

*humanitarian aid*

## ***When disaster strikes ...***



EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid

# **Humanitarian Aid: DG ECHO's Health Policy and Projects**

Introduction to DG ECHO  
Health Activities  
Current Issues and Challenges

**Walter van Hattum, DG ECHO 0/1**  
**'Health in EU External Assistance Programmes'**  
**Brussels, 20 May 2008**



## The EU as a humanitarian donor

- EU largest donor of humanitarian aid in the world
- Member States + Commission = more than half of official global humanitarian aid
- In 2007, Commission (ECHO) spent over €765 million, helping **20 million crisis victims** in more than 70 countries



*humanitarian aid*

*Solidarity with victims of natural disasters ...*



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*... and man-made crises*



## Objectives

- Help victims of crises outside EU
- Save and preserve life during emergencies and their immediate aftermath
- Provide relief to people affected by longer-lasting crises
- Protect victims of fighting
- Assist refugees and displaced people
- Short-term rehabilitation and reconstruction work
- Preparedness for natural disasters

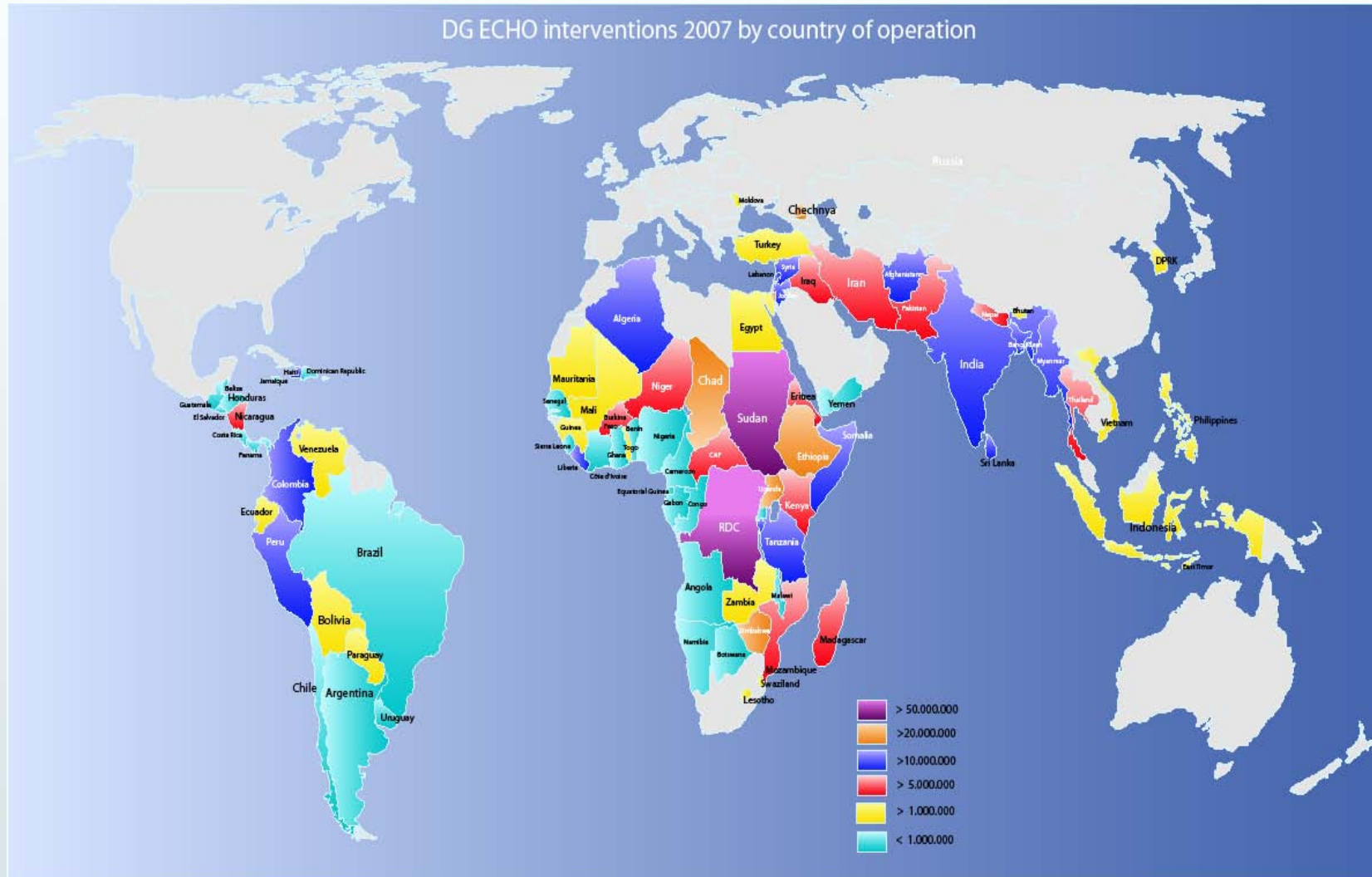


## Implementation

- Commission = active donor  
240 HQ staff + 100 experts in the field
- Humanitarian aid implemented by partner organisations:
  - European NGOs
  - UN agencies
  - Red Cross/  
Red Crescent  
movement
- Budget 2008  
> € 750 million



# Financial decisions in 2007





## *Food and nutritional support*

- Examples: Basic food supplies, supplementary feeding for infants, special rations for malnourished people, seeds for farmers



## *Shelter*

- Examples: Tents, plastic sheeting, building materials



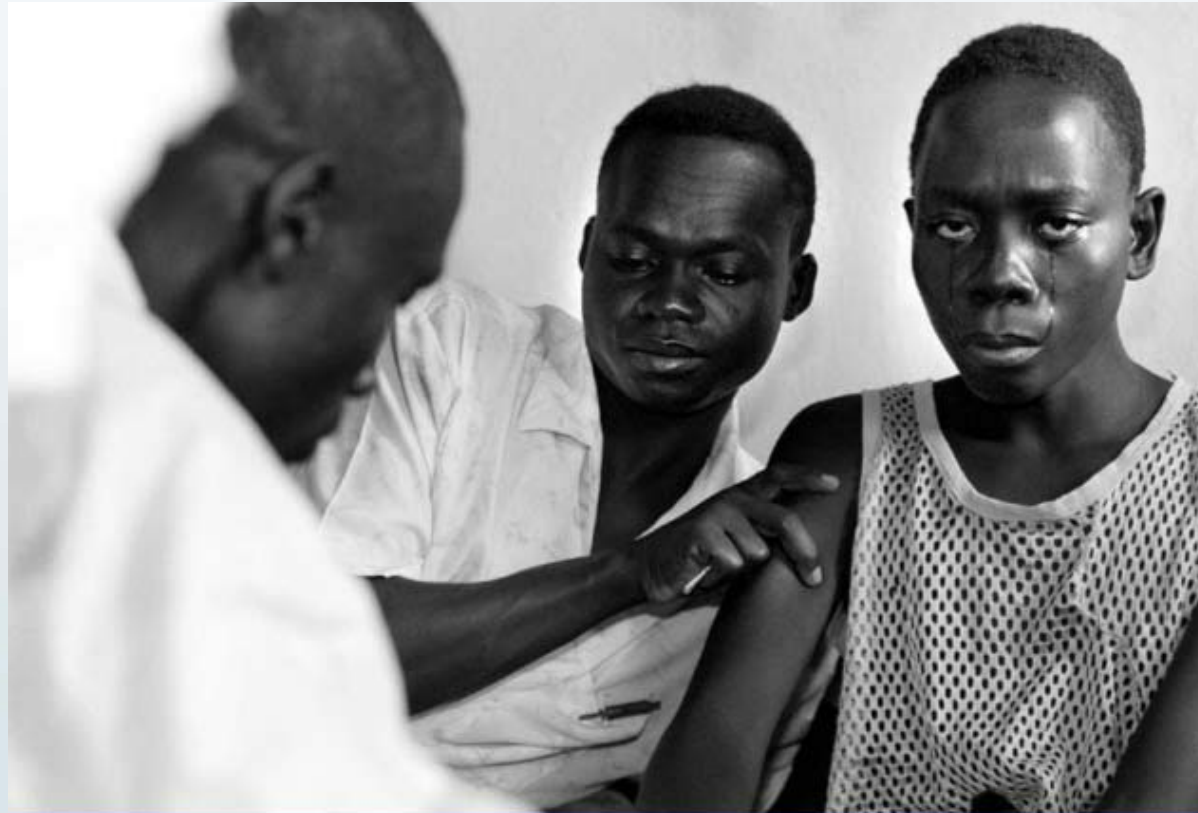
## *Water and sanitation*

- Examples: New wells and boreholes, water piping, latrines, sewage treatment, hygiene education



## *Medical assistance*

- Examples: Vaccination campaigns, essential drugs, hospital equipment, primary health clinics



## Commission/ECHO's strengths

- Needs-based interventions – no pre-conditions
- **Operational efficiency and rapidity:**  
Key partner for many relief agencies -  
has helped to save millions of lives
- Rapid deployment  
of funds
- Technical expertise  
+ quality control  
on the spot
- Commitment to  
**'forgotten crises'**



## Health Actions

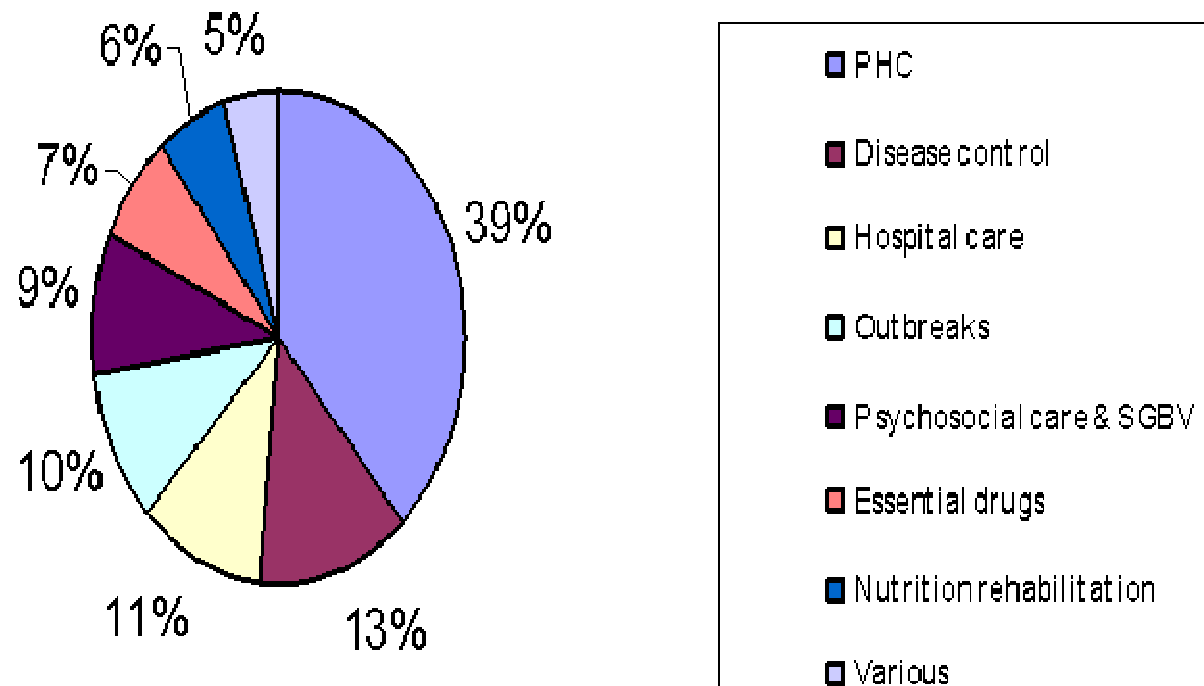
- 27% or EUR 2 Billion over the last 10 years (last year EUR 130 million)
- 180 projects in 32 countries;
- Mostly in conflict or conflict related countries
- 95 projects (53%) implemented in 5 countries only (Sudan, oPT, DRC, Liberia & Lebanon).

## Activities

- **Epidemics:** surveillance, preparedness and emergency response
- **Primary Health Care:** curative oriented with strong emphasis on improving access to health services and supply of essential drugs
- **Secondary Health Care:** specific departments in crucial hospitals are targeted: paediatrics, selective surgery, obstetrics, blood transfusion...
- **Temporary health structures:** only as a second choice if national system cannot absorb additional caseload
- **Psycho-Social programmes**

## Type of interventions

Distribution of main activities





## **Example: Health Action in Crisis / WHO**

### Support to WHO for

- ▶ reinforcing response capacity of WHO in health emergencies
- ▶ Supporting the cluster approach and humanitarian reform

### Achievements

- ▶ WHO presence in most crises countries
- ▶ Capacity and performance of staff have improved
- ▶ Standard operating procedures for emergency response
- ▶ Increased political commitment at all levels of the organisation
- ▶ Engagement with health partners at global and country level

### Under development

- ▶ Health and Nutrition Tracking Service: obtain consistent data on mortality, under nutrition assessments.

## **Evaluation of Health Activities (2007)**

*DG ECHO is an important donor in the health sector, with particular advantages in comparison to other donors being its in-country presence, its proximity to affected populations, its diverse partnerships, its focus on forgotten crises and its funding flexibility.*

*These comparative advantages could be exploited more.*

## Recommendations

- To provide clarity on funding;
- To participate more in health fora to match funding levels and maximise opportunities to influence sector debates;
- To more systematically utilise available health expertise;
- To develop and support consistent use of technical guidelines;
- To retain negotiating space for funding of activities that straddle the boundaries of humanitarian assistance

## Follow up: health policies

### EU Consensus

- ▶ *Community will promote value-added sectoral policies based on international best practice in specific policy areas*

### Current work

- ▶ Medical experts and network (Anopheles)
- ▶ (Funding) Policy guidance on a number of issues, such as HIV/AIDS and User Fees.
- ▶ Technical guidance on polio, nutrition, psychosocial support, bed nets, etc.
- ▶ Presence of DG ECHO in international fora and supporting initiatives (Health and Nutrition Tracking Service)
- ▶ Use of expertise of partner organisations and leveraging funding
- ▶ Consultation of Member States, partners and stakeholders

## **Example: HIV/AIDS guidelines**

- Funding guidelines
- Context of emergencies and dilemmas
- Wide consultation
- Outcome: no vertical programmes, but:
  - ▶ Explaining specific mandate
  - ▶ Follow international standards
  - ▶ Mainstreaming in actions
  - ▶ Specific funding guidance (health, food)
  - ▶ Implementation

## Current issues and challenges

- European **Consensus** on Humanitarian aid
- Address “cross-cutting issues” like:
  - **LRRD** – Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development
  - disaster preparedness
  - children and gender
- **Security** of relief workers
- Climate change (malaria)
- Rising food prices (€ impact)
- Communication



## **Some useful info**

### **Individual Experts (call for applications)**

[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/jobs/experts\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/jobs/experts_en.htm)

### **Evaluations (call for expression of interest)**

[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/evaluation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/evaluation/index_en.htm)

### **Training and other calls for tenders**

[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/whatsnew/calls\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/whatsnew/calls_en.htm)

### **ECHO partners**

[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/partners/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/partners/index_en.htm)

### **Funding Decisions**

[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/information/decisions/2007\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/information/decisions/2007_en.htm)

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## Commission's Humanitarian aid

*Thank you !*



<http://ec.europa.eu/echo>