

Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction



Perspective of the European Commission
Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid - DG ECHO

DG ECHO's humanitarian mandate

EU Council regulation concerning Humanitarian Aid (1996)

Article 1: The Community's humanitarian aid shall comprise assistance, relief and protection operations.... help people in third countries, particularly the most vulnerable among them, and as a priority those in developing countries, victims of natural disasters.... *Such aid shall also comprise operations to prepare for risks or prevent disasters or comparable exceptional circumstances.*

The 23 Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship (2003)

Principle 1: The objectives of humanitarian action are to save lives, alleviate suffering... as well as to prevent and strengthen preparedness for the occurrence of such situations.

Principle 8: Strengthen the capacity to prevent, prepare for, mitigate and respond to humanitarian crises...

Overview of DG ECHO's response to hazards & preparedness funding

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Nat. disasters | €67.4 mio. | €204.4 mio. | €94.5 mio. |
| Nat. disasters % | 11.77 % | 31.33 % | 14.13 % |
| DIPECHO budget | €13.7 mio. | €17.5 mio. | €19.05 mio. |

In addition, DG ECHO mainstreamed Disaster Preparedness in its relief to a level of approx. €32 mio. in 2006

DG ECHO Disaster Preparedness activities in Asia

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid

1. DIPECHO programme
2. Mainstreaming of disaster preparedness
3. Advocacy



DG ECHO Advocacy for Preparedness



DRR engagement & community-based preparedness

- EU member states, EC services, other bilateral donors
- UN ISDR, other UN organisations
- International Financial Institutions
- National authorities and local authorities
- IFRC
- NGO partners

Why engage with a humanitarian donor?

Mainstreaming of Preparedness



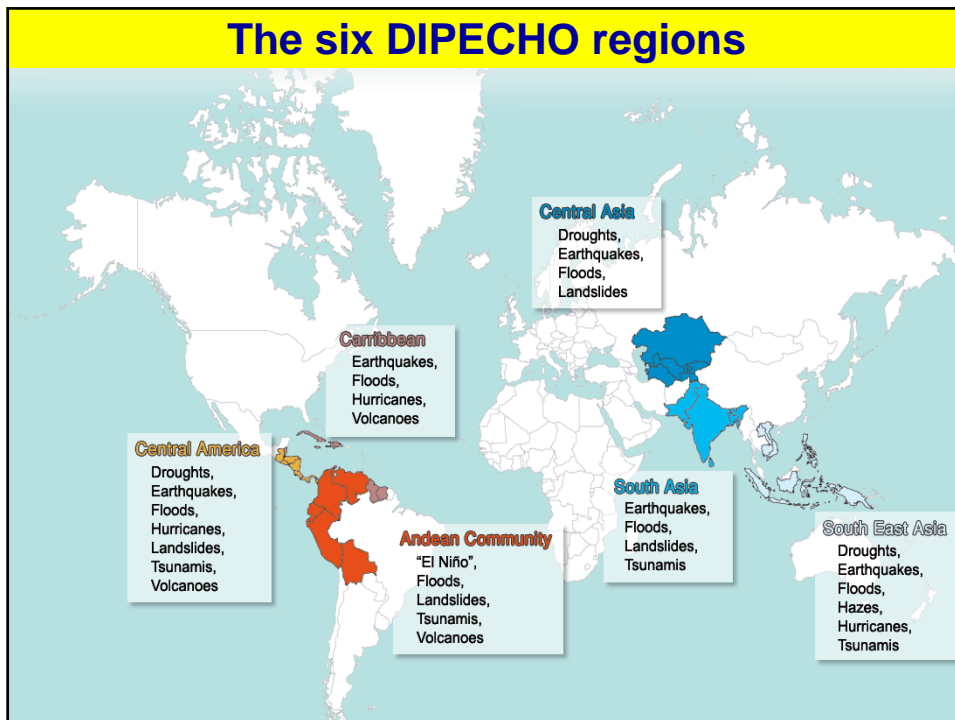
- Preparedness reflected in relief responses
- Vulnerable groups are often eager to engage
- Building back better - do no harm

Key questions:

- Analysis of practices - when, how and what works?
- DRR / DP in relief, rehabilitation and development?
- Capacity-building of local / national authorities?
- Involve all from early stages.

Examples in Asia: Tsunami, Pakistan earthquake, Afghanistan, The Philippines typhoon relief, etc.





DIPECHO programmes in Asia



- Central Asia, South Asia and South East Asia
- Focus on the most vulnerable groups in high-risk countries
- Small-scale, community-based and people-centred preparedness
- Create awareness, offer trainings and build local capacities
- Very concrete, very practical - strong local ownership
- National and regional coordination
- + EUR 48 million preparedness investments in Asia 1998-2006

DIPECHO projects are designed as PILOT strategies for their region. Their impact is multiplied when the strategies are systematically integrated into long term development planning and projects





DIPECHO in Central Asia



- Total DIPECHO investment 2003-2006: EUR 15.05 mill.
- The 4th DIPECHO Action Plan (Dec 2006- June 2007): EUR 6.05 mill.
- 20 projects implemented in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and border areas of Afghan Badakhsan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- 2006 evaluation came out with very positive results.
- National Consultative Meetings will be organised bringing together all relevant stakeholders to discuss the main achievements and future challenges and how DIPECHO best feeds into this process.

DIPECHO in South Asia



- Total DIPECHO investment (2001-2006): EUR 11.7 mill.
 - 3rd DIPECHO Action Plan (Sep 2005 – Feb 2007): EUR 6 mill. – 21 projects implemented in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan.
 - 4th DIPECHO Action Plan launched in 2007 – EUR 7 mill. (planned)
 - ✓ Encouraging results in establishing national DRR networks, joint co-ordination, joint advocacy
 - ✓ External resources and interventions can only stimulate the process
 - ✓ Demonstrations easily convince communities, local authorities
- But ... still need for specialized training/awareness raising in DRR with practical demonstrations.... e.g. training for masons
- ... urban migration – urban risks are increasing...

DIPECHO in South East Asia



- Total DIPECHO investment in this region: EUR 21mill.
- 5th DIPECHO Action Plan (Nov 2006): EUR 7 mill. – 22 projects implemented in Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

2007 evaluation: DIPECHO has contributed to a hundreds of projects, through which many NGOs and government agencies have gained a large part of their experiences in DP/ DRR

- ✓ Replicable community-based flood EWS, CBDRM models, DRM strategies and legislation
- ✓ Tools for risk assessment, IEC materials, targeting methodologies
- ✓ Strong awareness of DRR amongst local people, local partners, local governments, and regional bodies
- ✓ DRR/DP mainstreamed in NRM, rural development, env. protection

DIPECHO successes and concerns



- ECHO/DIPECHO support to **development of National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction based on HFA**
- Piloting of innovative and effective initiatives at community level
- DIPECHO initiatives often first response – direct & positive impact
- Close and valuable partnership with key DRR stakeholders
- Strong visibility + advocacy frame

Concerns:

- Overall levels of preparedness remain too low
- How to replicate good practices at community-level to other communities?
- How to ensure that lessons learned at community-level are reflected in national level strategies and programming?
- ECHO mandate limited; necessity to hand-over to longer-term partners
- Strategy and tools for better DRR mainstreaming

Key messages



- Proper preparedness require a people-centred approach and clear definition of responsibilities
- Multi-hazards approach: joint co-ordination efforts, joint advocacies
- Sustainable results with an inclusive approach
- It is not preparedness projects that is crucial – it is the promotion of a culture of preparedness !