

European Community Humanitarian Office



Caught in the eye of the storm

ECHO

Annual review
1998

Honduras, November 1998



European Community
Humanitarian Office

Cover photo: J. C. Ulate/Reuters

Central America after
Hurricane Mitch
Flores de Oriente, Honduras



ACRONYMS	ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Office
	EU	European Union
	ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
	IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
	NGO	Non-governmental organisation
	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
	WFP	World Food Programme
	WHO	World Health Organization

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‘ I realised that even when devastation is due to ‘nature’, it is human intervention, before and after the event, that determines the extent of the damage and the suffering people have to endure ’

Commissioner Emma Bonino

Preventing conflict between man and nature

‘ The consequences of disasters which we call ‘natural’ are not so different to those termed ‘man-made’ – that is, armed conflicts ,

and providing that preparation involves not just partners liable to intervene in the field, but the people who may be directly affected by disaster scenarios. Guatemala is not a rich country, and its political history is certainly as tragic as that of its neighbours. But part of the reason that loss of life there was contained in the aftermath of Mitch is that it has a relatively well-developed civil defence system, in which warnings enable evacuations to be carried out in good time in case of typhoons. In Honduras, the capital, Tegucigalpa, was partially drowned by mud. A latter-day Pompei could have been avoided if its inhabitants, rich and poor, had not built houses that were on riverbanks, or overlooked by steep hills stripped of their vegetation amid deliberate deforestation. These are some of the things to bear in mind amid international conferences on the reconstruction of Central America. Disaster preparedness has implications far beyond humanitarian action, and should involve many other decision-makers too.

E. Bonino Emma Bonino

Last December, I visited parts of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, swamped in a lake created overnight by a sudden flood. I went through valleys in Nicaragua where the villages and fields had been devastated by the vicious Hurricane Mitch. I saw the heartache of Guatemalan peasants who had been left with nothing. It was extremely distressing to see that the consequences of such disasters, which are called ‘natural’, are not so different to those we call ‘man-made’ – that is, armed conflicts. What difference does it make whether your house and your family have been destroyed by a bomb or a mudslide? I realised that even when the devastation is due to ‘nature’, it is human intervention, before and after the event, that determines the extent of the damage and the suffering people have to endure. Before visiting the Central American countries ravaged by Mitch, I was wondering how best to give a high profile to ECHO’s decision to boost disaster preparedness strategy in all four corners of the earth – preparing for the worst in case of natural disasters, particularly sudden ones. Some cynics wonder if it is really a priority for humanitarian action in a world in which there are so many crises due to conflicts to which there are no obvious solutions. Eradicating poverty is one of the prime conditions for an effective disaster preparedness policy, say the sceptics, who seem to see little point in discussing the issue until we find solutions for under-development. If Japanese city dwellers are less fearful about the potential impact of earthquakes than those in central Asia or Latin America, that is partly because not everyone can afford anti-seismic building standards, they argue. Reality is more complex. Thousands of lives and millions of euros can be saved before and after natural disasters strike, providing we act in advance. As for humanitarian interventions after the event, these too are only effective providing they are planned to meet needs in specific scenarios,



ECHO faces new challenges

The year 1998 ended with military action in Iraq and 1999 started with the resumption of open warfare in Angola and Sierra Leone. These were powerful reminders that wars and conflicts are still – like it or not – major factors in international relations as we approach the end of the millennium. Conflicts have increased in number and also in cruelty and complexity. ECHO and its partners are increasingly being confronted with a shrinkage – if not complete disappearance – of humanitarian space. This has forced us to denounce violations of basic human rights and humanitarian principles from Sudan to Central Africa, from Kosovo to Afghanistan. That is why ECHO backed the “Flower for the Women of Kabul” campaign, the biggest advocacy exercise that it has ever undertaken. Alongside conflict and post-conflict emergency assistance, the need to respond to natural disasters has also grown in the wake of the worst “El Niño” in history. Hurricane Mitch inflicted astonishing damage in Central America, while in China and Bangladesh, disastrous flooding showed the power of nature to destroy lives, land and property. ECHO has been increasingly committed to disaster preparedness, especially last year, with the adoption of Action Plans for the Caribbean, Central America, Bangladesh and South-East Asia. Our DIPECHO Programme is now fully operational and in 1999, it will also cover new regions and countries.

Alongside conflict and post-conflict emergency assistance, the need to respond to natural disasters has grown



In 1998, ECHO managed a humanitarian aid budget worth € 517 million through 1,353 operational contracts. It was also a year in which the European Commission identified a case of presumed fraud related to four contracts signed in 1993 and 1994, and took immediate action on it. All officials dealing with taxpayers' funds have a duty to ensure good management, transparency and accountability. In the field of humanitarian aid, it is our duty to achieve the highest possible standards of integrity. Our funds are dedicated to victims of conflicts or natural disasters, and our work often means the difference between life and death. In the coming years, the challenge to ECHO and its partners is to be more efficient in providing relief and protection to victims, to be more transparent, so that the general public are fully aware of what we do; and to be more committed to humanitarian values and principles, which are increasingly neglected all over the world. In 1998, we took some steps towards achieving these goals. We simplified the Framework Partnership Agreement through increased dialogue and consultation with our partners. We carried out evaluations of past activities with the challenging task of implementing lessons learnt. We strengthened partnerships with Member States through joint missions in Afghanistan, North Korea and Sudan. We reinforced links with the United Nations via presentations by Sergio Vieira de Mello, Sadako Ogata and Catherine Bertini at the Humanitarian Aid Committee, and improved contacts with the Red Cross family and NGOs. We need to continue in this direction.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several sharp, sweeping strokes.

Alberto Navarro



Gabino Mejias Maldonado, 76, lives in Nacaome, in the Valle Department of Honduras, one of the regions worst affected by Hurricane Mitch last autumn. Here is his story of what happened:

'It rained continuously at the end of October, then there were violent winds and suddenly, the river overflowed, sweeping away all the houses along its banks, including ours. The family – my wife, my daughter and her five children – were evacuated, but I stayed – I was afraid burglars might come and loot the house. Eventually, I saw that the flooding was so dangerous that I left too. In 76 years, I've never seen anything like it. We have no savings. We lived off our land, the maize and beans we grew on two plots of land along the bank which gave us about 40 quintals of basic grain a year. Our family lost everything, the house we built only three years ago, the little land we owned. The flooding stripped a thin layer of fertile topsoil off, leaving rough sand that will take at least two years to recover so we can plant crops. Almost all the land in the valley is now unproductive, apart from some mountain areas where they grow melon, watermelon or sesame. For now, we are living in a shack we made of wood we retrieved from the ruins of our house. About three weeks ago, after working for 10 days on a rehabilitation programme, we got 20 pounds of beans and 20 litres of rice and a kind of maize flour that takes a long time to cook – we are very short of fuel... We only get this food if we work on helping to rebuild other people's houses – not our own. We don't know what will happen to us now. Our first priority is to rebuild our house, but according to the information we have, we may not be able to resettle in the same place, as the land is now considered dangerous, prone to flooding in future. We hope the Government will earmark land for us elsewhere, but we don't know where or when.'

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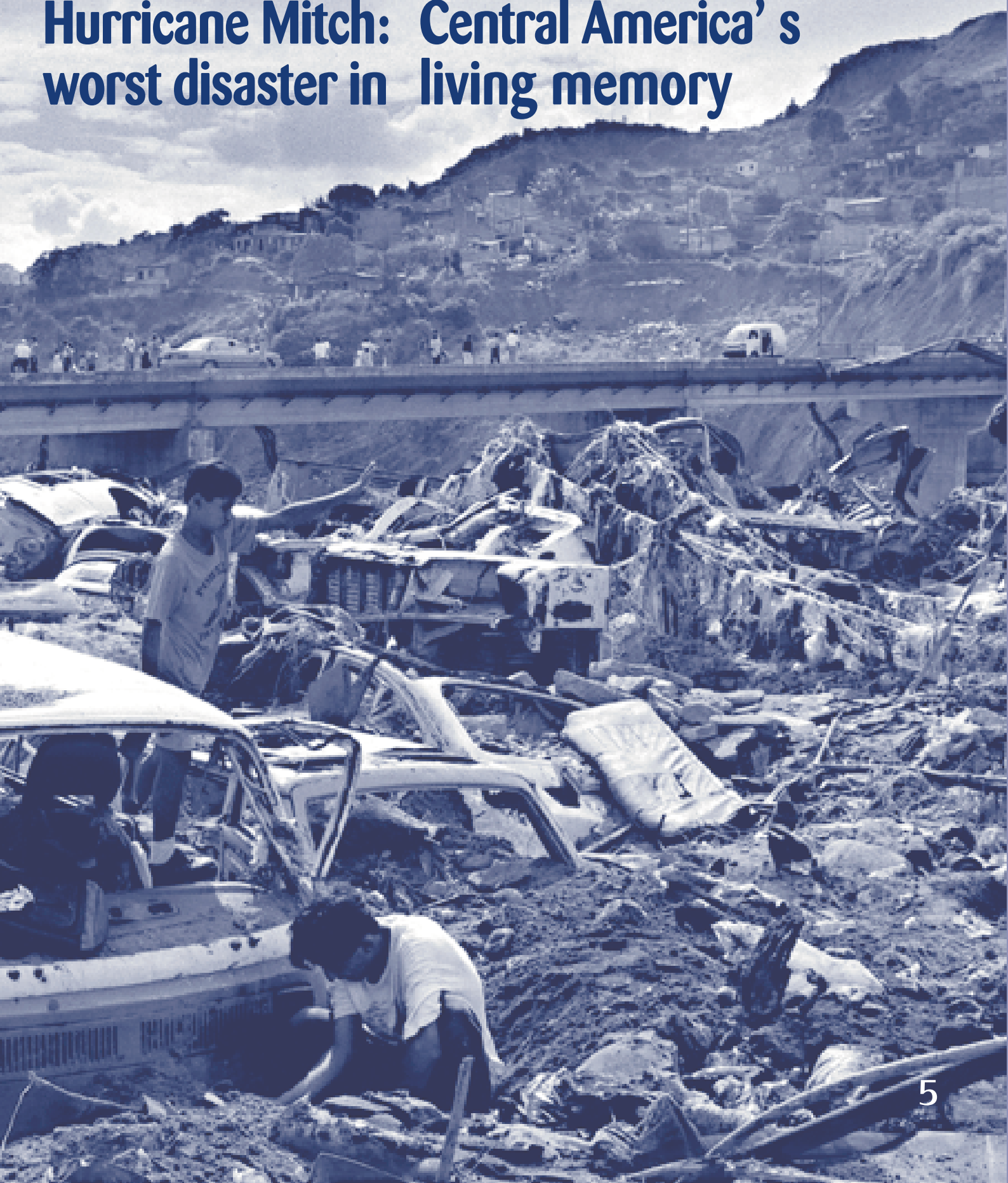
‘ We don't know what will happen to us now.... We may not be able to resettle in the same place, as the land is now considered dangerous ,



S. Salgado/Contrasto

The hurricane left a trail of wreckage in its wake

Hurricane Mitch: Central America's worst disaster in living memory



Monsoon floods devastate Bangladesh

Shar Banu lives in one of Dhaka's slums. She and her neighbours' fragile bamboo shelters are all clustered together on marshy land, some of which is submerged most of the year, amid piles of litter, old plastic bags and garbage. Their "houses" are one-room shelters, most of them owned by a landlord who charges rent for them. Shar Banu is a beneficiary of an ECHO-funded relief and rehabilitation project, carried out by Terre des Hommes Foundation-Italy in co-operation with Aparajeyo, a Bangladeshi NGO caring for street children.

'I am from Faridpur district, which I left in my childhood with my family to come to Dhaka. I lived in another slum before moving to this one about seven years ago. My husband died six years ago, and I was left alone with a son and four daughters, now aged between seven and 20. I work as a maid and earn 400 Taka (€7) per month. This is just enough to pay the rent for the room in which we live. My 18 year-old son is a rickshaw puller and our combined earnings barely enable us to survive. There is no way of describing our suffering during the floods. For about two weeks, we saw the water level rise day by day and tried to protect our belongings, such as the bed, by raising them above the level of the water. Then we all had to move to the rooftop with our essential belongings and our stove.

We spent almost three months on top of the house. The entire neighbourhood lived on their rooftops. We moved around by boat. The water level rose to half-fill our room. I went to work by boat every day, with my youngest child, and was lucky enough to be able to use my boss's house to wash myself and our clothes. The tube-well was submerged, so we had to go a long way to get drinking water. Once the water started receding, it took 15 to 20 days before we were able to move down from the roof.

‘My constant fear while we lived on the roof was that a child might drown in the night... my three-year-old nephew fell into the water in his sleep’

Our room was full of mud, the bed and walls were rotten, there were other people's belongings in the place and some of ours had floated away or had been stolen. My constant fear while we lived on the roof was that a child might drown. There were three nights on which I had to get into the water to rescue my three-year-old nephew who had fallen into the water in his sleep. The room across the street from ours collapsed, and has since been rebuilt by the landlord. We are trying to repair and replace things gradually. Our situation is very precarious. We are very vulnerable. What kept us going and gave us the strength we needed during the floods was the support and the assistance provided by Aparajeyo's team!

See also *In Brief*, page 19



Floodwaters sweep through Chinese countryside

Huang Yafei is 16. Her mother is handicapped, so Huang Yafei looks after her younger brother and sister, as well as working on the family farm. She lives in a village near Paizhou township, in Jiayu county, where more than 100,000 people were made homeless, about 40 people died and the loss of the harvest and livestock left many destitute. Here is her story of what happened on the day the floods hit her village:

'I was working in the garden that day, August 1. It was around eight in the evening and I saw someone coming from the dyke. He told me it was going to collapse and that I had better make a run for it. I was alone, my younger brother and sister were in another village. My father and all the men from the village were on the dyke, working with soldiers to reinforce it. My mother, who needs to be helped, was alone at home. I ran to the house and put my mother in a wheelchair. I took clothes for her and got to the dyke as fast as I could. I didn't take anything else, I was too scared, I wasn't really sure what to do. I didn't know where the water would come from, so I just thought of my mother and made for the dyke. I stayed there for two days, then joined my brother and my sister in another village. We went home at the end of September. The house was very dirty. A wall had collapsed and there were cracks in the other walls. I cleaned the whole house and my father repaired the wall. He used old bricks and mud instead of cement. We didn't get any help with repairs to the house as it had not been totally destroyed, so we had to manage by ourselves.

‘Around eight in the evening, I saw someone coming from the dyke. He told me it was going to collapse, and that I had better make a run for it’

But we were given food and my father got a little money, though it wasn't enough for us all to survive on. I got this jacket from the Red Cross. They gave us clothes and quilts because we lost all our winter clothes. When we escaped from the house, my mother and I, it was in summer and I didn't think of taking our winter clothes in the panic.... I don't know what will happen now. I would like to go to school but that isn't possible. I have to help my father because my mother can't work. That means I won't get the chance to go to school, and with these floods, life is going to be more difficult.'

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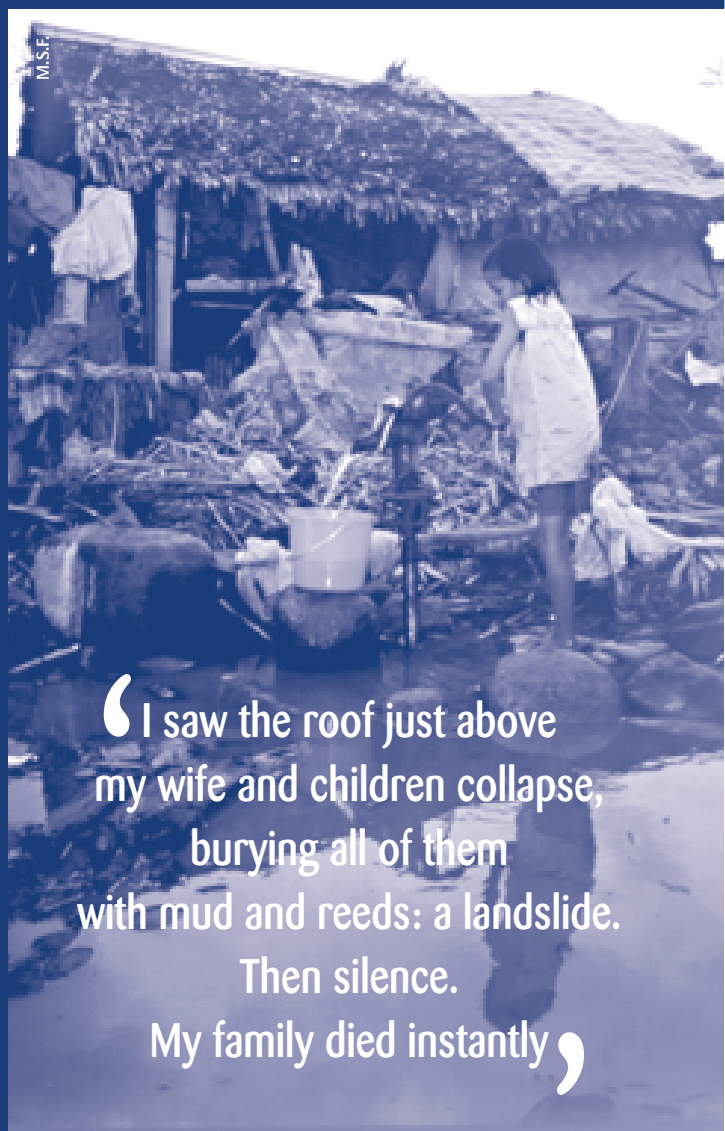
Flooding forced these Chinese villagers out of their homes to face a bleak future

Deadly typhoon hits Philippines

Renato Tianela, 40, was a garland vendor from Manila, caught in a disaster at Kilikilihan, San Miguel, Catanduanes. He lost his wife, Adelina, and their three daughters, Irene, 15, Rissa, 13, and Ria, 10, in a landslide that buried the house where they had sought shelter from the deadly storm that hit the region in October.

'We were staying at our parents' house at the time because we had come back to Catanduanes for a vacation. Our permanent home was in Manila where we sell Sampaguita* garlands for a living. While in San Miguel, I decided to stay on for a while to see if I could work on a small farm. I thought we could probably settle here and just supply garland producers in Manila with abaca fibre, used for making the string they need. My wife agreed she could take the abaca to Manila while I would take care of the fibre stripping on the farm. I started stripping abacas on October 19, two days before that fateful day. Shortly after five in the afternoon, we moved to my sister's house, because we thought our parents' old wooden house would collapse soon. When we reached the other house, we saw that several of our other relatives had already gone there too. By nine that night, there were 38 of us inside that small house, half of them children. At around 9:30 my wife and our daughters sat in one corner and tried to sleep (nobody could lie down as it was both cramped and flooded), while I stood nearby trying to rest my body on a wooden beam. Then it happened. In a flash, I saw the roof just above my wife and children collapse, burying all of them with mud and reeds: a landslide. There was the crash of the roof caving in, then silence. No moans or cries for help. My family died instantly. I was going to pull them out when the beam I was resting on fell and pinned my left foot. That's when I realised I had to get out before the landslide engulfed everything. In panic, I ripped off one of my toes trying to extricate my foot from under the beam.

I managed to get out before the whole building sank under a mountain of mud and reeds. Outside, I saw another survivor motioning at me and pointing towards his nephew who was unable to pull himself out of waist-deep mud. We tried to pull the young boy out. I couldn't help crying then. I raged at the thought that I wasn't able to save my family. I couldn't let this boy die. I pulled with all my might but we failed to pull him out. We later found that his feet had been trapped by wood and reeds under the mud. The boy died with his arms outstretched. Now I have practically nothing. How could anyone possibly replace the four most



'I saw the roof just above my wife and children collapse, burying all of them with mud and reeds: a landslide. Then silence. My family died instantly,'

important people in my life? Those that gave all the meaning to my existence? I'm just lost. I can't sleep properly. I gave away everything that reminds me of them but it's so hard not to think about them. In time, when my foot heals, I'll just go back in Manila and try to sell Sampaguita garlands again. I can't stay here in San Miguel. Since the disaster, I have been surviving off food aid. There were other things available from the Red Cross, from the Department of Social Welfare and Development, but I wasn't really interested in taking them. The food was the only thing I really wanted. It is still unclear to me what to do with my life. Maybe God has other plans. His will be done.'

*The Sampaguita is the fragrant white national flower of the Philippines. Sampaguita garlands are used as necklaces in celebrations, or to welcome guests.

El Niño wreaks global havoc

El Niño, the most devastating weather phenomenon on earth, caused widespread, freak climatic extremes in 1997-98. A recurrent pattern, El Niño is caused by warmer than usual waters in the eastern tropical Pacific. This time, it was closely followed by a sister phenomenon, La Niña, caused by colder than usual waters in the same area. Together, the pair took the brunt of blame for unprecedented natural catastrophes over the past two years, namely hurricanes, floods, drought and fires. Of the 117 million people affected, more than 21,000 died, some 540,000 contracted diseases, and about 4.9 million were left homeless. Estimates of global loss vary from US\$ 14 billion in structural damage, to more than US\$ 34 billion, including socio-economic impacts. The 1997-98 El Niño overtook the 1982-83 season as the deadliest on record. Throughout 1983, North America had highly unusual weather, Australia suffered severe drought and devastating bush fires. Sub-Saharan Africa had one of its worst droughts, and the monsoon failed to develop in the Indian Ocean. In 1982-83, some 2,000 lives were lost and total damage was estimated at US\$ 8-13 billion. Last year's El Niño "imposed continuing poverty on peoples and set back development in many parts of the globe". That was the conclusion that 450 delegates reached at the first intergovernmental meeting to review the 1997-98 El Niño.

Presentations

by reporting countries painted a grim picture of death, destruction... and sudden exposure to extreme health risk

They were at a meeting called by the United Nations' General Assembly in November 1998. Presentations by the 27 reporting countries painted a grim picture of death, destruction of housing and food reserves, disruption of food production and transport systems, and sudden exposure to extreme health risk. A new angle in 1998 was the shift from an El Niño to an unusually strong La Niña, a well-documented if less well-known recurrent phenomenon,

according to Peter Scholefield, Chief of the World Climate Data and Monitoring Programme at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), a UN agency. "El Niño faded from March to June 1998, and was replaced by a La Niña, which helps explain the late start to this year's hurricane season," he says. "El Niño is also associated with fewer hurricanes developing in the Caribbean basin." For many years, Peruvian fishermen were usually the first to notice the stirrings of El Niño, literally, Boy Child, so called because it appears around Christmas. The cold water Humboldt current from the south brings nutrient-rich water to the surface. When El Niño appears, that cold current is displaced by warmer water from the west that has fewer nutrients. Hence, the first link in the food chain is broken, leading to a collapse of ecosystems in the area. The fish disappear and the fishermen and the birdlife that depend on them are forced to look elsewhere.

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S. McCurry/Magnum

Tools of his trade: an Indian tailor caught in monsoon floods saves his most precious possession, his sewing machine

Global havoc

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These days, meteorologists and oceanographers can usually detect the stirrings of El Niño before anything is observed along the South American coast. They have sensors, including very sensitive satellite-borne instruments that can measure the temperature of the ocean surface, and instruments launched from ships and moored along the equatorial belt measuring the ocean temperature below the surface. This El Niño showed nature at its wildest. Bizarre early effects in August–October 1997 included record flooding in Chile, marlin caught in unusually warm waters off the coast of Washington State instead of warmer tropical waters, extensive smoke pollution over Indonesia and a strangely quiet Atlantic hurricane season. At the same time, it brought on a dramatic, unprecedented drought across regions of South America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific that contributed to a drastic decline in agricultural output worldwide.

Peru experienced the worst weather in recorded history. Mudslides turned the ground to slush, and riverbeds turned into raging torrents. The country came to a grinding halt when 30 major bridges were washed away. A desert in the north of the country was transformed into a 20-foot deep lake. In Northern Chile, ferocious floods left 80,000 homeless. In the desert, flowers bloomed after the first rainfall in 400 years. Blizzards struck Chilean towns. Three hurricanes ripped through Mexico and 16 inches (30 cm) of rain fell in Acapulco. In one day alone, 400 people died in flash floods. Snow fell in Guadalajara for the first time in 100 years. In the middle of 1997, the first fires broke out in Sumatra and Borneo and spread throughout Indonesia, creating a heavy haze that blanketed entire countries with thick, paralysing smoke. Tropical rainforest was destroyed and the population of orangutans was threatened with extinction. There were an unprecedented number of named storms, eight of them, in the Atlantic in September 1998 –Danielle, Earl, Frances, Georges, Hermine, Ivan, Jeanne and Karl. For the first time this century, on September 24, there were four Atlantic hurricanes active at the same time, all associated with La Niña. El Niño did not spare wealthier parts of the Americas. The US experienced a particularly wet, warm and wild year during 1998, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. El Niño-related winter storms and floods from December 1997 to March 1998 damaged property and crops in California and were blamed for 17 deaths. Storms, floods and tornadoes in the south-east caused over US\$ 1 billion in damage and 132 deaths. Florida experienced record rainfall and endured its deadliest-ever tornado, with 41 people killed and 800 residences destroyed.

Hawaii endured severe drought for about six months. Further north in Canada, a violent ice storm devastated the east in December 1997. In Africa, heavy rain across central and southern Mozambique, the north of Zimbabwe and parts of Zambia caused flash floods. Kenya was particularly hard hit; many villages were cut off and the main Nairobi–Mombasa road was impassable.



More than 1,500 people died of malaria spread by floodwaters. The extraordinarily fierce El Niño has been unjustly blamed for all freak weather over the period in which it was active. But experts say Hurricane Mitch cannot be directly connected with El Niño. Mitch, the worst natural disaster in modern history, ripped through Central America in October 1998, killing over 11,000 and leaving at least two and a half million homeless. Five million were affected one way or another. However, as Mr Scholefield says,

“In the Chilean desert, flowers bloomed after the first rainfall in 400 years. In Mexico, snow fell in Guadalajara for the first time in 100 years”

“a lot more research is needed into these complex climatic relationships”. If any good came of the latest El Niño, it was this: scientists around the world were for the first time able to observe a major climate event from beginning to end, and to issue valuable forecasts to help mitigate potential impacts. By late 1997–early 1998, forecasters were able to predict the arrival of La Niña during 1998. With accurate predictions, task forces can be set up in advance, financial aid sought, food, water, medical and shelter supplies prepared and an epidemiological

Victim of Hurricane Mitch: A mother takes refuge in a makeshift shelter on the Mexico–Guatemala border



‘ The extraordinarily fierce El Niño has been unjustly blamed for all freak weather over the period in which it was active ,

Weather and health: an intricate relationship

How many people died or fell ill because of El Niño? Accurate counts are impossible, because health effects result from a complex interaction of abnormal weather, combined with factors such as population, overcrowding, health status, sanitation and infrastructure. Fortunately, experts are gaining a better understanding of the intricate relationship between global weather patterns and infectious disease. This is due partly to recent advances in molecular biology, meteorology and satellite imaging, which in turn are ushering in a new interdisciplinary field of research. "The impact [of catastrophic weather] on human health is extremely serious in the long and short term," says Professor Debarati Guha-Sapir of the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, Université Catholique de Louvain, in Belgium. "For example, severe flooding and droughts increase the incidence of acute respiratory infections and gastro-intestinal diseases among poor and malnourished populations." This pushes up mortality rates as a direct result, says Professor Sapir.

Extended periods of rain or higher temperatures have long-term impacts on insects such as mosquitoes that carry disease, particularly malaria and Dengue fever. Both of these are spreading to highland areas, due to rising temperatures and unusual rain patterns. Dry seasons bring on meningitis and other diseases such as cholera. "We know cholera spreads like wildfire among weakened populations with inadequate water sources," she says. Recent research suggests that increases in the rates of malaria, cholera, Rift Valley fever and hantavirus pulmonary syndrome are associated with El Niño. The 1993 outbreak of deadly hantavirus pulmonary syndrome in the Southwest US has also been shown to be related to increased rainfalls caused by El Niño. According to Dr Paul Epstein of Harvard Medical School in the US, floods foster fungi in the ground, help encourage mosquitoes and cause rodents to flee their burrows. To make matters worse, raw sewage often gets washed into water supplies. Droughts can also succour insects such as aphids and mosquitoes as running streams dry into puddles perfect for breeding. In Colombia, the incidence of malaria has risen up to 20 per cent in the year after an El Niño. Satellite data has also shown a link between El Niño in the early 1990s and cholera outbreaks in Peru and along the Bay of Bengal. Dr Epstein reported to the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in January 1999 that clusters of diseases have been tracked in places where extreme weather has occurred. His team at the Center for Health and the Global Environment first mapped severe weather events, then overlapped these with reports of disease outbreaks. There was a close match. "In Latin America, extreme weather was associated with outbreaks of malaria, dengue fever and cholera," their report says. "In Indonesia and surrounding island nations, delayed monsoons and the compounding effects of local farming practices led to prolonged fires, widespread respiratory illness and significant loss of wildlife."

Dr Epstein thinks global warming is making such weather patterns increasingly extreme: "I think it's a combination of El Niño, La Niña and climate change".

Professor Sapir urges the international community to use tools now available to act before emergencies and crises break out, instead of reacting after the event. She urgently calls for better planning and a greater understanding of the risks. "The attention on El Niño will diminish as the months go by... now is the time to do a rapid assessment of human health problems expected to appear as a result of such climatic changes. Strategies or programmes to address these should be put in place now," she says.

surveillance system set up to prevent the outbreak of disease. Despite more sophisticated technology and methodologies, weather-watchers still have to expect the unexpected, says Mr Scholefield. "With projected global warming over the next century, climate models tell us to expect more hotter days and fewer colder days. But for violent events such as hurricanes, the models are not definitive enough. We know that when you add increased warmth to the atmosphere, it increases the energy and moisture available and the potential is there for greater occurrences of severe weather."

In future, more people, particularly vulnerable people, will be affected by extreme weather. To make the best use of communication technology and new developments in climate prediction, WMO has developed the Climate Information and Prediction Services (CLIPS) project, which should help to optimise the use of climate information and prediction services in decision-making and management of climate-sensitive sectors. "There isn't the same communication technology in developing countries," says Scholefield. "We have to educate people. We've seen the impact of what happens to flat, fertile areas where people settle. Every 50 or 100 years, the settlements are obliterated. We have to make use of the climate information we have now on droughts, floods and heat waves and use it for planning purposes." For example, climatic experts conclude there is a high risk of drought in Zambia, Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and South Africa in 1999. Rainfall levels will be closely monitored during the early part of the year, a crucial period for the main harvest. An estimated 20 to 25 million people could be severely affected. As for the next El Niño, Scholefield says that forecasters do not know when it will be – but they do not expect one in 1999.

Commission organises joint response

An interservice group, co-chaired by ECHO and DG VIII, was set up within the European Commission to implement a two-stage action plan – a rapid response to immediate needs and a coordinated effort on rehabilitation. According to Belen Martinez, Coordinator for ECHO actions on El Niño, the group facilitates close consultation, enabling those involved in aid to respond coherently to the devastation. "People around the world are panicking and feeling threatened by El Niño. This will calm down the panic and allow us to assess requests by countries claiming to be affected," says Ms Martinez. "To help us gather information, we've opened offices in several countries including Ecuador and Peru." EU Member States are kept up to date on the work of the group, which includes representatives of all services concerned – DG VIII, ECHO, DG VI, DG XIX, the Secretariat General and the Legal Service. ECHO is working closely with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and other organisations in coordinating a donor response to El Niño.

A two-stage plan combines a rapid response to immediate needs, and a coordinated effort on rehabilitation

They agreed:

- To improve information exchange
- To raise awareness in vulnerable communities, particularly in Africa.
- To analyse the food aid market and identify needs, and to reinforce prevention, preparedness and local mechanisms for coping on the ground.
- To explore the feasibility of joint missions.

The European Commission made available € 34.84 million for assistance in the wake of the 1997–98 El Niño.

DIPECHO: an innovative, proactive approach

Last November, Commissioner Emma Bonino visited Central America in the wake of the worst natural disaster in history – Hurricane Mitch – and witnessed first hand the need for an integrated, grass-roots level disaster preparedness programme. She urged the EU to take a prominent role in the reconstruction process. The basis of ECHO's Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Preparedness Programme (DIPECHO) is risk assessment and disaster limitation. The main objective is to protect communities at risk while ensuring that any new action is sustainable and helps the people it is intended to reach. While unavoidable natural disasters strike and devastate communities at random, it is possible to predict where to expect them.

Reducing the vulnerability of people and places saves lives, curbs destruction and ultimately reduces the need for humanitarian aid. Strengthening people's capacity to manage unavoidable natural disasters is possible, which is why ECHO has developed a twin-track global and regional approach. While ECHO supports selected innovative projects through its global programme, DIPECHO started focusing in the first instance on the most vulnerable regions: the Caribbean, Central America and South East Asia, including Bangladesh. In addition to responding to specific requests for funding from NGOs, international organisations or governments, ECHO initiates strategies in close consultation with partners.

It has worked with networks of experts and technical bodies to draw on Member States' resources and experience, with the assistance of the Brussels-based Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED).

"We have taken a diagnostic approach in these regions, focusing on identifying hazards, assessing the vulnerability of the people and the existing capacity to respond to disasters. Relevant local regional or national policies as well as the current and future external support received is also taken into consideration so we can identify gaps," says Jean-Claude Heyraud, ECHO's Disaster Prevention Counsellor. To date, 29 projects out of 91 submitted have been selected and approved in an Action Plan. (There are six projects in Central America, 11 in the Caribbean and 12 in South East Asia.) At the same time, DIPECHO is flexible enough to react to disasters. For example, in the wake of Hurricane Mitch, projects already underway have been modified to take into account the new situation. Already there is ongoing training for the local population, risk maps are being drawn up and proactive strategies are being developed to reduce the impact of future hurricanes, volcanoes, earthquakes and floods. Since 1994, ECHO has financed 130 projects, totalling about € 25 million, with the annual budget increasing by about € 1 million each year (this does not include funds from ECHO's global budget, already at work in the three regions).

Crisis in Kosovo

U. Meissner/UNHCR



‘ Open armed conflict led to a mass displacement of people fleeing the violence, and to a flow of refugees to neighbouring countries ,

Rising tension and sporadic violence eventually led to open armed conflict between Serb security forces and the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK). ECHO reacted rapidly to mass displacement of those fleeing the violence within Kosovo, and to the flow of refugees to Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. ECHO tried to implement lessons learnt in Bosnia by providing victims of conflict with a complete aid package. It focused initially on emergency health care via mobile clinics, water and sanitation, food and hygiene. It turned to emergency rehabilitation (plastic sheeting, doors, window frames, construction/insulation materials for floors and ceilings) after the precarious truce that followed the Holbrooke-Milosevic agreement in October 1998. ECHO provided goods and services to help victims survive the winter, then funded basic inputs for growing food, to reduce dependency on aid. No solution to the conflict was in sight at the end of the year.

**Funding made available in 1998: € 21.6 million.
As at end-April 1999, € 182 million had been approved for this crisis.**

Rebellion threatens future in Congo

‘ Vast areas remained beyond the control of either the government in Kinshasa or the rebel coalition, with no early resolution in sight ,

P. Andrews/Reuters

A new rebellion in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), formerly known as Zaire, challenged Laurent Kabila's power in August, less than two years after he took over. The uprising, supported mainly by Rwanda and Uganda, quickly spread towards Bas Congo and the capital, Kinshasa, but was contained due mainly to military support from Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Foreign intervention effectively divided the country and vast areas remained beyond the control of either the Government of Kinshasa or the rebel coalition, with no early resolution in sight. The humanitarian situation inevitably worsened. ECHO aimed to encourage aid agencies to act together. The DRC faces serious shortages of food, medicines and other essentials. ECHO helped to re-activate basic healthcare in the worst-affected areas and tried to cover the most urgent needs in the Bas-Congo and the capital, Kinshasa, as well as continuing other assistance.

Funding made available: €12.13 million

Afghanistan faces earthquakes, rising tension all year

R. LeMoigne/UNHCR

Two massive earthquakes hit this war-torn country in 1998, but relief efforts were hampered by very bad weather conditions. Reports of massacres of civilians, mass executions of prisoners of war (including reports of the killing of Iranian diplomats during fighting in Mazar-i-Sharif) and air and rocket attacks on residential areas led to EU condemnation throughout 1998.

ECHO supported a campaign calling on the international community to show support for Afghan women struggling to survive ,

ECHO supported UN efforts to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan, as well as an international campaign to coincide with International Women's Day, calling on the international community to show support for Afghan women struggling to survive under a particularly harsh interpretation of Islam. NGOs were forced out of Kabul in July for non-compliance with Taliban directives, and ECHO suspended aid in the capital. International humanitarian organisations pulled out in August after US strikes against alleged terrorist bases and ensuing security concerns. In December, ECHO resumed work in regions in the greatest need. The focus was on de-mining, safe drinking water and sanitation, shelter for returning displaced families and relief for women heads of households and other vulnerable groups. Funding also covered basic healthcare, especially for women and children, the supply of artificial limbs, and food aid for the region of Hazarajat, which faced a Taliban blockade.

Funding made available: € 19.77 million

Insurrection in Guinea Bissau

Guinea Bissau is at war again. The army, led by General Ansumane Mané, staged an insurrection opposing President Joao Bernardo (Nino) Vieira in June 1998, following mutual accusations of involvement in illegal arms trafficking with rebels in neighbouring Casamance. This led to some 250,000 people – a quarter of the population – fleeing their homes. In early November, both sides accepted a peace deal, but the situation stayed very tense. Getting humanitarian aid to those in need was often hampered by obstruction at the Senegalese border, on the grounds that goods could be diverted to rebels in Casamance or the mutineers. ECHO was one of the few organisations able to overcome this blockade, thanks to the ECHO Flight service, which gained clearance to fly emergency medical supplies and staff into Bissau.

Funding made available: € 2.85 million

Some 250,000 people, a quarter of the population, fled their homes to avoid the fighting



Civilians face barbarism in Sierra Leone

Vultures picked at bodies in the streets of the capital, Freetown, after fighting in January 1999 between the Sierra Leone United Front (RUF) rebels and West African troops backing the government. Among the latest horrors in over eight years of civil war, civilians were exposed to massacres and barbaric mutilations, including the severing of limbs.

ECHO focused on enabling NGOs to carry out health, nutrition and food security programmes for about 330,000 people displaced in Sierra Leone, as well as among 150,000 refugees thought to have crossed into Guinea, and 50,000 people taking shelter in Liberia since a 1997 coup.

Funding made available: € 9.9 million, including grants to cover refugees in Guinea and Liberia

‘ Among the latest horrors in over eight years of war, civilians were exposed to massacres and barbaric mutilations, including the severing of limbs ,

Misery for over a million people in South Sudan

Restrictions on flying over Sudanese airspace and lack of infrastructure made it even more difficult to reach those in need ,

In May 1998, about a million people in South Sudan were facing crisis in Africa's biggest country after 16 years of civil war. Two successive poor harvests compounded the misery, and by mid-July, Médecins sans Frontières quoted a mortality figure of nearly 70/10,000 a day in Ajiep, Bahr el Ghazal (experts consider a rate of 2/10,000 as an emergency out of control). Restrictions on flying over Sudanese airspace and lack of infrastructure made it even more difficult to reach those in need.

ECHO tried to broker an aid package enabling the ICRC, UNICEF and European NGOs to provide emergency relief. It facilitated the purchase and transport of food which enabled WFP to distribute 15,000 tonnes of food per month (mainly through air-drops) from September to November. Other priorities were health services, safe drinking water and air transport logistics. Total Commission support for humanitarian aid in this crisis in 1998 stands at 75 million.

Funding made available: € 33.96 million



C. Steele-Perkins/Magnum

Albania

Funding made available
€ 11 million

Thousands of ethnic Albanian refugees from Kosovo fled to north-eastern Albania. ECHO supported health services and health institutions to provide support to those most vulnerable. On the domestic front, Albania is still suffering the consequences of descending into near-anarchy in 1997, after the collapse of pyramid financial schemes. Law enforcement is still precarious, as few of the weapons looted at that time have been recovered. ECHO provided support for public health and social services sectors (including rehabilitation of institutions for the handicapped) as well as water and sanitation facilities. And € 5 million was spent on a food security program to assist the government's progress towards stability.

See also Conflict Zone, page 13; Former Yugoslavia, below

Algeria

Funding made available
€ 17.2 million

Though there were renewed direct contacts between the Polisario Front and Morocco, prospects for repatriating Sahrawi refugees in Algeria faded. Getting food supplies to them was a high priority, and a major part of ECHO's global plan, which also included medicines and hygiene products.

Angola

Funding made available
€ 19 million*

Angola's 35-year-old civil war flared up again. Years of indiscriminate bombings and millions of landmines exacerbated poverty and mass movements of people in one of the potentially richest countries on the continent. ECHO gave priority to emergency and preventive health care, remedial food aid, therapeutic and supplementary nutrition (including intensive nutrition operations integrated into paediatric services), as well as improving water supplies and sanitation. There are some three million displaced people.

*approved in December 1997 for projects implemented during 1998

Bangladesh

Funding made available
€ 8.45 million

Three-quarters of Bangladesh was stricken by the worst flooding in the country's history. In the Northwest and Central districts alone, up to 30 million people were affected. ECHO rushed through aid in September, focussing on food aid, medical support, purification of water supplies and provision of sanitation services. In October, ECHO funding provided further relief through shelter, medicines and supplementary feeding programmes for the malnourished. As flood levels receded, support activities helped to reduce dependency on aid through crop recovery programs and the provision of seeds and other agricultural inputs; low cost housing for those whose homes were destroyed, as well as income-generating inputs such as livestock, fish fry and tools.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

see Former Yugoslavia

Burundi

see Great Lakes region

Cambodia

Funding made available
€ 10 million

Cambodia is still in a precarious situation as it faces the aftermath of conflict amid the ever-present risk of natural disasters. In 1998, ECHO implemented its first Global Plan for the country, targeting the people of the capital, Phnom Penh, and the provinces of Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Kompong Thom, Preah Vihear, Kratie, Takeo and the refugee camps in Surin and Trat in Thailand. ECHO's focus: improving access to basic health care in remote and vulnerable areas, supplying medicines, assistance to landmine victims, opening up and rehabilitating areas destroyed by conflict, assistance to refugees and internally-displaced persons and humanitarian de-mining.

Central America

Hurricane Mitch: Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala
(See also Voices, pages 4 and 5.)
Funding made available
€ 16.3 million

Life in Central America was rendered nightmarish when a record-breaking 1998 Atlantic hurricane season saw Mitch blast across the region in late October. An estimated 11,000 people died, and 13,000 remain missing. About 80 percent of basic food crops were affected in the four countries hit. ECHO focused on providing clean drinking water, and preventing epidemics of insect-borne diseases – stagnant water provided mosquitoes with new breeding grounds. ECHO also helped NGOs to rehabilitate housing where possible. In Nicaragua, storm damage was compounded by the eruption of Volcano Casita near one of the areas worst affected. Many ECHO-funded NGOs already on the spot were able to re-orient their work and to deploy nearly € 3 million to this end.

Other funding for Central America: € 4.375 million

See also Voices, page 4; El Niño, page 9

China

Funding made available
€ 4.73 million

An unprecedented flood disaster hit the country. Believed to have been triggered by El Niño, it caused significant damage near the country's main rivers. About 225 million people, a fifth of the population, were affected. Over 3,000 died, and almost 14 million were displaced. More than five million houses were destroyed or damaged and 25 million hectares of farm land affected. ECHO responded with food aid and water purification to avoid the spread of water-borne epidemics. There was also funding for rehabilitating medical and social institutions, especially those taking care of the orphaned, handicapped and elderly.

See also Voices, page 8; El Niño, page 9

Colombia

Funding made available
€ 6.5 million

Disputes between armed forces, guerrillas, paramilitary groups and drug traffickers are often lethal in Colombia. Security in everyday life is tenuous as a result. The reasons for internal conflict in Colombia are complex: political differences and exclusion, land distribution, control of businesses and drug trafficking. Violations of human rights and anti-drugs policies that involve scorching the land have resulted in internal displacement becoming a massive problem. ECHO provided aid for areas affected by expulsions, as well as help for those returning home. It also tried to reinforce international humanitarian law as a contribution to the peace process. ECHO funded partners in actions such as providing mobile healthcare units, rehabilitating health facilities and vaccination programs to meet the needs of traumatised and scattered communities.

Congo (Democratic Republic of)

see Conflict Zone, page 14

Croatia

see Former Yugoslavia

Cuba

Funding made available
€ 9 million

Hurricane Georges hit Cuba in September, and ECHO responded swiftly with emergency funds. The public health system is suffering the side-effects of economic crisis, and ECHO's 1998 Global Plan aimed to provide a healthcare safety net, rehabilitating hospitals and aimed at particularly vulnerable sectors of the community:

the chronically ill, children, pregnant women and old people. Funding also covered food aid, especially powdered milk, oil and meat; medicines and inputs for the local production of medicines, medical and other supplies for hospitals. There were also micro-projects to cover the needs of target populations including elderly people without families to support them, and handicapped children. ECHO funded a community-based Disaster Preparedness Program to train communities vulnerable to natural disasters in logistics and disaster preparation.

El Salvador

see Central America

Eritrea and Ethiopia

Funding made available
€ 3.98 million

In May-June, war broke out again among these neighbours in one of the most disaster-prone areas in Africa. ECHO provided almost € 4 million (divided roughly equally between the two countries) for assistance to up to 500,000 people affected. The ICRC got special funding to protect those deported and taken prisoner during the conflict and to the organisation in disseminating information on international humanitarian law.

Yugoslavia Federal Republic of

see former Yugoslavia

Former Yugoslavia

Funding made available
€ 123.097 million

many projects to local authorities.

In 1998 the European Commission provided a massive package of humanitarian aid worth € 123.097 million for former Yugoslavia. This brings ECHO's contribution to a total of over € 1,600 million since the beginning of the conflict. Training and capacity-building became increasingly important as ECHO moved towards handing over *Kosovo: see Conflict Zone, page 13*

In the **Federal Republic of Yugoslavia**, ECHO continued food aid and basic social services to the most vulnerable among over 500,000 refugees from Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, while stepping up efforts with UNHCR to enable refugees to return to their homes.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, ECHO continued to support those returning home through integrated rehabilitation programmes in close co-operation with other Commission services and the Office of the High Representative. Though 1998 was proclaimed the 'year of return' in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the obstacles among Serbs, Croats and Muslims remained overwhelming. More than 800,000 people were still displaced within Bosnia and Herzegovina at the end of the year. Other refugees remained in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Croatia and EU host countries. ECHO focused on supporting minority returns through small, flexible pilot projects, especially in rural areas, in order to attract larger communities to follow suit. ECHO not only rehabilitates houses, it lays on basic utilities (water, electricity) and repairs schools where possible. The most vulnerable in Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to benefit from essential humanitarian aid – food, hygiene, medicine, winter items and social services – while increasing emphasis was put on strengthening local structures such as the Red Cross and social centres. The poor quality of drinking water and food, particularly in Republika Srpska, led ECHO to provide special assistance to re-establish essential public health controls and water supply systems.

In **Croatia**, ECHO went on with essential food aid to those most vulnerable, while stepping up efforts to promote the return of refugees from FRY and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The return process was boosted by the adoption of a new government plan for return in 1998.



R. LeMoigne/UNHCR

Great Lakes region
Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Republic of Congo
Funding made available
€ 77.637 million

The situation stayed volatile in this troubled region. ECHO developed two Global Plans, making available a total of € 77.637 million for humanitarian aid, mainly in Burundi, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

Burundi

For most of the past five years, Burundi has been embroiled in a vicious civil war that has so far claimed more than 200,000 lives. From July 1996 to January 1999, it struggled with harsh economic sanctions imposed by neighbouring countries in response to the bloodless coup d'état that brought Pierre Buyoya back to power in June 1996.

WFP estimates that 300,000 people are suffering from the effects of famine. Instability and sporadic fighting triggered massive population movements. Some 500,000 Burundians (almost 10 percent of the population) are displaced, and 300,000 Burundians have taken refuge outside the country. ECHO aimed to reinforce the capacities of the Ministry of Health, hospitals and regional health centres, providing sanitation and health services for the displaced and meeting food needs.

Congo
Democratic Republic of (formerly known as Zaire)

see Conflict Zone, page 14

Rwanda

Many humanitarian problems lingered on because of the government's lack of resources. But access to areas with the greatest needs was limited because of insecurity resulting from civil strife, and humanitarian organisations became potential soft targets. Those caught in fighting in the north-west of the country were particularly vulnerable,

and the number of displaced people was estimated at over 600,000 by the end of the year. ECHO responded by assisting NGOs and the UNHCR to meet some of the basic shelter, health, water and nutritional needs of around 31,000 refugees from the DRC living in camps; and some of the 131,000 detainees, as well as 6,393 unaccompanied minors and 85,000 households run by children.

Tanzania

Tanzania, a bastion of stability in the region, has traditionally provided a haven for huge numbers of refugees from its troubled neighbours to the west. There are currently over 270,000 Burundian and 70,000 Congolese refugees living in 10 refugee camps in the remote regions of Kagera and Kigoma. ECHO provides the lion's share of funding for the

massive refugee operation implemented by UNHCR and partners such as WFP and IFRC. The country also had to contend with the devastating effects of El Niño rains, which devastated agriculture, destroyed much of the country's dilapidated social infrastructure, and caused a flare-up in water-related diseases such as malaria and cholera. ECHO financed emergency interventions by UN and NGO partners in response to these crises.

See also *El Niño*, page 9

Georgia

Funding made available
€ 6.41 million

Conflict erupted in neighbouring Abkhazia in mid-May, forcing approximately 30,000 people of Mingrelian and Georgian ethnic origin to flee into Georgia itself. Most of them took shelter in the west of the country where ECHO funded NGOs carrying out emergency programs, providing drinking water, sanitation, and basic food aid.

Guinea Bissau

see Conflict Zone, page 16

Honduras

see Central America

Iraq

Funding made available
€ 14 million

ECHO earmarked humanitarian aid worth € 14 million as a complement to the Security Council's Oil for Food program and to provide humanitarian relief during the United Nations embargo. Its program focused on support for malnourished children, aid for landmine victims, renovation of water supplies, and rehabilitation of hospitals

and sanitation services. There was also support for children in special institutions for the handicapped and in orphanages.

Jordan

see Middle East

Kosovo

see Conflict Zone, page 13

Lebanon

see Middle East

Mali

Funding made available
€ 5 million

People are gradually returning to Northern Mali after five years of conflict there, but now they face a battle against drought and disease. ECHO helped to support the provision of health cover and to provide water supplies and food for both people and livestock, all with the aim of making Mali's communities self-sufficient in the long run.

Rwanda

see Great Lakes region

Middle East

Israel, Palestine, Jordan,
Lebanon and Syria

Funding made available
€ 10.9 million

The consequences of conflict and ongoing instability, flows of refugees and internally displaced people and a high concentration of people crowded into small areas continued to affect the capacity of these countries to provide health cover. ECHO helped by supporting the rehabilitation of health infrastructure, health centres, hospitals, emergency health services (including ambulances) and the provision of medical equipment. It also

backed projects enabling organisations to conduct vaccination campaigns, and to train local medical staff.

Sierra Leone

see Conflict Zone, page 17

Nicaragua

see Central America

Somalia

Funding made available
€ 4 million

Lack of central government and precarious security continued in 1998, making ongoing international humanitarian assistance essential. Mogadishu in particular was very volatile, forcing agencies to withdraw expatriates from some areas for most of the year. The outbreak of full-scale war between Ethiopia and Eritrea could destabilise Somalia still

further. In contrast, the north of the country was relatively stable, enabling a rehabilitation programme to start. ECHO focused on medical and nutrition projects in Mogadishu and Southern Somalia.

North Korea

Funding made available
€ 4.665 million

The centrally-planned economy of North Korea (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) has collapsed, leading to chronic food shortages and a lack of resources with which to import supplies. The health system too has become increasingly dilapidated. ECHO supported medical aid and therapeutic nutritional programs to help meet the

immediate needs of targeted populations, especially children. But food aid alone cannot provide a solution, and the European Commission believes that increasing account should be given to the structural causes of the shortages. The disintegration of the health system affects the health needs of the entire country. ECHO support has assisted specialist organisations of the United Nations and non-governmental organisations to provide and support emergency health cover, public health, water and sanitation, and assistance in coping with the effects of harsh winters.

South, Central America–El Niño

Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay,
Argentina, Uruguay, Venezuela, Nicaragua

Funding made available
€ 9.75 million

Central and South America bore the brunt of chaos and destruction that El Niño inflicted on the world in 1997-98. Effects varied from drought and dry weather fanning brush fires, to heavy rains in the deserts of Chile, as well as early and late super-typhoons. ECHO financed emergency aid for victims of floods, fires and hurricanes: food, water, medicines and basic sanitation measures. It also backed awareness and implementation of disaster preparedness programs.

Total funding made available for South and Central America in 1998: € 32.325 million

See also *El Niño*, page 9

Tajikistan

Funding made available
€ 16.8 million

Despite a peace accord in 1997 which ended a civil war, the situation in Tajikistan is still very precarious, both politically and in terms of day-to-day life. The country is one of the poorest in the former Soviet Union, and there are humanitarian needs of all kinds. Harsh weather in 1998 devastated crops and contaminated water supplies, and up to 85 percent

of the population of about 6 million is living in poverty. ECHO is supporting food aid for up to 400,000 people, as well as providing most of the supplies for hospitals.

Palestine

see Middle East

Thailand

Funding made available
€ 4.644 million

ECHO funded NGOs supporting refugee camps on the Burmese-Thai border, home to about 115,000 people from Burmese ethnic minorities. Karen, Mon and Karenni refugees are living in some 15 camps after fleeing repression in their own country. The funding covers food aid, health care and provision of artificial limbs.

Philippines

see Voices, page 8

Note:

Unless otherwise stated, funding shown refers to financial decisions made in 1998. However, contracts may be implemented during a period spanning two calendar years. This is indicated where relevant.

For a complete listing of financial decisions, see *Facts and Figures*, page 28



A. Hollmann/UNHCR

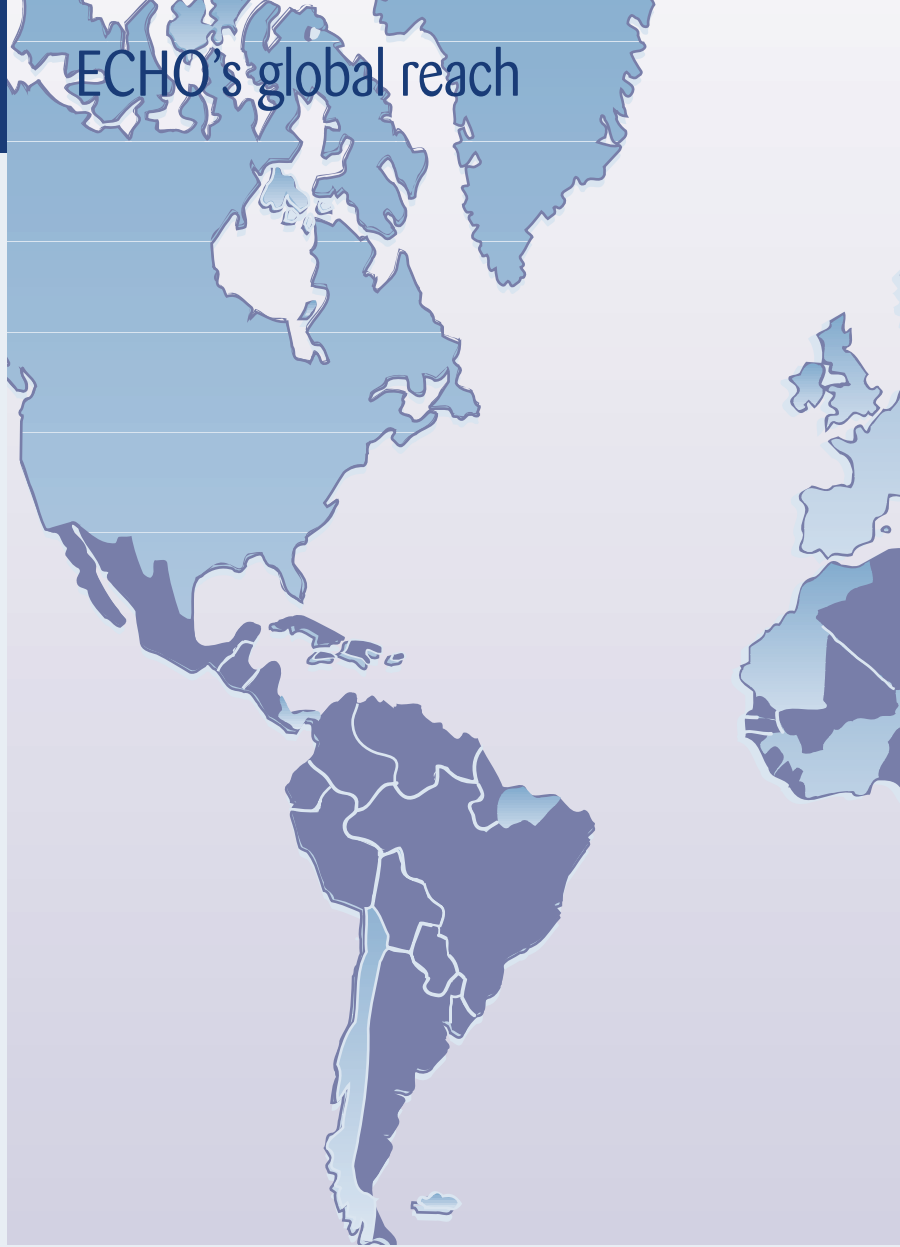
Evaluation

Quality control to ensure high standards in aid

ECHO has a unit dedicated to organising evaluations of ECHO-funded programmes. Evaluations are carried out by independent consultants to ensure impartiality. The Commission's Financial Control audited ECHO's evaluation work in 1998, and commended its quality and usefulness to operational units.

In 1998, the unit focused on two complementary global evaluations. The first covered all Commission-funded humanitarian aid operations carried out between January 1991 and July 1996. The second covered all ECHO-funded operations since July 1996. Evaluation reports were due to be completed in the first half of 1999. Political and operational follow-up, based on the lessons learnt in the process of examining operations, will then complete the exercise.

In the course of 1998, the unit also organised four evaluations of humanitarian aid programmes in specific countries. These covered all ECHO-funded humanitarian aid operations in Colombia, Peru, Albania and Laos. Their aim, as always, was to assist both ECHO and its partners by identifying where and how improvements could be made. The unit also launched three methodological studies. One consisted of a revision of the ECHO Operational Manual for the Evaluation of Humanitarian Aid, a guide first published in 1996. A new version of the manual will incorporate lessons learnt, and will be made available in the course of 1999. The two other studies focus on the applicability of economic and non-economic indicators for evaluating emergency operations. These two studies are complementary and a manual on the use of the indicators will be published.



Finances

Double-checks on spending

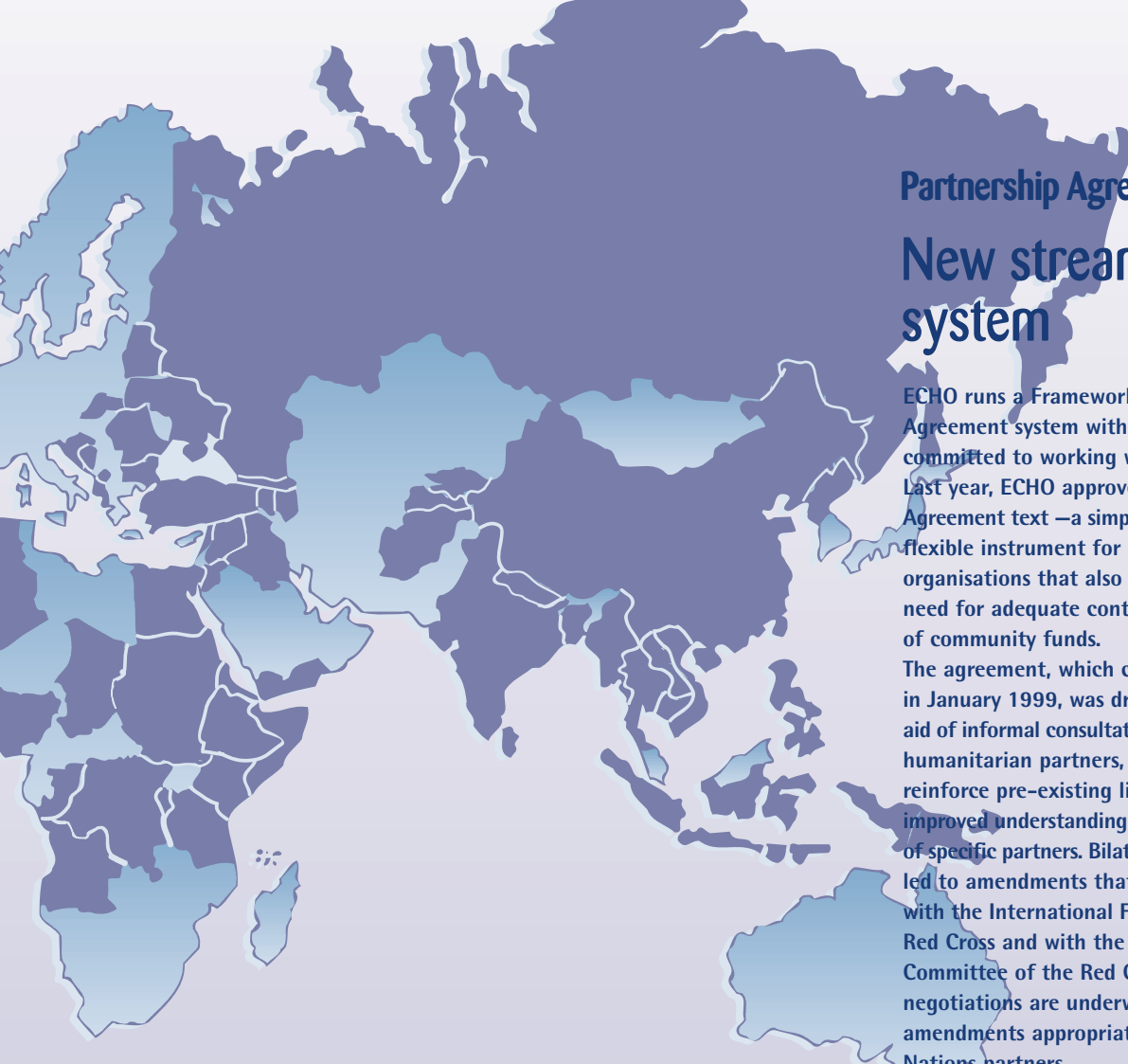
ECHO's budget for 1998 was € 517 million, against € 437.8 million in 1997. Initially set at € 325.1 million, the 1998 budget was reinforced from reserves in September 1998 because of continuing needs in Bosnia, Albania, Kosovo, east and central Africa, as well as in the wake of the El Niño effect.

Part of this extra funding was subsequently earmarked for victims of Hurricane Mitch.

By the end of 1998, ECHO had carried out audits on a sample basis of 80 percent of the amount disbursed between 1994 and 1997. Audits are not a one-way process — they are an opportunity for communication with

organisations that may need to clarify procedures employed in Commission financing. ECHO has introduced a methodology for verifying spending in the field, and launched a programme of missions in the field to this end. The methodology covers not simply accounting procedures, but also efficiency and optimal use of resources.

The field audits will complement the evaluations carried out by ECHO's Evaluation Unit and also the work of ECHO's experts in the field. These three elements together should contribute to providing even more comprehensive information on ECHO financed humanitarian projects.



Partnership Agreements

New streamlined system

ECHO runs a Framework Partnership Agreement system with partners committed to working with it regularly. Last year, ECHO approved a new Agreement text – a simpler, clearer, more flexible instrument for partner organisations that also safeguards the need for adequate controls on the use of community funds.

The agreement, which came into force in January 1999, was drawn up with the aid of informal consultations with ECHO's humanitarian partners, which helped to reinforce pre-existing links. It also improved understanding of the mandates of specific partners. Bilateral negotiations led to amendments that were agreed with the International Federation of the Red Cross and with the International Committee of the Red Cross. Separate negotiations are underway on amendments appropriate for United Nations partners.

See page 30 for a list of organisations that were ECHO partners in 1998

Advocacy

Speaking out

Part of ECHO's mandate is to raise awareness of the issues at stake in humanitarian affairs. The idea is to ensure that the general public – European taxpayers – are well-informed about what is going on, in order to sustain their support for the relief activities funding with their contributions. Beyond that, ECHO has a responsibility to identify and speak out on human rights and other issues that affect the work it does. That is why ECHO backs advocacy campaigns such as the one launched last year in support of the women of Afghanistan. Entitled 'A Flower for the Women of Kabul', the campaign was planned to coincide with International Women's Day, March 8. It called on the

international community to rally in support of women stripped of fundamental human rights under a very oppressive interpretation of Islam under Afghanistan's Taliban regime. Women used to rights such as those to an education, to earning a living, and to freedom of movement and to access to healthcare found themselves denied all of these. They are forced to wear an all-enveloping cloak and veil in public, and are unable to go out without a close male relative to accompany them. Launched at the initiative of the European Parliament, with the personal backing of Commissioner Emma Bonino, the campaign was supported with a poster and leaflets explaining the action, as well as an interactive website. On the day itself, a full-page advertisement was

published in leading newspapers with a petition signed by women opinion-makers from all over the world. There were events throughout European capitals and elsewhere – meetings, exhibitions, demonstrations and other activities, as well as extensive media coverage. Also during 1998, Commissioner Bonino was very active in the run-up to the process that in June culminated in endorsement for the long-standing idea of a permanent international criminal court. 'There can be no peace without justice' – and no justice without a court in which to try world-class criminals for war crimes and crimes against humanity. ECHO intends to go on taking up such issues as and when opportunities arise to put the spotlight on them.

Training

NOHA course raises professional standards

Over the past decade, the scale of humanitarian crises has escalated dramatically. Emergencies in very diverse locations have shown the importance of assistance for survival. The expansion of such activities has pointed up the need for more professional managers and specialists.

The Network on Humanitarian Assistance (NOHA) postgraduate diploma was launched in 1994 as a contribution to professional training in the field of humanitarian aid.

Organised under the auspices of the Socrates-Erasmus programme of postgraduate exchanges in the European Union, the diploma is currently supported by Directorate General XXII (Education, Training and Youth) and taught in: Aix-Marseille III (France), Bochum (Germany), Deusto-Bilbao (Spain), Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium), Dublin (Ireland), Roma (Italy), Uppsala (Sweden).

The one-year course is open to post-graduates. Preference is given to students with some field experience in humanitarian assistance. The course comprises an intensive introductory programme, general courses, options and a secondment on field work.

Seven manuals have been published to complement these courses. NOHA Modules - 2nd edition 1998.

The topics :

Law, Management, Geopolitics, Anthropology, Medicine and Public Health, Geography, Psychology.

Further details available from
Office for Official Publications
of the European Community,
2 rue Mercier - 2985 Luxembourg - L
Fax +352 29 29 42 759

FOR FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE COURSE,
CONTACT A PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITY DIRECTLY

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ECHO Flight

Airborne lifeline for Africa

Operation ECHO Flight continued in 1998 in East and Central Africa, enabling humanitarian aid to be flown into crisis-stricken areas of Somalia, Southern Sudan and Uganda.

ECHO Flight is essential in a region where overland transport is too hazardous because of security risks. The aircraft are used to fly humanitarian cargo and passengers and to evacuate emergency medical cases. The service is primarily for non-governmental organisations working in humanitarian aid operations and it is free of charge to them.

ECHO launched the ECHO Flight service in May 1994. The six aircraft currently involved are based in Nairobi, Djibouti, Manderu and Lokichoggio. Between mid-May 1994 and November 1998, ECHO Flight clocked up over 44,000 flight hours. ECHO Flight has carried over 132,000 passengers and 3,700,000 kgs of food, medical supplies and materials to support humanitarian aid programmes.

Handicap International



ECHO's partner, Handicap International, in action in Cambodia: left, at a rehabilitation centre for amputees; right, in a minefield

Media

ECHO TV and Radio Awards

The annual ECHO TV and Radio Awards scheme marked its third year in 1998. Now well-established as part of ECHO's advocacy programme for informed and responsible reporting of humanitarian affairs, the scheme was supported via two conferences, in London and in Vienna, that focused on humanitarian aid and the media.

There were nearly 300 entries for the 1998 scheme, from all 15 EU countries. The awards were made at a ceremony opened by Austria's President Thomas Klestil at the Palais Ferstel, Vienna.

Awards

People on the Move

Vredesmissie Vukovar, Hof Filmproductions, Holland

In the Minds of People

Elena Ceausescu-doctor horroris causa, EO International
East West Film & TV Production, Holland

Forgotten Conflicts

Karmapa-Jumaluuden Kaksi Tieta, Art Films Production, Finland

Vulnerable Groups

Auf der Kippe: Wasteland, Wuste Filmproduktion, Germany

Radio Award

Studio I Jambo, Burundi

Broadcast Commitment

GR1 - Zapping; RAI Radiotelevisione, Italy



Events

ECHO spreads the word



Artists in Arms:

Over 400 painters and sculptors from all over the European Union made donations to the second ECHO-sponsored 'Artists for Humanitarian Aid' event. An exhibition toured Cardiff, Edinburgh and London during the British Presidency of the European Union, and in London, best-selling author Jeffrey Archer led an auction of the works. All proceeds went to the Red Cross landmines awareness scheme.

Children in War:

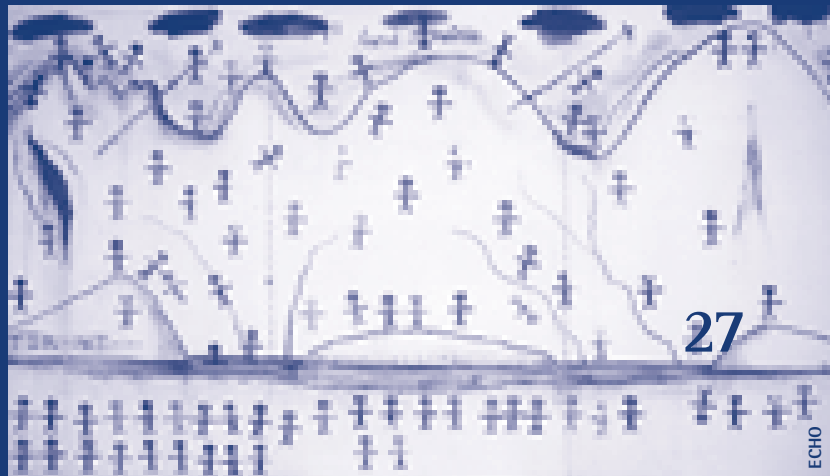
Over 1,000 British children took part in a three-day event highlighting the effects of war on children. Staged in Birmingham during the British Presidency of the European Union, the event combined exhibitions, theatre, debates and other activities involving ECHO and most of its British NGO partners.

Palestine - 'Give me back my childhood':

That was the theme of an exhibition of paintings by children, staged during an event ECHO organised in Gaza and Ramallah. The event also included an exhibition to which 14 ECHO partners contributed, and a concert of European and Palestinian music, dance and poetry, with the participation of the European Mozart Foundation.

Expo in Lisbon:

ECHO's contribution to an exhibit on humanitarian aid included a 'refugee camp' and minefield carpet which visitors were invited to cross.



Pictures in exhibitions:

from children, top left and right, and from Artists for Humanitarian Aid (Iwan Bala), below



Handicap International

Financial decisions for humanitarian aid by region in 1998

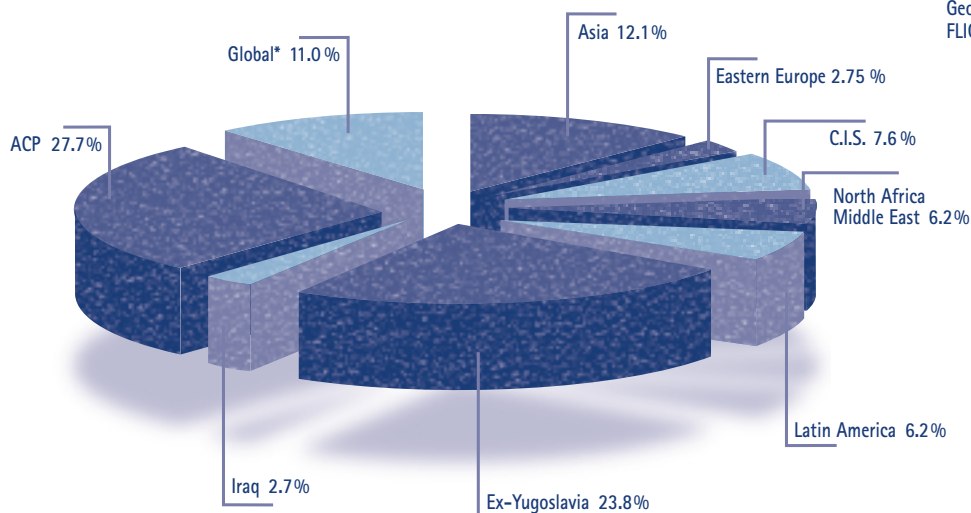
Country/Region	Amounts in €	Country/Region	Amounts in €
EX-YUGOSLAVIA	123,097,000	CAMBODIA	10,000,000
CROATIA	6,950,000	CHINA	4,730,000
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	87,947,000	INDIA	1,732,000
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA	28,200,000	INDONESIA	2,500,000
(€ 20,100,000 relates to KOSOVO alone)		LAOS	890,000
ACP	143,317,000	MYANMAR	1,195,000
CHAD	1,450,000	NEPAL	175,000
COMOROS	400,000	NORTH KOREA	4,665,000
ERITREA	1,790,000	PHILIPPINES	1,700,000
ETHIOPIA	2,190,000	SRI LANKA	1,000,000
FRENCH POLYNESIA	105,000	THAILAND	4,644,000
GREAT LAKES REGION	77,637,000	VIETNAM	1,085,000
GUINEA BISSAU	2,850,000	NORTH AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST	32,000,000
GUINEA	2,850,000	ALGERIA	17,200,000
GUYANA	300,000	EGYPT	330,000
KENYA	75,000	JORDAN	1,500,000
LIBERIA	510,000	LEBANON	4,300,000
MALI	5,000,000	PALESTINE/ISRAEL	6,000,000
NIGER	2,000,000	SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	600,000
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1,000,000	TURKEY	500,000
SENEGAL	660,000	YEMEN	1,570,000
SIERRA LEONE	6,540,000	LATIN AMERICA	32,325,000
SOMALIA	4,000,000	ARGENTINA	500,000
SUDAN	33,960,000	BOLIVIA	1,950,000
C.I.S¹	39,490,000	BRAZIL	1,000,000
ARMENIA	1,600,000	COLOMBIA	6,500,000
AZERBAIJAN	4,600,000	CUBA	9,000,000
BELARUS	118,000	ECUADOR	2,000,000
GEORGIA	6,410,000	GUATEMALA	1,410,000
KIRGYZSTAN	1,800,000	HONDURAS	1,405,000
RUSSIAN FED	6,451,000	MEXICO	2,250,000
TAJIKISTAN	16,800,000	NICARAGUA	1,560,000
UKRAINE	1,711,000	PARAGUAY	500,000
EASTERN EUROPE	14,000,000	PERU	3,950,000
ALBANIA	11,000,000	URUGUAY	300,000
(€ 1,500,000 relates specifically to the refugees of Kosovo in Albania)		General Studies	426,000
BULGARIA	1,500,000	Co-ordination and monitoring	11,000,000
ROMANIA	1,000,000	ECHO FLIGHT (air transport)	9,500,000
SLOVAKIA	500,000	Evaluation	1,000,000
IRAQ	14,000,000	Epidemics	2,500,000
ASIA²	62,536,000	Information	3,920,000
AFGHANISTAN	19,770,000	Insect infestation	1,100,000
BANGLADESH	8,450,000	Disaster Preparedness	8,000,000
		Hurricane Georges	2,800,000
		Hurricane Mitch	16,300,000
		Miscellaneous	346,060
		GRAND TOTAL	€ 517,657,060

A total of € 37,387,000 was made available from Lomé IV Convention funding

¹ Commonwealth of Independent States

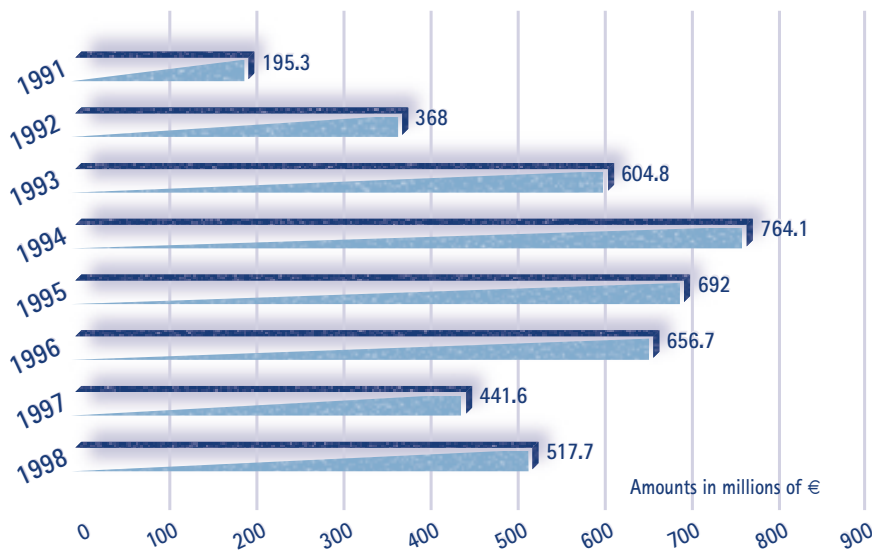
² Apart from Iraq and Ex-USSR

Financial decisions for EC humanitarian aid in 1998

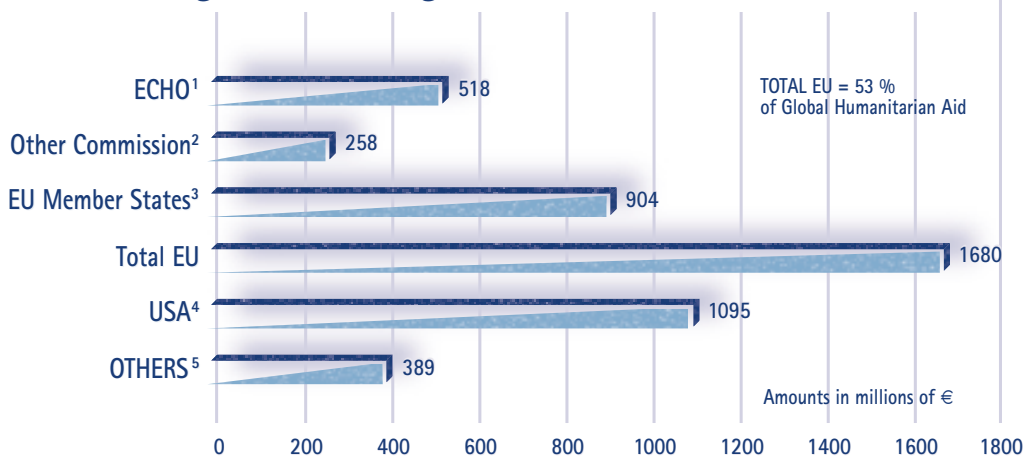


*Global includes, among other things, aid for hurricanes Georges and Mitch, and for ECHO FLIGHT (ACP Countries).

Financial decisions for EC humanitarian aid 1991-1998

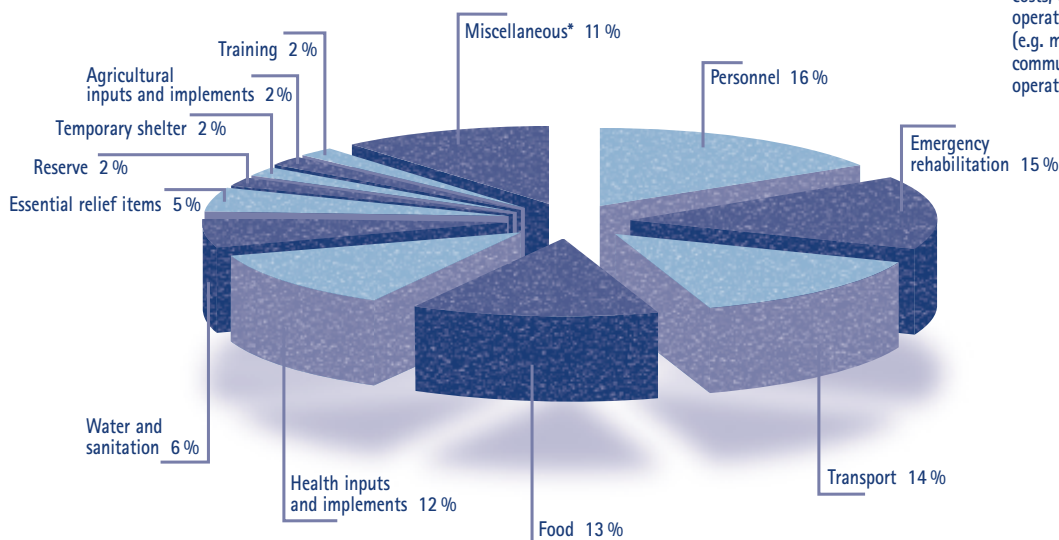


Rough estimate of global humanitarian aid in 1998



- ¹ Financial decisions for the year 1998.
- ² Refugee Programmes (DG IA, DG IB, DG VIII), Emergency Food Aid and ICRC (DG VIII).
- ³ As reported by Member States. Some under-reporting likely.
- ⁴ USAID + US State Dept. + US Dept. of Defense.
- ⁵ Source: UNOCHA, includes Norway, Japan, Canada and others.

Breakdown of expenses in the field in 1998



*Miscellaneous covers the following categories: visibility programme, distribution costs, other services which include operational services not in the above list (e.g. monitoring, local storage or communication equipment), and other non-operational costs.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Organisations which signed the Framework Partnership Agreement with ECHO

A	ACCION CONTRA EL HAMBRE ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM ACTION D'URGENCE INTERNATIONALE ACTION MEDEOR ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY GERMANY AIDE MEDICALE INTERNATIONALE ARBEITER-SAMARITER-BUND DEUTSCHLAND ARCI CULTURA E SVILUPPO ASF - DANSK FOLKEHJÆLP ASOCIACION NAVARRA NUEVO FUTURO ASOCIACION PARA LA COOPERACION CON EL SUR LAS SEGOVIAS ASISTENCIA MEDICA INTERNACIONAL ASSOCIACAO DE BENEFICENCIA LUSO-ALEMA ASSOCIACAO PARA A COOPERACAO, INTERCAMBIO E CULTURA ASSOCIATION POUR L'ACTION HUMANITAIRE ASSOCIAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE VOLONTARI LAICI ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA PER LA SOLIDARIETA TRA I POPOLI ASSOCIAZIONE VOLONTARI PER IL SERVIZIO INTERNAZIONALE ATLAS LOGISTIQUE	SPAIN FRANCE FRANCE GERMANY GERMANY FRANCE GERMANY ITALY DENMARK SPAIN SPAIN PORTUGAL PORTUGAL PORTUGAL FRANCE ITALY ITALY ITALY FRANCE
B	BRITISH RED CROSS	UNITED KINGDOM
C	CARE AUSTRALIA CARE DEUTSCHLAND CARE INTERNATIONAL BELGIQUE CARE INTERNATIONAL UNITED KINGDOM CARE ÖSTERREICH CARITAS BELGIQUE - SECOURS INTERNATIONAL DE CARITAS CATHOLICA CARITAS DANMARK CARITAS ESPANA CARITAS FRANCE - SECOURS CATHOLIQUE CARITAS ITALIA CARITAS LUXEMBOURG CARITAS NEDERLAND - MENSEN IN NOOD CARITAS ÖSTERREICH CARITAS SUISSE CATHOLIC FUND FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES CAUSES COMMUNES CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF DISASTERS - UCL (UNIVERSITY) CENTRO REGIONALE D'INTERVENTO PER LA COOPERAZIONE CESVI COOPERAZIONE E SVILUPPO CHILDREN'S AID DIRECT CHRISTIAN AID CIMADE COMITATO COLLABORAZIONE MEDICA COMITATO DI COORDINAMENTO DELLE ORGANIZZAZIONI PER IL SERVIZIO VOLONTARIO COMITATO EUROPEO PER LA FORMAZIONE E L'AGRICOLTURA COMITATO INTERNAZIONALE PER LO SVILUPPO DEI POPOLI COMITATO ITALIANO PERMANENTE PER L'EMERGENZA OLTREMARE COMITE D'AIDE MEDICALE ET DE PARRAINAGE SANS FRONTIERES COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE CATHOLIQUE POUR LES MIGRATIONS CONCERN UNIVERSAL CONCERN WORLDWIDE COOPERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE COOPERAZIONE ITALIANA NORD SUD CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA CROIX-ROUGE BELGE CROIX-ROUGE FRANCAISE CROIX-ROUGE LUXEMBOURGEOISE CROIX-ROUGE SUISSE CRUZ ROJA ESPANOLA CRUZ VERMELHA PORTUGUESA	AUSTRALIA GERMANY BELGIUM UNITED KINGDOM AUSTRIA BELGIUM DENMARK SPAIN FRANCE ITALY LUXEMBURG NETHERLANDS AUSTRIA SWITZERLAND UNITED KINGDOM UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BELGIUM BELGIUM ITALY ITALY UNITED KINGDOM UNITED KINGDOM FRANCE ITALY ITALY ITALY ITALY ITALY FRANCE SWITZERLAND UNITED KINGDOM IRELAND ITALY ITALY ITALY BELGIUM FRANCE LUXEMBURG SWITZERLAND SPAIN PORTUGAL
D	DANSK FLYGTNINGEHJÆLP - DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL DANSK RØDE KORS DEUTSCHE ÄRZTEGEMEINSCHAFT FÜR MEDIZINISCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT DEUTSCHE WELTHUNGERHILFE DEUTSCHER CARITASVERBAND DEUTSCHES ROTES KREUZ DIAKONIA DIAKONISCHES WERK DER EVANGELISCHEN KIRCHE IN DEUTSCHLAND E.V. DUTCH RELIEF AND REHABILITATION AGENCY ENFANTS DU MONDE - DROITS DE L'HOMME ERIKSHJÄLPEN	DENMARK DENMARK GERMANY GERMANY GERMANY GERMANY SWEDEN GERMANY NETHERLANDS FRANCE SWEDEN FRANCE FRANCE
E	ESSOR EUROPACT	FRANCE FRANCE
F	FARMACEUTICOS SIN FRONTERAS FINNCHURCH AID FOLKEKIRKENS NØDHJÆLP - DANCHURCH AID FRANCE LIBERTES FONDATION DANIELLE MITTERRAND	SPAIN FINLAND DENMARK FRANCE
G	GOAL GREEK COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY GRUPPO VOLONTARIATO CIVILE	IRELAND GREECE ITALY
H	HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL - BELGIQUE HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL - FRANCE / ACTION NORD-SUD HEKS - SWISS INTERCHURH AID HELLENIC INSTITUTE SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HELLENIC RED CROSS HELP- HILFE ZUR SELBSTHILFE HELPEGE INTERNATIONAL HILFE FÜR KINDER IN NOT HOPITAL SANS FRONTIERE - BELGIQUE HOPITAL SANS FRONTIERE - FRANCE	BELGIUM FRANCE SWITZERLAND GREECE GREECE GREECE GERMANY UNITED KINGDOM GERMANY BELGIUM FRANCE

FACTS AND FIGURES

I IEDER VOOR ALLEN INITIATIVE DEVELOPEMENT INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL AFFAIRS INTER AIDE INTERMON INTERNATIONAL AID SWEDEN INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE INTERSOS INTERVENIR IRISH RED CROSS ISTITUTO PER LA COOPERAZIONE UNIVERSITARIA ISTITUTO SINDICALE PER LA COOPERAZIONE ALLO SVILUPPO	BELGIUM FRANCE GREECE FRANCE SPAIN SWEDEN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION UNITED STATES OF AMERICA INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION UNITED STATES OF AMERICA UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ITALY FRANCE IRELAND ITALY ITALY
J JOHÄNNITER-UNFALL-HILFE	GERMANY
K KESSAP DIMITRA KIRKENS NØDHJELP	GREECE NORWAY
L LAZARUS HILFSWERK LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION LUTHERJÄLPEN - CHURCH OF SWEDEN AID	GERMANY SWITZERLAND SWEDEN
M MALTĒSER - HILFSDIENST MALTESER HOSPITALDIENST MEDECINS DU MONDE - FRANCE MEDECINS DU MONDE - GREECE MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES - FRANCE MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES - LUXEMBOURG MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES - SUISSE MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES/ARTSEN ZONDER GRENZEN - BELGIQUE MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES/ARTSEN ZONDER GRENZEN - HOLLAND MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS MEDICAL EMERGENCY RELIEF INTERNATIONAL MEDICO INTERNATIONAL MEDICOS DEL MUNDO MEDICOS SIN FRONTERAS MEDICUS MUNDI BELGIUM MEDICUS MUNDI ESPANA MEDICUS MUNDI INTERNATIONAL MEDICUS MUNDI ITALIA MEDICUS MUNDI SCHWEIZ MEMISA BELGIQUE MEMISA MEDICUS MUNDI NEDERLAND MISSION ØST MOVIMENTO SVILUPPO E PACE MOVIMIENTO POR LA PAZ, EL DESARME Y LA LIBERTAD MOVIMONDO MOLISV	GERMANY AUSTRIA FRANCE GREECE FRANCE LUXEMBURG SWITZERLAND BELGIUM NETHERLANDS UNITED KINGDOM UNITED KINGDOM GERMANY SPAIN SPAIN BELGIUM SPAIN BELGIUM ITALY SWITZERLAND BELGIUM NETHERLANDS DENMARK ITALY SPAIN ITALY
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O OEUVRÉS HOSPITALIÈRES FRANÇAISES DE L'ORDRE DE MALTE OIKOS - COOPERACAO E DESENVOLVIMENTO ORDRE SOUVERAIN ET MILITAIRE DE ST. JEAN DE JERUSALEM, DE RHODES ET DE MALTE ÖSTERREICHISCHES HILFSWERK INTERNATIONAL ÖSTERREICHISCHES ROTES KREUZ OXFAM - SOLIDARITE OXFAM - UNITED KINGDOM	FRANCE PORTUGAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION AUSTRIA AUSTRIA BELGIUM UNITED KINGDOM
P PAZ Y TERCER MUNDO PHARMACIENS SANS FRONTIERES PMU INTERLIFE PREMIERE URGENCE	SPAIN FRANCE SWEDEN FRANCE
R RED BARNET - DANMARK	DENMARK
S SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND SCOTTISH EUROPEAN AID SECOURS POPULAIRE FRANCAIS SOLIDARIDAD INTERNACIONAL SOLIDARIETA CON IL TERZO MONDO SOLIDARITE LIBERALE INTERNATIONALE SOLIDARITE PROTESTANTE FRANCE-ARMENIE SOLIDARITES STICHTING OECUMENISCHE HULP (DUTCH INTERCHURCH AID) SUOMEN PUNAINEN RISTI SVENSKA AFGHANISTANKOMMITTEN SVENSKA RÖDA KORSET	UNITED KINGDOM UNITED KINGDOM FRANCE SPAIN ITALY BELGIUM FRANCE FRANCE NETHERLANDS FINLAND SWEDEN SWEDEN UNITED KINGDOM SWITZERLAND IRELAND
T TEAR FUND TERRE DES HOMMES TROCAIRE	PORTUGAL
U UNIAO DES CIDADES CAPITAIS LUSO-AFRO-AMERICO-ASIATICAS UNITED NATIONS - PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION UNITED NATIONS - WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME UNITED NATIONS - WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES	INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION
W WOMEN AID INTERNATIONAL WORLD CONCERN DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION WORLD VISION - UNITED KINGDOM	UNITED KINGDOM UNITED STATES OF AMERICA UNITED KINGDOM

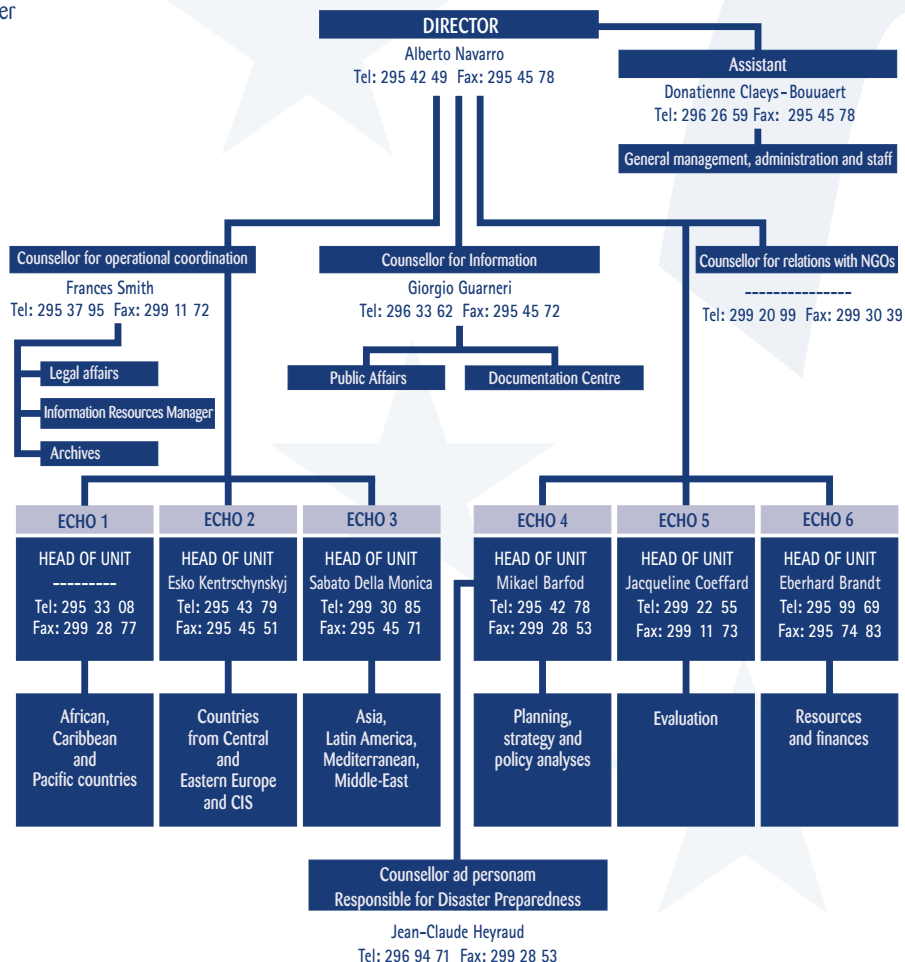
FACTS & FIGURES

Non-FPA organisations which worked with ECHO in 1998 (as at 01.02.1999)

ACTION AID	UNITED KINGDOM	INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE SPAIN	SPAIN
AGA KHAN FOUNDATION	UNITED KINGDOM	MEDAIR SWITZERLAND	SWITZERLAND
AMAR APPEAL	UNITED KINGDOM	MERCY CORPS - SCOTTISH EUROPEAN AID	UNITED KINGDOM
AMERICAN REFUGEE COMMITTEE	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	MISSION AIDE DEVELOPPEMENT	FRANCE
ASSOCIATION FRANCAISE DES VOLONTAIRES DU PROGRES	FRANCE	DES ECONOMIES RURALES	
ASSOCIATION TIBET LIBRE	FRANCE	NETHERLANDS ORGANIZATION	NETHERLANDS
ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA PER LO SVILUPPO INTERNAZIONALE	ITALY	FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION	
CHILDREN IN CRISIS	UNITED KINGDOM	QANDIL PROJECT	SWEDEN
COMUNITÁ IMPEGNO SERVIZIO VOLONTARIATO	ITALY	RÄDDNINGSS VERKET	SWEDEN
DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR TECHNISCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT	GERMANY	(SWEDISH RESCUE SERVICES AGENCY)	
EIRENE - INTERNATIONALER CHRISTLICHER FRIEDENSDIENST	GERMANY	SANDY GALL'S AFGHANISTAN APPEAL	UNITED KINGDOM
EMERGENCY	ITALY	TECHNISCHES HILFSWERK	GERMANY
ENFANTS REFUGIES DU MONDE	FRANCE	UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME	INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION
HALO TRUST	UNITED KINGDOM	UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE - UNOCHA	INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION
INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT GROUP LTD	UNITED KINGDOM	UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY - UNRWA	INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION
INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT GROUP	CROATIA	VETERINAIRES SANS FRONTIERES - BELGIQUE	BELGIUM
		VETERINAIRES SANS FRONTIERES - SUISSE	SWITZERLAND
		WORLD VISION - DEUTSCHLAND	GERMANY
		WORLD VISION - ÖSTERREICH	AUSTRIA

Who's who (as at 01.02.1999)

If calling from abroad, please dial
+32 2 before the number



About ECHO Information

ECHO is committed to providing information on its activities and to raising awareness of the issues at stake in humanitarian affairs today. It runs an Information Unit, which produces both general and specialist information on ECHO activities. It has a range of publications, including this Annual Review. ECHO News, a four-page newsletter, is published quarterly in English and French. ECHO Files is a separate briefing on specific countries or topics. ECHO also publishes leaflets on themes and campaigns such as disaster preparedness, the landmines issue and the NOHA course for humanitarian aid workers. ECHO works in cooperation with TV companies and partner organisations to produce audio-visual material and publications on ECHO-funded projects. There is also a website that will become interactive in 1999.

The unit supports events such as exhibitions and seminars in cooperation with Member States, focusing on the general public in the country holding the rotating presidency of the European Union.



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