



Disaster Preparedness Programme DIPECHO

DIPECHO: Reducing the impact of natural disasters

The European Commission Humanitarian Aid department's Disaster Preparedness Programme (DIPECHO) targets vulnerable people living in the main disaster-prone regions of the world. The objective is to reduce the impact of natural disasters by strengthening local physical and human resources in high risk areas.

The programme demonstrates through pilot activities that simple inexpensive preparatory measures can save lives and livelihoods at community level.

In parallel, it raises awareness among decision-makers for the need to integrate disaster risk reduction into longer term development policies.

Targeting disaster-prone regions worldwide

DIPECHO targets vulnerable communities in the six most disaster-prone regions of the world: South East Asia, Central Asia, South Asia, the Andean Community, Latin America and the Caribbean. Since 1996 DIPECHO provided more than €78 million for 319 projects worldwide, out of which €20 million for 79 projects in South East Asia.

A typical project

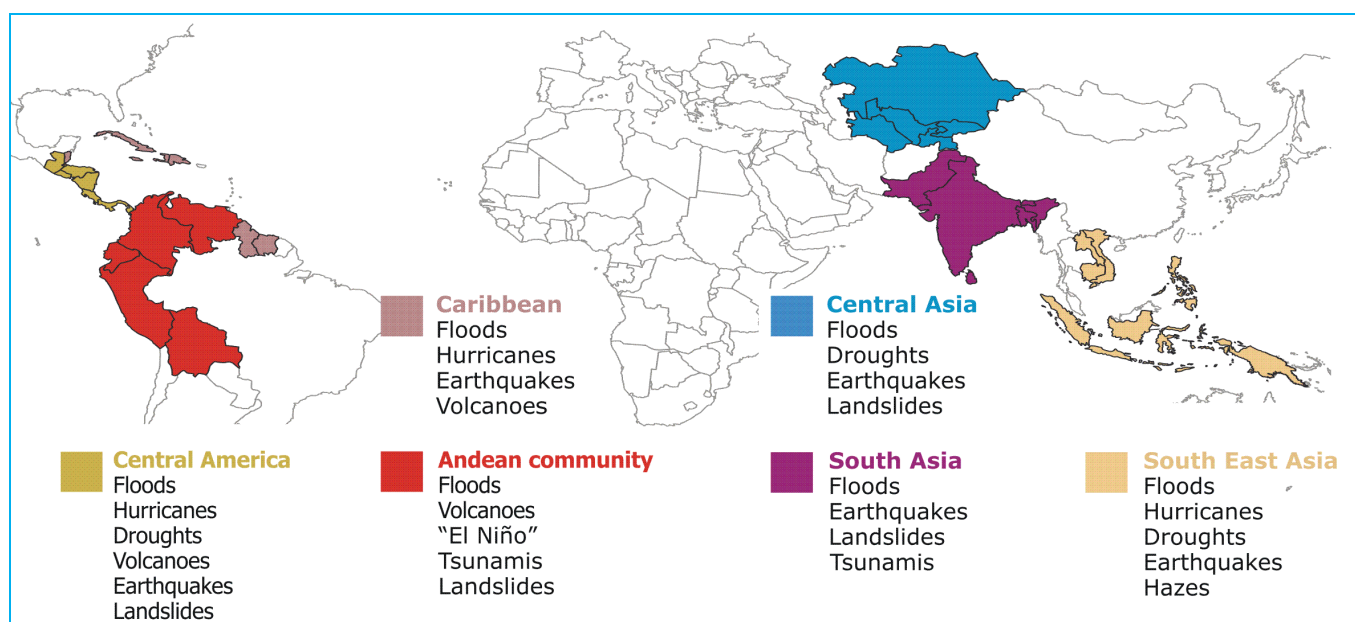
DIPECHO projects are implemented by EU-based non-governmental organisations, UN agencies, Red Cross Societies and international organisations experienced in disaster risk reduction and the country they operate in. In turn, these partner organisations work closely with local agencies.

On average, projects last 15 months. A co-financing share of at least 15% is required from implementing agencies.

Projects develop affordable measures which can be replicated locally and be integrated into longer term mechanisms. Typically activities include:

- Local disaster management components: early warning systems, map and data digitization, local capacity-building, training.
- Institutional linkages: advocacy, facilitation of coordination, institutional strengthening.
- Information, education, communication, including public awareness raising.
- Small scale infrastructure and services.

Regions targeted by ECHO's disaster preparedness programmes and the major risks they face





Disaster Preparedness Programme DIPECHO

The DIPECHO programming cycle

So far funding has been available every two years. However DIPECHO puts more and more emphasis on longer term programming cycles through consecutive action plans. The preparation of each phase is based on a series of internal and external evaluations and reviews, as well as the input received from implementing partners and other stakeholders during an ongoing consultative process. Action Plans are then translated into an expression of interest, inviting organisations to submit project proposals.

Presently, DIPECHO South East Asia is carrying out its 5th Action Plan (November 2006-May 2008). The expression of interest for the 6th Action plan is due to be published early 2008, with a financial envelope for the region of at least €7.5 million.



Risk assessment workshop for Red Cross volunteers, Vietnam
Photo Credit: H Veit, ECHO

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 35 / 36

Cécile Pichon, Technical Assistant

Thearat Touch, Programme Assistant

Heinke Veit, Regional Information Officer

e-mail: ta02@echo-bangkok.org

e-mail: program01@echo-bangkok.org

e-mail: rio@echo-bangkok.org