



European
Commission

Annual Report

on the
Implementation
of the European
Consensus on
Humanitarian Aid
2011

Humanitarian
Aid and Civil
Protection

END PLUS

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1. TEN BASICS OF THE EUROPEAN CONSENSUS ON HUMANITARIAN AID

1. The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid (the Consensus) was signed by the Presidents of the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament and the European Commission on 18 December 2007. The three institutions expressed this way the **highest political commitment** to the principles enshrined in the Consensus¹.
2. The Consensus defines the **common objective** of the EU humanitarian aid as to provide needs-based emergency response aimed at preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering and maintaining human dignity wherever the need arises if governments and local actors are overwhelmed, unable or unwilling to act.
3. The Consensus confirms the **scope of the EU humanitarian aid**, which encompasses assistance, relief, and protection operations, according to the common objective, in natural and man-made disasters, during the crisis and in their immediate aftermath.
4. The Consensus groups **common principles and good practice** underpinning the EU humanitarian aid: 1) the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence; 2) the international humanitarian, human rights, and refugee law; 3) Good Humanitarian Donorship principles on donor best practice.
5. The Consensus establishes **common framework to deliver humanitarian aid** based on: a) coordination, coherence and complementarity within the EU as well as with other humanitarian actors; b) adequate and effective aid reflecting the needs and degree of vulnerability; c) quality, effectiveness and accountability based on internationally recognised standards; d) support for a plurality of implementing partners, both governmental and non-governmental organisations; e) use of civil protection assistance in support of humanitarian aid strictly based on relevant guidelines ensuring, in particular, the respect for the humanitarian principles.
6. The Consensus reiterates EU support for the development of the **international humanitarian action**, led by relevant UN bodies, to increase global capacity to respond to humanitarian crisis and to avoid duplication of efforts.
7. The Consensus stresses the need to ensure **aid continuum** by reducing risk and vulnerability through enhanced preparedness as well as transition to early recovery and link to development aid.
8. The Consensus confirms that EU humanitarian aid is **not a crisis management tool**.
9. The Consensus states that the use of **military assets in response to humanitarian situations must be in line with the Guidelines** on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in complex emergencies and the Oslo Guidelines on the use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in International Disaster relief.
10. The Consensus **recognises a special role of the European Commission** in delivering humanitarian aid as a result of its global field presence, its role as a facilitator of coordination and coherence, its long-lasting promotion of good humanitarian practice internationally, and its recognition by the international community as a reference donor and important contributor to humanitarian action.

¹ European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, Official Journal C 25/1 30.1.2008.

2. BACKGROUND

Following the adoption of the Consensus, the European Commission presented on 29 May 2008 a five-year Action Plan outlining practical measures to implement the provisions of the Consensus². It contains actions divided into the following six areas:

- Area 1: Advocacy, promotion of humanitarian principles and international law;
- Area 2: Implementing quality aid approaches;
- Area 3: Reinforcing capacities to respond;
- Area 4: Strengthening partnership;
- Area 5: Enhancing coherence and coordination;
- Area 6: The aid continuum.

As part of the Action Plan, its Mid-Term Review was released on 8 December 2010³ followed by Council Conclusions on 17 May 2011⁴, which stated that "further joint EU efforts" should be pursued on "coherence and consistency in EU humanitarian aid and its interaction with other policies, including [...] through COHAFA [Council Working Party on Humanitarian and Food Aid], undertake[ing] an **annual monitoring and reporting of progress on Consensus implementation**".

Consequently, this report has been prepared to provide an overview of actions undertaken by the EU as a whole, meaning EU Member States and the European Commission, to implement the Consensus in the six 'action areas' in 2011. It is based on contributions received from EU Member States as well as a mapping exercise carried out by the European Commission. The aim of the report is to highlight some of the actions taken by the EU in order to illustrate the overall effort, and not to give an exhaustive list of all the developments that have taken place during the year. This report has been approved by the Council Working Party on Humanitarian and Food Aid in 2012.

² Commission Staff Working Paper "European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid – Action Plan", SEC(2008)1991.

³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council "The mid-term review of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid Action Plan - implementing effective, principled EU humanitarian action", SEC(2010) 1505 final.

⁴ Council conclusions on the mid-term review of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid Action Plan – implementing effective, principled EU humanitarian action, 17 May 2011.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION AREAS

ACTION AREA ONE: ADVOCACY, PROMOTION OF HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES, INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND GOOD HUMANITARIAN DONORSHIP

The EU undertook a variety of initiatives to promote neutral and independent humanitarian action and to protect humanitarian space worldwide based on international humanitarian law (IHL) and in line with the 2005 EU Guidelines on Promoting Compliance with International Humanitarian Law.

The EU was active in promoting international humanitarian law at the **United Nations**. On 10 May, the EU took part in the UN Security Council debate on protection of civilians in armed conflicts, during which it condemned the fact that civilians continued to be victims of disproportionate attacks, deliberate targeting and indiscriminate use of weapons. The EU called on all parties to conflicts to comply fully with their international legal obligation to protect civilians and underlined the need to guarantee safe and unhindered access for humanitarian operations to populations in need. The EU put special emphasis on ensuring that all perpetrators of the most serious international crimes are brought to justice before accountability mechanisms at international and national level.

At the 31st **International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent** in Geneva in November, the EU reiterated the continued relevance of IHL as well as the obligation of all parties involved in armed conflicts to respect it. The EU and its Member States made seven pledges to the Conference to: combat forced disappearances; support for the International Criminal Court; work towards further participation in the principal international humanitarian law instruments; support the promotion and dissemination of international humanitarian law; promote respect for fundamental procedural guarantees for all persons detained in armed conflict; and support international instruments seeking to address humanitarian hazards of explosive remnants. Together with their national Red Cross Societies, Member States also pledged to engage in an exchange of information on the negotiation of a strong and robust Arms Trade Treaty.

The EU on numerous occasions voiced its **concerns relating to the respect of international humanitarian law in third countries**. The EU repeatedly condemned violations of IHL during the conflict in Libya, and as regard the situation in Sudan, Yemen, and Somalia. It raised the need to fully respect international humanitarian law in order to find sustainable solution to the problem of Camp Ashraf in Iraq. The EU welcomed the publication of the report of the UN Secretary-General Panel of Experts on Sri Lanka, which concluded that there were credible allegations that major violations of international humanitarian law were committed on all sides during the conflict.

The EU also organised a number of **events to promote and disseminate information on the international humanitarian law**. The annual EU NGO Forum held on 8-9 December had, as one of its two themes, “Boosting the implementation of the International Humanitarian Law Guidelines”. The Forum included workshops on issues such as: impunity, protection of civilians, protection of detainees, and humanitarian access. Also, several EU Member States organised throughout 2011 conferences dedicated to discussing IHL issues. Austria hosted the first Humanitarian Congress in Vienna in October, which focused on the current status of

humanitarian aid ten years after 9/11. Lithuania organised in October a conference on dissemination of the international humanitarian law at the Vilnius University as well as provided, in cooperation with the Lithuanian Red Cross, information sessions on IHL to the armed forces. Italy organised in November the conference "Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Facing Crisis and Disasters Together" aimed at improving the dialogue and synergy between civil protection and humanitarian aid as well as raising attention of civil protection actors on humanitarian principles. The International Institute of Humanitarian Law, based in Sanremo in Italy and co-financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, carried out numerous activities to promote the respect of humanitarian law and training.

Furthermore, many EU Member States **mainstreamed provisions of the international humanitarian law into national humanitarian aid policies**. National policy frameworks in Austria, Cyprus, Germany, France, Netherlands, Sweden, and Slovakia included numerous references to the respect of IHL. Some Member States also established national bodies responsible for mainstreaming IHL internally, for example the Czech Republic set up a working group in charge of conducting national and international dialogue on the IHL principles, whereas Poland continued the national coordination of IHL-related actions at the Inter-ministerial IHL Commission with the participation of Polish Red Cross.

The European Commission funded **training on international humanitarian law** of 108 humanitarian workers and policy-makers during 2011. All EU Member States provided training on IHL for military personnel. IHL was also taught by the Red Cross France at national education level through dedicated programmes. Lithuania established extensive educational activities at the Vilnius University, including courses on IHL and on challenges of humanitarian action for students as well as a training course for practitioners (civil servants and volunteers). Thanks to the long-standing cooperation between the Polish Red Cross and the ICRC, the 30th edition of Warsaw Summer School on IHL was held in Poland for more than 40 practitioners and humanitarian experts from around the world. The School's aim is to create a meeting place and forum for discussion and networking for people selected by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva from among several hundred candidates from Red Cross National Societies. Participants spend a fortnight studying international humanitarian law in the Polish Academy of Science centre near the capital. The classes are led by the most renowned experts, including judges and international tribunals' defenders, law professors of respected universities and the International Committee of the Red Cross' delegates.

The EU **financed projects to enhance the practical implementation of the IHL on the ground**. The Commission funded a project, implemented by the Norwegian Refugee Council, to identify how humanitarian principles are applied in practice, with a view to strengthening their operationalisation, and a further project, implemented by the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action and Geneva Call, to provide training in international humanitarian law and related humanitarian norms to armed non-state actors. Germany contributed financially to OCHA study "Humanitarian Coordination in a Changing World". France supported NGOs implementing project to promote the IHL in conflict areas.

The European Commission launched an **evaluation** of humanitarian access strategies in EU-funded humanitarian interventions with a view to improving advocacy for the respect of international humanitarian law and humanitarian space.

The EU **mainstreamed Good Humanitarian Donorship commitments** in humanitarian action. During the joint German and Polish **Chairmanship of GHD** numerous initiatives were undertaken. A series of formal and informal meetings were organised, including four

plenary meetings in Geneva and two liaison meetings in New York and Rome as well as briefing for the Visegrad Group in Prague. GHD members regularly discussed issues relating to preparedness and risk reduction (e.g. during the workshop on DRR in the Eastern Partnership countries hosted by Polish Mission to the UN in Geneva), which resulted in an establishment of a new work-stream on Preparedness, Risk Reduction, Resilience and Response with a focus on institutional preparedness, country-level preparedness, preparedness financing and partnerships for preparedness. In order to enhance partnerships, the Co-Chairs strengthened the GHD's cooperation with humanitarian partners, such as OCHA, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and NGOs. In addition, a representative of OECD/DAC regularly participated in GHD meetings. Aiming at a better implementation of GHD principles in the field, GHD members developed guidelines with a list of objectives on the GHD principles to promote the establishment of and communication with local groups. Two more work-streams on needs assessments (led by European Commission) and equitable humanitarian financing (led by Sweden) were developed to deal with needs-based allocation of funds and improvement of humanitarian financing. At the plenary meeting in October 2011, GHD held an exchange of views on the implementation of GHD principles in the area of civil-military cooperation. GHD members expressed commitment to place civil-military cooperation higher on the GHD agenda in line with the Oslo Guidelines and the Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets to Support United Nations Humanitarian Activities in Complex Emergencies" ("MCDA Guidelines"). The papers submitted to the GHD High Level Meeting reflect important achievements during the period under review. GHD members expressed commitment to continue active participation in relevant work-streams and help to further develop their work plan in 2012-2013.

During the Estonian Chairmanship of **GHD-SHARE** ("Sessions for Humanitarian Awareness Raising and Exchange"), the GHD group was prioritised through a variety of initiatives including a shared donor monitoring mission to Haiti, and the continuation of regular GHD-SHARE meetings for purposes of orienting and mentoring donor personnel new to the humanitarian environment and to GHD in particular. A re-vamped GHD website with its members' working area further enhanced communication and information sharing between GHD members allowing for greater and more dynamic engagement between work-stream members and observers. Estonia also continued to build partnerships beyond the immediate GHD group took a number of forms; it hosted a lunch for newer GHD donors and those not currently members of the group including countries such as Brazil, UAE, Singapore, and Turkey; a dialogue was held with the Philippines and Brazil. The GHD-SHARE was pursued very actively also under the lead of Hungary. An outreach paper was developed that summarizes objectives and tools of outreach activities and identifies both possible partners and expected outcomes in order to guide GHD members to strengthen their efforts in this area of work. In October, ECHO and some Member States participated actively in a donor outreach event, organised by Hungary and OCHA, for emerging European donors that was held in Budapest with the theme "European Humanitarian Partnership Forum: Responding in a changing world". Member States and the European Commission also took part in the GHD-SHARE meetings in Geneva, which aim at exchanging experiences about donors' humanitarian aid politics and practices as well as gaining more knowledge about specific humanitarian thematic topics.

Best practice example

<i>Mainstreaming the provisions of the Consensus into national policies</i>

Denmark

The government's "Strategy for Danish Humanitarian Action 2010-2015 - Addressing Vulnerability, Climate Change and Protection Challenges" is guided by the vision and principles embedded in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, including the Good Humanitarian Donorship Principles (GHD). The strategy is a result of a comprehensive consultation process involving both national and international partners in the humanitarian field. The strategy sets out a number of priorities for the humanitarian action, namely: an emphasis on the most vulnerable groups and the support to strengthen their resilience during humanitarian crisis situations, and rapidly and effectively help them in rebuilding a normal way of life after crises and conflicts; climate change and the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters with a particular emphasis on disaster risk reduction (DRR); protection of civilians affected by armed conflicts; and a particular emphasis on children in conflict situations and gender issues in crisis situations, including the abuse of women and children.

Consensus in Action

Ensuring a better humanitarian access by promoting humanitarian principles

In Afghanistan, perception and acceptance are widely regarded as crucial factors for securing and maintaining access, yet humanitarian NGOs have struggled to obtain the resources and competencies necessary for achieving this. The Commission has been funding the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) for a project that uses humanitarian principles as a tool for messaging via national communication channels and communicating key concepts of a principled humanitarian aid delivery.

In Pakistan, for the flood response as well as in the on-going displacement crisis in the North, the Commission has been closely coordinating with like-minded donors with the aim of ensuring respect for humanitarian principles and of protecting humanitarian space. The Commission has been able to contribute substantively to this agenda and to formulate and advocate for common positions vis-a-vis the Government of Pakistan, the United Nations' resident and headquarter coordinators and other humanitarian partners. Moreover, the Commission has been working closely with the EU Delegation, the U.S. Department of State, DFID and the German and Swiss Embassies to ensure protection and durable solutions in line with international legal instruments for three million Afghan refugees remaining in Pakistan.

ACTION AREA TWO: IMPLEMENTING QUALITY AID APPROACHES

The EU carried out a number of actions to identify and meet humanitarian needs more effectively, with increased focus on neglected crises and specific vulnerabilities and results-oriented approaches. In addition, the EU sought to ensure that aid is delivered to the best possible quality standards and with good levels of accountability.

In 2011, a package of guidance and tools designed to support a coordinated approach to assessments in emergencies was developed by the Needs Assessment Task Force (NATF) of the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), which made **needs assessment** more credible. The European Commission participated in the work of NATF as an observer and

actively supported the development of the package, including through financial contribution to publish the guidelines. Furthermore, the European Commission hosted consultations with key humanitarian donors with a view to support and strengthen the coordination role of OCHA in humanitarian needs assessment as well as increase advocacy for close cooperation between agencies/partners to ensure comparable, credible and transparent needs assessment. Germany provided funding to the OCHA study "From shock- to needs-driven intervention" as well as participated in and financially supported the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action.

France was involved in numerous projects providing assistance to most **vulnerable groups** during humanitarian crises, notably women, children and disabled persons, by providing training on these groups to the relevant actors implementing projects on security sector reform (SSR) and Disarmament, Demobilisation and Rehabilitation (DDR).

In addition, the European Commission undertook initiatives to mainstream **gender** issues into humanitarian response. In this respect, following the 2009 gender review, an issues paper and a questionnaire on gender dimension of humanitarian aid were produced in 2010. In 2011, DG ECHO drafted a gender policy paper and an action plan, defining the conceptual framework and proposing tools for policy implementation. Moreover, the European Commission and Member States are committed to the implementation of **UNSCR 1325** and other related resolutions, by addressing the specific needs of and providing protection to women and girls affected by conflict, including combatting **sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)** and sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian personnel (SEA). Among other actions, in 2011, ECHO has funded a capacity building project aimed at building field staff and cluster capacity to address SGBV, with a focus on nine countries in different regions. Hungary, as supporting Presidency in the field of CSDP, organised a conference on gender and crisis management on 1 June 2011 in Brussels with a special focus on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Protecting **children in emergencies, including children affected by armed conflicts**, is also part of EU mandate. For instance, in Colombia, several projects were financed by ECHO last year, in order to provide assistance and protection to children affected by armed conflict, including preventing forced recruitment of children by illegal armed actors and protecting displaced families.

DG ECHO continued to implement the 2009 guidelines for the **use of cash and vouchers**. In line with efforts to promote the use of a broader range of **food assistance** tools, an awareness-raising session on cash and vouchers was organized by the European Commission for EU Member States in May. It was followed in November by a specific session devoted to sharing experiences on policies and capacity-building support related to cash transfers. In 2011, assistance provided as cash and vouchers represented 23.1% of the Humanitarian Food Assistance allocation. Cash and vouchers were used as part of humanitarian response also by EU Member States. France provided cash and vouchers in Sudan, the Palestinian Authority and Afghanistan as well as supported financially the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), which distributes cash and vouchers to affected communities in the region. Scaling up cash transfer programming in emergencies became a key priority and Sweden, which promoted such efforts in relations with humanitarian organizations, in particular the World Food Programme. Ireland worked with international agencies and non-governmental organisations to scale up the use of safety net mechanisms in emergencies, an example of which was the contribution of €1.6 million to support the NGO Concern's

programme to provide food vouchers and cash transfers in Mogadishu and the Lower Shabelle region of Somalia in response to the 2011 famine.

The Council Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) continued to serve as a forum to discuss the **adequacy of resources** for humanitarian aid in light of increased needs. An annual exchange of information on EU MS humanitarian **response policies** and intervention strategies, linked to presentation of DG ECHO Strategy was held in 2011.

The EU supported the **transparency, accountability, flexibility and predictability of funding**. For example, the EU Member States contributed together over 38 million USD to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, which constituted over 80% of the total contributions of all donors in 2011. In September, Luxembourg signed a four-year Strategic Partnership Agreement (2012-2015) with WFP encompassing its contributions for humanitarian operations and development programmes to ensure flexible, predictable and coherent funding to WFP, including 4-year funding allocations (for example for nutrition in West Africa and for WFP's Immediate Response Account). Luxembourg offered tri-annual funding to NGOs for reconstruction, LRRD and DRR projects. The Netherlands also offered NGOs the possibility to apply for bi-annual funding, in particular for humanitarian aid in protracted and complex crisis, which contributed to the flexibility of the delivery by NGOs and provided a better guarantee for the continuity of aid delivery. Italy adopted in November national guidelines for fund-raising campaigns launched by non-profit organisations in case of humanitarian emergencies so there are based on humanitarian principles and needs-based approach as well as accountability and transparency. Sweden, in line with the government's strategy for Sida's humanitarian assistance 2011-2014, supported various networks and 13 organizations involved in quality assurance of humanitarian action such as the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) and the Humanitarian Charter on Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere) as well as relevant research institutions with a focus on preventive measures and recovery. Hungary and Poland improved linkages of its financial decisions to UN appeals. In addition, Poland has been working intensively on strengthening its policy framework on development cooperation, including provisions relating to humanitarian action, in order to be ready to implement the new Development Cooperation Act adopted in September 2011. IRL: Through its partnership with eight NGO partners under the Humanitarian Programme Plan (HPP), Ireland provided flexible funding for addressing acute humanitarian needs, as well as disaster risk reduction and early recovery interventions, in predictable and protracted humanitarian crises. Ireland's funding under the HPP is based on a categorisation of need, which is informed by data drawn from analyses contained in, for example, the UN Consolidated Appeals Process, the EC's Global Needs Assessment and Forgotten Crises Assessment, and UNICEF nutritional data.

Some actions were also undertaken by EU Member States in the area of **humanitarian aid evaluation**. For instance, Germany conducted a comprehensive evaluation of its humanitarian assistance and France conducted an evaluation of its humanitarian assistance in fragile states and conflict situations, including through specific indicators that allow assessment of the level of vulnerability of these countries. Also, the European Commission carried out a number of thematic and geographic evaluations on humanitarian aid, including as regard the Civil Protection Mechanism and the CP Financial Instrument, DIPECHO operations in Southern Africa and Indian Ocean, the Burmese refugees camps in Thailand, the Real Time evaluation of DG ECHO supported action in Haiti, water and sanitation/public health in Zimbabwe, and LRRD in Uganda.

Best practice examples

Standard criteria for WASH interventions in emergencies

Spain

The Spanish Agency on Development and Cooperation, through its Humanitarian Action Office (HAO), introduced some initiatives in the area of quality aid, paying special attention to the lessons learnt from the Haiti crisis. In order to make the best uses of the available resources and achieve planned results, the HAO launched a process of standardisation of humanitarian response, with a pilot project focused on the WASH sector and a main goal to agree on a common understanding on minimum criteria for WASH interventions. Based on open consultations with other stakeholders, these standard criteria were defined in three main pillars: basic standards of wash equipment, minimum requirements database per service and proposals for a professional profile. Although not compulsory for Spanish humanitarian actors, these standards are a pre-condition to receive funding for WASH activities through HAO budget lines.

Adoption of a result-based management system for bilateral humanitarian initiatives

Italy

In July 2011, the Italian Development Cooperation Department (DGCS) of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs approved a new result-based management system for bilateral humanitarian initiatives, which integrates monitoring into project cycle management. The system aims at measuring performance and reporting on progress and impacts, and strengthening accountability. As part of the system, a number of standard project documents were created, namely financial project proposal, general implementation plan, four-monthly report, and final report. All of them pay particular attention to needs assessment, with a specific focus on humanitarian priorities, and define objectives and result indicators so that performance can be evaluated. The new system also takes into consideration aid effectiveness and GHD principles to enable the DGCS to monitor their application, and recognizes the articulation of the humanitarian action into different phases. At the moment, each periodic and final report received from the field is analysed by headquarters and the lessons learned are taken into account when designing and managing new initiatives.

Consensus in Action

Implementation of sectoral policies

The European Commission has been instrumental in supporting an FAO initiative to establish a Response Analysis Framework (RAF) aimed at carrying out assessments of food and nutrition security needs as well as other sectoral policies in various kinds of emergencies. RAF has already been used to, for example, carry out market analysis to establish a coherent approach for cash transfers in Afghanistan.

The Commission has also been providing support to FAO's implementation of standardized Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) as part of horizontal funding which covers Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar (the IPC was originally developed in Somalia). It has been already recognized as one of the best methodological approaches to characterize food insecurity caused by natural and/or man-made disasters, social unrest, crop failure or rising food prices. The use of IPC is expected to significantly raise qualitative levels

of advocacy, planning and response in food security and nutrition interventions at national and regional level.

In the DIPECHO planning process in Central America, national workshops were organised per country plus a regional workshop for the whole area. As a result, country documents were prepared with different tools to address disarmament, rehabilitation and reintegration in the country. This process evolved so that it is not only endorsed but is now led by national civil protection organisations. Initially the process aimed to identify areas most at risk and their main vulnerabilities. Currently, the process also aims to identify the capacities of each municipality to prepare for and cope with disasters.

ACTION AREA THREE: REINFORCING CAPACITIES TO RESPOND

The EU worked towards improving rapid and appropriate response to humanitarian crisis worldwide as well as increasing international assistance to reinforce local action as first line of response.

Since the beginning of 2011, the Commission's 'Enhanced Response Capacity' funding superseded the previous 'Capacity Building' funding for international organisations, and 'Grant Facility' funding for NGOs. The funding is now dedicated to **capacity building** projects with a global application to enhance the response of the global humanitarian system. A major component of the funding includes support to clusters, which contributes to further improvement of cooperation between international organisations and NGOs. Actions were undertaken also by EU Member States, for example Poland improved its national humanitarian granting procedures for NGOs. Ireland continued to ensure the preparedness and capacity of NGO partners to respond to emergencies through pre-positioning funding with selected organisations under its Emergency Response Fund.

The EU reinforced its **training for humanitarian professionals and other actors** linked to humanitarian response, **with strong emphasis on operational aspects**. DG ECHO provided extensive one-week training to its partners both in Brussels and in various Member States. Moreover, in order to reach staff working all over the world, DG ECHO stepped up its investment in distance learning tools. Five distance learning modules, followed through an internet connection, were developed. Training was also provided by EU Member States. Sweden organised training courses as part of the Advanced Training on Humanitarian Action with the objective of increasing the professionalization of Swedish and international organizations and actors at all levels working within a humanitarian context. The Junior Professional Officer Programme sponsored by Sida provided young professionals pursuing a career in the humanitarian field with hands-on experience. Slovakia and the Czech Republic offered development and humanitarian training and education to improve knowledge and share best practice. Germany organised a broad range of workshops and seminars for humanitarian workers, 9 German experts were included on the UNDAC roster. Germany contributed financially to the development of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) e-learning tool on minimum standards in disaster response, and also contributed financially to the OCHA standby partnership programme. Furthermore, the European Commission provided support to Academy on International Humanitarian Law (NOHA). The Hungarian ELTE university also joined activities of NOHA. The University of

Warsaw in Poland hosted the NOHA Intensive Programme for more than 200 students, future humanitarian professionals, in September 2011. IRL: Ireland continued to support capacity gaps in the humanitarian operations of UN Agencies and NGO partners through the provision of skilled experts from its Rapid Response Corps, deploying 46 experts throughout the course of 2011.

The EU actively promoted and provided support to **international disaster response laws, rules and principles**. It finalised the "Analysis of Law in the EU Pertaining to Cross-Border Disaster Relief", and initiated work on new Host Nation Support (HNS) guidelines. The Commission facilitated a series of specific GHD 'back to basics' sessions aimed at new donors. Actions at national level included the adoption in Hungary of a new law on disaster response, which aims to strengthen cooperation between humanitarian policy and civil protection during emergency phase of crises and disasters.

DG ECHO participated in the Erasmus public administration programme to **reinforce best practice exchange between EU donors**, which allows officials from EU Member States to visit the Commission. After an introductory training, the officials were sent to the Directorate General of their choice to do a job shadowing for 2 days. Per year, ECHO welcomes 2 to 3 job shadowers. In 2011, French, Italian and Cypriote representatives participated in the programme. In addition, ECHO participated in the National Experts on Professional Training programme (NEPT) designed to give public administration officials from Member States experience of the Commission's working methods and policies.

The EU actively participated in humanitarian international and regional fora contributing to **reinforced dialogue involving broad range of partners and current and emerging donors**. As an example, the EU played a crucial role during 2011 to coordinate donor support for more concerted needs assessment by the different humanitarian organisations, as well as for improved cooperation between the UN and the relevant NGO platforms. Numerous EU Member States also strongly advocated at international and regional fora to increase cooperation between all relevant stakeholders.

Luxembourg developed a mobile satellite-based emergency telecommunication system to improve the global response capacity by (re-)establishing communication and coordination services after a disaster or in remote locations. This system called "emergency.lu" was designed as a public-private partnership, in close collaboration with WFP, in its role as Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) lead, and is offered to the international humanitarian community as a global public good with the objective to improve coordination and assessments in humanitarian crises.

On 7 February 2011, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) signed a cooperation agreement with Hungary to establish a regional support office for implementing the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER). The Office supports national and international disaster management authorities and management of emergencies with space-based tools.

Best practice examples

Supporting NGO's capacity to intervene in unsecure environments

The Commission supported the creation of ANSO, the Afghanistan NGO Safety Office and has been funding each year ANSO projects, as a prerequisite to any other NGO funding so that security assessments are ensured. ANSO provides security analysis, advice, alerts and

services to 205 NGOs in Afghanistan. Due to its success and operational usefulness, this first project has been subject to duplication in other insecure contexts.

In Yemen, the European Commission supported international NGOs in the improvement of the security of their operations. This consists in the provision of security alert messages, updated information on the security situation prevailing in the country, training and advisory services. This approach has proven to be highly relevant and helpful in ensuring proper delivery of humanitarian aid in insecure areas.

In Gaza (oPt), the Commission has been funding the so called GANSO project to ensure an effective security information system for the NGOs, providing them with timely security information and analysis as well as alerts.

Consensus in Action

Response to complex and protracted crisis

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is one of the largest protracted crises in the world. To address the needs in such a volatile, insecure and logistically challenging context, the Commission supported an inter-agency mechanism, co-led by OCHA and UNICEF, to ensure contingency preparation (including pre-positioning of aid supplies), provide humanitarian surveillance system through alert networks and a dedicated and pre-financed response in WASH and non-food items (NFI). This innovative model allows to better focus emergency response based solely on needs and helps to improve its speed, quality and coverage. The European Commission has been one the largest donor of this initiative having provided € 25 M since 2005.

In Pakistan three humanitarian situations necessitate humanitarian assistance: the recovery from the 2010 floods and emergency response for the 2011 floods; the fighting between militant groups and security forces, resulting in displacement of civilians; and a large population of Afghan refugees including a majority of Pakistan born Afghan refugees. The humanitarian response was increasingly restricted due to several factors, including limitations on humanitarian space. To respond to such complex challenges, the European Commission provided support to the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) which is the only INGO coordination forum in the country for preparedness, assessment, response and unified advocacy. It coordinates positions of INGOs on standing and emerging issues, ensures rapid response by field presence and expertise, acts as the bridge between INGOs and the UN/Government/Donors, as well as communicates and advocates as an independent voice for principled response and access.

ACTION AREA FOUR: STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

The EU contributed towards strengthening well-coordinated partnerships for effective delivery of aid, expanding donor base, and reinforcing local participation in humanitarian aid design and implementation.

Regarding **participation of disaster affected communities in humanitarian aid operation**, a review of existing practices in this field was carried out by the European Commission in 2011 and will be followed by a comprehensive evaluation in 2012.

In order to reinforce networking between DG ECHO's NGO partners in the field of policy making, the European Commission started in 2011 funding the organisation VOICE with a purpose to establish **EC-Partner Policy Liaison Groups**. Germany, Finland, Austria, Slovakia, Spain, and the Czech Republic also provided support to NGOs being part of networks.

The European Commission marked the **World Humanitarian Day** on 19 August through a number of awareness-raising activities. Furthermore, some ECHO partner relief organisations carried out communication actions, which included humanitarian events/days. For example, the World Food Programme organised a public humanitarian event including a concert with Malian musicians with participation of Commissioner Georgieva; the Finnish Red Cross carried out an information campaign with the slogan "Not forgetting the silent" which included media activities and an information stand with interactive sessions at the World Village Festival in Helsinki in May; the Food and Agriculture Organisation started cooperation with the Association of European Professional Football Leagues (EPFL) to broaden its campaign "Professional Football against Hunger" by agreeing to a partnership between EPFL, FAO and EU in 2011. Numerous joint awareness-raising actions followed. Together with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), a Global Volunteer Conference was hosted by Hungary in Budapest during 15-17 September 2011, with the aim at mainstreaming volunteerism into peace, humanitarian and development programmes.

Best practice examples

Coordination of funding of the European Commission and Member States

The Commission has at several occasions, including in the oPt, Afghanistan and Sudan, contributed to the appraisal of funding proposals for Belgian cooperation. This collaboration clearly helped strengthening coordination and coherence of EU joined-up response maximising the impact in the delivery of humanitarian aid to people in need.

Consensus in Action

Support to building and reinforcing clusters

In Afghanistan in order to ensure a more focused documented and coordinated humanitarian response, the Commission is involved in various strategic groups or clusters such as Nutrition, Health, Wash, NFI and Shelter. More specifically, it supports directly food security and agriculture via FAO and protection through the funding of NRC and UNHCR, in the National IDP task force.

The European Commission funded reinforcement of the cluster protection has been funded at a country level in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Commissions support included funding for dedicated staff for co-lead positions in provincial and national clusters. An external evaluation has been conducted since 2011 and should be published by the end of 2012.

ACTION AREA FIVE: ENHANCING COHERENCE AND COORDINATION

The EU carried out activities to increase coordination within the EU (between the European Commission and EU Member States) and to create linkages between EU and other donors to improve efficiency of humanitarian aid.

The European Commission facilitated **information sharing, situation analysis and coordination** with MS, other major non EU donors, and implementing partners. DG ECHO shared with EU Member States the so called 'SITREPS' – information sheets prepared by the extensive network of ECHO field experts worldwide covering issues such as needs assessments, coordination structures, response by the EU and major non EU donors, as well as civil-military aspects. In addition, throughout the year, Member States held regular discussions at COHAFA on ongoing and protracted crisis to build understanding and agree on common messages.

Furthermore, regular expert-level **dialogue on implementation issues and coordination of EU responses** to major humanitarian crisis took place in COHAFA, and allowed to develop common analysis of the situation in the ground and, where appropriate to agree on a common course of action. EU Member States undertook efforts to increase internal coordination as well. For example, during the Polish Presidency in the EU Council, the ad hoc COHAFA was organised in the anticipation of the UN announcement of famine in Somalia in July 2011, in order to exchange EUMS perspectives on priority actions and major challenges in response to this crisis. COHAFA was also systematically used as the forum to prepare for major international fora where humanitarian issues were on the agenda, for instance the WFP Executive Boards and the Committee on World Food Security.

The European Commission continued to fund OCHA for its **humanitarian civil-military coordination** work (CMCoord). Funding was made available for targeted engagement and advocacy activities, as well as for specific training for both humanitarian and military attendees.

The Commission coordinated the **review of funding needs** and held regular exchange on general funding intentions and patterns. In this regard, ECHO presented its own operational strategy on that occasion and, in liaison with the present and incoming Presidencies, circulated a detailed questionnaire on funding levels and intentions for 2012. DG ECHO presented its 2012 Operational Strategy to COHAFA/HAC in December 2011. At COHAFA, an OCHA representative was invited to present the Consolidated Appeal for 2012.

During 2011, DG ECHO and Member States ensured close **cooperation between EU civil protection cooperation and humanitarian aid activities** in operations outside the EU through discussions on issues such as training modules, the humanitarian principles and overall cooperation with the UN, notably with UNDAC.

Regarding **evaluation of present trends and findings and the commitment to undertake more joint evaluations**, the European Commission consulted Member States on their interest in joining an EU-wide network led by the Commission concerning the evaluation of humanitarian aid interventions. The practical arrangements for launching the network have been implemented since June 2011. This work included the sharing of experiences and lessons, decisions on joint evaluation, discussion of issues of common interest, exchanges of views, among others. The network became operational at the beginning of 2012. The platform

is open from the beginning to all interested Member States, independently of whether they have expressed initially their interest in participating or not.

The Commission established a system for **humanitarian briefing**. All headquarter and field staff received the information pack, office management training was provided to newly appointed heads of ECHO offices, places in security training (GEOS) held in the regional support office in India was offered to colleagues of the EU Delegation. Italy and Hungary provided humanitarian briefing on instruments and procedures to diplomats and national experts posted in crisis prone countries. Furthermore, a module on EU humanitarian aid has been provided within the pre-posting training for persons going to serve at EU Delegations worldwide.

Internal coordination within Member States was also enhanced. Bulgaria included humanitarian operations in the portfolio of Chief Directorate Fire Safety and Civil Protection as part of International Cooperation, NATO, EU, and Humanitarian Operations Unit. Poland created the Humanitarian Affairs Unit in the Development Cooperation Department of MFA, which contributed towards strengthening the relations with other MFA departments, embassies and external stakeholders. Italy enhanced coordination between Development Cooperation Department and Civil protection Department through consultative mechanism held periodically.

EU Member States also continued to **consult other stakeholders** when defining or reviewing humanitarian aid policies, including Cyprus (in context of the upcoming reform in humanitarian aid policies), Czech Republic, Germany (in the framework of the Humanitarian Aid Coordinating Committee), Denmark (through Nordic donor group and bilateral meetings), France (in the context of developing a national humanitarian aid strategy), Italy, Slovakia, and Poland.

At the international level, the EU supported the **Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Transformative Agenda** meant to improve coordinated responses that meet the needs of, and are accountable to, affected populations. Throughout 2011, the EU followed and supported the efforts in the IASC to address weaknesses in the humanitarian system's response capacity. It contributed to the development of the 46 actions around the pillars of leadership, coordination, accountability, as well as preparedness, which were agreed by the IASC Principals in December to seek a more effective, accountable and well-coordinated humanitarian response. In this respect, the European Commission and several EU Member States, namely Denmark, Finland, Sweden, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, together with other donors (Norway, Switzerland, USA), sent in early December a letter at ministerial level to the IASC expressing support the its transformative agenda and providing recommendations to most urgent priorities aimed at strengthening the international humanitarian response system. The Transformative Agenda was discussed in COHAFA on several occasions in 2011 (including the informal COHAFA in Warsaw) in order to develop common EU messages for the meetings of ODSG as well as the Executive Boards for UNICEF, UNDP and WFP. The European Commission also funded a "NGOs and Humanitarian Reform" project to facilitate NGO participation in the coordination structures as well as provided financial support to some NGOs cluster co-leads, both on global and country level.

Best practice examples

Strengthening coordination with other humanitarian donors

In Afghanistan, the Commission played a key role in bringing together a significant number of donor agencies such as OFDA, CIDA, SIDA, DFID, AUSAID, the Japanese, French, Norwegian, Danish and German Embassies to work together on a number of humanitarian issues, including on coordination, access, quality of interventions, and LRRD. A Humanitarian Donor Group (HDG) was set up at the Commission's initiative. This group now speaks with one voice at the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT).

In the oPt, the Commission was chairing the so-called "Friday Group meeting" discussing twice a month all humanitarian related issues with relevant donors, UN and NGOs.

In the Libyan and Syrian crises, the Commission participated in various strategic groups and coordination mechanisms, including weekly coordination meetings with UN agencies and other implementing partners. The Commission promoted coordination of humanitarian response in Syria with technical experts permanently present on the ground.

There is a Good Humanitarian Donorship group active in DRC, which led in 2011 by the ECHO field office. The Commission was also an active member of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and an observer of the Pooled Fund and demonstrated to be strongly involved, for example, in the discussions and reflexions on the clusters (performance, reinforcement, funding) sharing our experience as donor and our views from a field perspective.

In the Central African Republic, the ECHO Technical Assistant was a valued participant in the committees which decide on allocations to projects from CERF and the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF).

Consensus in Action

Improving facilitation between the European Commission and Member States through the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC)

The Commission supported and facilitated the delivered of emergency assistance in Syria via the EU Monitoring and Information Centre and was in constant contact with the Member States to promote information sharing and contribute to a coherent humanitarian response. For the response to the Libyan crisis, the complementarity between humanitarian aid and civil protection was exemplary: it meant that the EU was able to facilitate the evacuation and repatriation of more than 50,000 Third Country Nationals.

In September 2011, in response to the monsoon floods, an EU Civil Protection coordination team consisting of five experts and one MIC liaison officer was deployed to Pakistan. The team facilitated the arrival of the EU in-kind assistance by identifying suitable international consignees through contacts with Pakistani authorities and other actors on site (e.g. UN organisations) and arranging on-site procedures for receiving the assistance (customs clearance, inland transport, off-loading). French assistance arrived in Karachi on 25 September and was taken over by two French NGOs already in the field (Handicap International and Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale).

Donor coordination for emergency response and disaster risk reduction

The Regional Technical Group of Donors (GTDR) for the Latin American countries was established following the DIPECHO Regional Consultative Meeting organized by DG ECHO in El Salvador in December 2011, with aims to: a) establish a forum for discussion, dialogue and coordination; b) promote and enhance the exchange of information and good practices; c) ensure the inclusion of DRR and humanitarian action in policies and strategies in the region.

This initiative was endorsed by all the main donors, as well as OCHA and UNISDR. AECID is currently the Chair of the Group, and DG ECHO is part of the coordination group.

ACTION AREA SIX: THE AID CONTINUUM

The EU continued to ensure that humanitarian aid is focussed on emergency response based on needs and better linked with longer-term development and other assistance. Disaster Risk Reduction activities were strengthened and supported increasingly by long-term aid approaches.

Many EU Member States, including Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Spain, and Finland, continued to mainstream **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** into humanitarian and development policy, operations and training of staff. Poland included DRR as a priority theme under GHD co-chairmanship, organised a workshop on DRR in Eastern Partnership countries, added DRR as one of actions eligible for funding in selected priority regions (Eastern Africa, Central Asia, Georgia and Moldova), and put emphasis on strengthening DRR in its national pledges to the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The Netherlands and Luxembourg contributed to the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR) and the Global Facility for DRR and Recovery of the World Bank. In development cooperation, the Netherlands worked on mainstreaming DRR into its development policies and programmes in close partnership with developing countries and with the GFDRR. In the field of climate change, the Netherlands supported developing countries in integrating the risks of climate change in their policies. Sweden maintained and reinforced dialogue with UN-ISDR, Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), UNDP and the Red Cross movement on how to strengthen the global DRR architecture. Hungary organised in November a regional workshop on disaster risk assessment and capacity building. DG ECHO launched DIPECHO programmes in South Asia, South America, Pacific and the Caribbean. It also mainstreamed risk reduction into overall aid operations.

The EU also enhanced its response to **Linking Relief, Rehabilitation, and Development (LRRD)**. At operational level, relevant services of the European Commission worked together to develop a methodology ("Joint Frameworks") aimed at facilitating coordination between humanitarian and development actors through common analysis, definition of priorities and complementary responses. The testing of the methodology started in 2011 in a selected number of countries benefiting from the Food Security thematic programme. At institutional level, the work of the Inter-service Group on Transition continued its work throughout 2011. It provided a platform for discussing policies with a transition perspective. LRRD became a part of national humanitarian aid strategies and policies in Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, and the Netherlands. Luxembourg requested its NGO partners to dedicate at least 20% of their funding to reconstruction or LRRD projects. Furthermore, Germany reorganised within the German government the division of labour between emergency and transitional aid. Ireland continued to mainstream LRRD throughout its humanitarian and development programmes, with an increased emphasis on the inclusion of a humanitarian contingency budget line in its development programmes for priority countries. Many EU Member States provided financial support to LRRD projects, for

example Cyprus in Haiti, Czech Republic in Afghanistan and Ethiopia, Denmark in Somalia and Sudan, Finland in Japan and Haiti, Slovakia in Haiti and Kenya, Luxembourg in Sri Lanka and Iraq. Furthermore, the European Commission continued to use the geographic instruments (European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument, Development Cooperation Instrument and European Development Fund) to deal with transition situations, in addition or further to humanitarian intervention.

The EU continued to support reducing the vulnerability and **fragility** of the developing countries and improving their **resilience**. At policy level, in 2011 the European Commission launched preparations of a new communication on resilience, which would propose two important developments: the EU will support and participate in efforts to achieve joint risk assessment of fragility and vulnerability, facilitating the articulation of a common operational analysis for the full spectrum of a crisis; and when implementing its development and humanitarian aid in situations of fragility and vulnerability, the EU will focus on achieving resilience, including by addressing the root causes of crisis. In addition, the European Commission and EU Member States participated in the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea, in November, which brought together over 3000 delegates to review progress on implementing the principles of the Paris Declaration. The Forum culminated in the signing of the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation marking a critical turning point in development co-operation, including on issues relating to fragility and resilience.

Best practice examples

Disaster Risk Reduction and Transition

Netherlands

In its Humanitarian Aid Policy the Netherlands emphasizes the need for Disaster Risk Reduction and Transition. Disaster preparedness is viewed as an integral part of humanitarian aid. Disaster prevention and risk mitigation are part of structural development aid. The Netherlands implements its DRR and transition objectives in various ways:

- Financial support of UNISDR and GFDRR.
- Working on integration of DRR into the development programming for support to its partner countries for development cooperation and regional programs. With a specific focus on food security and water, in view of risks of droughts and floods.
- Where possible making more use of local structures and capacities. For example through NGO's. Give attention to the role of women.
- Offering training programmes for local capacity building.
- In bilateral and international dialogue encouraging relevant UN-organizations to further develop their roles in the transition from humanitarian to structural development aid, working together with UNDP, and international financial institutions.
- Implementing existing recommendations on transition financing as formulated in the OECD/DAC International Network on Conflict and Fragility.

Consensus in Action

Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development

In Afghanistan, the Commission participated in the selection of proposals for the 2012 Food Security Thematic Programme of the Delegation. This was a collaborative process in which the Commission could include follow-up projects of partners' operations previously benefiting from ECHO humanitarian support.

In the oPt, the recent Commission efforts to advocate for more attention including development in Area C of the West Bank and in Gaza well illustrate the fruitful cooperation between the Member States, the European External Action Service, and the Commission. This for instance resulted in the allocation of €10 million using the EU Instrument for Stability for the water sector in Gaza to complement the existing Commission humanitarian funded water projects.

To foster LRRD in Ivory Coast, the EU launched the "Partnership for Transition" initiative to bring together humanitarian and development partners with the relevant government services to ensure an orderly LRRD transition. The initiative is a joint commitment of DG ECHO, DG DEVCO and the Ivoirian government and represents a coordinating mechanism suitable for the Côte d'Ivoire situation where it is essential to maintain direct assistance to most vulnerable populations while giving time to government and development donors to restore functional government infrastructures to take over the delivery of basic public services.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The year 2011 saw continued progress in the implementation of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid. Both EU Member States and the Commission maintained their efforts to put in place the key elements of the Action Plan through various internal and external initiatives.

Throughout the year, the EU was strongly advocating for the respect of fundamental humanitarian principles, international law and Good Humanitarian Donorship at many international fora. The EU strengthened close cooperation with other donors, international organisations and NGOs on a number of important initiatives, such as need-based assessment of humanitarian aid, implementation of sectoral policies, or training.

Working together, through a coordinated and joined-up approach of EU Member States and the Commission, was essential to the successful implementation of the Consensus. In this context, some positive examples of 2011 include the development by Member States of national humanitarian aid policies that are aligned with the provisions of the Consensus as well as an improved internal coordination between Member States and the European Commission through joined-up work at the Council Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid but also via practical measures, such as information sharing and joint evaluations. Another example is an involvement of Member States in providing civil protection assistance that was facilitated by the European Commission through the Monitoring and Information Centre.

At the same time, continued efforts are required to respond to ever important challenges faced by humanitarian aid, notably the increasing number and vulnerability of humanitarian crisis coupled with decreasing available resources to respond to these crises. As a result, there is a pressing need to enhance the effectiveness of EU humanitarian response, including by identifying efficiency gains when working with partners and by investing more into preparedness and resilience of vulnerable communities.

The EU will continue efforts to fulfil its obligations under the Consensus, in particular to:

- Ensure delivery of humanitarian aid according to the humanitarian principles;
- Strengthen the overall effectiveness of EU humanitarian aid by seeking greater synergies in programming and allocation of funds and coverage of needs in line with the Paris Agenda for development aid; and
- Leverage the EU's role and influence in the international humanitarian system to make it more efficient and more inclusive.

In this respect, the EU will seek to:

- Improve burden-sharing as an opportunity to address the question of limited resources by discussing and deciding upon proactive roles in implementing provisions of the Consensus to complement each other's efforts and avoid duplication.
- Continuously disseminate the Consensus and raise awareness in view of ensuring that the importance of humanitarian principles and the underlying rationale for the humanitarian approach is well understood.
- Cooperate closely with other humanitarian donors through a coherent and coordinated EU approach in order to contribute to an increasing efficiency of the international humanitarian system.

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