

2015 in Djibouti

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
1,500,000	1,500,000 ¹	3,000,000

Djibouti allocation for 2015 amounted to EUR 3 million but the EDF funds will only be implemented in 2016 (end of the year allocation for El Niño). Therefore in 2015, all ECHO support went to the refugees, both to the protracted Somali refugee caseload and to the new influx of refugees from Yemen and the creation of new camp in Markazy site.

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

In 2015, 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 reinforced by El Niño with recurrent droughts acutely affecting around 100 000 people, while 400 000 people – half of the population – are chronically food insecure thus vulnerable to shocks.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

ECHO focused on the 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 assistance to new arrivals from Yemen.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

- 1) LRRD activities by the EU Delegation in the framework of the 11th EDF programming have taken place with ECHO's withdrawal from resilience/food security activities even though El Niño related interventions will take place in 2016.
- 2) ECHO has been looking at long-term solutions to the protracted refugee situation in Djibouti and initiated the distribution of cash to refugees together with the World Food Programme.
- 3) ECHO has been at the forefront of the humanitarian response to the new influx of refugees from Yemen.

¹ The EDF allocation, linked to El Niño, has been made available end of 2015 and will therefore be implemented in 2016.

2015 in Ethiopia

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian aid	EDF	Total
26,500,000	42,800,000 ¹	69,300,000

The initial HIP allocation of 21 000 000 was complemented by another EUR 4.5 million in May to respond to unmet basic needs of the continued influx of new south Sudanese refugees, including the establishment of new camps. An additional EUR 1 million was allocated to Ethiopia in October for a top-up of the Emergency Response Mechanism and used to respond to the El Niño-triggered drought crisis. In December, EUR 42.8 million was allocated to Ethiopia from an overall larger EDF package mobilised to respond to the effects of El Niño. These funds will be implemented as from January 1st 2016. In 2015 (without counting the El Niño EDF funding): 55% of the budget was allocated for support to refugees, 26% to drought response including resilience building and 19% for emergency response and rapid response to disasters - including a small component of El Niño response and horizontal support and coordination (ICRC, OCHA, IOM)².

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Ethiopia is a disaster-prone country. The humanitarian context is characterised by the co-existence of a plurality of crises:

1) Structural and chronic **food insecurity** seriously aggravated by the El Niño-induced drought crisis which has been ongoing since early summer 2015. The number of people in need of emergency relief food assistance rose from 2.9 million at the beginning of the year, to 4.5 million in August, 8.2 million in October and 10.2 million in December. In addition, another 7.9 million people are considered chronically food insecure, bringing the total number of people in need of food assistance to around 18 million at the end of 2015.

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 IOM, as of end of December 2015, 636 000 Ethiopians were IDPs (protracted and new) out of which nearly 220 000 were displaced by drought or flooding caused by the El Niño between August and December 2015.

3) Ethiopia is the largest **refugee** hosting country in Africa with more than 730 000 refugees originating mainly from South Sudan (289 000), Somalia (251 000), Eritrea (150 000) and Sudan (38 000). Due to the introduction of biometrics using fingerprints for verification at the end of 2015, these numbers are expected to be revised downwards.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Support to refugees, with the twofold objective to a) respond to the unmet basic needs of the refugees such as protection, shelters, water and sanitation, health services, non-food items, nutrition

¹ The EDF allocation, linked to El Niño, has been made available end of 2015 and will therefore be implemented in 2016.

² International Committee of the Red Cross, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, International Organization for Migration

and food assistance and b) supporting contingency and preparedness measures to cope with influx of new arrivals, including reinforced support for the establishment of new camps.

Emergency response to natural and man-made disasters, with a focus on drought-, conflict- and floods-affected IDPs, inclusive of non-food items, 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, particularly for newly arrived South Sudanese refugees. At the same time, active engagement with development donors to work on more durable self-reliance interventions.

ECHO continued implementing in 2015 the RESilience building program in ETHiopia (RESET) model in strong collaboration with the EU Delegation while working on the hand-over of the contractual management to the EUTF and EU Delegation.

The allocation of EDF funds for El Niño/food security interventions occurred at the end of the year after active advocacy. The interventions will be implemented only in 2016.

2015 in the Great Lakes region

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 61 500 000	-	EUR 61 500 000

The initial Great Lakes allocation (EUR 47 million) was increased by EUR 2 million in response to the spill over effect of the Central African Republic crisis into Democratic Republic of Congo (new influx of 20 000 Central Africans arriving in Equateur province of DRC).

EUR 12.5 million was then added to the initial budget in three tranches along the year to respond to the continued deteriorating political situation inside Burundi, which has resulted in 222 000 new refugees hosted in Great Lakes neighbouring countries (Tanzania, Rwanda, DRC, Uganda) and 15 000 displaced people inside Burundi.

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 funding (two projects worth EUR 1 million implemented in North and South Kivu).

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Great Lakes' humanitarian context is characterised by the co-existence of a plurality of complex crises. In 2015, the Great Lakes region has faced six main humanitarian situations:

- 1) The **Burundian** political crisis that has translated into a new **regional refugee crisis**, pushing over 220 000 people to seek refuge in Tanzania, Rwanda, DRC and Uganda.
- 2) **Displaced populations** mainly in the east of the DRC (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.
- 3) The Congolese **refugees** in neighbouring countries (Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, and the Republic of Congo) as a result of the protracted internal Congolese conflict.
- 4) New spill over effect of the CAR crisis into DRC (Equateur province) with new influx of **refugees**
- 5) **Nutrition** crisis: An estimated 2 million children suffers from severe acute malnutrition annually in DRC (Kasais, Katanga and Bandundu provinces).
- 6) Many regions are affected by **Epidemics** in DRC (outbreaks of measles, cholera and malaria) that require life savings intervention to be put in place in a timely manner.

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 setting and maintenance and voluntary return 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 2,700 hours were flown with 10,600 passengers transported to 30 different destinations.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

- As a first-wave responder to the Burundi crisis, since April 2015, ECHO mobilised funds to provide emergency assistance to Burundian refugees first in Rwanda and then in Tanzania where most of the caseload found refuge.
- Within DRC, ECHO continued to support various Rapid Response Mechanisms that enabled a coordinated and timely humanitarian response to conflict affected people or victims of epidemics countrywide.
- 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.

2015 in Kenya

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian aid	EDF	Total
EUR 18 900 000	700 000 ¹	EUR 19 600 000

The initial allocation of EUR 18 million for Kenya was complemented by another EUR 900 000 in September 2015 in order to face the World Food Programme (WFP) pipeline break for the refugees resulting in a cut in the rations of the refugees. The EDF funds will only be implemented in 2016 (end of the year allocation for El Niño). In total in 2015, 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 2015, 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 triggered by the devolution process causing destruction of assets/livelihoods and internal displacements. In addition, 575 000 refugees are currently living in the country, mainly from Somalia (491 000) and South Sudan, living in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps².
- 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 EEAS/FPI to go beyond care and maintenance activities in Dadaab camps and support the so-called "Operation Continuity Plan" aiming at empowering

¹ The EDF allocation, linked to El Niño, has been made available end of 2015 and will therefore be implemented in 2016.

² Dadaab is the largest refugee camp in the world.

refugees, reducing the dependency syndrome of decades of humanitarian assistance, and building their self-reliance. For Kakuma, ECHO encouraged the development of the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme by development donors in complementarity to humanitarian actions.

2015 in Somalia

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 36 933 894	EUR 17 000 000 ¹	EUR 53 933 894

Under the Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) 2015, ECHO's budget for Somalia amounted to EUR 36.1 million. A further EUR 17 million from a specific EDF Decision were allocated in December 2015, to be implemented in 2016, to provide humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable populations directly or indirectly affected by events linked to the El Niño phenomenon. In addition, Education in emergencies (EiE) was supported with EUR 800 000 from the 2015 EU Children of Peace HIP. One small-scale decision helped ensuring the coverage of basic needs of arrivals from conflict-affected Yemen (Somali returnees as well as Yemeni refugees), while a second small-scale decision was done in response to Cyclone Chapala in early November.

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

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

1) **Food and nutrition insecurity**, with one million people in a humanitarian emergency and crisis situation and 3.9 million people in food security stress. In total, the UN estimated that 4.9 million people were in need of life-saving and livelihood support in Somalia in 2015, and a staggering 308 000 Somali children under age 5 remained acutely malnourished.

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 military operations by the national Somali Armed Forces and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

3) The combined effects of drought, food insecurity and conflict resulted in 1.2 million people taking refuge in the neighbouring countries and a caseload of 1.1 million internally displaced persons (IDP), both acute and protracted, within Somalia. This IDP caseload represents three quarters of the people in acute livelihoods crisis. The increasing number of forced evictions of IDPs especially in Mogadishu and other urban areas – with almost 130 000 affected in 2015 – has become a particular issue.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

In 2015, **life-saving humanitarian response** has supported local populations and IDPs country-wide, affected by drought, flood and/or conflict, 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 and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), shelter and essential non-food items (NFI). Education in emergencies (EiE) was mainly covered through the specific EU Children of Peace HIP.

The 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.

¹ The EDF allocation, linked to El Niño, has been made available end of 2015 and will therefore be implemented in 2016.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

The consequences of the **El Niño** weather phenomenon were increasingly felt in Somalia towards the end of 2015, first with serious flooding in south-central regions, then with a severe drought in Somaliland and Puntland exacerbated by El Niño. Humanitarian organisations stepped up their response while the Commission adopted a regional funding decision specifically linked to El Niño.

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 any political and security considerations is essential to avoid putting humanitarian partner organisation in danger, in particular in Al Shabaab controlled areas. In this context it must also be noted that constraints on humanitarian access persisted in 2015, mainly due to high levels of insecurity, but also due to bureaucratic impediments (and infrastructure limitations). Over 140 reported violent incidents directly impacted humanitarian organisations and accounted for the death of 17 humanitarian workers, injury of 18, and abduction of 11 and arrests of 38.

Support to **IDPs** remained at the core of ECHO's intervention as this population represents three quarter of the people living in acute crisis in Somalia (1.1 million IDPs). Supervision of the return process (mainly Somalis returning from refugee camps in Kenya but also return from Yemen) was done throughout the year. Partner organisations were requested to integrate emergency preparedness and response (**EP&R**) 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. Development actors have to do their part in supporting the provision of basic services to the population, including health services. This is required to increase people's resilience, to 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 multi-annual programming as the political and development challenges of Somalia are inextricably linked to the issue of durable solutions for IDPs and returning refugees.

2015 in South Sudan

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 127 000 000	-	EUR 127 000 000

The amount indicated refers to South Sudan only. South Sudan is funded under a sub-regional HIP covering Sudan and South Sudan. The initial allocation (EUR 57 million) for South Sudan was increased throughout 2015 to finally reach EUR 97 million¹. In addition, EUR 30 million were transferred from EDF. All budgetary increases were in response to the humanitarian consequences of the internal conflict in South Sudan which broke out in December 2013.

2) Context and type of crisis:

ECHO's Integrated Analysis Framework for 2015-2016 identified extreme humanitarian needs in South Sudan. The country scored 3 out of 3 in the crisis index and was ranked number 3 in the vulnerability index. In the UN system, the country remained at emergency level 3. The conflict and food insecurity triggered a large displacement of population with reportedly **1.69 million internally displaced and more than 634 000 new South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries** (Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Uganda, CAR and DRC) at the end of 2015, out of an estimated population of 11.6 million.

Despite the signature of the peace and power sharing agreement in August 2015, humanitarian needs continued to increase. Almost all basic services were provided by humanitarian relief agencies, while economic deterioration resulting from misgovernment drastically and negatively affected livelihoods. Some communities in South Sudan were considered to be on the brink of famine in 2015. Starvation remained widespread.

The conflict aggravated an already dire humanitarian situation, including a further deterioration of a **severe food security and nutrition crisis**. Challenges included the absence of infrastructure, the lack of basic services, ending or curtailment of development funding for basic services including the health provision at country level in spite of the high level of disease outbreaks, including an unprecedented malaria outbreak with more than 2.2 million reported cases and 1 340 deaths. We also saw continuation of political violence including a major government offensive in Unity State, and related inter-communal hostilities and militia activities. Due to the political violence and breakdown in law and order, humanitarian access and the delivery of aid were challenging and often reliant on costly air operations. In addition, South Sudan hosted more than 265 000 **refugees**, mainly from **Sudan**.

Atrocities against civilians committed by the parties to the conflict continued unabated and had even intensified after the signature of the peace agreement. Sexual violence was widespread and constituted one in every four cases reported to the Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBV IMS). Grave violations against children continued, including killings and sexual attacks. It is also estimated that 15 000 to 16 000 children have been recruited as child soldiers since the beginning of the conflict in December 2013.

¹ Among these funds, EUR 20 million were allocated in December 2015 and are being implemented in 2016.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Assistance for internally displaced people, returnees and refugees, and other needy people in the form of provision of food assistance, treatment for acute malnutrition, basic curative and preventative health services, and other public health interventions such as provision of clean water and sanitation. Where necessary shelters were provided, and where possible vulnerable groups were protected. Common logistics and coordination services were also supported.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

In 2015, the clear focus was on life-saving emergency assistance in the context of a country relying almost entirely on humanitarian organizations for its public basic services. ECHO supported timely, principled and accountable provision of emergency response and protection with priority given to the most at risk people in the areas affected by low food availability where there was a high prevalence of acute malnutrition, as well as areas with high risks of death and disease due to forced relocation in crowded settlements and camps

2015 in Southern Africa and Indian Ocean

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 8 520 372	EUR 12 000 000 ¹	EUR 20 520 372

There was no initial allocation for Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean in 2015. Ad hoc decisions, following emergencies mainly linked to floods brought ECHO's overall intervention in this region to some EUR 8 million. Finally the dire consequences of El Niño gave way to the adoption in late 2015 of a EUR 12 million EDF Decision to be implemented in 2016. Southern Africa region also benefited from the emergency tool box funding (DREF and small scale Decision).

2) Context and type of crisis

Southern Africa Regional food security was extremely compromised by erratic 2014/15 rainfall and early cessation of rains. Majority of countries were affected by the long dry spell that occurred between January and March 2015. As a result, significant decreases in crop production were experienced in southern parts of Zimbabwe, Angola, Malawi, Madagascar, Lesotho, Swaziland and South Africa. Aggregate regional maize shortfall was estimated at 6.5 million metric tonnes: Malawi and Zimbabwe being the most hit. Food access was generally quite restricted mainly due to atypically high prices and extremely limited income generating opportunities. The El Nino effect with 95% probability continued through the remainder of 2015 weakening by the end of the rainy season in March 2016. It is estimated that 28 million people were at risk of food insecurity with 7.6 million considered to be moderately to severely food insecure.

Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique were also affected by severe floods. In Malawi approximately 638 000 people were affected by floods, more than 150,000 displaced and a State of Disaster was declared on 13 January 2015. In Mozambique, floods caused 64 deaths and affected 137 614 people. On 18 January Madagascar was hit by cyclone Chedza affecting 117 181 people and 35 deaths.

In recent years, weather-induced disasters have been increasing in frequency and intensity significantly reducing resilience in Southern Africa, where livelihoods and economies are extremely sensitive to climatic variations (agro-based economies). There is lack of resilience and coping mechanisms to the climate-related shocks, which results in heavy social and economic consequences for the population. The vulnerability situation is further compounded by negative socio-economic factors prevailing in the region inclusive of high HIV- prevalence rate. According to the Human Development Report 2015, Southern African states are among the poorest in the world. Improving the local communities' resilience capacities remains central to the EU's humanitarian assistance.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention

- Emergency Response: A EUR 3 million emergency decision was adopted to support urgent lifesaving activities in Madagascar, Mozambique and Malawi's where nearly 1.1 million people had been affected by floods. Various response activities were undertaken inclusive of

¹ The EDF allocation, linked to El Niño, has been made available end of 2015 and will therefore be implemented in 2016.

emergency shelters, emergency food assistance, provision on non-food items, epidemics prevention, logistics support, water and sanitation and health activities, coordination and information management and nutrition support.

- **Recovery Intervention:** The World Bank post disaster needs assessments pointed extensive recovery needs in the countries affected by floods. Additionally some of the affected countries drafted flood and recovery response plans appealing for international support. ECHO decision to the tune of EUR 5 million supported recovery activities.
- **Disaster risk reduction:** Activities supported through the 2014 DIPECHO HIP disaster risk reduction continued to be implemented in Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique.
- **Food Security:** A EUR 12 million decision was adopted end of 2015 to respond to food insecurity caused by El Niño in the seven most affected countries of Southern Africa. The funds would mainly support emergency food assistance during the lean season, support to restoration of agricultural production, treatment of acute malnutrition, protection of productive assets and livelihoods. This will be implemented in 2016.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations

Introduction of Oral Cholera Vaccine in Malawi was the first in the entire Southern Africa, to be done at a large scale covering 160,000 people.

2015 in Sudan

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 32 000 000	EUR 15 000 000	EUR 47 000 000

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 EUR 82 million, and progressively topped-up during the year for a final value of EUR 139 million. Sudan also benefitted from EDF funding for the El Nino response for an amount of EUR 15 Million allocated in December 2015 and to be implemented in 2016.

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Sudan is a complex protracted crisis, included since 2014 in the "forgotten crises" list of ECHO. The humanitarian situation continues to be critical in various regions, affecting large parts of the population. Its multiple drivers remain unchanged, including:

- Conflict and insecurity, leading to internal displacement, influx of refugees and continuous protection concerns;
- Eroded livelihoods, highly vulnerable to natural shocks, such as the impact of El Nino, leading to an increase of already high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition;
- Fragile and inadequate essential basic services;
- Operational constraints that need to be considered when defining principled humanitarian assistance.

The operating environment remains complex, especially in terms of timely and unhindered access to affected populations. Constraints are multiple, including bureaucratic impediments, restrictions to physical access for areas directly affected by conflict, logistical challenges. Advocacy for protection of civilians and humanitarian space remains supported by constant coordination efforts, as needs have continued to increase and emergency response had to be maintained or even expanded.

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:

ECHO response continues to be based on capacity of partners to directly identify needs, implement and monitor operations in an adequate and principled manner. Main priorities have included:

- Emergency preparedness and response, for life saving interventions in most critical sectors, including protection;
- In the context of a protracted crisis, improved targeting based on vulnerability criteria, diversifying aid modalities based on response analysis and promote a multi-sectoral approach to build resilience;
- Additional response to high level of food insecurity and malnutrition due to the impact of El Nino, through immediate support to most vulnerable households (food assistance, nutrition, water);
- Link with development has been promoted for protracted caseload, multiple causes to malnutrition and El Nino impact.

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, refugee camps in White Nile State and El Nino-impacted people across the country.
- Provided support for humanitarian coordination, cluster system and for humanitarian air services, notably in air operations and prepositioning in advance of the rainy season.

2015 in Uganda

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 10 000 000	-	EUR 10 000 000

Following an exit strategy back in 2010, ECHO re-engaged in Uganda in view of the influx of South Sudanese refugees as from December 2013 onwards. In 2015, a specific HIP allocation for Uganda of EUR 10 million was approved in order to support mainly the assistance to both Congolese and South Sudanese caseloads in the country.

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

In 2015, Uganda faced three different types of crises linked to forced displacement:

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

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

ECHO focused on the 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 has been looking at ways to enhance, together with partners, sustainability of operation in terms of infrastructure and community services while including a contingency component. Cash was introduced and biometrics generalised.

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. Talks in the framework of the EU Trust Fund have taken place with the EU Delegation to identify possible areas of intervention.

2015 in Burkina Faso

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
16 313 017 €	1 500 000 €	17 813 017 €*

* including EUR 1 130 000 for Malian refugees living in Burkina Faso and EUR 4 090 000 included in a regional project

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Burkina Faso had a relatively stable political and institutional setting. From October 2014 to November 2015, the country underwent a democratic and peaceful transition period, and a coup d'état was overcome in September 2015. However, despite the successful political transition, Burkina Faso remained one of the poorest countries in the world, with a Human Development Index (2014) of 183/188 and more than 40 % of its population living below the poverty line. The country continued to suffer from chronic food and nutrition insecurity, repeated epidemic outbreaks and poor access to health services. Burkina Faso hosted approximately 34 000 Malian refugees.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Food assistance: In 2015, approximately 9% of the population - some 1 202 000 people - faced food insecurity during the lean season, and 371 000 were in need of emergency humanitarian aid. As in previous years, a national response plan was put in place by the government. ECHO contributed to the response with approximately EUR 3 million, which was used to provide cash transfers and vouchers to the poorest households to cover their basic needs during the lean season. These cash transfers were coupled with distributions of enriched flour for children under two and therapeutic supplements for pregnant and lactating women

Health and nutrition: In 2015, an estimated 499 000 children under five suffered from global acute malnutrition, 149 000 of whom from its severe form. The country was affected by epidemics such as malaria, diarrheal diseases, cholera, meningitis, measles and respiratory infections. The poor and vulnerable populations only had limited access to healthcare. ECHO allocated EUR 13.7 million for the provision of free health care to children under five and mothers, and for the prevention and integrated management of severe acute malnutrition.

Refugees: There were still some 34 000 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso resulting from the on-going crisis in Northern Mali, with 24 000 of them living in Mentao and Goudoubo camp and 8 000 outside the camps. Only very limited spontaneous returns took place due to the fact the situation in Mali is not favourable to returns including for poor security conditions. ECHO supported basic assistance to Malian refugees and host populations for a total of EUR 1.1 million.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

A national strategy on health was elaborated. In the area of maternal and child health, free medical care was assured for children under five, for women giving birth and for pregnant women. Burkina Faso's technical and financial partners were committed to accompany the government with the implementation of this free access to healthcare.

In addition to humanitarian assistance and the response to the recurrent food and nutrition crises, ECHO continued to promote jointly with DG DEVCO the AGIR Initiative, the global alliance aimed at strengthening the resilience of the poorest families in the Sahel and achieving "zero hunger" by 2032.

2015 in Cameroon

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 11 200 000*	EUR 14 000 000	EUR 25 200 000

*Includes EUR 700,000 Children of Peace

The HIP 2015 for Central Africa included an initial allocation of EUR 4 million for Cameroon. This was increased in February by EUR 3 million for emergency assistance to populations affected by Boko Haram violence in the Far North. In July, an additional EUR 1 million was mobilised in favour of CAR refugees in Eastern Cameroon and in November EUR 2.5 million were added in response to the escalating Boko Haram crisis. This brought the total HIP allocation to EUR 10.5 million.

Due to the intensification of the humanitarian crisis in the Lake Chad area, with a growing number of refugees from Nigeria and increasing internal displacements, a regional *ad hoc* decision from EDF funds adopted in June 2015 allocated EUR 6 million for further emergency assistance to populations affected by Boko Haram violence in Cameroon.

In December 2015, another two EDF decisions were adopted: a regional decision for humanitarian assistance to populations affected by the "El Nino" phenomenon, allocating EUR 5 million to Cameroon; and a decision allocating EUR 3 million for further assistance to refugees from CAR in Cameroon.

In 2015, Cameroon benefited also from EUR 700 000 from the HIP EU Children of Peace facilitating access to education for refugee and displaced children.

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

2015 was marked by the intensification of the humanitarian crisis in Northern Cameroon due to Boko Haram activities. At the same time, the difficult humanitarian situation continued in Eastern Cameroon, linked to a significant number of refugees who had fled violence in CAR since 2014.

*** Displacements of population and food insecurity in the Far North Region:** The escalating violence of Boko Haram in Northeast Nigeria caused the continuous arrival of refugees throughout 2015. By December 2015, there were 66 000 refugees from Nigeria, 54 500 of them located in the overcrowded camp of Minawao. Recurrent incursions of Boko Haram caused massive displacements also among the Cameroonian population living in border areas. By December 2015, there were 124 000 IDPs who had lost all their means of subsistence due to the conflict. The conflict also caused disruption of most economic activities in the region, heavily threatening the survival of local populations and further exacerbating a situation of chronic food and nutrition insecurity and adverse climatic conditions. By the end of 2015, 1.4 million people in the region were at risk of food insecurity; 200 000 of them were severely food insecure and the Severe Acute Malnutrition rate of children under five exceeded the emergency threshold.

*** Refugees from CAR in Eastern Cameroon:** 132 000 refugees from CAR who had arrived in Cameroon since January 2014 remained in the country throughout 2015. About half of them lived among local communities, the other half in refugee sites. More than two years after their arrival, most of them still depended entirely on humanitarian aid and did not have any livelihood activities.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Throughout 2015, ECHO mobilised funds to cover the basic needs of a growing number of people affected by Boko Haram violence: Nigerian refugees, internally displaced people and host communities. Multisectoral assistance in favour of refugees included food assistance, access to water and sanitation in Minawao camp, protection and education for refugee children. Regarding IDPs and host communities, the main sectors of intervention were food assistance, access to nutrition and health care, education in emergency, livelihood support, water and sanitation. ECHO also supported strengthened coordination, provision of humanitarian air services (through The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service) and the tracking of internal displacement.

In response to the basic needs of refugees from CAR, ECHO continued to fund food assistance with an increasing emphasis on self-reliance, shelter, access to water and sanitation, basic health care and nutrition services. Furthermore, support was provided to vulnerable host communities.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

In 2015, the ECHO antenna office in Yaoundé was upgraded to a full Regional Office with, *inter alia*, five sectoral experts and a country team dedicated to Cameroon. The Regional Office follows ECHO-funded-operations in CAR, Nigeria, Chad and Cameroon

Through the opening of a Regional Office, advocacy and awareness-raising efforts regarding the Lake Chad crisis, including initiatives to promote the development of a regional humanitarian strategy, was stepped up in 2015.

2015 in the Central African Republic

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
25 000 000*	3 000 000	28 000 000

* includes 2 000 000 contribution to the EU Trust Fund Bekou

The initial HIP allocation for the Central African Republic (CAR) of EUR 14 million was increased by EUR 8 million in April 2015 in response to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the country. Following the outbreak of violence in September 2015, an additional EUR 1 million was allocated in order to scale up humanitarian assistance to the newly displaced while seeking to enhance the affected population's resilience to new shocks. Furthermore, EUR 3 million were mobilised in December 2015 from EDF funds to address the humanitarian consequences of the "El Nino" phenomenon.

In parallel, during 2015, ECHO contributed with EUR 2 million from its operational reserve to the EU Trust Fund Bekou for CAR in support of resilience and actions linking relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD).

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

CAR is one of the poorest countries in the world. During the last decades, the country suffered from poor governance and chronic underdevelopment. This already fragile situation deteriorated significantly in 2013 as a result of an escalation in inter-communal violence, entailing political instability throughout 2014 and 2015.

2015 was marked by a fragile transition process and an extremely dire humanitarian situation, affecting the entire country as well as the refugee population in neighbouring countries (Chad, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo and Republic of Congo). The overall situation remained problematic due to the volatile security situation, widespread criminality, very difficult humanitarian access and the dramatic protection situation of displaced populations and communities in enclaves. Against this background, an upsurge of violence erupted in Bangui in September 2015 and subsequently spread across the provinces. In the capital Bangui alone, more than 40 000 new displacements were recorded. Humanitarian organisations' premises, stocks and operations were heavily impacted.

At the end of the year, the humanitarian situation continued to be dramatic with more than 450 000 IDPs (of whom some 55 000 in Bangui), approximately 36 000 people living in enclaves and over 450 000 refugees. Preliminary findings of the Emergency Food Security Assessment conducted in September 2015 showed an aggravated food insecurity situation.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

ECHO interventions in 2015 factored in both the prevailing security situation and diversity in contexts across CAR. Emergency response in the areas of health, nutrition, food assistance, water, sanitation, hygiene and security/logistics (taking into account existing access constraints) was supported. So was the protection of civilians, including tracking of incidents, advocacy, medical, psychosocial and legal

aid to victims. Support to nascent IDP return movements was interrupted following the September crisis.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

Humanitarian assistance to CAR was channelled with the aim to provide a consistent reply across the country, taking into account the acute needs of the CAR population while seeking complementarity with other EU instruments, in particular the EU Trust Fund Bekou, focused on LRRD/resilience. Joint programming efforts in key sectors (health, food) were pursued.

ECHO also continued its engagement in advocacy initiatives to maintain CAR high on the international agenda. This was particularly needed following the premature discontinuation of the L3 level emergency in May 2015. To be noted that by the end of the year, OCHA's Financial Tracking System reported USD 390 million as the total humanitarian funding for CAR in 2015. Of this, USD 231.1 million was directed towards the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), representing 52% coverage of HRP requirements.

2015 in Chad

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 37 403 460*	EUR 20 600 000	EUR 58 003 460

* Includes EUR 800,000 from the Emergency Toolbox

The HIP 2015 Central Africa was launched with an initial allocation of EUR 36 603 460 for Chad, including EUR 10 283 460 from UK External Assigned Revenues.

The humanitarian situation in Chad worsened significantly during the year, due *inter alia* to the escalation of the Boko Haram crisis in the Lake Chad basin. It compounded an already dire situation of fragility and food insecurity, particularly in West Chad and other Sahelian regions. In May and June 2015, two EDF funding allocations of EUR 6 500 000 and 2 100 000 respectively (the latter from a regional envelope covering also Nigeria, Niger and Cameroon) were made to respond to the most urgent needs of the affected populations. An additional envelope of EUR 12 000 000, also from EDF funds, was released in December 2015 to cope with the humanitarian consequences of the "El Nino" phenomenon, which seriously impacted the food and nutrition situation of the most vulnerable populations.

Furthermore, an amount of EUR 800 000 from the Emergency Toolbox was used to tackle epidemics preparedness and response in the South of Chad.

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Chad, one of the poorest countries in the world, is characterised by significant levels of food insecurity and malnutrition – reflecting the concurrent and long-standing challenges of extreme poverty, limited access to food, natural hazards, fragile governance and absence of basic State services. Poor households must obtain more than 87% of their food on the markets because of limited own production. Children under-five have little or no access to healthy, adequate and sufficient food. Most households have minimal access to health care or drinking water. Repeated food and nutrition crises over past years deeply eroded the most vulnerable households' resilience.

The security situation in border areas, in particular along the borders with Sudan and CAR, remained volatile. Regional dynamics, including Boko Haram's activity in Nigeria and Cameroon, the CAR crisis, renewed clashes in Sudan, as well as volatile Libya all have had a destabilising effect on the country. The aggravation of the Lake Chad basin crisis in 2015, severely disrupting livelihoods and local economies and causing massive population displacements has given rise to new humanitarian needs, particularly in the Sahelian regions. The severity of the situation in the Sahel belt has been further compounded by the consequences of El Nino which brought about significant rainfall deficit, disrupted the agro pastoral system and provoked a sharp increase in food prices.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

* **Nutrition and health:** ECHO supported actions to improve free access to the treatment of severe malnutrition and health care for children under five and for pregnant and lactating women

* **Food assistance:** actions were supported to improve access to adequate food, particularly for the most vulnerable populations

* **WASH:** WASH activities were integrated in nutrition programmes

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- * **Populations movements:** multi-sectorial assistance to refugees, returnees and IDPs was supported
 - * **Logistics:** ECHO supported the humanitarian flight operation (United Nations Humanitarian Air Service)

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

In 2015, ECHO was at the forefront in mobilising the humanitarian community in Chad to step up assistance in the Lake Chad region affected by the Boko Haram crisis. ECHO reinforced its capacity to identify and provide a rapid response to new humanitarian crises.

Work on LRRD (linking relief, rehabilitation and development) and resilience processes in the framework of AGIR (the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative) was pursued.

2015 Ebola

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	TOTAL
EUR 17 963 000*	-	EUR 17 963 000

* includes €1,000,000 Children of Peace

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Emergency: Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) epidemic in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone which resulted in 28 000 cases with 11 310 deaths. The epidemic and ECHO's involvement in the response began in 2014.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Health: isolation and treatment of patients, contact tracing, safe burials, surveillance and psycho-social support.

Livelihood and Food Security: assisting heavily affected communities and survivors to resume normal activities.

Logistics: support to transport and humanitarian air service; a medical evacuation system (MEDEVAC) was established to support the mobilisation and ensure the safety of international aid workers.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

Although the epidemic was already in a downward trend towards the end of 2014, sporadic cases continued to be detected in all three countries throughout 2015. This required the whole range of Ebola containment activities to be maintained, namely: detection of cases using specialised laboratories; isolation and treatment of EVD cases in special facilities; tracing contacts; providing teams to carry out safe burials; information management and logistic support.

The dimension of the epidemic was such that it had a far-reaching socio-economic impact that needed to be addressed urgently. This included revitalising quarantined communities with livelihood support and cash incentives. Regular health services, especially maternity services, had been totally abandoned and needed to be re-established.

There were over 17 000 EVD survivors who did not only require specialised health care but also psycho-social support and assistance in over-coming the social stigma to allow them re-integrate in their communities. As survivors can continue to carry the virus and potentially trigger recurrences, a system of follow-up and epidemic surveillance was also established.

There were also over 10 000 children orphaned or affected by EVD. ECHO supported their return to school through a EUR 1 million contribution from the EU Children of Peace initiative.

ECHO supported activities in all three countries in the sectors mentioned. It is important to note that ECHO worked in close collaboration with DG DEVCO's LRRD programme "AWARE" that took over many of these activities; with DG SANTE/ECDC who provided Epidemiologists; and with DG Research who funded the research and field testing of Ebola tests, treatments and vaccines.

ECHO also facilitated the coordination of the EU response through the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC).

2015 in The Gambia

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
988 454	600 000	1 588 454

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

The Gambia was hit by the food crisis in 2012 and the nutritional status of children had been deteriorating since. As in previous years since 2012, in 2015 the Gambia faced a food and nutrition crisis due to the significant drop in agricultural production, a significant deficit of fodder and rising food prices. High levels of acute malnutrition and food insecurity required a humanitarian response in 2015.

A total of 442 429 people, i.e. 29.5% of the total population, were considered to be in crisis in 2015 and required immediate humanitarian assistance. 84 124 children suffered from Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) and 10 224 suffered from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

In 2015, two thirds of the total ECHO allocation went to emergency food assistance, one third to nutrition interventions.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

The Gambia continued to lack a robust food security and nutrition surveillance system. The market information system was also rather rudimentary. This context of limited information systems was challenging for the development of an intervention strategy.

2015 in Ivory Coast

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 5 458 557*	-	EUR 5 458 557

* includes EUR 4 458 557 External Assigned Revenue (EAR) from an agreement between ECHO, 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

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, also the risk that the 2015 presidential elections could create tensions, possibly with humanitarian consequences has been avoided. 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 primary health system and enhance epidemics 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.

2015 in Mali

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
34 955 896*	8 000 000	42 955 896

* EUR 33 415 896 million plus EUR 1.54 million for Ebola projects

2) Context and types of crisis:

During the course of 2015, the context in Mali became increasingly volatile. The signature of the Mali Peace Agreement in June 2015 was an important step forward in the process of rebuilding mutual trust and confidence in Mali. Unfortunately, however, the implementation of the Peace Agreement was overall very slow despite the high political pressure to accelerate the delivery of peace dividends. Attacks from illegal armed groups spread to almost all regions of the country.

Humanitarian space remained rather limited and fragile, underlining the importance of assistance based on humanitarian principles and a clear distinction between humanitarian actions and the political stabilisation agenda. This remained essential in order to preserve humanitarian access to the population affected by the crisis.

State authority and the provision of essential services by the Government were not restored in the Northern regions due to the conflict situation and related insecurity. As a consequence, more than 1.5 million people living in the three Northern regions still largely depended on the support of international humanitarian actors for access to basic services, such as health, water and education. In the North, the population is mostly pastoralist depending on cattle. Access to water is critical and lack of pasture puts cattle at risk, further aggravating the nutrition security of the population and increasing inter-communal tensions.

The conflict in Mali is compounded by widespread food and nutrition insecurity which affects millions of people every year. In 2015, some 2.7 million people were food insecure, including 410 000 in need of emergency food assistance. The nutrition situation remained very critical overall in Mali with an average Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 12.4%, and even 17.5% in the Tombouctou region, far beyond the emergency threshold of 15%. All regions in Mali were above 10% GAM, and the average Severe Acute Malnutrition rate was at 2.8%, above the 2% WHO threshold requiring immediate intervention. In 2015, some 715 000 children under five suffered from acute malnutrition, out of whom 181 000 from Severe Acute Malnutrition.

The neighbouring countries continued to host approximatively 141 000 Malian refugees: 50 000 in Mauritania, 57 000 in Niger and 34 000 in Burkina Faso. Due to increased insecurity and limited access to basic services in some areas, the return of refugees was not officially encouraged. The number of spontaneous returns strongly declined in 2015. The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Mali was 61 920, mainly located in the North.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Nutrition programmes focused mainly on treating Severe Acute Malnutrition and preventing a deterioration of the nutrition status of children under-five. With ECHO support, in 2015, almost 134 947 children aged 6-59 months were treated for Severe Acute Malnutrition.

ECHO also funded the provision of emergency food assistance to 240 000 people. Families were given emergency food rations and cash transfers or vouchers. Access to essential health services for the most vulnerable in the conflict affected regions fully depended on the provision of drugs and support by humanitarian organisations. ECHO funding allowed partner organisations to reinforce health structures and ensure basic health and nutrition care to over 800 000 people.

ECHO continued to support partners for preparedness and capacity building in Bamako and in regions bordering Guinea as well as for the provision of emergency supplies such as hygiene and protective equipment.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

Complementing the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), ECHO flight continued to operate flights in the remote Northern regions of Mali to deliver humanitarian assistance, except to Kidal where the flights had been suspended since January due to damage caused to the airstrip. The closure of Kidal airport for humanitarian flights was a serious impediment for aid organisations to deliver basic emergency assistance to populations in need.

Furthermore, jointly with DG DEVCO, ECHO continued to promote the AGIR Initiative, the global alliance aimed at strengthening the resilience of the poorest families in the Sahel and achieving "zero hunger" by 2032.

2015 in Mauritania

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

<i>Humanitarian Aid</i>	<i>EDF</i>	<i>Total</i>
EUR 7 715 000	EUR 4 300 000	EUR 12 015 000*

*excluding regional projects

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

In 2015, Mauritania continued to suffer from a multi-dimensional crisis related to food insecurity, high prevalence of acute malnutrition and the presence of Malian refugees.

Some 1 360 000 people in Mauritania suffered from food insecurity at the peak of the lean season, i.e. 36% of the total population were unable to meet their basic food needs. The nutrition situation in six regions in the country (Gorgol, Assaba, Tagant, Brakna, Guidimakha, and Hod El Chargui) was classified as critical with a GAM (Global Acute Malnutrition) rate exceeding the emergency threshold of 15%.

The humanitarian situation in Mauritania continued to be characterised by structural vulnerabilities, such as over-reliance on subsistence rain-fed agriculture and animal husbandry, widespread poverty, limited infrastructure and low levels of education. Limited effective coverage of basic social services weakened the resilience of the most vulnerable people. These structural problems were exacerbated by short-term factors, such as erratic and late rainfall negatively impacting agricultural production and pasture, and high food prices. Moreover, the poorest and most food insecure populations continued to suffer from the cumulative impact of recurrent shocks, including severe drought (notably the one in 2011-2012). In 2015, there was an increase of 27% in people facing a food crisis compared to 2014.

Mauritania was also confronted with challenges related to the presence of Malian refugees in the country and the necessity to cover their humanitarian needs in a difficult context. The M'bera refugee camp was the largest Malian refugee camp in the Sahel region. Some 50 000 refugees who fled from Northern Mali continued to rely on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs such as shelter, food, water and nutrition care.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

ECHO support focused on food and nutrition assistance to the most vulnerable Mauritanian population as well as on food assistance and water and sanitation for Malian refugees.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

Nutrition programmes concentrated mainly on treating Severe Acute Malnutrition and preventing the deterioration of the nutritional status of children under five. The nutrition strategy also included efforts to facilitate the integration of undernutrition care into existing health structures. In terms of food assistance, cash transfers, food and/or vouchers distributions were made to the most vulnerable people during the lean season combined with distribution of enriched flour for children under two.

In addition to humanitarian assistance and the response to the recurrent food and nutrition crises, ECHO continued to promote jointly with DG DEVCO the AGIR Initiative, the global alliance aimed at strengthening the resilience of the poorest families in the Sahel and achieving "zero hunger" by 2032.

2015 in Niger

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	TOTAL
EUR 33 816 180*	EUR 9 900 000	EUR 43 716 180

* excludes regional projects

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. In 2015, an estimated 1.1 million people - around 7% of the total population - faced severe food insecurity and required emergency food assistance to cover the lean season. 1.3 million children under five were suffering from Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM), including 368 114 suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). At the end of 2015, more than 354 187 SAM children were admitted and treated in health centres across the country.
- **Conflict and displacement of populations:** Continued Boko Haram violence led to the displacement of approximately 153 000 people from Nigeria to the Diffa region of Niger, increasing the need for protection, food, nutrition, WASH and shelter. The impact on already stretched local communities was highly felt in 2015 especially in terms of food and livelihood opportunities. The conflict in Mali continued to have consequences in Niger with the presence of 56 000 Malian refugees.
- **Other emergencies:** Malaria remained endemic and had direct incidence on the mortality of children under five. The Western part of the country, especially the capital Niamey, faced an outbreak of meningitis from January to May 2015, with 7 966 cases and 537 deaths reported. Cholera epidemics affected Niger as well. The total number of people affected by epidemics in 2015 reached 1.4 million. Furthermore, 105 000 people were affected by floods.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

- **Support to refugees:** providing basic life-saving services in the sectors of protection, shelter, health, nutrition, food and water
- **Addressing severe food insecurity and Severe Acute Malnutrition**

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

A total of EUR 29.5 million was used for the treatment and prevention of Severe Acute Malnutrition and prevention activities focusing on food assistance during the lean season. This contributed to the treatment of approximately 250 000 severely malnourished children and women including those who fled the violence in Nigeria and Mali. This represented the treatment of approximately 70% of the total national caseload. A large food assistance programme was also financed through in-kind donations as well as cash transfers combined with nutrition complements for 22 500 vulnerable households¹ in order to prevent further Severe Acute Malnutrition around the lean season. In

¹ The figure only includes households assisted through NGOs.

addition, ECHO contributed with EUR 16 million to a large food assistance operation that targeted close to 500 000 people.

Assistance to displaced people affected by the Boko Haram crisis in the region of Diffa amounted to approximately EUR 13.5 million. Support to Malian refugees amounted to EUR 2 million.

Jointly with DG DEVCO, ECHO continued to promote the AGIR Initiative, the global alliance aimed at strengthening the resilience of the poorest families in the Sahel and achieving "zero hunger" by 2032.

2015 in Nigeria

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 9 000 000	EUR 12 500 000	EUR 21 500 000

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Nigeria is Africa's most populated country with over 178 million inhabitants and the continent's leading oil producer. However, the country's economic growth masks extreme poverty and one of the world's highest levels of income disparity. A majority of the population has no access to health care, education and safe drinking water. Some 6.2 million Nigerians depend on external assistance.

Boko Haram had been affecting the North-East of the country for the past few years. Boko Haram violence claimed the lives of thousands of civilians in 2015, with particularly violent attacks on towns bordering Niger, Chad and Cameroon. Since a state of emergency was declared in Yobe, Borno and Adamawa states in 2013, massacres, suicide bombings and mass abductions had become daily threats across the region. An estimated 24 million people were affected by the Boko Haram conflict and 6.2 million required rapid multi-sectorial aid (food assistance, nutrition, shelter, WASH, healthcare and protection) last year. Violence led to increasing population displacement within Nigeria, with a spill over effect to neighbouring countries. The Displacement Tracking Matrix of the International Organisation for Migration estimated the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) at 2.2 million, requiring support. Part of the IDPs were hosted by already fragile local communities. Others were staying in makeshift camps, open yards and schools, with little or no assistance provided. Protracted displacement further decreased the resilience of both the displaced population and host communities.

Moreover, Nigeria had the highest number of undernourished children in Africa, concentrated mainly in the 11 most Northern states. The level of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in children under-five was consistently above the 10% emergency alert threshold. The country was also affected by seasonal floods and epidemics.

Lack of access, serious protection issues and limited number and capacity of international aid organisations were serious obstacles to the safe and adequate delivery of aid in 2015. Only a fraction of the massive humanitarian needs could hence be covered.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

In 2015, ECHO funds were allocated to relief operations via multi-sector aid in food assistance, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), shelter and protection of populations affected by violence as well as the treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition and related diseases.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

As for the regional impact of the crisis, ECHO scaled up funding to meet the continuously increasing humanitarian needs related to the Boko Haram crisis.

The humanitarian needs in Nigeria reached a dimension where international humanitarian actors had to step up their capacity. However, a significant portion of emergency needs remained uncovered. Increased support is required from the Nigerian government to provide assistance to the population in need and help build their resilience, complemented by further support by the international community

2015 in Senegal

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
6.955.077	3.600.000	10.555.077

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

After several years of food and nutrition crisis (2008, 2010, 2012, 2014), Senegal faced a deterioration of the nutrition and food security situation in 2015. This was due to a significant drop in agricultural production, poor rainfall, significant fodder deficits especially in pastoral areas, high food prices and structural factors related to weak capacity of the national health system to prevent and treat Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM).

In 2015, the level of cereal production in Senegal decreased by 2.16% compared to the last five year average. Some regions were facing a drop of 45% in cereal production compared to the five year average. National food needs coverage through domestic production was at a 40.5% low.

In this context, a total of 4.19 million people were considered food insecure during the lean season, including 1.04 million people – i.e. 5.5% of the total population - in need of emergency food assistance, primarily in Louga, Matam, Podor and Tambacounda. This represented an increase of 13% and 41% respectively compared to the same period in 2014.

The prevalence of undernutrition had been increasing since 2012, leading to a nutrition crisis situation in 2015. The prevalence of GAM was high in 2015 in several parts of the country, with various regions above alert and emergency levels. In 2015, a total of 332 290 children were considered acutely malnourished and 68 647 severely malnourished.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Given the high prevalence of undernutrition in Senegal, the management of severe acute malnutrition remained a priority for ECHO. In addition, ECHO's strategy included efforts to facilitate the integration of malnutrition management care into existing health structures, while enhancing the quality of interventions.

As a consequence of the serious food insecure situation in Senegal in 2015, ECHO also funded projects to improve the food security of the poorest households, providing emergency food assistance during the most critical period, helping to prevent the degradation of vulnerable populations' nutrition status and protecting livelihoods.

All actions were implemented in areas with acute malnutrition rates and the highest food insecurity. They were developed on the basis of a community approach, i.e. supporting the management of acute malnutrition at the decentralized level (health district) and participatory and community methodology for targeted food assistance.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

In addition to humanitarian assistance and the response to the recurrent food and nutrition crises, ECHO continued to promote jointly with DG DEVCO the AGIR Initiative, the global alliance aimed at strengthening the resilience of the poorest families in the Sahel and achieving "zero hunger" by 2032.

2015 in Algeria

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 10 000 000	-	EUR 10 000 000

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

The **Sahrawi refugee crisis** is a "**forgotten crisis**". When Spain withdrew from Western Sahara in 1975, it handed over control of the territory to Morocco and to Mauritania, what triggered armed conflict with the Polisario Front who proclaimed the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) in 1976 and established a government-in-exile. To escape violence, Sahrawi's moved to Tindouf (Algeria). Mauritania pulled out of Western Sahara in 1979. Morocco and SADR eventually agreed to a ceasefire and mediation from the United Nations in 1991. Today, the conflict remains unresolved and refugees live in five refugees' camps south of Tindouf (Algeria).

Thanks to continuous intervention for more than 22 years, most of Sphere humanitarian standards have been reached or exceeded in the camps (populations have access to 18 L/d/p of potable water; to a daily food intake of +/- 2 100 Kcal; presence of 32 'health structures; provision of essential medicines granted all year long). However, in absence of income opportunity, populations remain fully dependent to external aid to cover their basic needs. The largely isolated camps offer almost no employment opportunities, creating a dependency on remittances and humanitarian aid.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

In 2015, **food aid** was the main component of ECHO's funding: ECHO partners supplied food items such as wheat flour, barley, rice, oil, sugar and lentils, as well as fruits and vegetables allowing refugees to reach good Food Diversity Score and Food Consumption Score.

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

ECHO also focused on **hygiene and sanitation**, 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.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

In absence of a political solution to the conflict and subsequent absence of development programs in the Sahrawi camps, humanitarian aid is quasi the sole source of assistance. Considering the overall pressure on humanitarian budget (due to multiplication of severe humanitarian crisis in Sahel and the wider neighborhood), this approach is not sustainable in the long term. This issue has been raised and discussed with other EU services, with Member States and with Algerian authorities.

**2015 in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan,
Uzbekistan) and the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)**

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 4 650 356	-	EUR 4 650 356*

* Includes Small Scale Actions and Disaster Relief Emergency Fund

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Central Asia is prone to frequent natural disasters such earthquakes, floods, landslides, mudflows, droughts and extreme temperatures. These hazards have led to extensive structural damage and economic loss, affecting large swathes of the population and their livelihoods in the last twenty years.

In the Caucasus, there are the so-called "frozen conflicts" in Nagorno-Karabakh, South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Restricted freedom of movement and a lack of economic development have rendered populations particularly vulnerable. The region also sees recurrent natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, landslides, droughts and extreme temperatures. Communities in both rural and urban settings have been affected.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Through the DIPECHO Action Plan 2014-2015, ECHO implemented projects in all countries of Central Asia and the South Caucasus, helping to reduce vulnerability and promote resilience in areas most affected by natural disasters, mainly by 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 DRR measures are integrated in local, state and national development plans. It also supported the implementation of programmes related to school safety and the 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.

In 2015, ECHO also responded to 6 natural disasters by replenishing IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), for a total of **EUR 480,356**.

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, 14 DRR projects were implemented across the Central Asia and Caucasus region in cooperation with 11 partner organisations.

2015 in Iraq

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 78 650 000	-	EUR 78 650 000*

* includes the Ad-Hoc/Small scale/Emergency to respond to the cholera outbreak, declared in September 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 L3 humanitarian crisis has further deepened in 2015, with 10 million people in need, in a country of 36 million, and 3.2 million internal displaced persons (IDPs). In addition, Iraq hosts over 250 000 Syrian refugees. At the same time, the plunge in oil prices has severely damaged Iraqi economy (revenues fell by more than 40%). Social and sectarian tensions escalate; efforts at national reconciliation and progress towards political reform are feeble. Iraq is the third country for arrivals to Europe, fleeing war and economic crisis (after Syrians and Afghans).

Fighting has intensified, with increased displacement, particularly in central and the disputed areas. Vulnerabilities increase as well as dependence from humanitarian aid, due to protracted displacement, forced encampment and increased destitution of newly displaced people. More and more, affected civilians are able to flee active conflict areas only after months of besiegement (e.g. Ramadi, in Anbar governorate).

Iraq is clearly a protection crisis with gross violations of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law committed by all parties to the conflict. Advocacy is a priority for the respect of IHL during and after the conduct of hostilities, in the treatment of IDPs and returnees and to enhance humanitarian access. Humanitarian access to those in need remains a major challenge, in particular for those 3 million living in ISIL-controlled areas, unable to flee or receive humanitarian assistance.

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 underserved and conflict affected areas and maximises impact and cost-efficiency, promoting integrated systems of aid. ECHO also supports the prepositioning of humanitarian partners, in response to Anbar displacement and the possible military offensive in Mosul.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

ECHO, throughout the year, has actively increased its humanitarian efforts in response to growing humanitarian needs, and has enhanced its principled engagement to improve access (to humanitarian aid and to safer ground), strengthen protection of civilians and respect of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

ECHO has also been very active in steering and improving quality and balance the humanitarian response throughout the country, e.g. 1) promoting a principled, prioritised, harmonised and cost-efficient response; 2) facilitating the development of humanitarian aid systems through existing coordination structures; 3) maximizing differential value of UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs; 4)

enhancing coordination and complementarities with other EU funding streams and governmental social protection schemes.

2015 in JORDAN

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 58 000 000	-	EUR 58 000 000

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Jordan is one of the countries most affected by the Syria crisis and has to be commended for its generous hospitality, hosting more than 630 000 Syrian refugees, equivalent to around 10% of its population. The conflict in Syria and Iraq is having an important impact on the country's socioeconomic conditions. The country's community resources, infrastructure and social services have been seriously overstretched and rising rents and competition for jobs have contributed to raising tensions between refugees and host populations. Around 83% of the Syrian refugees live outside the Camps and it is estimated that 53% of the refugees are children and 23.5 % women.

Access to legal documentation, freedom of movement and inability to get livelihood opportunities are heavily impacting the living conditions of the most vulnerable Syrians refugees in Jordan: Two out of three refugees are living below the Jordanian absolute poverty line of 68 JOD/person/month, forcing most families to spend more than they earn in order to meet their household needs, and to resort to a range of negative and unsustainable coping strategies for survival.

Security concerns due to the instability in the region have led to restrictions at Jordan's borders for persons fleeing conflict and persecution in Syria. Despite reassurances from the Government that borders remain open, the number of new refugee admitted from Syria has dropped to the lowest since the beginning of the crisis. The Western border in particular has been closed since May 2013. Since September and with the escalation of the conflict in Syria, the number of Syrians seeking to enter Jordan has risen rapidly. In November 2015 the number of refugees stranded at the border doubled from some 5 000 to 10 000 and by the end of December 2015 the figure rose up to 15 000 Syrian refugees. Refugees are stranded in the middle of the desert in dire conditions waiting to access Jordan. Most of them are children and women in need of urgent assistance.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

In 2015, within the framework of the Syria HIP 2015, ECHO has allocated EUR 53 million to Jordan in response to the Syria crisis responding to the needs of refugees living in camps and urban areas. In an environment where the protection and asylum space for Syrian refugees in Jordan continued to erode, ECHO focused its interventions in life saving activities. Main programs responded to basic needs, healthcare (primarily reproductive health care), water and sanitation and protection. 22.45% of the allocation has been channelled through INGOs, 17% through IO and 60.55% through UN agencies.

In the health sector, programs have addressed reproductive health and protection of women and girls and the support of medical assistance for war wounded (26.54% of the funding) and referral costs for treatment.

Refugee protection has been a priority in 2015, especially when it comes to child protection, documentation, gender based violence and measures against risk of deportation. Protection represented 24.68% of the funding under the HIP 2015.

With regards to basic needs, ECHO has continued to support programs through unconditional cash transfers, in line with the basic needs approach, allowing beneficiaries to meet a wide range of needs in a dignified manner. Eventually, the basic-needs response triggered joint targeting strategy and good coordination among agencies and NGOs what has been key for greater efficiency and effectiveness. Under cash for protection programme, 56 000 girls and boys from 15 750 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugee families in host communities received 20 USD per child per month. This cash grant prevented vulnerable families from relying on negative coping mechanisms, by helping to cover needs and expenses specific to each child.

Under the shelter & NFIs sector, funding supported winterization activities through cash and in kind assistance for a total of 27.8% of the funding for the year.

Lastly, 2015 was the turning point and exit from the WASH sector due to a greater involvement of development donors.

The provision of basic services in villages and towns across the country also included vulnerable Jordanian families. In Zaatari and Azraq refugee camps, ECHO has invested in health and wash facilities and continued to support the Azraq hospital and reproductive health facilities in Zaatari Camp.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations

In 2015, with an increasing number of refugees stranded at the Eastern border with Syria, providing them with emergency assistance has been a priority. Refugees arrive in dire conditions and have to wait months before they are allowed to enter the territory. Advocacy for the access of the most vulnerable refugees is essential to save lives and a main priority for the EU in Jordan.

Another priority has been operations to support the protection and documentation of refugees living in urban areas. Furthermore, ECHO continued to scale up its funding to the **basic assistance** sector cash as a cost efficient modality. In line with the LRRD approach, ECHO continued to identify opportunities for synergies and convergences with longer term actions in order to provide concerted assistance to the refugees in a cohesive and sustainable manner.

2015 in Lebanon

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 97 000 000	-	EUR 97 000 000

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Lebanon is hit hard by the Syria crisis and hosts more than 1.1 million Syrian refugees. Including other refugee communities, Lebanon has the world's largest number of refugees per capita. Following the stringent Government's restrictions on access to Lebanon introduced as of January 2015, combined with unaffordable fees and legal residency requirements, the daily life of refugees is in a downward spiral. Without access to legal documentation, freedom of movement and inability to get livelihood opportunities the living conditions of Syrians in the country are sharply deteriorating.

In fact, despite the number of registered Syrian refugees remained relatively stable in 2015, socio-economic conditions of Syrian refugees in the country have been considerably worsening. Despite the unprecedented level of funding (Lebanon is the third absolute recipient of humanitarian aid in the World), the vulnerability levels of the refugees are indeed on the rise. An increasing number of refugees are being forced to become undocumented, which raises concerns over their ability to move and access services and exposes them to abuse and harassment. The lack of valid residency permits seriously undermines the effectiveness of the assistance provided. The reduction of movements, the increasing detentions, child labor, harassment and exploitation are de facto barriers to free access to services and assistance. The proportion of Syrian refugees unable to meet their minimal survival expenditures (USD 2.9/day) has increased from 29% to 52% from 2014 to 2015. Furthermore, 89% of Syrian refugees are resorting to increasing debt levels to meet basic expenditure needs owing an average of USD 842 per household.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

In the 2015 Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP), ECHO has allocated EUR 97 million to Lebanon in response to the Syria crisis. The priority sectors identified by ECHO are basic assistance, secondary (and to some extent primary) healthcare, water and sanitation and protection. 59% of the allocation is channelled through INGOs while 41% through UN agencies.

The basic assistance sector represented the major intervention for ECHO in 2015 (53% of budget). Severely vulnerable households received a monthly transfer of USD 175 for one year allowing them to meet their basic needs by spending it on food, rent and health.

Health remained a key sector for ECHO (24% of budget) particularly secondary healthcare. Through UNHCR, 75% of lifesaving hospitalisation costs are covered. ECHO also covered disabled and injured people through Handicap International as well as people in need of first aid through the German and Lebanese Red Cross.

Shelter and WASH represents the third and fourth sectors in importance for ECHO (11% and 7% of budget respectively). The decrease from 32% (in 2014) to 11% in the shelter is due to the end of new influx of refugees in 2015 following the closure of the border. ECHO pushed for integrated Shelter and Wash response, focusing on the most basic needs for the most vulnerable in the most severe

conditions. While assistance was provided in informal settlements, substantial attention was given to substandard housing (garage, unfinished buildings) where refugees are less visible.

In the protection sector, ECHO prioritised the need to inform and counsel refugees on key topics including legal status, housing arrangements and civil documentation. ECHO drew also special attention to site management initiatives and empowerment of communities as a mean to reduce protection risks.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

ECHO scaled up its funding to the **basic assistance** sector (53% of total budget) in line with its aim to shift towards cash as a cost efficient modality. Two models have been funded UNHCR and a consortium of NGOs (Lebanese Cash consortium).

Protection and Advocacy have been prioritized and scaled up in 2015 given with the deterioration of the protection situation of Syrian refugees. The reduction of movements, the increasing detentions, child labor, harassment and exploitation appeared to be de facto barriers to the free access to services and assistance.

ECHO continue to **engage inside and outside the EU** in identifying opportunities for synergies and convergences with longer term actions in order to provide concerted assistance to the refugees in a cohesive and sustainable manner.

2015 in Libya

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 8 000 000		EUR 8 000 000

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 and throughout 2015. 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. The conflict has produced an approximate number of 450 000 internally displaced people.

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 non-food items, medical assistance and supplies, protection, cash assistance as well as psychosocial support across the country.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

During 2015, 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. The initial allocation in the HIP 2015 was EUR 2 million. Due to the intensification and the duration of the conflict ECHO reinforced the allocation with an additional EUR 6 million in July 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.

2015 in Palestine

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 25 000 000	-	EUR 25 000 000

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

The protracted humanitarian crisis resulting from 49 years of Israeli occupation, 10 years of blockade and 3 major wars in six years have undermined basic human rights and living conditions of 1.8 million people in **Gaza**. In 2015, more access restrictions were imposed by the Egyptian and Israeli authorities on movements of people and goods. The failure in achieving internal Palestinian reconciliation and the inability of the Government to assume basic governance functions led to further isolation of the Gaza strip. All these complex factors exacerbate a de-development process with worsening humanitarian consequences. More than 88 000 Palestinians are still displaced in Gaza two years after the end of the last war. Given chronic shortages, the provision of energy and water have become an imperative along with access to basic services and livelihoods.

Out of the 2.7 million Palestinians living in **the West Bank and east Jerusalem**, around 400 000 persons are under ever growing pressure to abandon their homes and land, pushed by movement and access restrictions, the inability to obtain building permits, demolition or threat of demolition of Palestinian homes and livelihood assets, lack of access to basic services, and increasing settler violence. In 2015, the Israeli authorities demolished or confiscated over 500 Palestinian structures and directly displaced nearly 800 people. Fourteen per cent of the demolished structures were provided as assistance by EU/MS donors including ECHO.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

In 2015, ECHO maintained a focus on addressing needs resulting from IHL violations and improving resilience to such violations through emergency preparedness, protection and advocacy:

- **Direct assistance** provided in the water and sanitation, food security and food assistance, shelter and health sectors in Gaza;
- **Emergency response** and **protection assistance** provided in the form of emergency shelter or Non Food Items, and legal assistance in the West Bank;
- **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 C¹ of the West Bank as well as in East Jerusalem. 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 the West Bank, 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

¹ The Oslo II Accord (1995) divided the West Bank into three administrative divisions: the Areas A, B and C. The distinct areas were given a different status, according to the amount of self-government the local Palestinians would have over it through the Palestinian Authority, until a final status accord would be established.

implementing partners. The consortium is now funded by 5 Member states (LUX, BE, SW, SP, IT) and is fully operational in Area C.

ECHO has finalised its strategy to phase out from the cluster system by disrupting its support to the protection cluster in 2015.

In Gaza, there was disengagement on the food assistance of UNRWA in favour of UNRWA Transitional Shelter Cash Assistance along with a reinforcement of the voucher operations with WFP. Increased support to shelter assistance following Protective Edge was maintained (through NRC shelter operation) and a review of the protection and advocacy framework in Gaza was initiated.

2015 in Syria

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 160 000 000		EUR 160 000 000

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 160 million. 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 160 million, which is 42.7% of the total.

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

As the conflict enters its six 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 13.5 million people in Syria are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 6.5 million people internally displaced and 486 000 in besieged areas; more than half of these are children and 2 million are not in school. 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. Five years of conflict have eroded the resilience of the communities and increased their vulnerability. Poverty is on the rise, it is estimated that around 50 families per hour get displaced and 8.7 million people are unable to meet their food needs. Humanitarian access in Syria remains extremely challenging for humanitarian organisations due to security and administrative impediments.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

ECHO provided assistance to address immediate and life-saving needs of millions of Syrians. The main sectors covered in 2015 were: health, WASH activities, non-food items distribution, food distribution, protection and coordination.

In the second part of the year, a first line response mechanism was developed in order to quickly address onset emergencies and displacements across all Syria and provide IDPs with lifesaving emergency support such as food, health kits, non-food items and shelters.

Syria hosts more than 450 000 Palestinian refugees. Many live precariously and receive support from ECHO through cash assistance.

4) Key Highlights / major initiatives and operations:

An important share of ECHO funds to Syria projects went to cross-border operations. In 2015, ECHO continued supporting 15 partners (INGOs, IOM and WFP)¹ operating mainly from Turkey, 8 partners working cross border from Jordan, 2 from Lebanon and 2 partners from Iraq. A total amount of EUR 70 000 was allocated to cross border operations, which represents 43.75% 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. Many partners introduced the use of technology for needs assessment, to track the implementation of their project and share relevant operational information with the international humanitarian community. All through the year 2015, ECHO requested its operational partners working inside Syria to provide a monthly report ensuring that aid delivery inside the country was effectively monitored. This good practice was put in place since July 2013 so to track possible aid diversion accidents.

¹ International Non-Governmental Organisations, International Organisation for Migration, and World Food Programme

2015 in Turkey

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 35 850 000	-	EUR 35 850 000

Under the Syria HIP 2015, EUR 35 million has been allocated to support vulnerable refugees in **Turkey** who have fled violence in both Syria and Iraq. This amount represents 22% of the total allocation for the Syria crisis in 2015. An additional amount of EUR 850 000 was allocated to support education services for refugee children in Turkey under the Children of Peace (CoP) HIP 2015.

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

The overwhelming influx of Syrian and other refugees into Turkey is impacting the country and host communities as well. Turkey became the largest host of refugees in the world: by the end of 2015, over 2.5 million Syrian and an additional 200 000 Iraqi, Afghan, Iranian and other refugees were registered in the country. The intentions of the Turkish authorities are not clear as regards the future of the refugees. On the one hand the Government of Turkey spent over EUR 7 billion since the beginning of the crises for the support of Syrian refugees, and it hosts close to 250 000 refugees in 25 camps. Since 2014, a temporary protection status is offered to registered Syrian refugees, providing them with access to basic health and education services. However, over 90% of Syrian refugees remain in urban and rural areas outside of refugee camps. Many of them are surviving under very challenging circumstances: access to information, registration and to public services including education and healthcare, is acutely limited. Most Syrians work illegally for extremely low wages and are vulnerable to exploitation, forcing refugee families to develop negative coping mechanisms like child labour and early marriage. The protracted situation and rising numbers of refugees makes it increasingly difficult to find shelter, access health care and education. According to UNICEF at least half of the Syrian refugees are children, 74% of them not attending school. Syrians' ability to access Turkish territory remains contradictory and under question.

The EU-Turkey summit of 29 November 2015 recorded the adoption of the Joint Action Plan for refugees and migration management with immediate implementation, and agreed on other elements of the renewed EU-Turkey cooperation. The Facility for Refugees in Turkey was launched with the commitment to support Turkey with EUR 3 billion as a contribution from Member States and from the EU budget for humanitarian and stabilisation interventions for refugees in Turkey during 2016 and 2017.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

In 2015, healthcare, food and non-food items mainly in the form of electronic vouchers have been priority sectors for the Commission's humanitarian funding in Turkey. In partnership with the World Health Organisation, the Commission is supporting the training and integration of qualified Arabic-speaking Syrian doctors into the Turkish healthcare system. In-kind core relief and non-food items including winterization assistance, especially for new arrivals and other vulnerable groups have also been a key area of assistance.

Through the EU Children of Peace initiative, about 7 000 Syrian children are ensured access to quality education. The EU funded programmes also include psychosocial support and social cohesion

activities, payment of incentives to about 350 teachers, refurbishment of schools as well as transportation for children who live far away from schools.

4) Key Highlights / major initiatives and operations:

Following the increasing pressure to respond to humanitarian needs along the Aegean coast of Turkey of migrants/refugees rescued in the water by the Turkish Coast Guards, the Commission started operations with IOM in October 2015 to provide basic assistance to people rescued. With the additional allocation announced in September 2015, the Commission has started to contract more partners to respond to basic needs of people who are on the move, stranded or rescued with a comprehensive response of child protection, water and sanitation, health, GBV interventions, food, non-food items etc.

2015 in Ukraine

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 30 000 000	-	EUR 32 000 000*

* Includes Small Scale Emergency Decision, Epidemics Decision, and Children of Peace Decision

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, hundred thousand people have been forced to flee their homes and have become increasingly vulnerable. End of December 2015 over 1.6 million people were registered as internally displaced (IDPs), and more than 1.1 million had fled to neighbouring countries; 3.1 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance in the non-government controlled areas and at both sides of the contact line. Returnees, refugees, local residents 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 and confirmed in February 2015, access to Donetsk and Luhansk regions remained challenging for humanitarian organisations. The restriction of humanitarian activities in the non-government controlled areas hampered the situation of the already acute humanitarian situation in these regions.

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.

55% 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.
- In addition, as a result of a polio outbreak in August 2015, ECHO together with other donors supported the polio vaccination rounds through its humanitarian partners UNICEF and WHO.
- ECHO provided support to children affected by the conflict in Ukraine under the Children of Peace and Education in Emergency programmes.

2015 in the Western Balkans (Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia , Serbia)

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 21 942 976		EUR 21 942 976

* Includes Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated as follows: floods in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, EUR 84 236; floods in Albania, EUR 118 084; refugee crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, EUR 90 656; refugee crisis in Serbia, EUR 150 000.

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

- **Refugee crisis:** The Western Balkans migratory route – from Greece by sea as well as through land crossings from Bulgaria via the Western Balkans countries and further North – has expanded exponentially in 2015. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia faced since May 2015 an unprecedented influx of refugees and migrants in transit. In 2015, over 815 000 refugees and migrants have passed through these countries. Daily arrivals of up to 3 000 persons/day on the Greek islands were been reported since June-July until end of 2015, with peaks of almost 9 000 new arrivals per day in November. The majority of those arrived in Europe in 2015 via the Eastern Mediterranean/Western Balkan route were from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Eritrea and Somalia, conflict-affected countries, and were in search for safety and protection. The growing number of arrivals and movements of large groups of people have placed severe pressure on the reception capacities and asylum systems especially in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia, with thousands of people gathering at border areas, open spaces and transit places in inadequate conditions. National governments have struggled to meet the needs of the upsurge. UNHCR declared a level 2 emergency for Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia on 30 June 2015.
Many of the refugees were ill equipped for the arduous journey, with little funds and few winter clothes. Some were exhausted from the long trip, while others needed medical attention and protection. Humanitarian needs were driven by obstacles at the borders, long walks, overcrowded and expensive transportation, long waits for registration, tensions between host communities and refugees, the risk of exploitation by smugglers, as well as non-coordinated assistance and inadequate shelter capacities.
- **Floods 2015:** Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been affected by huge floods at the beginning of 2015, DREF operations have been supported in the two countries hit by a natural disaster. According to IFRC, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 100 000 people were affected by this emergency in large parts of the country.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

- **Refugee crisis:** In response to appeals by the Serbian government for international assistance, EU member states provided in kind assistance through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. Items including blankets, sleeping bags, beds and winterized tents have been provided.

Since the beginning of the crisis the European Commission has contributed EUR 21.74 million in humanitarian aid to assist refugees transiting through the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia to contribute to the provision of emergency assistance at transit and reception points. ECHO funded operations are focusing on the following activities: (i) gathering of further data/information on migration flow and profiling of refugees (ii) provision of first line assistance (Food/NFIs/winterization) (iii) support to health services and referral systems (iv) psycho social support (PSS); child friendly spaces and special food for people with special needs (infants, etc.) (v) temporary shelter.

- **Floods:** The funding for IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) supported the Macedonian Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the Albanian Red Cross in assisting the vulnerable population to cope with the immediate emergency needs at the beginning of 2015, for a total amount of EUR 202 320.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

- **Refugee crisis:** in August, ECHO supported the national Red Cross of the two countries, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, through IFRC (International Federation of the Red Cross/Red crescent societies) with EUR 0.24 million for emergency assistance. In September, a EUR 1.5 million Emergency Decision for the Western Balkans was approved. In October, an additional EUR 7 million package was launched with a top up of the Humanitarian Implementation plan for the Syria crisis, in complementarity with the EUR 10 million special measure supported by DG NEAR. In December, a further EUR 13 million has been earmarked by ECHO for humanitarian assistance to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the Western Balkans through the HIP Syria, to frontload the response in 2016.
- **Floods:** The overall objective of the supported DREF was to provide immediate assistance to flood-affected people, and to replenish the emergency stock. The assistance was provided through emergency distribution of food, hygiene and non-food items; replenishment of national emergency stocks used in the initial part of the operations.

2015 in YEMEN

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
50,000,000	-	50,000,000

* This figure includes EUR 17 000 000 that were allocated under HIP Yemen 2015 for actions to be implemented in 2016.

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

On 26 March 2015, Saudi Arabia and a coalition of nine Arab states launched a military campaign on Yemen aiming to reinstate the legitimate government of President Hadi. Since then, conflict has spread to 20 out of 22 governorates with airstrikes targeting Houthi/pro-Saleh forces and military infrastructure; Houthis and pro-Saleh forces fighting pro-Hadi and Popular Resistance forces in the south and central regions. The current conflict, resulting in the breakdown of government services, economic and financial breakdown, a reduction in food production and food imports, a collapsing health sector, and large-scale displacement, has further aggravated the pre-existing crises in food security, nutrition and primary healthcare provision. Before the current conflict, Yemen was already facing widespread food insecurity and malnutrition, lack of access to water and sanitation, poor health and healthcare, exacerbated by structural underdevelopment and poverty. On 1 July 2015, the IASC raised the humanitarian situation in Yemen to the highest level, L3. By late 2015, more than 2.7 million people have been displaced; 14.1 million people need protection services; 14.4 million people need food assistance; 19.4 million people need WASH; 14.1 million people need access to healthcare; 3 million people need nutrition services; and 2.4 million people were IDPs

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

In 2015, ECHO provided assistance to communities across the country affected by conflict and forced displacement, food insecurity and malnutrition.

The division of the allocation between the different sectors is as follows: 27% of the funding was allocated to programmes in Food Aid/Food security sector, 24% to Wash sector, 19% to Health sector, 15% to Nutrition sector, 9% to Protection sector, 3% to Coordination, 2% to Shelter and NFIs.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

The funded programmes were implemented by 10 partners.

Humanitarian access in Yemen is a major challenge that has severely limited and undermined the relief response to the conflict. Civilian homes, schools, health facilities and other civilian infrastructures have been damaged, destroyed or occupied. During the year 2015, cease fire and peace negotiation efforts were unfruitful.

2015 in Afghanistan

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
40 485 000	-	40 485 000

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Afghanistan is confronted with a complex protracted crisis: armed conflict is still mostly affecting rural areas in the South and East but has increasingly spread to the North and to urban centres during 2015. Conflict-induced casualties among civilians rose in 2015 with record high 3 545 deaths and 7 457 injuries. Conflict displacements follow the same trend with 1 175 000 registered Internally Displaced People (IDPs) at the end of 2015 of which 335 000 displaced in 2015 alone. Recurrent natural disasters affect the country with frequent earthquakes and floods.

The spreading conflict has increasingly affected essential government services, which are already poor due to lack of capacities and corruption. The lack of perspective of decent livelihoods and fear from the conflict has reduced voluntary repatriation to extremely low levels, i.e. 3% of the 2002 figure. There are 2.5 million registered Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan and an estimated 2.5-3 million undocumented. Military operations in Pakistan in 2014 forced thousands to seek refuge in Afghanistan with to date about 235,000 refugees living in Khost and Paktika provinces with no perspective of rapid return.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

- Support to emergency health care covering trauma care and emergency health services for victims of the conflict, control of epidemic outbreaks and emergency vaccination campaigns (measles and polio) continues to be a pillar of ECHO's intervention;
- Funding was provided for protection, non-food items (NFI), emergency shelters, food assistance (in-kind and cash) and WASH to conflict IDPs, disaster affected populations and "Pakistani" refugees;
- Other sectors of intervention included education in emergencies and promoting the mainstreaming of disaster preparedness through education and rural development;
- ECHO supported essential humanitarian services, including humanitarian flights, coordination and safety information;
- ECHO has maintained advocacy efforts for more principled and effective humanitarian assistance by calling for better practices to be imposed for needs assessments and aid delivery. ECHO has also advocated for humanitarian assistance to be delivered on the basis of needs rather than on the basis of the legal status of people in need;.
- Through its office in Afghanistan, ECHO is supported essential humanitarian services targeting vulnerable Afghan refugees in Iran with education, protection, shelter and non-food items, food assistance and WASH.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

- Emergency Response Mechanism (ERM): In cooperation with existing coordination mechanisms and emergency humanitarian actors, support is provided to NGOs to build up capacities and preposition resources for enhanced access, timely emergency needs assessment and response;
- A very active role was played in facilitating and supporting the coordination of aid between humanitarian actors and donors;
- ECHO also played an active role as the humanitarian donors' representative at the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT).

2015 in Bangladesh

1) Total budget contracted in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 15 300 000	-	EUR 15 300 000

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Bangladesh is one of the most **disaster**-prone countries in the world and is affected by cyclones, floods and water-logging, droughts, landslides, earthquakes and tsunamis. On average, every year some 6 200 lives and USD 550 million are lost due to the impact of disasters.

Bangladesh also hosts one of the most intractable refugee crises in the world, classified by ECHO as a Forgotten Crisis. The **Rohingya** are an ethnic, religious and linguistic minority that faces exclusion and severe discrimination in neighboring Myanmar. While recognizing that a regional political solution is needed for this long lasting crisis, the European Commission, through ECHO has been providing basic humanitarian assistance to more than 45 000 unregistered Rohingya living in very difficult conditions in two unofficial settlements and among host communities. Since 1992, the European Commission through development cooperation instruments has also been supporting some 31 000 registered Rohingya refugees. Providing humanitarian assistance to unregistered Rohingya is increasingly challenging due to restrictions to humanitarian access.

In Khulna Division, chronic **water-logging** impacts the livelihoods of around 1 million people every year in the districts of Satkhira and Jessore. Repetitive cycles of water-logging and degradation of livelihoods have negatively impacted **undernutrition**. European Union funded actions have contributed to stabilizing the situation; however, floods in 2013 further aggravated the fragile food and nutrition security. **Food security** data indicates that 60% of households in Satkhira are moderately or severely food insecure.

The situation in the **Chittagong Hill Tracts** (CHT) is classified by ECHO as a Forgotten Crisis. Formal conflict ended with the signing of the 1997 CHT Peace Accord. However, significant clauses of the accord have not yet been implemented and the area remains fragile with high rates of vulnerability. Food insecurity remains a key concern, consequence of instability combined with demographic pressure, decreased productivity of traditional agriculture with limited livelihood or access to health care facilities.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

The sectors of humanitarian interventions by ECHO in 2015 include health, nutrition and mental health, food security and livelihoods, WASH, protection as well as humanitarian coordination.

The Disaster Preparedness (DP), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Resilience focused actions cover disaster prone regions in both rural and urban areas; promotion of diversified resilience livelihood options, small scale mitigation through infrastructural interventions, institutionalization of DRR models (School Based Disaster Preparedness/Community based Disaster Preparedness), capacitating

local Disaster Management (DM) structures; and promotion of DP measures through media among the communities and stakeholders, as well as advocacy for improved School Disaster Management.

In addition to direct support to affected households and communities, ECHO was also active in enhancing cluster and inter-cluster coordination for more effective preparedness and response by the food security cluster, the cash working group and the nutrition cluster.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

ECHO in collaboration with partners continues rolling out information management mapping tool in Satkhira which will assist both ECHO and DEVCO in ensuring a lead in donor coordination and benchmarking the resilience strategy. An advisory group for the Satkhira resilience program has been established involving UN agencies, the EU delegation and other and donors.

The Rohingya crisis is a complex human rights crisis with severe humanitarian consequences. The majority of **Rohingya** in Bangladesh are unregistered and referred to as Undocumented Myanmar Nationals (UMNs) by the Government. A National Strategy was adopted in 2014 with the aim of documenting all unregistered Rohingyas in Bangladesh. The ultimate goal of this strategy remains unclear. DG ECHO continues to advocate for the safeguarding and application of humanitarian principles for the Rohingyas.

2015 in Bhutan

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 400 000		EUR 400 000

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Bhutan is located in one of the most seismically active regions in the world. It also faces threats from glacial lake outburst floods, floods, landslides and increasing pressure on the environment from population growth and urbanization coupled with the effects of climate change and global warming. For this reason, disaster risk reduction is receiving increasing priority and the government is in the process of developing a comprehensive disaster risk reduction and management strategy.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Disaster Preparedness (DP) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR):

ECHO provided support to the strengthening of comprehensive disaster management in the education sector. The project under implementation provides for the adoption of DP and DRR models that are compatible with the local institutional environment.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

N/A

2015 in the Caribbean

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
10,339,000	1,000,000	11,339,000

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

The Caribbean is exposed to multiple natural hazards, including hurricanes, floods, droughts, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions and is one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world in terms of recurrence and severity of disasters. 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 interconnected with socio-economic factors such as high population density, fast demographic growth, inequality and poverty.

Prolonged drought exacerbated by El Niño caused a critical situation in the Caribbean during 2015. An estimated 3.5 million people are affected in the region.

Tropical Storm Erika in August 2015 caused 30 deaths, 20 injured and damage in Dominica amounting to of USD 482.8 million (90% of its GDP). This situation highlighted the limited coping capacities of small islands and potentially severe impact.

While the main concerns are linked to epidemics and climate related events such as earthquakes and tsunamis, the situation of people of Haitian descent in Dominican Republic is, from a protection point of view, also a matter of concern in the region.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Most Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) projects focused on strengthening disaster management capacities of local authorities and communities. While drought response projects supported immediate short-term emergency food assistance, livelihoods recovery and protection and access to safe water, the response to Tropical Storm Erika focused on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities as well as support to health systems during the first moments of the emergency.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

- ECHO has continued to fund DRR targeted actions on specific themes that require specific attention such as drought preparedness, and integrated DRR in emergency response (in sectors such as WASH, Health and Shelter) and development projects. Several DG ECHO-funded initiatives have been scaled-up and are in the process of being taken over by national authorities;
- In 2015, ECHO preparedness actions prioritized Early Warning Systems, Information management, Communication and Institutionalization, and the strengthening of coordination mechanisms in the region. ECHO encouraged sharing of lessons learnt and experiences on seismic risk with special focus on urban settlements (urban risk, especially in Cuba, Haiti and DR);

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- During the emergency response caused by Tropical Storm Erika, medical teams were mobilized to Dominica and medical supplies were provided. Provision of safe water to affected population was supported and rehabilitation of water systems ensured DRR mainstreaming, allowing more sustainable rebuilding;
 - During the drought response funded in 2015, key data was gathered enabling the triggering of a bigger and more adapted response to the increasing needs in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Targeted food assistance was provided to most vulnerable households in the region in order to avoid further impact during the lean season.

2015 in Central America

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 7 114 050	-	EUR 7 114 050

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Central America and Mexico are highly disaster prone in terms of recurrence and severity of hazards, exposed in particular to floods, hurricanes, landslides, droughts, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. On top of several consecutive shocks, the region was affected by the El Niño phenomenon, pushing over 3 million people into high levels of food insecurity. In addition to natural hazards, the region is characterised by deep inequalities, widespread poverty, fast population growth and the effects of climate change. The countries of the Northern Triangle of Central America are also increasingly affected by high levels of organized violence, leading to forced displacement and confinement of local populations, negatively affecting access to basic services.

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 the most food insecure populations, affected by consecutive shocks;
- **Protection – Children of Peace:** This action was aimed at contributing to the protection and education of children and adolescents affected by other situations of violence (OSV). The project was implemented in Honduras' Francisco Morazán and Cortés Departments, addressing the needs of out-of-school children by promoting access to formal education and protective learning environments.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

- ECHO continued to fund targeted DRR actions, focusing on specific thematic, such as drought preparedness, integrating WASH, health, shelter and protection into DRR, in order to increase the effectiveness of emergency response. ECHO continued to scale-up its response through institutionalization of DRR policies and strengthening coordination mechanisms in the region, while simultaneously preparing for LRRD and gradual hand-over of the operations to the national authorities;
- A surge in unaccompanied children from Central American countries was observed in the United States, with an estimated 65 000 children arriving in 2015, mainly from Honduras and El Salvador, raising major protection concerns and a need for enhancing the protective environments for children. ECHO funded a children of peace initiative to focus on protection and education in violent context;

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- The number of internally displaced people in Honduras and El Salvador grew, increasing to 174 000 people and 200 000 respectively. ECHO contributed to the elaboration of UNHCR regional framework for addressing forced displacement, and to initiatives for passing a law in Honduras for recognizing the situation of the IDPs and profiling the internally displaced in El Salvador, in order to strengthen protection responses;
 - ECHO financed actions in Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador to support the most vulnerable families affected by El Nino and coffee rust, affecting over 3 million people, and causing 1 140 000 people in Guatemala to fall under IPC 3.

2015 in Colombia

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
11 500 000	-	11 500 000

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

The protracted armed conflict in Colombia continues to cause a major humanitarian crisis. Despite ongoing peace talks between the Government and the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) and exploratory dialogues with the ELN (National Liberation Army), the continuation of hostilities and other sources of violence caused by the post-demobilization armed groups (PDAGs) pose increasing humanitarian and protection challenges. The unilateral ceasefire declared at the end of 2014 by FARC has not put an end to the violence in conflict affected areas, and forced internal displacement in Colombia continues to be of serious concern, with the total accumulated number of displaced people reaching about 7 million and around 350 000 refugees in Venezuela and Ecuador. The way violence is perpetrated has evolved with other humanitarian consequences of the conflict on the rise such as restrictions on mobility and access to basic goods and services, extortion, recruitment of children and youths, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), threats, disappearances and murders. Communities fear that the signature of the peace agreement may have negative consequences in terms of violence in some areas where control of land and resources vacated by FARC could be disputed between different armed groups.

Despite increased national capacities to deal with the consequences of the conflict, there are still unmet humanitarian needs for women, men, adolescents, girls and boys and new victims of violence in need of assistance specifically in hard to access rural and urban areas controlled by non-state armed groups. Colombia continues to be considered by ECHO as a forgotten crisis, given the limited international attention to its humanitarian situation, 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 ECHO funding in Colombia, including promotion of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) among armed groups, legal and psychosocial support to the victims, prevention of child recruitment, sensitization on safe behaviours, contingency planning, etc. The other main sectors are food assistance, emergency non-food items, health care, access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, emergency education after displacement and coordination.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

The first priority is immediate assistance for the most vulnerable population recently affected by the conflict in Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador, as well as for communities exposed to violence and with no possibilities of support from national or local institutions. Linkages with authorities and advocacy to facilitate government assistance and reinforcing their capacities are also important components which improve the efficiency of the whole response and reinforce the resilience of communities.

2015 in Haiti

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
12 097 000	8 000 000	20 097 000

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Haiti is the poorest country of the Northern Hemisphere and the most vulnerable of the Latin America and Caribbean region. It is characterized by extreme poverty affecting more than half the population, widespread institutional weakness, and high vulnerability to recurrent natural disasters, climate change and epidemics such as cholera. In addition, the highly unstable political context, the postponement of the legislative and presidential elections, and the tensions with the Dominican Republic have further contributed to the overall deterioration of the situation of the country.

In 2015, Haiti's main humanitarian needs were related to:

- **Cholera epidemic** that remains, since 2010, one of the largest in the world with a total of 762,443 suspected cases and 8,987 deaths by the end of 2015. In 2015, the total number of cases reached 36,801 (+26.56% compared to 2014) with 451 deaths with the institutional lethality at 0.75%. A major outbreak that affected the capital late 2014 spread all over the country in 2015, demonstrating that the risk remains high and the importance of rapid response to cut cholera transmission;
- **Protracted displacement** related to the 2010 earthquake: during 2015, a total of 6,539 households (19,677 individuals) returned to their place of origin mainly through the rental subsidy programme and 868 displacement camps were closed. The remaining IDPs at the end of 2015 were: 59,720 individuals or 14,679 households, compared to the 1.5 million initially displaced by the earthquake; they are extremely vulnerable and the living conditions in camps remain below human dignity;
- **Recurrent natural disasters**: although the 2015 cyclonic season was relatively calm, mere heavy rains have a high impact on the Haitian population due to its vulnerability. If the damage caused by flooding in 2015 was limited, the preparedness of most exposed populations to natural disasters remains a priority;
- **Increasing food and nutritional insecurity** unfolded in the country in 2014-2015, due to recurrent drought episodes further exacerbated by the El Nino effect. According to experts, at the end of 2015, the number of individuals countrywide affected by severe acute food insecurity was 560,000;
- **A serious migration and protection crisis** unfolded between Haiti and Dominican Republic with the Constitutional Court decision to remove citizenship to people of foreign descent (mostly Haitian) born in Dominican Republic between 1929 and 2007. The crisis took a new turn in June 2015, with the expiration of registration for the National Plan for the Regularization of Foreigners. By the end of 2015, 30,644 households (55,220 individuals) had crossed the border into Haiti. Approximately 60% of them returned 'spontaneously', 22% were deported officially and 18% were deported through non-official mechanisms and among these, 879 presumed unaccompanied minors were identified.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

- **Cholera:** ECHO supports the rapid WASH and Health response to cholera outbreaks through provision of appropriate medical treatment, rapid and effective community response (sensitization, decontamination), improving epidemiological surveillance as well as setting-up/reinforcing early warning systems.
- **Internally Displaced Earthquake Victims:** In 2015, support to IDPs consisted of safe relocation through rental subsidy cash grant, income generating activities and training/coaching with a special focus on people with special needs (elderly, people with handicap, protection cases, etc). Protection activities with a focus on forced eviction, gender-based violence, child protection and documentation were also provided;
- **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR):** A new DIPECHO Action Plan 2015-2016 was initiated in 2015 and supports several DRR targeted actions in Haiti as described in the DRR and Resilience in the Caribbean fiche (including €3M for Haiti). Moreover, DRR is also mainstreamed in all other interventions, contributing to enhancing resilience of the most vulnerable population;
- **Food and nutritional insecurity:** In 2015, ECHO significantly increased its support to food assistance for vulnerable populations affected by drought further exacerbated by the El Niño effect, including coverage of basic food needs, access to drinkable water as well as protecting and reinforcing livelihoods;
- **Migration crisis:** In 2015, ECHO mobilized the Emergency Toolbox mechanism, through the SSR instrument, in order to provide tailored assistance to individuals identified by the border monitoring mechanisms who were presenting specific vulnerabilities. Assistance was focused on unaccompanied minors, individuals at risk of statelessness and migrants presenting high levels of vulnerabilities, such as disabilities or chronic diseases.

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 as well as among donors.
- Advocacy for respect of humanitarian principles and space.
- Enhancing Resilience and Linking Relief Rehabilitation and Development, in particular with other EU instruments and Member States through the Joint Humanitarian Development Framework and the LRRD Action Plan.

2015 in India

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 3 360 671	-	EUR 3 360 671

In addition to EUR 3 million under the Humanitarian Implementation Plan, an amount of EUR 225 000 was allocated through the Small Scale Response Instrument and EUR 135 671 through the DREF for emergency response to severe floods in Tamil Nadu in November 2015.

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Floods, cyclones, earthquakes, droughts and landslides frequently affect India. Schedule Castes and Tribes, whose social and economic indicators lag behind national averages, are often the worst affected.

Over 700 000 people in Jammu & Kashmir, mostly inhabitants of the Kashmir valley and border areas of Pakistan are directly affected by the instability in the region.

The Naxal insurgency is spread across several states in India but the indigenous people of southern Chhattisgarh living in remote areas with little or no access to basic government services are the most affected. Up to 50 000 people are displaced, living in precarious conditions in neighbouring states.

The North-East Indian states continue to be affected by conflict and violence. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, in April 2015, an estimated 616 140 people were displaced in India as a result of armed conflict and inter-communal violence.

Over one third of the world's undernourished children live in India; 44% of children under five are underweight, 48% stunted and 5.6 million suffer from severe acute malnutrition. According to India's National Family Health Survey data, rates of acute malnutrition among children in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, all food insecure states, are 33.3%, 19.1% and 18.5% respectively, well above the international emergency threshold of 15%.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

- Jammu & Kashmir: Vulnerable conflict affected people are provided with healthcare and protection, particularly in the Kashmir valley and areas close to the Line of Control; psycho-social support is provided on an individual or group basis, as well as through occupational therapy and livelihood support to people directly or indirectly affected by the violence. ECHO pays particular attention to the needs of people living with disabilities, addresses child protection concerns and promotes respect for International Humanitarian Law.
- Chhattisgarh: EU-funded projects help provide healthcare and protection to civilians directly or indirectly affected by the insurgency in Chhattisgarh. ECHO partners focus their relief efforts in the most affected Southern districts of Bijapur and Sukma. Assistance is also provided to support displaced people in Khammam and Warangal districts of Telengana, as well as East and West Godavari districts in Andrah Pradesh.

- North-East: ECHO supports the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected people in North-East India through the provision of psychosocial care, water and sanitation facilities, and livelihood support to those suffering from prolonged ethnic conflict and insurgencies across the States of Assam, Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur.
- Natural Disasters: Emergency response was provided for the most vulnerable population in Tamil Nadu following the November 2015 floods.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

Three protracted crises, Jammu & Kashmir, the North-Eastern States and Naxal-affected areas in central India continue to result in emergency humanitarian needs. Years of conflict have displaced populations and depleted coping mechanisms. Providing protection, health and livelihood support remained a priority in 2015.

2015 in Myanmar

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 18 900 000	-	EUR 18 900 000

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Over six decades of ethnic conflict in Myanmar have generated population displacements both in-country and to neighbouring countries. In the current transition context the country is facing multiple challenges compounded by its ethnic and religious diversity. In Rakhine State, despite some limited returns, close to 120 000 people, mainly Rohingya, remained displaced and confined to squalid camps with no easy solution in sight. The dynamics are extremely complex with strong religious and ethnic polarisation that risk spiralling out of control and spreading to other parts of the country. In Kachin and 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. The main ethnic armed groups active in these States have not taken part in the ceasefire agreement signed in October 2015. The intensification of fighting coupled with cumbersome administrative procedures and restrictions prevented a proper humanitarian access to populations in need. In July and August, the country also suffered historical floods, Cyclone Komen, affecting 12 of the 14 States and Regions of Myanmar compounded in the two poorest States, Rakhine and Chin. The impact on the economy, in particular the agriculture sector, put in danger the food security of tens of thousands people.

Types of crisis:

- Protracted conflict situation with population displacements and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in Kachin and Shan States;
- Severe human rights violations and inter-communal violence with resulting population displacements and IDP camps in Rakhine State;
- Impact of the devastating floods that affected a large part of the country.

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;
- Flood response: shelter, non-food items, WASH, food security, livelihoods recovery and protection;
- Cross cutting: coordination, protection, disaster risk reduction.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

- Rakhine State: The lack of freedom of movement and heavy discrimination against the Rohingya continued to heavily impact the humanitarian situation. However, some limited returns and resettlements took place close to the IDPs' and refugees' areas of origin. The

political tensions and the hostility towards humanitarians redeemed slightly over the summer with the efficient international response to the floods, which targeted both ethnic Rakhine and Rohingya.

- Kachin and Shan States: Despite the negotiations leading to the signature of a nationwide ceasefire in October, 2015 saw increased hostilities including in new areas such as Kokang, 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.
- Flood response: The response to the historical floods and Cyclone Komen focused on the poorest and most affected States and Regions: Rakhine, Chin and Sagaing.

2015 in Nepal

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
17 800 000	-	17 800 000

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

On 25 April 2015, Nepal was struck by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake. Two weeks later, on 12 May 2015, another earthquake of 7.3 magnitude struck causing additional loss of life and further worsening the humanitarian situation. The earthquakes caused severe destruction in 14 out of the 75 districts in the country. A total of almost 9 000 people were confirmed dead, over 600 000 houses destroyed and almost 300 000 houses partially damaged. During the height of the emergency almost 200 000 people were temporarily displaced. Access to affected communities, many of which live in remote mountainous areas is challenging.

Nepal faces frequent natural disasters that affect lives, livelihoods and infrastructures. Every year people are killed and livelihoods are affected by floods and landslides during the monsoon season. For this reason, support is needed to increase disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction.

In the early 1990s, following the adoption of new citizenship laws in Bhutan, more than 108 000 "Lhotsampas" fled or were displaced to Eastern Nepal, where they have been living in refugee camps run by UNHCR. Following a third country resettlement programme that started in 2007, 91 800 Bhutanese refugees have been resettled, leaving the remaining camp population at 18 000. According to Nepalese rules and regulations, these refugees do not have the right to work or to own land in Nepal. Hence, they rely on external assistance.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Earthquake-affected households in the 14 most affected districts were provided Emergency humanitarian aid including shelter, Non Food Items, health care, food assistance, drinking water, sanitation facilities. Support has been provided for early recovery through winterization and up-grading temporary shelters to provide more dignified shelters solutions to the most vulnerable families. Build Back Better and Safer training for local artisans and house owners have also been conducted, encouraging earthquake resistant housing reconstruction. Beside direct support to affected households, logistics and coordination have been supported.

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

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

At the end of 2015, an estimated residual population of 3.5 million, including 23 200 people in displacement sites, throughout the most earthquake-affected areas are still in need of humanitarian support. Due to the precarious living conditions of thousands of vulnerable families after the 2015 earthquake, the humanitarian community also needs to ensure that preparedness measures are in

place to address potential humanitarian crisis linked to the 2016 monsoon season and other contingencies.

The numbers of Bhutanese refugees have been steadily decreasing since November 2007 thanks to third country resettlement programmes. This trend is expected to continue during 2015. UNHCR expects numbers to drop to between 10 000 and 15 000 by 2017. This may correspond to the residual population, unwilling or unable to resettle in a third country. Sustainable solutions are in the meantime being sought for these remaining refugees, involving the governments of both Nepal and Bhutan.

2015 in the Pacific

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 4 032 484	-	4 032 484

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

Cyclone Pam struck Vanuatu in March, causing widespread devastation and affecting 2/3 of the population of the country (circa 166 000 persons).

Drought caused by the El Niño phenomenon affected several Pacific Islands States, most notably Papua New Guinea (PNG), where the combined effects of drought and frost had a severe impact on cultures, in particular in the highlands and parts of the Western province.

The Pacific Island countries are prone to many different types of natural hazards, such as cyclones, floods, droughts, tidal surges, earthquakes and volcanoes. In spite of considerable progress, some gaps remain in community preparedness and institutionalisation of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Progress is also needed on the legal framework.

DIPECHO interventions focused on Fiji, PNG, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. 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:

Shelter, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Promotion (WASH), Emergency Telecommunications: Vanuatu.
Water, NFIs and Food Assistance: PNG.

Disaster preparedness, disaster risk-reduction and resilience: Fiji, PNG, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

In Vanuatu, in the aftermath of cyclone Pam, ECHO financed Telecoms Sans Frontières to establish emergency telecoms with outer islands and facilitate assessments and emergency response. ECHO also funded IOM, the Shelter cluster lead, with a focus on resilience and shelter "build back better" and the French Red Cross for provision of drinking water.

In PNG, ECHO financed IOM, IFRC and CARE for the provision of water, non-food Items (NFIs) and food assistance to drought affected communities and to build their resilience to be able to withstand the evolving El Niño system.

DIPECHO actions are assisting vulnerable populations to become more resilience to the impact of natural disasters by piloting activities such as Disaster Risk Management (DRM) trainings and

emergency simulation exercises, building capacity of concerned stakeholders and vulnerable communities through training on disaster risk reduction in agriculture and promoting good agricultural practice options, as well as improving school safety.

2015 in Pakistan

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 26 022 000	-	EUR 26 022 000

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

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

- **Complex Emergency:** The protracted armed conflict in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), has led to major displacement both within the area and to neighbouring Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). In 2015, 600,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) returned to FATA but 1.2 million remained in displacement including more than 18,400 living in relief camps. This protracted IDP crisis is classified as a Forgotten Crisis by ECHO;
- **Nutrition Emergency:** Structural issues combined with the effects of four consecutive years of serious floods in some areas and drought in other areas have had a significant impact on livelihood and nutritional insecurity, particularly in Sindh Province (which has 72% food insecurity). National rates of global acute malnutrition (GAM) are critical (15.1%) with district specific GAM rates exceeding 20% (well above the 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 supports specific nutrition interventions in non irrigated districts of Sindh complemented by nutrition sensitive programming in areas affected both by high malnutrition rates and vulnerability to natural and/or man-made disasters;
- **Afghan Refugees:** For the past three decades, Pakistan has hosted very large numbers of Afghan refugees. In addition to the present figure of 1.6 million officially registered Afghan refugees, there are an estimated 1.5 million undocumented Afghans living in Pakistan. 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, has expired at the end of 2015 and has been temporarily extended until the end of June 2016. There is an ongoing need for protection and preservation of asylum space.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

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

Assistance to communities affected by periodic natural disasters, notably in Sindh, 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:

During 2015, access to deliver independent and principled humanitarian assistance remained challenging for humanitarian organisations. Support to coordination fora such as the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) and UNOCHA, as well as security awareness for humanitarian aid workers implemented by IOM remained crucial.

ECHO maintained sustained engagement in promoting a strong humanitarian agenda including advocacy for a principled displacement/IDP return process.

Linkages have been built between on-going humanitarian interventions in Sindh and the EU Delegation's Women and Children/Infant Improved Nutrition in Sindh (WINS) programme.

2015 in the Philippines

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 2 400 000	-	EUR 2 400 000

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 and the annual monsoon is a complicated phenomenon with tropical storms triggering large-scale floods. Less frequently, the Philippines also face earthquakes and volcano eruptions. Due to its good preparedness and emergency response capacity, the Government only requests international support for large-scale disasters. Typhoon Koppu hit the Philippines in October 2015 and caused significant damage to agriculture, heavily affecting the livelihoods of daily labourers and small scale farmers, particularly in Central Luzon.

The country has experienced long lasting armed conflict mainly in Mindanao. While a peace agreement was concluded between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in 2014 to bring an end to decades of conflict in Mindanao, the legal basis for the implementation of the peace process, the Bangsamoro Basic Law, has so far not been approved by the Parliament. Other armed groups, such as the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), oppose the peace agreement and seeks full independence for the Bangsamoro region. The situation remains volatile and outbreaks of violence are common. In 2015, following an armed encounter in Maguindanao, the Philippine military launched an offensive against the BIFF, displacing 125 000 people. There are currently some 40 000 internally displaced people (IDP) in Maguindanao who repeatedly "evacuate and return" and 17 000 IDPs in transitional sites in Zamboanga.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

- Food assistance for typhoon Koppu-affected areas;
- Protection, shelter & non-food items, WASH, health and psychosocial support, and food assistance and nutrition for IDPs victim of the conflict in Maguindanao.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

In Mindanao, humanitarian actions implemented through consortia of INGOs and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) are providing comprehensive and integrated humanitarian assistance and coordination. Information and advocacy activities raise public awareness about the consequences of this protracted crisis and the continuous displacement of affected communities.

2015 in South America

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
14 872 940	-	14 872 940

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 seven 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.

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, Colombia and Peru, ECHO's support helped avoid deterioration of the health of affected people by providing safe drinking water as well as latrines, showers and toilets. Provision of water supply has been the main sector in the response to droughts in la Guajira (Colombia);
- **Shelter and NFI:** Supplies for temporary shelters helped to improve the living conditions of people affected by the earthquake in Chile;
- **Food & Livelihoods:** ECHO supported livelihood recovery after the floods in Bolivia;
- **Health:** Following the deportation of Colombian citizens from Venezuela, ECHO support to the Red Cross as a neutral humanitarian partner was a key element in providing health and psychologic support;
- **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:

In 2015 ECHO allocated EUR 1.4 million through the emergency tool box to provide humanitarian assistance to 25 868 people affected by different middle-size disasters:

- In May 2015, Cotopaxi volcano in Ecuador started an eruptive activity that affected thousands of people with ash falls and put under risk hundreds of thousands. A Small Scale project was implemented to prepare surrounding populations for an eventual large explosion and to assist the farmers affected by the fall of ashes.
- On 16 September 2015, an 8.4 earthquake struck Chile between the regions of Atacama and La Araucanía. Approximately 681,484 people were affected. ECHO supported actions to provide emergency shelter and water supply to the most vulnerable victims.
- Due to some violent events attributed to Colombian paramilitary groups, on 19 August 2015, the Venezuelan government declared a state of constitutional emergency, closing the border with Colombia. As a consequence a total of 1,950 Colombian citizens were deported and 22,342 more left Venezuela to Colombia by their own means. ECHO supported medical and psychologic assistance to forced returnees.
- The emergency tool box was also used to cover the humanitarian gaps in a number of middle-size events as floods in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia, cold wave in the highlands of Peru and droughts in the Caribbean coast of Colombia as a consequence of El Niño phenomenon.

The DIPECHO Action Plan for South America 2015-2016 integrates 19 projects funded in ten countries for an amount of EUR 13.5 million. Actions contribute 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.

2015 in Sri Lanka

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 650 000	-	EUR 650 000

In addition to EUR 650 000 allocated to Sri Lanka in ECHO's Disaster Preparedness programme (8th DIPECHO Action Plan for South Asia), EUR 238 000 was allocated under the Small Scale Response (SSR) to assist the most vulnerable communities affected by floods.

2) Context and type(s) of crisis:

- **Floods:** In early 2015, Sri Lanka continued to experience adverse weather conditions, with heavy rainfall and high winds. According to Sri Lankan Disaster Management Centre (DMC) an estimated 1 121 499 people were affected by floods, landslides and high winds in 22 districts (out of 25). The worst affected districts; Batticaloa (482 692 people affected), Ampara (399 325 affected) and Trincomalee (148 235 affected) were targeted by ECHO partners during emergency response.
- **Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Preparedness (DIPECHO):** The 8th cycle of DIPECHO targeted northern districts of the island and together with the national, provincial and local government, the project aims to demonstrate how effective community based and school based disaster preparedness models can be rolled out across the country.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

Small Scale Response to the floods and Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Preparedness.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

N/A

2015 in Thailand

1) Total budget allocated in 2015:

Humanitarian Aid	EDF	Total
EUR 2 400 000	-	EUR 2 400 000

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 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 106 000 by end of 2015. 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.

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 are they allowed to legally continue their trip, nor can they remain freely in Thailand.

3) Sectors of activity/intervention:

A total of EUR 2.1 million was allocated to provide food assistance and basic medical services including immunization and mother/child care in five refugee camps.

ECHO funded IOM to the tune of EUR 300 000 to provide protection and multi-sector humanitarian assistance (health, supplementary food, WASH, non-food items) to Rohingya and other special at risk groups in Thailand and Indonesia.

4) Key Highlights/major initiatives and operations:

ECHO supports basic services in camps taking into account preparedness for return (targeted food distribution and health services) and keeps advocating for the respect of human rights in Myanmar.

