian **refugees**. Many live precariously and received support from ECHO (provision of essential services such as shelter, healthcare and NFIs).

## 4) Key Highlights / major initiatives and operations:

- An important share of the allocation of ECHO to Syria projects went to cross-border operations. In 2014, ECHO continued supporting 12 partners (INGOs, IOM and WFP) operating mainly from Turkey (but also from Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq) for a total amount of EUR 32.6 million, which represents 43% of the funds allocated to Syria.

- The security situation as well as the administrative impediments in Syria gave rise to the issue of **remote control** of humanitarian assistance in the country. All through the year 2014, ECHO requested all its partners working inside Syria to provide a monthly report ensuring that aid delivery inside the country could still be monitored. ECHO requested since July 2013 this report to include a paragraph on possible aid diversion faced by its partners.

## 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

Around 12.2 million people inside Syria required humanitarian assistance, including 7.7 million IDPs; ECHO provided support for approximately 5 million beneficiaries.

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<sup>5</sup> This amount does not include EUR 36 million redeployed under heading 4 for the Syria crisis at the end of 2014 to be implemented in 2015.

## 2014 in Thailand

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 2 925 000	-	EUR 2 925 000

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Decades of conflict on the eastern border of Myanmar and a dire economic situation led to a large influx of people into Thailand. The Thai government is not a signatory to the UN Refugee Convention but has allowed refugees from Myanmar to stay in nine camps (temporary shelters) along the Thailand-Myanmar border since 1984. While in 2005 a Resettlement programme was started (approx. 100 000 refugees have been resettled), camp population did not decrease commensurately. During the last 3 years there has been a slight decrease of the camp population due to resettlement, some spontaneous returns to Myanmar and some refugees seeking to settle as migrant workers in Thailand. The overall camp figure has decreased from some 140 000 in 2012 to almost 120 000 by end of 2014. Needs in the refugee camps relate to food security, nutrition, livelihood, water, sanitation, health and protection. The refugees are restricted to the camps and their movements are limited. In addition to responding to basic needs, DG ECHO supported the Thai authorities' efforts (through UNHCR) to implement a profiling exercise of all refugees in the nine camps, in preparation for a future voluntary return to Myanmar.

Following violent clashes in Rakhine State (Myanmar) in 2012, the numbers of Rohingya fleeing to other countries has increased dramatically. Many have been detained by the Thai authorities while transiting illegally through the country, ending up in a legal limbo, as they cannot be returned to their country of origin, nor allowed legally to continue their trip.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

A total of EUR 2 800 000 was allocated to provide food assistance in three refugee camps and basic medical services, including immunization and mother/child care, in five camps.

DG ECHO funded IOM to the tune of EUR 125 000 to provide protection and other types of assistance (health, supplementary food, WASH, non-food items) to Rohingya and other special at risk groups.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

DG ECHO is working towards solutions that (1) address needs for basic services in camps, taking into account preparedness for return (targeted food distribution and health services) and (2) continue to promote and support voluntary repatriation to Myanmar (profiling and birth registration). DG ECHO keeps advocating for the respect of human rights in Myanmar.

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

Food assistance: approx. 65 000 refugees in three camps.

Basic health services: approx. 90 000 refugees in five camps.

Protection and preparation for return: some 120 000 refugees in all nine camps.

Assistance to Rohingya and other special at risk groups: some 1 000 people.

## 2014 in Uganda

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian aid*</i>	<i>Epidemics Decision</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 2 000 000	EUR 600 000	EUR 6 400 000	EUR 9 000 000

\* 2014 HIP Democratic Republic of Congo and Great Lake

In 2014, following an exit strategy, ECHO had to re-engage in Uganda in view of the influx of South Sudanese refugees as from December 2013 onwards. No specific allocation for Uganda was foreseen in the 2014 HIP for the Horn of Africa but EUR 6 400 000 million from EDF were allocated to the response to the refugee crisis. Additionally EUR 2 Million were allocated to the response to the influx of Congolese Refugees to Uganda through the Democratic Republic of Congo and Great Lake HIP. Finally, the Epidemics decision was mobilised for a total amount of EUR 600 000 in prevention of a measles outbreak among the South Sudanese population and the host community.

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

In 2014, Uganda faced two different types of crises linked to displacement:

- 1) The influx of some 120 000 South Sudanese fleeing the events in South Sudan since December 2013.
- 2) An existing caseload of some 180 000 Congolese refugees present in the country since December 2012.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

ECHO focused on:

Support to refugees, with a threefold objective: (a) to provide basic life-saving services in the sectors of protection, shelter, health, nutrition, food/cash and water, (b) to enhance refugee self-reliance in line with the Government of Uganda's approach (c) to support contingency and preparedness measures to face a potential influx of new arrivals

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

- 1) ECHO funded care and maintenance activities in the refugee settlements, supporting UN Agencies in the emergency response to the massive flow of refugees from South Sudan, including support to host communities. ECHO is looking for ways to enhance, together with partners, sustainability of operation in terms of infrastructure and community services while including a contingency component.
- 2) LRRD cooperation is working smoothly and Development donors in Uganda have shown increasing interest in investing in areas hosting refugees and in the Karamoja Region.
- 3) ECHO contributed till 2014 to the resilience of the population of Karamoja through DRR programming.

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries: Approximately 300 000.

## 2014 in Ukraine

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 10 800 000	-	
EUR 250 000 (Small Scale Emergency Decision)	-	
EUR 63000 + 217 065 (DREF)	-	EUR 11 330 065

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

As a result of the fighting between armed groups and government forces in Eastern Ukraine that started in April 2014, thousands have been forced to flee their homes and have become increasingly vulnerable; end of December 2014 over 297000 people were registered as internally displaced (IDPs), and more than 338000 had fled to neighbouring countries. Returnees, refugees and internally displaced persons needed winterized shelters and non-food items, food and sanitation items as well as proper healthcare and psychosocial support, education and protection. Despite a ceasefire agreement in September 2014, access to Donetsk and Luhansk regions remained challenging for humanitarian organisations.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Humanitarian assistance encompassing food, Shelter/Non Food items, Water Sanitation and Hygiene, Health and Protection to conflict affected population, IDPs, returnees and host families , through cash & vouchers or in-kind assistance depending on the geographic area. The cash assistance gives people an opportunity to cover their needs such as rent payment, warm clothes, and medicines and preserve their dignity.

40 % of the assistance funded by ECHO has benefited vulnerable people in the non-government controlled areas. This relief aid targets the most vulnerable populations: female-headed households, the elderly, children and persons with disabilities.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

- Access and protection in the conflict areas are key challenges to humanitarian organisations.
- Support to coordination with UN agencies and with donors; discussion on the respect of the humanitarian principles; advocacy towards the Ukrainian authorities for the amendment of Ukrainian legislation on humanitarian aid, remain crucial.
- Direct cash payments to over 6 500 vulnerable families, elderly and disabled to meet their urgent needs in Kharkiv Region, bordering with Donbas and hosting about 130 000 Ukrainian IDPs

### 5) Estimated Beneficiaries:

ECHO financial contribution helped to provide assistance to approximately 600 000 people.

## 2014 in Bosnia i Hercegovina and Serbia

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 3 million	-	EUR 3 million

**2) Context and type(s) of crisis:** Starting on May 13<sup>th</sup> 2014, Western Balkans faced an unprecedented disaster affecting vast areas of the region: due to continuous rainfall, extreme floods hit Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina, killing 58 persons, evacuating thousands and directly affecting over 2.6 million people. The situation on the ground remained complex for months due to the danger of landslides. Many cities stayed weeks without electricity or running water and with a shortage of bottled water, food, medication and blankets. Across the region, many key infrastructures including bridges and roads as well as health and educational facilities were damaged. The impact on agricultural lands was vast: thousands of livestock were killed, triggering not only economic damages, but as well potential hygienic and health issues.

**3) Sectors of activity/intervention:** On 6 June 2014, DG ECHO adopted a EUR 3 million Emergency decision on the financing of humanitarian actions in Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia as a consequence of the floods. The Emergency Decision covered both countries. Funds were allocated based on the most acute needs of the most vulnerable people in the worst affected areas. The assistance was implemented through 3 projects (UNDP in Bosnia, the International Federation of Red Cross/Crescent in Serbia and Mercy Corps Scotland in both countries) focused on high impact humanitarian and early recovery activities, cash-based when feasible. Food distribution, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), restoration of livelihoods and shelters, cash for work and restoration of water, sanitation and sewage facilities as well as prenatal and maternal health were prioritized, with an emphasis on extremely vulnerable individuals in collective centres and isolated communities.

**4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:** Immediately after the request of international assistance made by Bosnia i Hercegovina and Serbia, ECHO ERCC activated the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) on 15 May. Together with 400 relief workers from the Member States, the EU Civil Protection team was immediately deployed and started its work on the ground on 17th May to assess needs, help local authorities and coordinate incoming assistance. ECHO deployed as well field experts on humanitarian assistance on May 21<sup>st</sup>, in coordination with the EUCP team deployed, to assess humanitarian needs and monitor humanitarian actions. The field experts stayed in the countries until the end of the early recovery phase (October 2014). ECHO attended the Donors' Conference organized by the European Commission, held in Brussels on 16 July to mobilize further support to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.

**5) Estimated Beneficiaries:** ECHO's humanitarian funding supported globally more than 291 000 individuals in Bosnia i Hercegovina and Serbia in 2014. Specifically, IFRC/Serbian Red Cross action targeted more than 16 800 individuals in the centre/North West of Serbia (including 9 000 people in the most damaged areas of Obrenovac, Sabac and 15 other towns and villages). The Mercy Corps cash operation allowed more than 16000 vulnerable individuals and farmers to restart their lives through the support to house restoration and livelihood. UNDP project targeted more than 258 000 beneficiaries in BiH, in the worst affected areas of Republika Srpska, the Sava river basin and Tuzla Canton, focusing on cash for work, restoring water,

sanitation and sewage facilities; provision of mobile health care for prenatal services and day centers for the elderly; provision of obstetrics equipment; assistance to restoring agriculture including provision of animal feed and cash grants for vulnerable farmers.

## 2014 in Yemen

### 1) Total budget allocated in 2014:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 33 000 000		EUR 33 000 000

### 2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

During 2014, Yemen continued to face multiple humanitarian crises exacerbated by political instability, expansion of internal conflicts, economic crisis and deteriorating public services. Food insecurity levels remained high, with 10.6 million people classified as food insecure, and malnutrition rates among the highest in the world, particularly in the densely-populated coastal areas with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rates as high as 10 % and global acute malnutrition (GAM) up to 30%. By end of the year approximately 840 000 children under five were classified as malnourished, 170 000 of those being severely acutely malnourished. In the north of the country, 335 000 people remained in protracted displacement and an additional 80 000 were temporarily displaced during the year as a result of local conflicts. At the same time, some 215 000 IDPs returned to their places of origin in Abyan and Sa'ada Governorates where reintegration remains challenging. Despite the economic, social and political challenges, the country continued to host approximately 250 000 refugees, 95% of whom of Somali nationality; new arrivals estimated during the year amounted to 100 000 people. Due to changes in the foreign workers legislation of KSA, almost 600 000 Yemeni workers were expelled by Saudi Arabia between April 2013 and December 2014.

### 3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

In 2014, ECHO allocated EUR 33 million to assist communities affected by acute malnutrition, and people hit by conflict and forced displacement across the country. Families with acutely malnourished children and pregnant women were provided with health and nutrition assistance combined with resilience oriented activities focusing on food security, water, sanitation and hygiene. People in protracted displacement were assisted through food security, water, sanitation and hygiene interventions; returnees received reintegration support; and migrants, refugees and deportees were provided with food, water, health and protection support.

### 4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

UNHCR started a pilot project for return of protracted IDPs in Hajjah to places of origin in Sa'ada; WFP started a phasing-out from General Food Distribution (GFD) of protracted IDPs towards safety-net modality.

ECHO continued strengthening coordination and advocacy, as well as security services for humanitarian organisations.

ECHO financially supported the second phase of Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) nutrition surveys in the most affected governorates of the coastal areas.



### **5) Estimated Beneficiaries:**

In 2014, ECHO partners supported more than 1.3 million people in Yemen affected by conflict and acute malnutrition, including refugees, vulnerable migrants and asylum seekers.