

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY IN ACTION

My fellow Europeans,

This year's European elections set the stage for a vibrant debate about the future of the European Union and the practical ways in which it helps improve the lives of all of its citizens. In this context, I am proud to present to you the life-saving activities the EU has carried out in the last four years in the areas of humanitarian aid, civil protection and disaster response.

Thanks to the solidarity of its citizens, the EU has assisted more than 120 million victims of man-made and natural disasters each year. We have achieved that with less than 1% of the total EU annual budget - just over €2 per EU citizen. Collectively, the EU with its Member States is the world's leading donor of humanitarian aid.

We extended a helping hand to the victims of all major crises, including Syria, the Sahel, Haiti, the Philippines, and many more. Our aid went not only to those crises in the global spotlight but also to many "forgotten" ones, like the Central African Republic, where we focused attention and secured much-needed funding.

Ensuring that Europe is better protected against disaster risks has been another major priority. With the European Parliament's support, we reinforced our civil protection mechanism, contributing to a more coordinated and better planned disaster response within the EU and beyond. We also set up the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), a unique hub for risk monitoring, coordination and operational planning.

We have also laid the foundations of the EU Aid Volunteers initiative which will give thousands of European citizens the opportunity to get personally involved in our humanitarian work around the globe for making the world a better place. An exciting innovation of the Lisbon Treaty, this initiative enjoys the strong support of citizens and the European Parliament alike.

All of this would not have been possible without the support of European citizens, the European Parliament and our Member States. Thanks to you and our partner organisations around the world we are able to keep people and their hopes alive.

I am proud of our achievements which I would like to share with you on this dedicated website.

Yours,

Kristalina Georgieva

European Commissioner for International Cooperation,
Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response



Syria
Haiti Sahel
EU Children of Peace
Partner organisations
Central African Republic
Resilience Philippines
Forgotten crises ERCC
EU Aid Volunteers
Preparedness
Humanitarian principles
Civil Protection
No lost generation







HUMANITARIAN AID

Every year

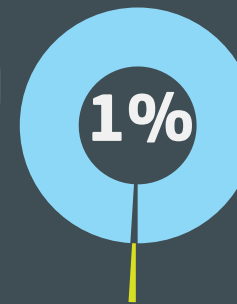
the EU helps
more than 120 million people in need



Some of the largest crises in recent years

-  **Syria conflict**
11 million affected within the country, half of which are children
-  **Central African Republic**
2.5 million people in need of assistance
-  **Sahel hunger crisis**
20 million suffering food insecurity
-  **Haiti earthquake**
1.5 million displaced
-  **Philippines typhoon**
14-16 million affected
-  **Horn of Africa drought**
13 million affected

With less than



of the EU budget amounting to just over 2€ per EU citizen

we helped over 120 million people



Every year

HUMANITARIAN AID

We fund **forgotten crises**

which escaped the media and the international community's attention, such as:

- Rohingya refugees crisis in **Bangladesh**
- internal armed conflict in **Colombia**
- Crisis in **Northern Yemen**
- Sahrawi refugees in **Algeria**
- Conflict in **Northern Pakistan**
- Conflict in **Kachin, Myanmar**

1 in 7 euros **to forgotten crises**



The EU played a major role in putting the crisis in the **Central African Republic** on the **international agenda** and gathering **global support**



HUMANITARIAN AID

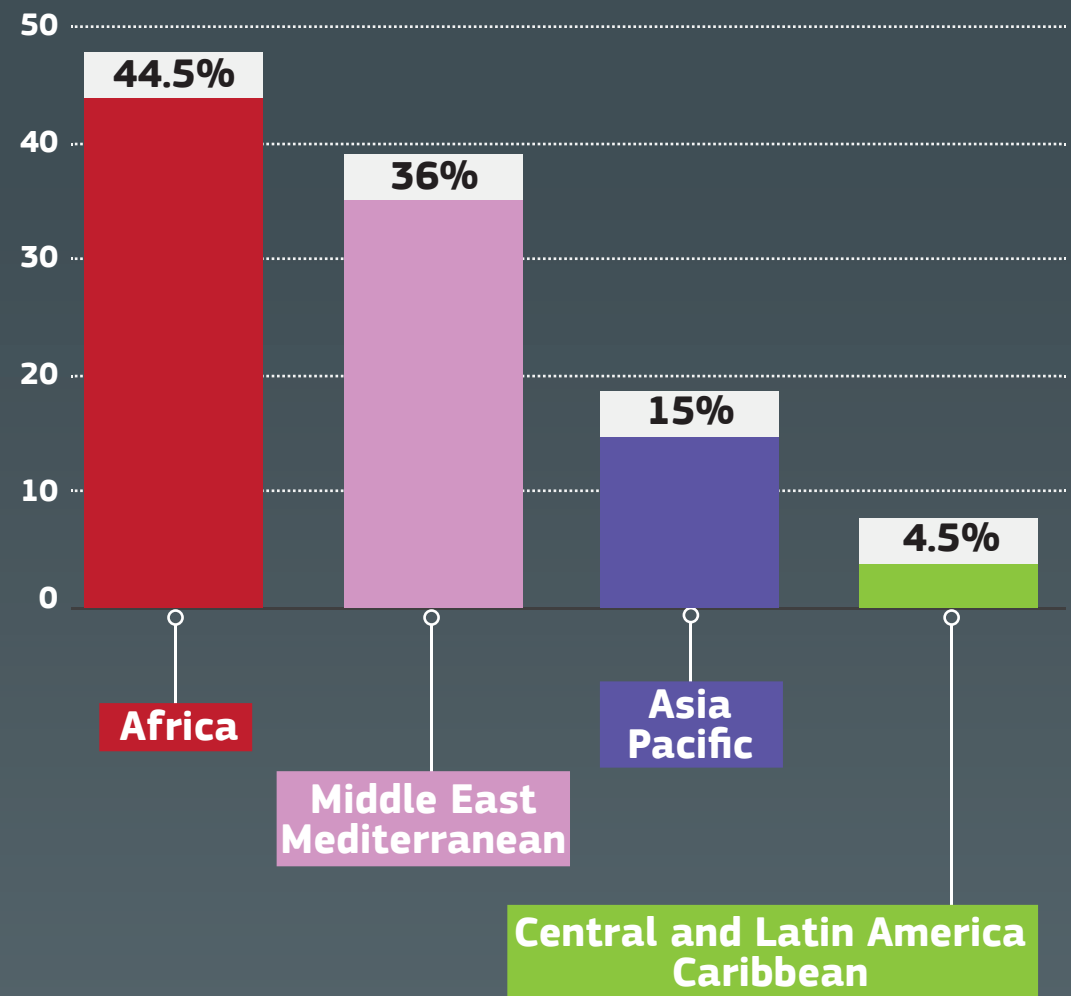
EU action is guided
by humanitarian principles
as reflected in the European Consensus
on Humanitarian Aid



The EU is a strong advocate
for the respect
of **International Humanitarian Law**

No matter where and who was struck by a crisis,

we acted to help people in need



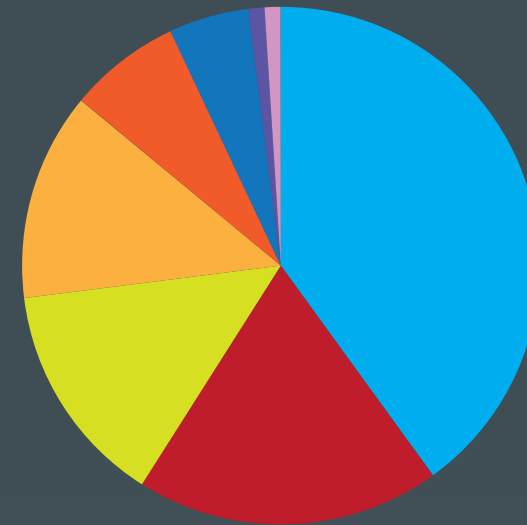
(2013 ECHO Budget)









HUMANITARIAN AID

EU aid is carefully tailored to match each crisis's specific characteristics, taking into account **gender, age, and specific needs.**



Our budget per **policy sector**



-  Food and nutrition 40%
-  Shelter 19%
-  Healthcare and medical support 14%
-  Water and sanitation 13%
-  Protection 7%
-  Coordination and support 5%
-  Disaster preparedness 1%
-  Transport 1%

(2013 data)

HUMANITARIAN AID

We invest

in preventing and reducing the risk of disasters

1€ in disaster preparedness saves up

7€ to 7 euros in relief efforts

Some of the actions we funded



 Constructing safer buildings

 Protecting lands from floods

 Early warning systems

in building resilience

of local populations in areas where people face recurrent natural disasters

AGIR (*Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative*)

€1.5 billion between 2014 and 2020

- Launched in 2012 under EU leadership, involving 17 West African countries
- Aiming to build resilience to recurrent food and nutrition crises in the Sahel
- Targeting zero hunger within 20 years



SHARE (*Supporting Horn of Africa Resilience*)

€270 million euros in 2012-2013

HUMANITARIAN AID

EU Children of Peace

When the EU received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012, the award money was used to create a lasting legacy in the form of the **EU Children of Peace** initiative. The prize money and additional EU funds were earmarked for education projects for children in conflict – an under-funded sector in humanitarian aid.



2014

80 000 Children



2013

28 000 Children



EU Children of Peace
EUROPEAN UNION:
RECIPIENT OF THE 2012
NOBEL PEACE PRIZE*

The EU supports education
projects for children in conflict.
ec.europa.eu/echo/EU4children



We provided access to education, safe places and psychosocial support.

To strengthen the EU's capacity to address crises, we are establishing the

EU Aid Volunteers initiative

We care, we act



18 400
opportunities offered
from 2014 to 2020

4 000
EU Aid
Volunteers
deployed

4 400
volunteers and NGO
staff from third
countries participating
in capacity building

10 000
online
volunteering
opportunities

HUMANITARIAN AID

Our aid delivery is only possible thanks to:

our strong **presence in the field**

close **cooperation** with our **global network** of **over 200 humanitarian partners** ranging from large UN agencies to small NGOs



Regional Support Offices (RSO)

Amman Bangkok Dakar Managua Nairobi New Delhi

- 140 international humanitarian experts
- 320 national staff members
- 44 field offices in over 39 countries



ICRC



CIVIL PROTECTION



In 2010, humanitarian aid and civil protection were brought under the same roof, greatly improving their complementarity

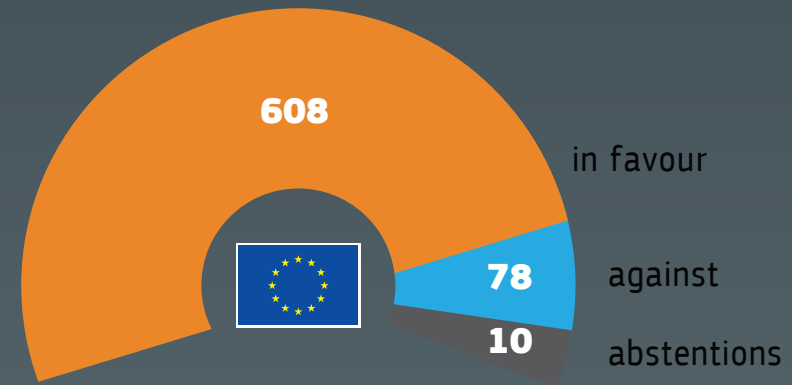
When the scale of an emergency overwhelms national response capacities, the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism** enables a coordinated assistance from the participating states.



Participating countries include all 28 EU Member States
plus Norway
Iceland
and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

New civil protection legislation provides for

- Increased cooperation in prevention and preparedness
- More effective disaster response
- Reinforced joint training and exercises of civil protection experts
- Rapid deployment via voluntary pool of national crisis response assets



The European Parliament showed overwhelming support to the new Civil Protection legislation (voting results December 2013)

CIVIL PROTECTION

In May 2013, we launched the

Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC)

Monitors disasters around the globe

24/7

Maps disaster risks



Provides real-time information



Coordinates joint European response operations



Between 2010 and 2014,

the EU Civil Protection Mechanism

has been activated for more than

80 emergencies

including the triple disaster in Japan (2011), evacuation from Libya (2011), floods in Poland (2010), and the typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines (2013).



HUMANITARIAN AID 2010-2014



Asia and Oceania

Afghanistan

Bangladesh

Cambodia

Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan)

India

Indonesia

Laos

Mongolia

Myanmar/Burma

Nepal

North Korea (DPRK)

Pacific Region (Papua New Guinea, Fiji Islands, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Vanuatu)

Pakistan

Papua New Guinea

Philippines

Sri Lanka

Tajikistan

Thailand

Timor Leste

Vietnam

Europe

Southern Caucasus (including Chechnya)

Latin America and Caribbean

Caribbean

Central America

Colombia

Haiti

South America

Middle-East and North Africa

Algeria/Western Sahara

Iraq

Palestine

Syria

Yemen

Sub-Saharan Africa

Burkina Faso

Burundi

Central African Republic

Chad

Côte d'Ivoire

Democratic Republic of Congo

Djibouti

Ethiopia

Guinea

Guinea Bissau

Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Kenya and Somalia)

Kenya

Liberia

Madagascar

Mali

Mauritania

Niger

Nigeria

Sahel

Senegal

Sierra Leone

Somalia

South Sudan

Southern Africa

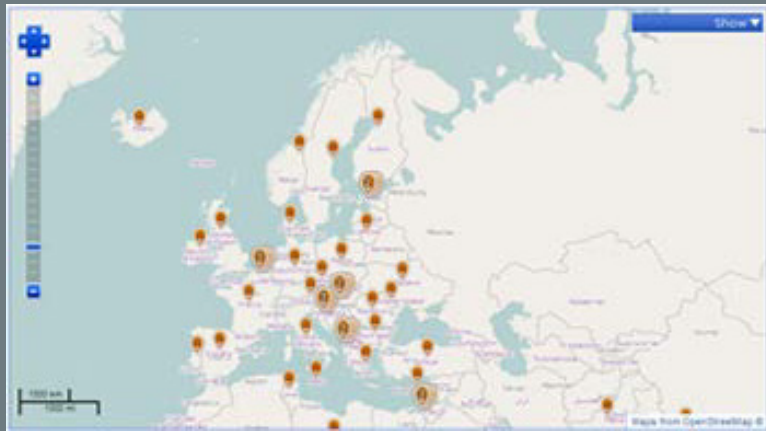
Sudan

Tanzania

Uganda

Zimbabwe

CIVIL PROTECTION IN EUROPE 2010-2014



Austria
2013
EU Civil Protection exercise

Belgium
Participation in EU-funded prevention and preparedness project: "Shoreline clean-up and oiled wildlife"

Bulgaria
2012 - Assistance to flood victims
2013 - Assistance with the refugee crisis

Croatia
2012
EU Civil Protection Field Exercise: Large scale flooding

Czech Republic
2012
Emergency Response Centre supporting Member States ravaged by floods

Cyprus
2011
EU Civil Protection damage assessment following explosions at naval base

Denmark
2013
TRIPLEX 2013: Large-scale humanitarian and civil protection exercise

Estonia
2011
"EU Chemical and Radiological Emergency Management Exercise (EU CREMEX)

Finland
2014
Joint Baltic operational marine pollution response exercise (BALEX DELTA)

France
2010-2013
Training for more than 150 French experts

Germany
2010-2013
Training for more than 215 German experts

Greece
2011 - Activation of the Civil Protection Mechanism for combatting forest fires
2012 - Activation of the Civil Protection Mechanism for combatting forest fires

Hungary
2010
Activation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and requests for technical expertise to combat mud pollution

Ireland
2013-2014
Participation in EU-funded prevention and preparedness project: "Implementation of the EU Host Nation Support Guidelines"

Italy
2012
EU observer mission deployed in Costa Concordia

Latvia
2012
Reinforcing response capacity to floods (BALT FLOOD COMBAT)

Lithuania
2012
Reinforcing response capacity to floods (BALT FLOOD COMBAT)

Luxembourg
2010
Participation in two full-scale civil protection exercises

Malta
2010
Participation in the EU-funded exchange of civil protection experts programme

Netherlands
2010
Participation in EU-funded project: Safeguarding Educational Environment (SEE)

Poland
2010
Activation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism to support managing severe floods

Portugal
2012 - Activation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism in tackling forest fires
2013 - Activation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism in tackling forest fires

Romania
2010
Activation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism to cope with the floods; four Member States offer equipment

Slovakia
2012-2014
Participation of Slovak experts in international civil protection exchanges

Slovenia
2014
Activation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism

Spain
2012
EU civil protection exercise

Sweden
2010-2013
Training of over 140 Swedish experts

United Kingdom
2010
Field civil protection exercise (ORION)

For civil protection actions outside of Europe, please visit our interactive map

WHY WE ACT

Our mandate

The EU's actions to prevent and respond to disasters and humanitarian emergencies embody the principle of **solidarity** as laid down in the Treaties:

“To provide ... assistance and relief and protection for people in third countries ... victims of natural or man-made disasters ...”

(Lisbon Treaty, art. 214)

“... encourage cooperation between Member States for preventing and protecting against natural or man-made disasters.”

(Lisbon Treaty, art. 196)

The needs

Global trends are worrying

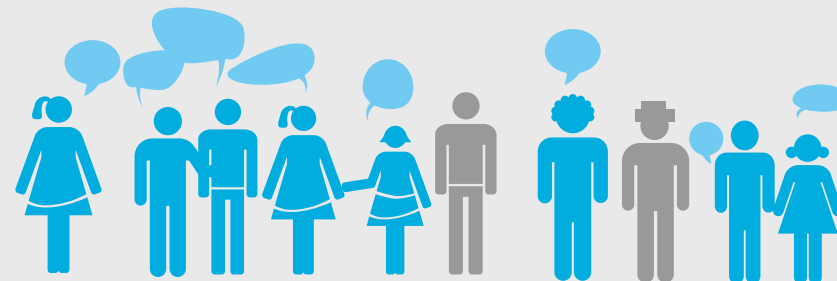
Disasters are increasing in frequency and complexity



Your support



9 out of 10 EU citizens say that it is important for the EU to fund humanitarian aid



8 out of 10 EU citizens believe that Coordinated EU civil protection action is more effective than individual countries' action

TESTIMONIES



PETER MAURER
President, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

"Sharing EU's core beliefs, the ICRC is committed to provide impartial need-based assistance to all those affected by conflicts in a neutral and independent manner."



DAVID MILIBAND
President and CEO, International Rescue Committee (IRC)

"It is not just about how much money the EU gives, but how the EU does its business. It is always ready to innovate to meet new needs, and it doesn't forget the crises that are not in the headlines."



ERTHARIN COUSIN
Executive Director, UN World Food Programme (WFP)

"We at WFP accomplish our work because of the EU's consistent support. I must thank you. It is the crucial support from European citizens, through ECHO and other channels, that enables us to provide a lifeline to millions around the world."



FRANCO GABRIELLI
Civil Protection Department, Italy

"The EU Civil Protection Mechanism offers numerous benefits both in terms of the assets that can be made available through the modules system and in terms of opportunities for sharing experiences."



AHMAD
Seven-year old Syrian refugee

"I used to be so low on the ground but now I am 'up.' I can even go to school... I'm going to study to be an orthopedic surgeon". After losing both his legs, ECHO funding allowed Ahmad to receive auxiliary crutches, a wheelchair, a toilet chair and weekly rehabilitation sessions.



ANTÓNIO GUTERRES
UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

"Action is based on needs, not on any strategic considerations. This means that we can rely on the European Union to make sure that we get support when support is really needed."



BIRANU WAKA
Aid worker in EU-funded education project for Somali refugees

"Thanks to the support from ECHO, we now have 5 400 children attending schools in refugee camps. We have increased access to education from 27% to 32%."



VALERIE AMOS
UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (UNOCHA)

"The EU is a donor with which we have very strong relations, not only for funding purposes. Our relationship is about thinking through the challenges we face across the humanitarian community, and finding ways in which we can tackle these together."



ANTHONY LAKE
Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

"Whether in responding to crises or helping build resilience – preferably both at the same time when disaster strikes – UNICEF has no better partner than the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department of the European Commission (ECHO)."



SISTER MAXIMINA
Director of EU-supported boarding school in Ecuador

"40 out of 72 children hosted in our school are beneficiaries of the action implemented by UNHCR thanks to the support of the European Union, in a very remote corner of Ecuador, close to the Colombian border."



LEAH COWAN
EU Aid Volunteer

"Nothing really beats actually being in the field to see everything in operation."



HELENA LINDBERG
Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, Sweden

"It is so valuable to have the Civil Protection Forum and all the platforms that the EU Civil Protection Mechanism creates, such as meetings, exercises and training."