



Humanitarian Aid

Disaster Preparedness in Cambodia

Hazards and Risks

Cambodia is regularly affected by a number of hazards, such as floods, drought, typhoon and monsoon storms. Floods and drought are the most damaging to people's livelihoods and to the economy, as about 77% of the total area is fully rainwater dependent.

In rural areas, populations are highly dependent on agriculture and the accumulation of irregular seasonal pattern or recurrent meteorological shocks can cause disaster situations at household level.

The effect of hazards is aggravated by the deterioration of drainage and irrigation systems during the Khmer Rouge period and by the lack of resources to maintain them ever since.

Deforestation and erosion of the riverbanks, lack of building and engineering codes and their enforcement, are other man-made causes increasing the impact of hazards such as floods and drought.

ECHO's response

Through its Disaster Preparedness programme DIPECHO, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) aims at building the resilience of communities in Cambodia that face recurrent floods and drought.

Since 1998 over 20 projects have been funded in Cambodia under the DIPECHO programme for over €5 million. Projects are located in the most hazard-prone areas of the country. Activities funded include establishment of flood and drought early warning systems, construction of small scale mitigation projects such as dykes and channels, the establishment and training of village disaster risk management committees, the development of local disaster management plans and their



Population	13,995,904 (July 2007 est.)
Population growth rate	1.729% (2007 est.)
GDP per capita	\$2,800 (2006 est.)
Pop. below poverty line	40% (2004 est.)
Life expectancy	61.29 yrs
Infant mortality	58.45 per 1,000 live births

Source: CIA Factbook



Community water control system under construction, Kampon Chhang

Photo credit T.Touch, ECHO



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integration at commune and district levels. Many of the activities are implemented through or in support of the Cambodian Red Cross. Others have been designed to build capacity of local authorities.

DIPECHO funded projects between November 2006 and May 2008 for a total of almost €1.8 million:

	Partner	Hazard addressed / project type	Area
Country projects	Action Aid	Drought, floods	Kratie , Svay Rieng Banteay Meanchey
	Dan Church Aid / Lutheran World Federation	Drought, floods	Battambang, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Spue
	Danish Red Cross / Cambodian Red Cross	Drought, floods	Kratie; Prey Veng; Svay Rieng; Pursat.
	ZOA Refugee Care	Drought	Oddar Meanchey
Regional projects	Mekong River Commission / Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)	Support to flood preparedness programs at provincial, district and commune levels in the Lower Mekong Basin	Kratie, Sambour, Chhloung districts
	UNESCAP/ADPC	Development of partnerships, networking, integration of community-based disaster risk reduction into socio-economic plans at national level	National level, Kandal, Prey Veng districts
	UNDP/ADPC	Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in the education sector, development of school curricula	National level, Kandal, Prey Veng districts
	UNISDR / UNOCHA	Development of national disaster risk reduction plan	National level

About ECHO: The Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) is part of the European Commission, the European Union's executive arm. It comes under the direct responsibility of Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid. Through ECHO funding, nearly 20 million people are helped each year in more than 60 countries through 190 partners (NGOs, international organisations, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and UN agencies). In 2006, the Commission provided €671 million for humanitarian programmes. Web: <http://ec.europa.eu/echo/>

For more information contact ECHO's Regional Support Office in Bangkok, tel +66 2 255 10 36 / 35

Cécile Pichon, Technical Assistant

e-mail: ta02@echo-bangkok.org

Thearat Touch, Programme Assistant

e-mail: program01@echo-bangkok.org

Heinke Veit, Regional Information Officer

e-mail: rio@echo-bangkok.or