



Humanitarian Aid Office

East Timor: looking for a peaceful future

ECHO
Annual Review 1999



Humanitarian Aid
Office





Cover photo: A Timorese family looks out from their shelter in a refugee camp at Atenbua, West Timor, as United Nations staff arrive to offer transportation back to East Timor last November

Photo by DARREN WHITESIDE, Reuters

ACRONYMS

ECHO	Humanitarian Aid Office
EU	European Union
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally displaced person
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WFP	World Food Programme

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to all who made available photographs for reproduction free of charge. The photographs on the cover, pages 4-5 and 17 were donated by Reuters Foundation Alertnet Service (www.alertnet.org). The Prayer for Peace in Sierra Leone (page 24) is courtesy of Visual Impact International, a not for profit organisation working with children affected by armed conflict (Visualimpacthq@aol.com).

Publisher: Costanza Adinolfi, Director, ECHO
Text, coordination: ECHO Information
Design & layout: Makers, Brussels

REPRODUCTION OF TEXT AUTHORISED, PROVIDING SOURCE IS ACKNOWLEDGED



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

The millennium ended with grim reminders that conflicts continue to dominate the agenda in international relations

The year 1999 saw some major flashpoints in Kosovo, East Timor and Chechnya, all of them involving huge movements of civilians fleeing for their lives as conflicts took hold. And open conflict broke out in the Horn of Africa again. The millennium ended with grim reminders that conflicts continue to dominate the agenda in international relations.

Hoping for change is good; doing something to achieve it is better. I took up this job last September with a mission to enable countries and regions on the humanitarian danger list to get back on track, and to realise their potential as soon as possible.

I undertook missions to East Timor and to the North Caucasus region to assess the scope for humanitarian aid. I came back with contrasting impressions. In East Timor, there was cautious optimism for the future as the EU and UN helped to pave the way for longer-term development. But in Chechnya, my mission raised more questions than answers in a place where humanitarian space has shrunk and where we had to operate via remote control with local staff in a region where it was too dangerous to send expatriates.

Wars and simmering conflicts, man-made disasters, are just part of ECHO's caseload. It responds to natural disasters, too. For Turkey, 1999 was a truly disastrous year. The country was struck by two powerful earthquakes that took an enormous toll in lives and in damage to property and infrastructure.

ECHO's response to these and to other events described elsewhere in this review was to allocate funding worth €812 million, its highest-ever budget, via the partners who implement humanitarian aid actions in the field. Through our partners, particularly at the United Nations, as well as in the Red Cross family and in non-governmental organisations, we managed to make available humanitarian aid to hundreds of thousands of people in need.

ECHO underwent a major independent

evaluation, the results of which were submitted to the European Parliament and European Council. The evaluators were on balance positive about its efforts. They found that ECHO was carrying out its role as well as, and probably better, than any other comparable international organisation. However, they did point out room for improvement.

For instance, they noted that partners did not always have adequate capacity or experience, and that health and nutrition interventions could have been better targeted. As for ECHO itself, they found that it was not always able to respond as rapidly as it should, and that Global Plans for individual crises would benefit from wider consultation. Improvements for cost-effectiveness and for better coordination with other services of the Commission and Member States are also on the agenda.

The evaluators' findings give ECHO the basis for improving its operations, by setting performance standards and monitoring them. Partners have always been crucial to the quality of ECHO's output, and the partnership principle must be strengthened, and tailored if possible to enable ECHO to offer programmed support to United Nations and Red Cross organisations. I will ensure that ECHO's work is structured on these lines in future.

As Commissioner for both Humanitarian Aid and Development, I have a personal commitment to developing a strategy for managing the 'grey zone' between humanitarian aid and development, and I will aim to link these in practical terms at all times.

As I write, the humanitarian agenda is topped by the need to manage the aftermath of floods in Mozambique, and to find strategies for averting famine in drought-stricken regions including the Horn of Africa. ECHO and its complementary services at the Commission aim to meet those challenges as speedily and efficiently as possible.

Poul Nielson

KEY EVENTS IN 1999

JANUARY

Kosovo: escalation of conflict
Tension rose sharply, and continued to destabilise the region. The activities of Yugoslav troops and police forces in Kosovo caused mounting concern.

FEBRUARY

Ethiopia and Eritrea: open conflict erupts
Heavy fighting raged along an ill-defined border between the two neighbouring Horn of Africa states. Each side accused the other of being the aggressor. Thousands of civilians were displaced on both sides of the border. *See page 20*

Afghanistan: earthquake south of Kabul
An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale struck Wardak and Logar provinces, south of Kabul, damaging rural homes and infrastructure. *See page 22*

MARCH

Kosovo: NATO starts bombing campaign
Under strong pressure from the Yugoslav army and police, thousands of Kosovars of Albanian origin fled their homes, most of them into neighbouring countries (and regions or republics) including Albania, FYROM and Montenegro. Hundreds of thousands were displaced within the province. The Yugoslav forces intensified their pressure on Albanian Kosovars as NATO started strikes against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the flow of people escaping increased massively. *See pages 12, 13, 17, 24 and 29*

Angola: conflict escalates
Heavy fighting between UNITA and government troops took this long-running conflict into a dangerous new phase. Over one million people have been displaced since mid-1998. *See page 9*

APRIL

Colombia: conflict escalates
Conflict with guerrillas and paramilitaries flared up with attacks on Communities of Peace (communities that have decided to declare themselves neutral and out of the conflict) in the Urabá region, Northeast Colombia. *See page 21*

MAY

Burundi: violence intensifies
Clashes between army troops and rebels in southern Burundi near the Tanzanian border continued. An estimated 16,000 civilians were forced from their homes, some fleeing to Tanzania. *See page 19*





Photo by Oleg Popov/Reuters

The tragedy of Kosovo

Ethnic Albanian women at the funeral of relatives murdered at their home in Grajkovac, 60 km north-west of Pristina

Guinea-Bissau: fighting in the capital
May saw the final spate of fighting in the one-year-long military insurrection. Violence in the capital, Bissau, between troops of the self-proclaimed junta led by General Ansumane Mane and foreign troops from Senegal and Guinea supporting President Bernardo Nino Vieira, caused heavy damage and mass displacement of people. The forces of Mane overcame their opponents. *See page 24*

JUNE

China: torrential rains, floods
Widespread flooding along the upper and middle reaches of the Yangtze river affected more than 66 million people, of whom almost 1.8 million were left homeless. *See page 23*

Kosovo: massive repatriation
A massive repatriation back to Kosovo started. Most of those who had fled the violent conflict returned.

JULY

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
Hundreds fled the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for western Tanzania to escape fighting. They found refuge in overcrowded camps. *See page 19*

Bangladesh: catastrophic flooding
Torrential monsoon rains lashed Bangladesh, flooding hundreds of villages and leaving nearly one million displaced or marooned, with loss of rice crops. At least 70,000 people were evacuated to shelters after the rain-swollen Gumti River breached parts of a mud levee. *See page 23*

Sierra Leone: fragile peace accord
The Government of Sierra Leone and the two main rebel forces, the Revolutionary United Front (led by Foday Sankoh) and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (led by Johnny Paul Koroma) signed a Peace Accord in Lome (Togo). It was hoped this would mean the end of a conflict characterised by terror and atrocities against civilians. The negotiations were conducted under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the United Nations. *See page 7*

AT A GLANCE

AUGUST

Turkey: massive earthquake

A major earthquake measuring between 7.4 and 7.8 on the Richter Scale hit Turkey on 17 August. Official figures put the number of dead at 17,000 and the number of injured at 40,000. Thousands of buildings were damaged or destroyed across a 400-mile area from the Marmara Sea to Bolu. Most of those killed were crushed to death in their sleep. *See page 14*

SEPTEMBER

East Timor: violence after UN-supported referendum on independence

Following an overwhelming UN-supported vote for independence from Indonesia, militias in East Timor rampaged and plundered through several cities and towns. Thousands of civilians were killed in the ensuing violence. There was widespread destruction of homes and private assets. *See pages 10, 24*

Chechnya: Russia launches crackdown

Russia launched an air assault against the breakaway republic of Chechnya. Up to 300,000 civilians fled, mainly to neighbouring Ingushetia. *See page 16*

OCTOBER

India: worst-ever cyclone hits Orissa province

A cyclone flattened around 25,000 mud houses in Orissa's Ganjam district. More than 100,000 people, mostly slum-dwellers, lost their homes to the cyclone in Bhubaneswar. Rescue operations were hampered by rain and floods. *See page 14*

Burundi: murder of nine UN staff, including seven Burundians, in rebel attack

Nine UN staff, of whom seven were Burundians, were shot dead in a rebel attack. The minority Tutsi government forced tens of thousands of people, mostly majority Hutus, to move to camps to allow the army to "cleanse" the rebels. Many fled to Tanzania to avoid resettlement. *See page 19*

NOVEMBER

Turkey: second major earthquake

A second major earthquake, measured at 7.2 on the Richter Scale, struck Duzce on 12 November killing over 500, injuring over 3,000 and causing major structural damage to an area already hit by the August earthquake.

DECEMBER

Venezuela: mudslide catastrophe

Massive landslides and severe flooding hit seven northern states of the country. Overflowing rivers swept through poor districts in the capital, Caracas, washing away thousands of homes. Tens of thousands died. *See page 14*

Nobel Peace Prize for MSF

The international humanitarian organisation Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), founded 1971 in Paris, was awarded the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize, worth \$1 million. MSF allocated the money to a campaign for Access to Essential Medicines.

ABOUT ECHO

ECHO, the Humanitarian Aid Office, is a service of the European Commission under the direct responsibility of Commissioner Poul Nielson. Since 1992, ECHO's work in managing humanitarian aid has brought relief to millions of victims of both natural disasters and man-made crises.

Working with partners

ECHO has disbursed nearly €5 billion in funds over that time, and in 1999 alone made available €812 million. ECHO aid is channelled impartially, straight to victims, regardless of race, religion or political beliefs. ECHO works via its partners, mainly organisations which have signed a Framework

Partnership Agreement with the European Commission. They include the specialist agencies of the United Nations, the Red Cross family and non-governmental agencies.

New Commissioner

In the new European Commission that took office in September 1999, Poul Nielson, Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, took over responsibility for ECHO, succeeding Emma Bonino in that role. A former Danish minister for Development Cooperation, Nielson intends to make sure that emergency action and long-term, sustained development complement each other wherever possible.



Sierra Leone

The boy they call Civilian

By Jeremy Vine

Hundreds of children have been recruited as soldiers in Sierra Leone. Here is the story of one of them, Civilian, now safely at school. His headmaster says Civilian's terrifying account is typical of many he has heard

The Nehemiah school for Boys and Girls stands modestly on a hillside on the eastern edge of Freetown. The cheerful sounds coming from classrooms perched above the road encourage the thought that this troubled country is now at peace with itself.

If only war could be left behind so easily. Nehemiah's headmaster, Richard Cole, has dedicated his life to assisting youngsters who have been press-ganged into Sierra Leone's vicious war.

'There are thousands, literally thousands, of children who have been misused in this war. If only we had more help ourselves, we could do more for them,' he says.

In the second classroom on the right, a place with no glass in the windows nor even a light bulb in the ceiling, children are chanting in English: 'How many days make one week? Seven days make one week - ' and Richard asks a young boy of twelve to step out and meet me.

Sulaiman Kamara, his name is. But here they all call him Civilian. He fought in the war on the side of the rebels. He says he killed a lot of people. Finally, he puts a number to his thoughts. 'I killed fifty people. More than fifty.'

We sit on a bench in an empty classroom whose ceiling bears obscene graffiti left behind by the rebels. The story Civilian tells is spellbindingly awful. First, I ask about his recruitment.

'The rebels came into town and displayed what

they had. Drinks, a lot of food and vehicles. Some of my friends said, "Let's go and see what is happening." We went round to have a look and that was when we all got caught.'

He describes how he was turned into a soldier, aged nine. 'When they captured us, the rebel commander took us into the bush by force. He asked that we be trained. They started training us by giving us a gun.'

The first victim was a man accused of supplying arms to the government forces. 'They captured him,' Civilian explains. 'They told me to shoot him in the legs. So I shot him there. He could not scream because his mouth was taped up.'

It is all so matter of fact. Civilian says he felt nothing himself because he had been given

marijuana. I wonder how much he feels now. There is no emotion showing.

You want to believe there is hope for him. He is still alive, at least. There are

reckoned to be 300,000 children currently active as soldiers in conflicts around the world. Child soldiers tend to be from poor families, and are often recruited in moments of confusion when they have lost track of their relatives. Many are orphans. They join armies where lieutenants and colonels become their mothers and fathers.

Civilian continues. His story darkens further. 'When I joined the rebels, the commander killed his own parents in my presence. And he said we

He fought in the war on the side of the rebels. He says he killed a lot of people. Finally, he puts a number to his thoughts... more than fifty



Revolutionary United Front rebels ride in a pick-up truck at their base on the outskirts of Freetown

should do likewise. The rebels then killed my own mother and father.'

The boy was asked if there were any other members of his family in the area. His grandparents, he said. So he was told to kill them. He explained, 'I went to their house and said, "Grandfather, we have been told we should not spare anybody we meet, and this time there is no sympathy." And I shot him in the back. Then I went into the house. There I met my grandmother praying, and there I shot her. She was blind.'

She was blind. While I reflect on the words, Civilian has made a circle with his thumb and forefinger and is blowing invisible bubbles around the room, his lips raspberrying them into life.

'How do you feel now, when you look back?'

He shrugs at my question, always the child.

'Now I just pray, "Father God, have mercy on me, forgive me".' I search for feeling in the words, but still cannot hear any.

It's difficult to know how to react to what this young boy is saying. Richard Cole assures me that the young boy's account is perfectly credible because, he says, it is actually unremarkable.

Unremarkable? 'Yes, because so many boys and girls have been put in this situation,' Cole says. He explains why the boy got the nickname Civilian – when he first came to the school, if he ever saw a person in uniform he would become hysterical. 'We all had to run up to him, shouting, "Civilian, civilian, you're Civilian," to calm him down.'

Jeremy Vine is a BBC Correspondent

Angola

Accursed by wealth and war

By Jane Standley

After four years of supposed peace – while intermittent fighting continued – Angola is once again consumed by all-out war. A peace agreement signed in 1994 by the Angolan government and the Unita rebels has collapsed. The UN troops who came to monitor the peace have been withdrawn. The UN says they can't stay to watch over war. Angola, it seems, has largely been abandoned again. There has been civil war since 1974, when the colonial power Portugal pulled out in a hurry. Before then, Angolans fought the Portuguese colonisers for 13 years. After more than three decades of conflict, most Angolans know nothing else.

The ticket office at the railway station in Luena – the most heavily mined region of one of the most heavily mined countries in the world – hasn't sold tickets for a long time. The last train ran through here 15 years ago. But the office is being put to good use – Antonio Seneco and his family live in it.

Antonio's wife Andreza raises their family of five in this one room – they consider themselves lucky to have survived the war in the countryside. Still, Antonio lost both his legs to a landmine just after he arrived to what he thought would be safety in Luena, the provincial capital of Moxico province, and as such defended by the government army.

Almost every Angolan I met has lost someone. Thousands have flooded into Luena to escape Angola's new war. To get there, people have walked through the positions of Unita rebels and through the circles of land mines laid by both the rebels and the government. There is a mine planted in this country for every Angolan man, woman and child. It played on my mind with each step I took.

The scene is the same in every provincial capital I see. Take Huambo – Angola's second city – the heart of the lush highlands, what should be the breadbasket of this country. The once-elegant boulevards are ruined, their stately apartment blocks pitted and smashed by countless mortar rounds and artillery shells. But still, survivors live in them –



Photo by Isopress/Peter Nicholls

Child amid the ruins of the once-prosperous city of Kuito. Many are maimed, like this girl. Many are orphaned stretchchildren now

even if there are no walls, and they now live their lives open to everyone on the street.

It is the same in the city of Kuito too. Here people must survive on what food comes in from the humanitarian agencies – doled out in communal kitchens for those most at risk, for those who are most in need. Actually, that means everyone today.

In Malange, yet another destroyed city, I see one of the rare convoys of food trucks arrive – they’ve braved the ambushes on the road from the capital. Some grains of maize spill from the donor agency sacks and fall into the dusty road. People fight for a single grain.

The Angolan government still uses a slogan from its days of Marxist revolution – *A Luta Continua* – the struggle goes on. It certainly does for almost all Angolans. Displaced families are shy and embarrassed. There is no human dignity sliding around in filth in the disintegrating compartments of rusted train carriages at Luena railway station. There is no dignity living camped on the platform, or in an old ticket office. There are diamonds and oil

here, rich agricultural land where you just toss a seed and it grows. But because of war, no ordinary Angolan is harvesting that wealth.

There are those who say they wish the fighting would go on for another 30 years, because corruption is easier amid the chaos of war. Angola’s curse is to be just too rich – to have so much wealth

to fight over. Angola’s war is a largely forgotten war – its intractability has driven many mediators away, consumed by

frustration. But its people must not be forgotten. I leave Antonio, Andreza and their children in peace. I feel what so many other visitors had told me you always feel in Angola – not just sadness – but extreme anger.

Jane Standley is a BBC Correspondent

There is a mine planted in this country for every Angolan man, woman and child. It played on my mind with each step I took

East Timor

Julia is from TimTim, East Timor

By Marie-France Bourgeois

Julia is eight. She has beautiful long hair, and her brown eyes light up as she giggles when I try to say something in Tetum, East Timor’s main language. Julia is from TimTim, East Timor.

I have just invited myself to her home in the refugee camp of Belu district, West Timor. I am sitting on a bed made of rough planks which also serves as a table in a smoky little kitchen. It’s so hot that I’m sweating profusely, but I can’t miss this opportunity to speak to the entire female clan of this family around me. Julia’s mother, Lucia, is cooking rice and cassava leaves. It is half past one, and lunch will soon be served.

Grandma Maria smiles, revealing red teeth. Maria has chewed betel nuts all her life and the bright red colour has stained her teeth and affected her gums. Judy, my West Timorese translator, tells me that chewing betel nuts gives you the kind of buzz you get

when you smoke your first cigarette. Grandma offers me some, but I politely decline.

There’s another room in this dirt floor house. It’s the family bed room. There is one mosquito net, provided by an international relief organization, and the whole family sleeps under it at night to protect themselves from malaria-carrying mosquito bites. The only other belongings seem to be clothes and a statue of the Virgin Mary.

How did Julia and her family get here? They fled the East Timorese city of Suai back in early September when pro-Indonesian militia forces were systematically evicting people, killing their cattle and burning their houses. Julia’s mother described their flight. They had little time to get organised, and took what cassava, maize and rice they could.

They left behind one of the most devastated



Photo by Jan Banning

MSF dispensary at the temporary refugee camp in the Stadium, Dili

cities I saw while in East Timor in late November 1999. It looked like the biggest camping ground I had ever seen in my life. People who had just returned after two months in West Timor were camping under plastic sheeting hooked to the remains of their satellite dish if they were well off. Poorer families just camped under shelters made of palm leaves by the ashes of their homes. All of them sat around talking at night by the light of their kerosene lamps. There was no electricity, nor had any food markets resumed. But November was a good time to return – that's the sowing season. Suai is in one of the most fertile regions of East Timor. Both maize and rice are grown here.

Back to Julia in West Timor. It's now early February. The family has long run out of food stocks, and is relying on donations of rice provided by either the World Food Programme or other relief agencies, and on the cash grant they get from the government. That's 1,500 rupiah per day per person, about \$0.14. The money allows them to buy extras such as fresh vegetables. The diet lacks the proteins she and her brothers and sisters need to grow normally. WFP will be coordinating food aid and

ensuring that children like Julia get a full food basket with all the proteins and essential micro-nutrients they need for normal development.

The story of Julia and her family is one familiar to most of the people who fled into West Timor. They came for what they thought would be a short stay. They are still there, either because of intimidation by militias,

or because they do not want to go back for security reasons. Julia's mother tells me that she has fallen out with her

brother, who returned with his family to Bobonaro in East Timor's coffee-growing region to pick up his life as best he could.

Julia knows nothing of all this. What bothers her most is that she can't go to school for the time being. Her mother doesn't have enough money to buy her the uniform compulsory at state schools in West Timor: a white shirt and a little red skirt.

What bothers Julia most is that she can't go to school for the time being... she needs a uniform

Marie-France Bourgeois, a former ECHO coordinator in North Korea, wrote this while on a needs assessment mission for the World Food Programme

Kosovo

Sowing seeds of revival

The Mitrovica region is still tense and divided as a result of the war over Kosovo. ACTED, a French non-governmental organisation specialising in agricultural development, has been helping small farmers, both Albanians and Serbs, to grow food in settlements nearby. Here are the stories of two farmers, both of whom are taking part in the programme. Both are living in picturesque, fragrant mountain countryside that looks deceptively peaceful now.

Nezir Bahtiri: I'm a farmer in Lushta, which had 720 inhabitants before the war. Now there are only 620. My family and I went to Djakovica (near the border with Albania) to escape the fighting, then came back to find the house was burnt out. We hid in the mountains for a while.

When we finally returned, we got help from World Vision, and from the Red Cross, which helped us to repair the roof. We're a family of seven and we only have one room in which to live now. The World Food Programme helped us with food over the winter. Now we all work on the land to survive. And see, I made this greenhouse with the plastic that we used to keep out the rain in winter. I'm hoping to grow some vegetables in it. I used to have a cow and a couple of dozen chickens, but they're all gone. To raise a little

As village leader, I decide who gets priority for tractor repairs. I'm still on the waiting list – mine's in better shape than others



Photos by Eva Kaluzynska/ECHO

Nezir Bahtiri: landmine awareness is crucial

cash, I sometimes rent out my tractor to other farmers. With the help of ACTED, I've planted winter wheat, maize, seed potatoes and beans.

That will cover the needs of the family.

As leader of the village, I'm responsible for deciding who gets priority with help to repair their tractors in a

scheme ACTED is running. I'm still on the waiting list – my tractor is in better shape than some of the others. I also meet the Red Cross every month to exchange information about landmines in the area, then I inform all the villagers. It's very important to make children in school realise they need to be careful. Three people from a neighbouring village were killed on their way back home – they came from Switzerland and took a short cut through the mountains, not realising the danger. Thankfully, there have been no more accidents since KFOR came.

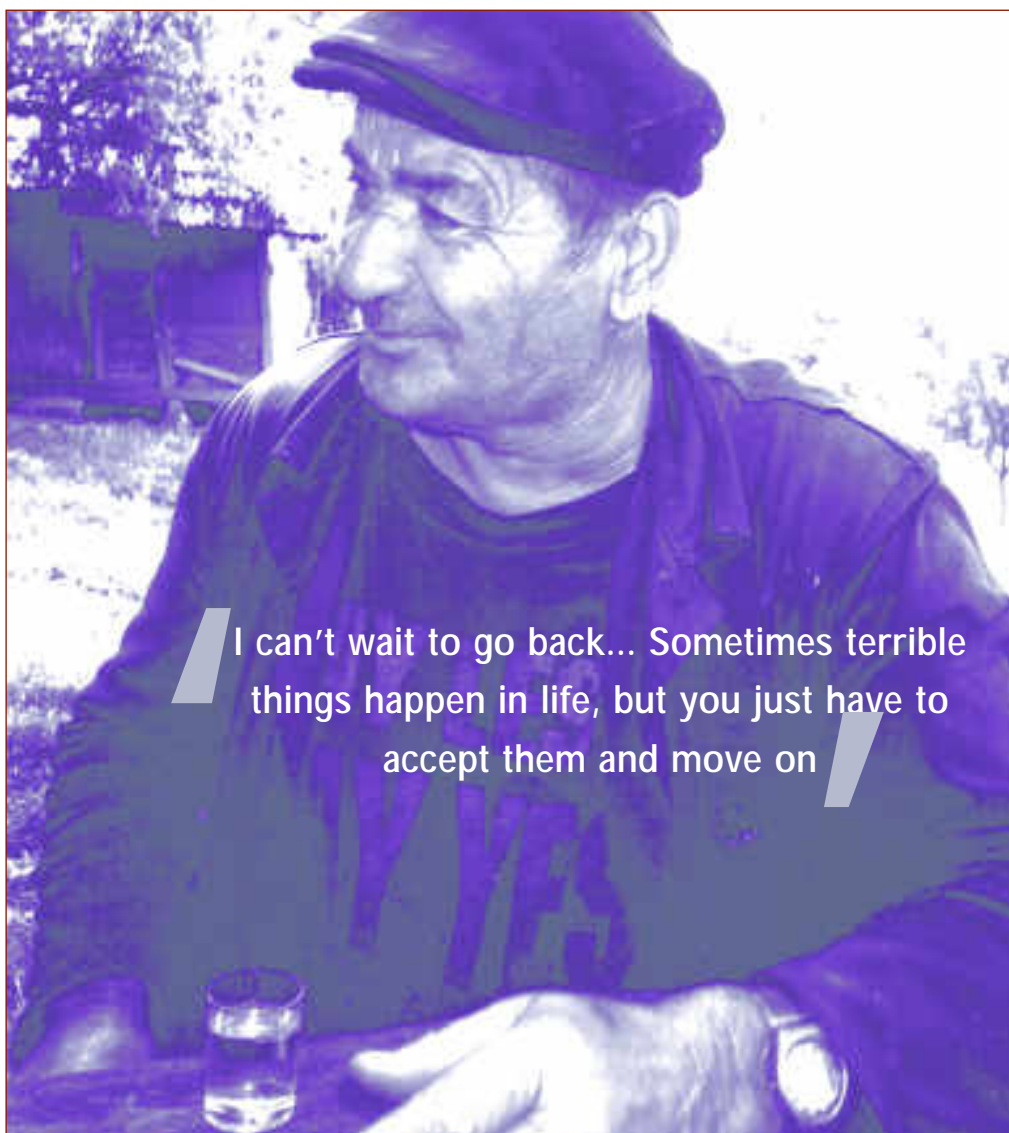


Photo by Eva Kaluzynska/ECHO

I can't wait to go back... Sometimes terrible things happen in life, but you just have to accept them and move on

Dragoslav Jovanovic: lucky to be alive

Dragoslav Jovanovic: I'm from Rudnik, near Srbica. Now seven of us are living here, in Krushevlie, in this house which the owner has let us use. He's in Serbia. He's been very generous, and he lets us use anything we need. We came here with nothing, we were lucky to escape alive. From ACTED, we got winter wheat, maize, potatoes, beans and onion seeds. We'll give part of the produce to the owner of the house. We're growing some paprika, there are some old pear trees, and we'll make raki with the plums from his orchard – we're drinking some he made last year at the moment. Would you like a glass?

I'll buy a cow and a pig when I can. I had two houses and 10 hectares of land back in Rudnik. But everyone from my village left. My brother went back in a UNHCR bus a couple of months

ago to see what was left of our property, but he was one of the people killed when the bus was attacked. Even so, I can hardly wait to go back.

Sometimes terrible things happen in life, but you just have to accept them and move on. I don't really know what ECHO is, but I know it gives us some kind of help. Thank God for the help we're getting – we need it.

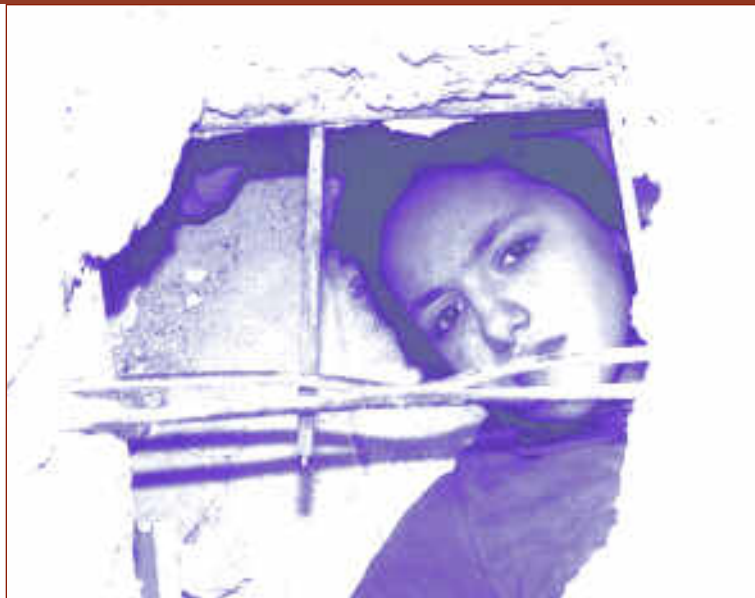
Nezir Bahtiri and Dragoslav Jovanovic were talking to Eva Kaluzynska of ECHO Information

DISASTER AREAS

Turkey

Turkey suffered two major earthquakes, on August 17 and November 12. In the first, some 18,000 people lost their lives, and up to 40,000 were injured amid major structural damage. Many people were crushed to death in their sleep. ECHO responded with emergency funding totalling €30 million. As well as covering emergency items and shelter, the funding includes provision for post-trauma counselling and disaster preparedness initiatives.

Photo SIPA Press



This 13-year-old girl was lucky to survive amid the rubble of her home in Sakarya

Venezuela

Deadly landslides followed two weeks of torrential rain in December, hitting the coastal state of Vargas. Mud, debris, boulders and vegetation cascaded down mountain slopes to the coast, burying shantytown villages. Up to 30,000 people may have lost their lives, and 200,000 were forced to seek shelter elsewhere. ECHO made available funding worth €400,000 before year end for an emergency operation.

Photo SIPA Press

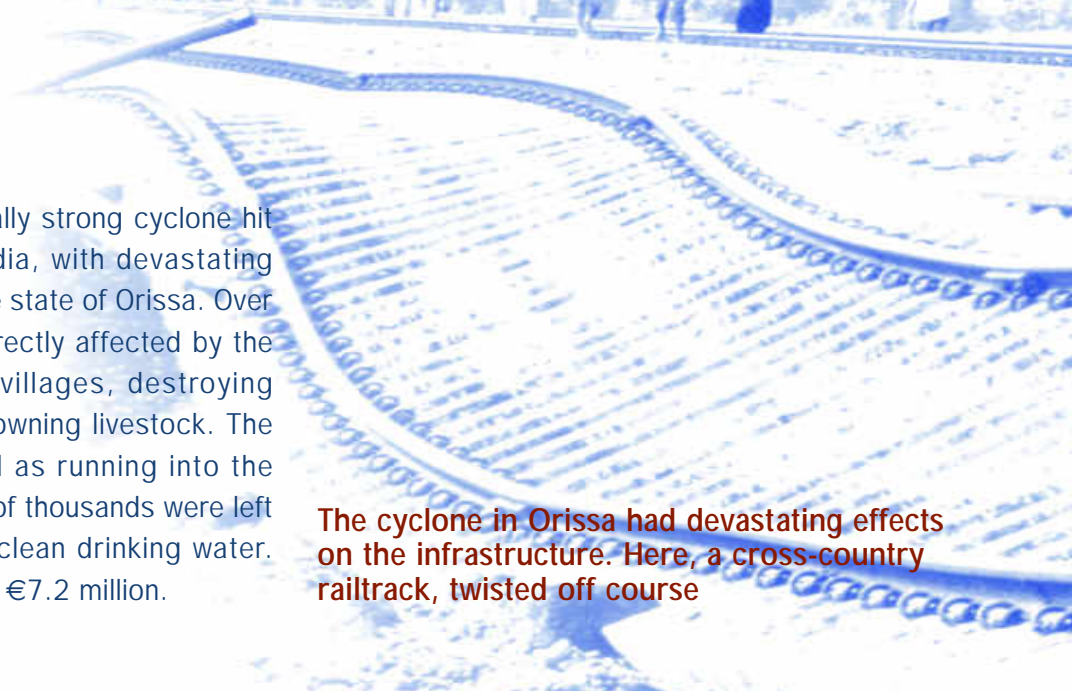


Rescue workers help survivors to safety

India

In October, an exceptionally strong cyclone hit the eastern coast of India, with devastating effects, particularly for the state of Orissa. Over 15 million people were directly affected by the flooding that inundated villages, destroying houses and crops and drowning livestock. The death toll was estimated as running into the thousands, and hundreds of thousands were left in dire need of food and clean drinking water. ECHO allocated funding of €7.2 million.

Photo SIPA Press



The cyclone in Orissa had devastating effects on the infrastructure. Here, a cross-country railtrack, twisted off course

POLICY: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Expect the unexpected

In 1999, ECHO spent a total of €7.338 million on disaster preparedness activities.

- It strengthened and broadened its activities in the field of prevention of natural disasters and preparedness via its DIPECHO programme. The basis for these plans is risk assessment and disaster limitation. Reducing the vulnerability of people and places saves lives, curbs destruction and ultimately reduces the need for humanitarian aid.

- Three action plans were carried out, in the Caribbean, in Central America and in South-East Asia. In each case, activities were planned and carried out at the national, regional and local community level. All three plans were evaluated, a process that yielded useful material for improving the programmes at all levels.

- The DIPECHO programme was extended to Andean countries, where an assessment recommended focusing on preparing communities most vulnerable to flooding, landslides and earthquakes, and on strengthening disaster prevention structures at national, regional, district and local levels. An assessment was also carried out in South Asia in view of possibly extending the DIPECHO programme to this region.

- In 1999, ECHO also backed projects not covered by DIPECHO regional planning, in Morocco (€40,000) and in Kyrgystan/Uzbekistan (€120,000). Since 1994, ECHO has financed more than 150 disaster preparedness/prevention projects, totalling about €36 million. This does not take into account disaster preparedness activities which have been financed via Global Plans or associated with emergency operations.



© Expo Sudan-C&C, 1999

Aid worker in Kenya displays stickers on the back of his guitar





North Caucasus

Funding made available:
€2.2 million

The Russian military offensive in Chechnya displaced up to 300,000 civilians, most of them to neighbouring Ingushetia. Despite international efforts to broker a peace settlement in the region, prospects for a solution looked bleak at time of writing. Security conditions for humanitarian workers were extremely bad, making it impossible for a concerted effort within Chechnya itself.

ECHO's partners in these very difficult circumstances were the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Both had to operate by 'remote control', without the permanent deployment of expatriate staff in Ingushetia or Dagestan, where locally-hired staff were deployed to manage the distribution of aid.



Prospects for a solution still look bleak..



*Funding made available: €378 million
in response to the crisis over Kosovo*

Kosovo

After thousands of Kosovars of Albanian origin started fleeing their homes under pressure from Serb armed forces and police, open conflict broke out. The Balkans were once again engulfed in a tragedy of massive proportions. The humanitarian community, with the support of other actors, including the military, once again had to help hundreds of thousands of people to survive the immediate consequences of violent conflict and sudden displacement. The situation in Kosovo made a complex crisis in former Yugoslavia even more complicated, with new layers of displacement adding to an already intricate pattern of

forced movements of populations. Between March and June, the focus was on accommodating and looking after people streaming out of Kosovo into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The deployment of KFOR encouraged most of those who had fled to return home as soon as they could. So for the second half of the year, ECHO concentrated on emergency humanitarian aid within the province of Kosovo. A plan drawn up by UNHCR in close cooperation with ECHO formed the backbone of international assistance to Kosovo.





Sudan

Funding made available: €13.5 million

During 1999, the long-running civil war between the Government in Khartoum and rebel groups in the south and east of the country went on, but the humanitarian situation stabilised. Food security improved in the south. ECHO focused on assisting the most vulnerable victims of conflict, and those displaced throughout the country, providing a package of medical aid, water/sanitation, food security and relief assistance.

Frequent security problems, particularly in the south, meant displacement of civilians, evacuation of aid-workers and destruction of aid facilities. It was difficult to establish principled relationships with rebels. One of the movements re-opened discussions on a “Memorandum of Understanding” with NGOs, but relations deteriorated progressively through the year.



ECHO focused on assisting the most vulnerable victims

Photo SIPA Press



Funding made available for Burundi, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania: €53.3 million

Great Lakes

Continued fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo forced 800,000 people to flee to safety within the country, while 160,000 Congolese sought refuge in Tanzania, Zambia or Rwanda. In Congo-Brazzaville, a war that flared up in December 1998 had over 560,000 people on the move out of a population of 2.8 million. They gradually returned, and ECHO provided support for them. In Burundi, violence between rebel factions and the army intensified. The total number displaced rose to over 800,000, about 12

per cent of the population. In October, nine UN staff, two international and seven Burundians, were murdered, as a result of which the UN and NGOs had to withdraw temporarily. Tanzania had to cope with more than 370,000 refugees along its borders with Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

However, there was cause for cautious optimism in Rwanda, where food security improved markedly. ECHO developed a Global Plan worth €53.3 million for the region.



Photo SIPA/Press

Well over two million people fled their homes to escape conflicts



Ethiopia and Eritrea

Funding made available:
€10 million (includes Djibouti)

A simmering conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea erupted into full-scale war in February 1999. Though there were few civilian casualties, several hundred thousand people were either internally displaced, or deported. ECHO earmarked €10 million in humanitarian assistance for victims of the conflict. Most of this went to fund camps for Eritreans driven from their homes. Most Ethiopians found shelter within existing settlements.

Full-scale war erupted in February 1999





CONFLICT ZONES

Colombia

Humanitarian Aid Office

Funding made available: €9.9 million

Continued internal conflict escalated, leading more and more people to flee their homes. An estimated million Colombians have been displaced in conflict involving guerrillas, the paramilitary, armed forces and drug traffickers. Targeted killings, torture, kidnapping and extortion were more frequent than open conflict, and displacement was often the

objective of paramilitary groups that forced smallholders to abandon land which could provide support for guerrillas. The presence of the International Committee of the Red Cross was seen as an important feature of ECHO's Global Plan, in helping to reinforce international humanitarian law as a contribution to the peace process.

About a million Colombians have been displaced





Afghanistan

Funding made available: €5.75 million

The humanitarian situation in Kabul deteriorated even further as 50,000 displaced people tried to relocate to a devastated city. ECHO supported rehabilitation operations being carried out via medical and nutrition programmes, as well as food-for-work operations for displaced people and vulnerable groups. Elsewhere in the country, in Hazarajat, Panshir and the North, people were also on the move.

About 90 per cent of the country is controlled by the Taliban. Afghanistan is now feeling the effects of UN sanctions, following its refusal to hand over Saudi-born suspected terrorist Osama Bin Laden, charged with masterminding bombings of US embassies in 1998.

ECHO funding amounted to €5 million, plus €750,000 for victims of an earthquake in February 1999.

Afghanistan is feeling the effects of UN sanctions



Photo SIPA Press/Christine Spengler



ECHO'S GLOBAL REACH 1999 *(For details of funding, see page 31)*

Afghanistan

The arrival of 50,000 internally displaced people in Kabul aggravated the already-perilous humanitarian situation. As well as serious destruction, the capital is suffering chronic underemployment and economic sanctions on the Taliban regime. ECHO supported food and health programmes, as well as food-for-work operations for displaced people and vulnerable groups. ECHO provided aid for displaced persons in Hazarajat, Panshir, the North and Kabul. In the Hazarajat region, ECHO funded cash-for-work food security operations. There was also aid for victims of the quake that hit the region south of Kabul in February. *Photo, page 22*

Albania

Programmes that became redundant when refugees from Kosovo returned there were re-oriented towards meeting the needs of Albanians, particularly in health care and water/sanitation.

Algeria

ECHO funded help for Sahraoui refugees living in camps in Tindouf for the past 20 years. Pending a referendum on self-determination, they are completely dependent on aid from the international community. The programme, co-ordinated with the World Food Programme and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, covered food and healthcare, as well as emergency rehabilitation. ECHO helped to strengthen the capacity of the Algerian Red Crescent Society and to link Algerian and European psycho-social networks. It also helped with setting up counselling for orphans and traumatised children.

Angola

The civil war intensified, spreading to almost every major town. The humanitarian situation deteriorated, and civilians fled from the countryside to provincial capitals. Nearly one million people have been displaced since mid-1998. Precarious security and limited field access made working conditions for humanitarian organisations very difficult in most war-affected provinces. ECHO's priorities: assistance for those displaced, healthcare. *Accursed by wealth and war, page 9*

Bangladesh

Bangladesh tried to recover from floods in 1998, the worst this century. ECHO continued post-emergency rehabilitation support. Then it was hit by more floods, affecting millions of acres of land and sweeping away many houses. Much of the land was highly fertile and its loss was a major setback for farming and fishing communities just beginning to recover from last year's flooding. In the capital, Dhaka, flooding affected the most vulnerable slum dwellers, in particular street children. ECHO focused on food, relief items, and medical support for the most vulnerable.

Bolivia

After a year of drought, southern Bolivia experienced severe flooding in February. It devastated farmlands and destroyed infrastructure. ECHO funding assisted 5,000 people in 18 rural communities with repairs, medical aid, water/sanitation, and relaunched agriculture.

Burundi

Violence between rebel factions and the army intensified in the second half of 1999, aggravating an already-precarious humanitarian situation. A government decision to relocate much of the population of Bujumbura resulted in over 300,000 people being regrouped in 53 overcrowded sites. This raised the total number of those displaced to over 800,000 (12 per cent of the population). ECHO's priorities: nutrition, sanitation and general health in camps for the displaced.

Cambodia

Cambodia started steps towards development. ECHO assisted the return and reintegration of some of the 46,000 refugees who came back from Thailand. Resettlement was difficult, especially in the north-west, because of landmines and lack of roads. ECHO also helped internally displaced people, returnees and other vulnerable groups living in former Khmer Rouge conflict zones. ECHO's focus: primary health care; provision of basic necessities; assistance to refugees and returnees and humanitarian de-mining. ECHO also assisted victims of floods in August and December.

Central America: Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala

Hurricane Mitch (October 1998) caused devastation on an unprecedented scale. According to the Economic Commission for Latin America, over 10,000 people are known to have died in the hurricane and a similar number remain unaccounted for. The disaster directly or indirectly affected almost 6.7 million people, nearly a quarter of the population of the countries affected. The damage has been put at US\$ 5.36 billion. ECHO's global plan included a strong rehabilitation component to pave the way to longer-term aid from other EC budget sources. ECHO's focus: health, water and sanitation and rehabilitation of houses.

China

The torrential rainfall which devastated China last summer left 800 people dead and 24 000 injured. ECHO aid helped to assist victims of floods in the Yangtse region, mostly with food and water. In Tibet, ECHO approved aid for shelter, food aid and medical assistance.

Colombia

With no end in sight to the long-running internal conflict involving the armed forces, guerrillas, paramilitary groups and drug traffickers, ECHO's aim was to secure emergency health care, psycho-social support and shelter for displaced civilians. Targeted killings, torture, kidnapping and extortion are more frequent than open conflict, and displacement often forces smallholders to abandon their land. There was also assistance for victims of an earthquake. *Photo, page 21*

Congo-Brazzaville

As a result of the war that flared up in December 1998, more than 20 per cent of the population of Congo-Brazzaville found itself displaced by 1999, though some returned after July. Many of those fleeing headed for Brazzaville and Pointe Noire, endangering food security, especially in Brazzaville. ECHO's priorities: transport facilities, healthcare, food aid.

Cuba

The country remained in the grip of an economic crisis that has devastated previously well-developed health and social services. ECHO earmarked funding worth €9 million for food support, medicines and basic rehabilitation of hospitals. A further €2 million was earmarked for needs after Hurricane Irene in October.

Democratic Republic of Congo

As a result of continued fighting, around 800,000 people were internally displaced, and 160,000 Congolese sought refuge in Tanzania, Zambia and Rwanda. For its part, the DRC hosted over 230,000 refugees from neighbouring countries. Access and security remained a major bottleneck for the humanitarian relief community. ECHO's priorities: health support in key areas, distribution of food and non-food items to the vulnerable, including refugees and displaced people. *Photo, page 19*

East Timor

A campaign of killing and destruction by pro-Indonesian forces ensued after the people of East Timor voted overwhelmingly for independence in a UN-sponsored ballot. More than 260,000 East Timorese fled for West Timor. ECHO's priorities: medical aid, distribution of food and non-food items, transport of returnees, water and sanitation, shelters, protection and security for displaced people. *Julia is from TimTim, page 10*

Ecuador

Guagua Pichincha and Tungurahua, two of 31 active volcanoes in Ecuador, erupted. ECHO provided assistance for those displaced.

Ethiopia and Eritrea

About 500,000 people were displaced or otherwise affected by the conflict affecting this poor, drought-prone border region since May 1998. Though there were few civilian casualties as a result of the war, several hundred thousand people were either internally displaced or deported. ECHO funding covered food, water supplies and the provision of tents and cooking equipment. *Photo page 20*

the immediate consequences of violent conflict and sudden, massive displacement. The Kosovo conflict made a complex crisis in former Yugoslavia even more complicated, with new layers of displacement added on to an already intricate pattern of forced population movements. Initial ECHO efforts between March and June focused on the reception and accommodation of large refugee and displaced populations streaming out of Kosovo and into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

ECHO covered emergency humanitarian aid: food and hygiene, shelter (refugee camps, collective accommodation, host families), health care, psycho-social support, protection and community services. ECHO was the largest contributor to UNHCR's operation in response to the Kosovo crisis. Support was also extended to cover the most vulnerable among the local populations in Albania, FYROM and Montenegro.

The deployment of KFOR in Kosovo led to a quicker and more comprehensive return than expected of the many refugees and displaced persons. For the second half of the year, ECHO focused on emergency humanitarian aid to Kosovo. Massive

Prayer for peace in Sierra Leone

*Peace, peace, I hear the cry of our nation calling for peace.
After a war that has left behind many atrocities,
Come, oh, peace come.
I am lonely, no mother and father,
my brothers and sisters have gone astray.
My hands have being* amputated.
Where am I? Who to live with?
My answer is peace;
Come, oh peace come.*

SORRIE, AGE 10, MURRAYTOWN AMPUTEE CAMP

Former Soviet Union: Russian Federation, Tadjikistan, southern Caucasus, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova.

Aid programmes directly related to various ethnic conflicts that affected the region in the last decade remained either at the same level as in previous years or were gradually reduced in line with a switch from humanitarian to other type of assistance. However, the Russian financial crisis of 1998 had a serious impact on the whole of the region. The European Union prompted ECHO to adapt its humanitarian instruments as far as possible, to provide assistance for those most vulnerable.

In Russia, the weakening of social security systems has hit remote communities particularly hard. ECHO focused mainly on tuberculosis-related programmes, support to selected vulnerable medical and social institutions, assistance to "forced migrants" and displaced people, local capacity building and strengthening of the Visiting Nurses Services. The working environment for humanitarian actors, in particular NGOs, has remained difficult (problems with local authorities, taxation and customs). To support partners, ECHO opened a new office in Moscow in September 1999.

Former Yugoslavia, covering Kosovo, Serbia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Open conflict returned to the region, and engulfed its southern part in a humanitarian tragedy of massive proportions. The humanitarian community went back to the task of helping hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons survive

destruction of housing and infrastructure and widespread looting meant that returning refugees needed a comprehensive package of support to survive the winter.

ECHO and UNHCR had drawn up a comprehensive return assistance plan for Kosovo by May. This subsequently formed the backbone of the international humanitarian assistance effort in Kosovo. ECHO-funded NGOs, other donors and UNHCR together provided more than 65,000 shelter and 'winterisation' kits, allowing returning refugees to repair their damaged or destroyed houses and to ensure one heated room for the winter. The rapid deployment of a Commission Task Force for the Reconstruction of Kosovo (TAFKO) allowed for the early planning of the transition between humanitarian aid and rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance.

The situation in Serbia deteriorated sharply in second half of year, and led ECHO to step up its assistance more than six-fold in comparison with previous years. Food and hygiene programmes for the old caseload of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia were expanded to cover more than 800,000 refugees, displaced persons and vulnerable groups among the local population. The need to accommodate people displaced from Kosovo meant that collective centres and private accommodation had to be rehabilitated or adapted. Social and health institutions got targeted support with minor rehabilitation, equipment and heating fuel.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, ECHO continued with efforts to support the return and re-integration of those who fled the violence during the war that ended in 1995. It stepped up

* sic



measures to ensure a smooth transition from ECHO funding to longer-term Commission assistance programmes. *Photos, pages 4-5, 17; Seeds of revival, page 12*

Guatemala

Two years after a peace accord, many of those affected by conflict were still struggling to survive. ECHO contributed aid for those who returned to their homes. It covered provision of medical and health assistance, shelter, tools, basic household equipment, clean water and self-help training. ECHO plans to withdraw in 2000.

Guinea-Bissau

Guinea-Bissau continues to suffer the effects of a conflict that intensified from mid-1998 to February 1999. Some 100,000 displaced people returning to Bissau after the fighting had to repair their houses before the rainy season. They also needed medical aid. ECHO stepped in until development could resume.

India

A ferocious cyclone that ravaged eastern India in October killed nearly 10,000 people, hundreds of thousands of cattle and directly affected more than 15 million people. ECHO stepped in with emergency aid of all types. It also provided assistance for nomadic populations in the north-west, following exceptional snowstorms hitting that region and Tibet. *Photo, page 14*

Indonesia

Conflict between Christian and Muslim groups broke out on the island of Ambon, in Maluku (Molucca) province last Spring. Some 30,000 people were displaced. ECHO supported healthcare and food aid programmes for displaced people. It also provided assistance for refugees from East Timor who fled to West Timor, and displaced people in Aceh.

Iraq

The combined effects of the Iran-Iraq War, the Gulf War and sanctions have reduced Iraq to a state of mass poverty, especially in the north, where some three million Kurds live in precarious conditions. ECHO supported projects complementing the international agreement allowing Iraq to sell oil-for-food. ECHO funding went on medical supplies, rehabilitation of sanitation facilities and support for institutions assisting handicapped and orphaned children. There was also assistance for displaced people.

Mali, Niger: ECHO phases out

The year 1999 marked ECHO's phasing out in Northern Mali and Northern Niger as they regained relative stability. Water, health and food security projects financed by ECHO ended in December 1999, to be replaced by medium-and long-term programmes aiming at sustainable development. In both countries, ECHO's activities were praised as a major contribution to social stabilisation and peace. Assistance to Mali channelled via ECHO amounted €14.7 million 1996-1999; for Niger, the total was €5.185 million 1997-1999. All activities implemented in 1999 were based on a decision worth €5 million for Mali in late 1998. In Niger, a final decision worth €285,000 completed ECHO's programme.

Mexico

Some 13,000 people displaced by conflict in the troubled region of Chiapas were affected by catastrophic flooding. ECHO funded humanitarian aid to assist flood victims in the states of Puebla and Veracruz, and for those displaced in Chiapas.

Middle East: Palestinian refugees in occupied territories, Palestinians in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. ECHO aid included assistance to the Palestinian population in the occupied territories, Palestinian refugees in Lebanon,

Syria and Jordan and some specific aid in support of vulnerable groups in those countries.

Nicaragua

The country's most active volcano, Cerro Negro, erupted in August, followed by two earthquakes in the department of León. ECHO aid covered distribution of basic relief items, medical care and organised shelters.

North Korea

Widespread famine is thought to have killed hundreds of thousands of North Koreans over the past three years. ECHO's support covered healthcare and hygiene for children, delivery of medicines to hospitals, upgrading of hospitals and water purification. It also provided winter clothes for children and coal for heating in schools, orphanages and hospitals. ECHO's policy was to maintain a small-scale presence for access to beneficiaries. Monitoring of projects continued to be extremely difficult.

Northern Caucasus

The Russian military offensive in Chechnya displaced up to 300,000 civilians, most of them to neighbouring Ingushetia. Despite international efforts to broker a peace settlement in the region, prospects for a solution looked bleak at time of writing. Security conditions for humanitarian workers were extremely bad, making it impossible for a concerted effort within Chechnya itself.

ECHO's partners in these very difficult circumstances were the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Both had to operate by 'remote control', without the permanent deployment of expatriate staff in Ingushetia or Daghestan, where locally-hired staff were deployed to manage the distribution of aid. *Photo, page 16*

Pakistan

The cyclone that hit the south-east coast of Pakistan in May caused massive destruction to housing in the coastal towns and villages of the two districts of Badin and Thatta in Sindh province, and to agriculture and the fishing industry. At least 600,000 people were affected and almost two hundred people, mostly fishermen, were killed. Over 75,000 houses were destroyed and some 59,000 damaged. ECHO aid gave special attention to the fishing community, which had to fight malaria after the crisis.

Paraguay

ECHO aid assisted people affected by drought caused by the climatic phenomenon called "La Niña", which also hit Peru and Bolivia. ECHO's priorities: emergency food aid, water and sanitation, and agriculture rehabilitation for those affected by floods and fires.

Philippines

Heavy monsoon rains struck the Philippines in August, leaving 177 people dead and more than two million displaced. ECHO funding assisted flood victims, providing healthcare and other non-food aid. The funding also covered projects assisting internally displaced people in the former guerrilla areas of Basilan and Central Mindanao with water/sanitation projects and food aid. Disaster preparedness projects were also supported.

Romania

ECHO supported a programme to assist homes for mentally handicapped children and adults. The assistance consisted of food, hygiene products, the replacement of essential equipment, such as industrial washing machines, fuel for cooking and essential repairs. The ECHO programme was implemented in close co-ordination with a separate Phare Programme worth €25 million for the health sector in 1999.

Rwanda

The government's counter-insurgency strategy in the north-west, having

ECHO'S GLOBAL REACH

first occasioned the displacement of some 650,000 people, was followed by their relocation and resettlement in several hundred "village" sites. Although the tentative stability achieved by these measures may ultimately prove beneficial to the resettled populations, the history of "villagisation" in the region is not a happy one and in Rwanda goes against centuries of tradition. There have been some positive developments in social and human rights over the past year such as successful local elections, the establishment of a human rights commission and Unity and Reconciliation commissions. However, the prefectures of Kibuye and Byumba continued harbouring over 30,000 refugees, mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo. There was also support for WFP's food aid programme for refugees in Tanzanian camps.

Sierra Leone

Despite a controversial peace agreement, the situation did not improve (and was deteriorating at time of writing). Humanitarian personnel were heavily targeted by combatants in early 1999 (looting, confiscation of equipment, arrest of local staff, etc.). They had difficulty getting guarantees from rebel forces for security and free access to civilians in dire need of assistance. Up to half a million Sierra Leonean refugees were living in camps set up in neighbouring Guinea and Liberia. There were some 200,000 internally displaced people. ECHO focused on providing core humanitarian emergency assistance, medical and nutritional programmes, food security, water and sanitation, transport and logistics, as well as psycho-social programmes mainly aimed at assisting children affected by war, abducted and demobilised child soldiers, and unaccompanied minors. *The boy they call Civilian, page 7*

Somalia

Somalia's conflict among warlords with constantly shifting allegiances carried on. It was largely ignored by the international community tired of the anarchy since the 1991 ouster of the dictator Siad Barre. The fighting continued throughout central and southern Somalia, limiting the humanitarian space needed to provide assistance to vulnerable populations. Some international aid agencies had to withdraw their expatriate staff temporarily. But the northern part of Somalia enjoyed relative stability, which justified the start of rehabilitation measures. ECHO's priorities: medical and nutrition assistance in Mogadishu and Southern Somalia.

Sri Lanka

Fighting in the north resulted in heavy combatant casualties and further massive displacements of civilians within the Vanni region. Of about 700,000 internally displaced people (IDPs), about 45 percent were women and 30 percent children. ECHO provided shelter, water/sanitation, seeds, fertilisers and kitchen utensils. There was also assistance with rehabilitating the basic agricultural infrastructure: improved access to safe drinking water, better irrigation and development of good quality seeds for food crops.

Sudan

The country entered its 17th year of civil war with no real end in sight. Peace talks continued at different levels, but none of the opposing sides seemed prepared for real compromise. The main areas of insecurity in 1999 remained Northern Bahr el Gazal and Western Upper Nile around the oilfields. The Government of Sudan continued its occasional bombing raids all over the South. ECHO provided support for around 40 programmes (health, water, food security) over the year. Almost all of these were under the umbrella of Operation Lifeline Sudan, the United Nations framework for providing aid to those affected by war in the one of the poorest, least accessible regions in the world. About a third of the funds went to the operations in government-controlled areas, and the rest to the operations

in areas controlled by the Sudan People's Liberation Army or other southern factions. ECHO focused on basic primary health care, provision of clean drinking water and sanitation facilities.

Photo, page 18

Tanzania

As in previous years, the humanitarian situation in Tanzania was dominated by the presence of more than 370,000 refugees along its western borders with Rwanda, Burundi and DRC. Though the flow of refugees from DRC slowed to a trickle by September, the increasing rebel/government hostilities in Burundi and the murder of UN staff in Rutana (Burundi) triggered a sharp rise in arrivals from Burundi. Prohibited from developing self-sustaining livelihoods, the refugees are entirely dependent on external assistance.

Thailand

ECHO provided medical aid and food assistance for Burmese refugees in camps along the border with Thailand, covering 120,000 people for 10 months.

Turkey

A major earthquake, measuring between 7.4 and 7.8 on the Richter Scale, struck the north-western region of Turkey on 17 August 1999. Four provinces, Yalova, Kocaeli, Sakarya and Bolu, together with areas surrounding Istanbul were badly affected. This was followed by a second earthquake on 12 November, this time in Duzce. As a result of both disasters, some 18,000 people lost their lives and up to 48,000 were injured. Major structural damage also occurred. NGO partners implemented programmes which focused on the supply of emergency items including temporary shelter, hygiene kits, medicines and winter clothes. There was also support for post-trauma counselling, and light rehabilitation in the medical and education sectors, together with disaster preparedness initiatives. *Photo, page 14*

Venezuela

Torrential rains hit Venezuela in December, resulting in mudslides and catastrophic flooding. Up to 50 000 people may have lost their lives. ECHO funding enabled non-governmental organisations to provide immediate assistance to victims in temporary shelters. The aid covered food, medicines, medical supplies, bedding, tents, cooking utensils, electricity generating equipment and clean drinking water. *Photo, page 14*

Vietnam

Vietnam was included in a €2 million decision for flooding that affected South East Asia in July/August 1999. In December, €700 000 went to help victims of November floods.

Yemen

Yemen is among the least-developed and low-income food-deficit country with around 20 percent of the population living below the poverty line. In September, ECHO approved assistance for people having difficulties integrating into Yemenite society, such as Somali refugees or repatriated Yemeni workers who are living in extreme hardship, the handicapped and for a vaccination campaign against measles. There was also funding to combat malaria.

Zambia

From March onwards, some 25,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo sought protection and assistance by crossing into Zambia's northern District of Kaputa. ECHO helped them via funds channelled through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The money covered the camp management, shelter, provision of essential health, nutrition and water and sanitation services.

Evaluation

Positive feedback from evaluators on ECHO's record

Evaluators looking into ECHO's performance since 1996 were broadly positive, but made many useful suggestions for improvements. The independent evaluation, which took a year, was carried out in accordance with the terms of the 1996 Regulation covering ECHO. This specified that there would be an assessment, together with proposals for improvements, and that the package would be submitted to the European Parliament and Council.

On balance, evaluators were positive about ECHO's record. 'ECHO is currently financing the delivery of humanitarian assistance at least as well as any other organisation, and probably better and in a more cost-effective manner than any other comparable international organisation,' the report said.

On the plus side, evaluators singled out the move to organising responses to crises in Global Plans (broad strategies for specific countries/regions), saying such plans were a positive development in planning. They found that budget implementation rates were satisfactory by international standards, and they welcomed steps to simplify the Framework Partnership Agreement that ECHO has with active partners. They also praised ECHO's contribution to funding stability via its support of international agencies and non-governmental organisations, and found that on the whole, projects were cost-effective.

However, evaluators also noted that ECHO was not always able to respond rapidly, even to emergencies, and that Global Plans would have benefited from wider consultations, especially with the UN. They saw scope for improving cost-effectiveness through the use of local resources, and for improving coordination with other services of the European Commission and with Member States. There was also concern that ECHO was increasingly managing projects in the so-called 'grey zone' between relief and development, running the risk that these would not be sustainable.

The Commission submitted a Communication to the European Council and European Parliament in October 1999 taking on board the findings, and proposing measures to implement the recommendations over the next two years.



© Expo Sudan-C&C, 1999

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières logistics officer with her walkie-talkie

The philosophy behind this involves setting performance standards that will be monitored openly. Since partners are central to the quality of the humanitarian aid ECHO delivers, the relationship with partners will be strengthened at all levels. The Commission agreed that a review of the Framework Partnership Agreement* system was needed, especially for the Red Cross and for United Nations agencies, with a view to opening up possibilities for them to work on the basis of programmed support.

Among other objectives are the following: developing a coherent, effective strategy for the 'grey zone' dilemma; enhancing cooperation with European Union Member States; strengthening ECHO's presence in the so-called 'humanitarian capitals' – New York, Geneva and Rome; improving project cycle management; improving methods for measuring inputs, and monitoring results; improving synergies with ECHO staff in the field; strengthening management at headquarters in Brussels; and improving the skills of staff both at headquarters, and in the field.

*See page 28

Information

Spotlight on older people, child soldiers

ECHO's information strategy for 1999 had four aspects: media relations, publications, audio-visual productions and activities organised jointly with international agencies and NGOs.

ECHO continued to work closely with the rotating presidencies of the European Council, and in 1999 cooperated with the German and Finnish Presidencies to this end, organising conferences, seminars and other events. In Germany, a seminar took place in Bad Neuenahr, focusing on the need for preparedness in humanitarian aid. ECHO supported and took part in two major international conferences organised in cooperation with ECHO partners, one on the problem of child soldiers worldwide, part of a series on the topic, in Berlin; and one in Helsinki on the role of the elderly, identifying their potential to be a resource in humanitarian crises. Also in Helsinki, a Humanitarian Finland gala concert was held to raise funds for ECHO's Finnish partners.

A website was launched in English and French, and improved over the course of the year. ECHO Information publications include this Annual Review, and a quarterly newsletter entitled *ECHO News*.

Partnership

New framework scheme for ECHO partners

ECHO has a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) system, covering relations with partners committed to working with it regularly. It enables ECHO to implement projects quickly with partners known to it and selected for their professionalism and experience. A revised, simplified, more flexible FPA came into force on January 1, 1999, and an ECHO team carried out information and training sessions for non-governmental organisations covered by it in all European capitals during the year. Over 160 partners have signed the new FPA.

The preamble of the FPA was amended, to take into account the specific mandate of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and for the International Committee of the Red Cross. ECHO is also working on the task of adapting the FPA to operations carried out by United Nations agencies with ECHO financing.

Commissioner Poul Nielson met ECHO partners for the first time at their annual meeting, held in Paris in December 1999. He promised to strengthen and improve relations with them by all means at his disposal.

Finances

ECHO calls on emergency reserve, handles biggest-ever

ECHO managed its biggest-ever budget in 1999: a total of almost €813 million, a steep rise compared to the €517.7 million it handled in 1998. The previous high, registered in 1994, coincided with the crisis in Rwanda, and totalled €764.1 million.

Originally, the EC budget allocated €330.9 million for humanitarian assistance during 1999. However, the crisis in Kosovo, persistent needs in Russia, as well as responses to earthquakes in Turkey, called for a response in additional funds worth €396 million, including €346 million from the emergency reserve in the EC budget.

However, no funds were diverted from other priority areas in ECHO's budget, and projects in Africa were covered. Despite the needs in Kosovo,

ECHO funded projects in 70 countries over the year.

Given the pressure on the EC budget, most operations carried out in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries were financed with European Development Fund resources worth €83 million.

Roughly 20 per cent of ECHO funding was channelled via the United Nations. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees alone accounted for 13.7 per cent. Some 15 per cent of funding was disbursed via the Red Cross movement. The remaining 65 per cent was used to finance NGO projects.

About half of the 1999 total was spent on the Kosovo crisis, and the funding included the biggest-ever decision the Commission has adopted to date



ECHO Flight

Airborne lifeline ensures vital links in Africa

© Expo Sudan-C&C, 1999



Lokichoggio-Nairobi flight carrying medical staff and supplies

ECHO Flight, set up in 1994, was created to provide air transport for partners in areas of Africa where surface transport is unreliable and insecure, or simply non-existent. During times of war or unrest, getting staff and equipment in or out of remote locations fast and safely can be crucial. Commercial airline systems may fail to meet the needs of non-governmental organisations working in humanitarian aid, or may not be safe enough.

ECHO Flight offers a scheduled service to link NGO projects in Sudan and Somalia via Djibouti with Nairobi,

which is the main hub for the service. A reservation system gives NGOs funded by ECHO or DG Development priority. ECHO Flight also carries NGO staff from other organisations if space is available.

From May 1994 to December 1999, ECHO Flight carried more than 156,000 passengers, over 4.2 million kg of cargo, and logged 54,000 hours of accident-free flying time. Given the hazards of working in this region, the safety record reflects well both on the flight operators and on ECHO experts on the ground.

humanitarian relief budget

for humanitarian assistance: €196 million.

Officials from ECHO's budget unit conducted 22 financial audits. To date, audits have covered partners that together received about 82 per cent of ECHO funding. Audits were carried out on both current ECHO partners, and on NGOs that applied for ECHO partnership.

Audits function as a two-way process. ECHO obtains an audit opinion on current and potential partners, and the organisations audited receive guidance on working with ECHO.

The European Court of Auditors commented favourably about the work carried out so far, but called for the number of audits to be increased in future. This is under review.

Photo Eva Kaluzynska/ECHO



Back on his feet: Visar, 17, lost his right leg to a landmine while out running with his club near Peja, Kosovo. Thanks to Handicap International, he is back on his feet. With him is Dr Illiriana Dallku of Handicap International, Pristina

Policy

Mind the gap between relief and development

Linking relief and development is a delicate issue – we need to avoid gaps in provision. That is why the Commission wants to introduce new structures and fresh thinking to deal with it, involving all relevant parties. Sometimes humanitarian aid is made available to cover projects and situations that are on the borderline between relief and development, with the best of intentions, and with the interests of beneficiaries in mind. For its part, ECHO needs to define limits.

The Commission and Member States are looking at new forms of action that would mean ECHO concentrates on what it does best, without leaving beneficiaries exposed to gaps in provision. Development aid, not humanitarian aid should cover the transition gap. ECHO needs to work with Member States on a strategy, and has launched a debate around a proposed Communication on the topic.

Relations with the **United Nations**: The European Council confirmed its wish for ECHO to fund UN organisations in keeping with their programme-based approach and

specific mandates, while gaining a better understanding of their strengths and weaknesses, and encouraging their efforts to improve standards. ECHO will streamline the Framework Partnership Agreement, allowing flexibility to acknowledge the status of UN organisations and the Red Cross family, without sacrificing effective budgetary control. The Commission will prepare a strategy paper on relations with UN agencies, with financial as well as policy dimensions.

ECHO adopted a new strategy on the need to **protect beneficiaries** of humanitarian aid. The approach was set out in an ECHO discussion paper entitled *'Towards a Human Rights approach to European Commission Humanitarian Aid'*. This reflects an emerging consensus among ECHO partners that integrating human rights considerations is a prerequisite for minimising negative side-effects of humanitarian aid and maximising the protection of victims of armed conflict. The strategy stresses the importance of analysing and understanding human rights situations in specific emergencies.

Training

NOHA course raises professional standards

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 post-graduate exchanges in the European union, the diploma is currently supported by the European Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture. 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 sessions, options and a secondment on field work. Seven manuals are available to complement the course, on Law, Management, Geopolitics, Anthropology, Medicine and Public Health, Geography, Psychology. For further details, contact the Office for Official Publications, fax +352.29.29.42.759. For further details of the course, contact a participating university :

BELGIUM: Université Catholique de Louvain
Département des Sciences Politiques et Sociales
Place Montesquieu,1
B 1348 LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE
Fax+32. 10.47.46.03
e-mail :erasmus@pols.ucl.ac.be

FRANCE: Université d'Aix-Marseille III, DESS Aide humanitaire
Bur. 036 - Batiment Portalis, 3, av Robert Schuman

F 13628 AIX-EN-PROVENCE Cedex 1

Fax +33. 4.42.20.46.51

GERMANY: Institut für Friedenssicherungsrecht und Humanitäres
Völkerrecht, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Universitätsstr 150,
D-44780, BOCHUM

Fax +49.234.32.14.208

e-mail : heike.spieker@ruhr-uni-bochum.de

website :http://www.ifhv.de

IRELAND: University College Dublin,
Dept AERD, Faculty of Agriculture, Belfield
DUBLIN 4

Fax + 353.1.706.11.01

e-mail :pat.f.gibbons@ucd.ie

ITALY: Università La Sapienza-ROMA Medicina Sociale
Viale Regina Elena, 336

IT - 00161 - ROMA

Fax+39.6.49.91.27.04

SPAIN: Universidad de Deusto

Instituto de Derechos Humanos Apartado 1

E - 48080 - BILBAO

Fax+34.94.41.39.069

e-mail :ivalenti@idh.deusto.es

SWEDEN: University of Uppsala Utbildningsledare

Kansliet för Humaniora och samhällsvetenskap

Box 256 S-751 05 Uppsala

Fax+46.18.471.19.81

e-mail :Kay.Svensson@uadm.uu.se

THE NETHERLANDS: State University of Groningen

Section International Relations

PO BOX 716NL - 9700 - AS GRONINGEN

Fax+31.50.363.72.53

e-mail :i.van.der.meer@let.rug.nl

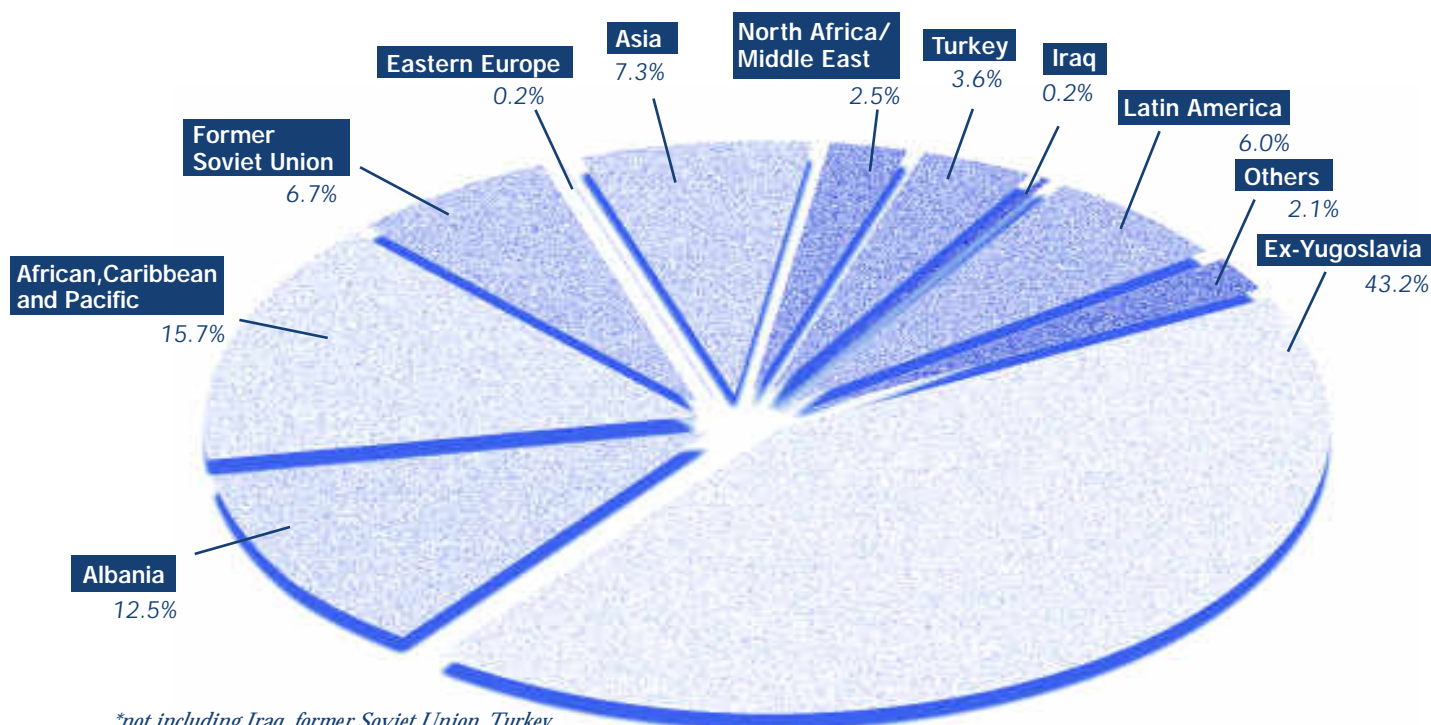
Web: http://www.let.rug.nl/noha



FACTS & FIGURES

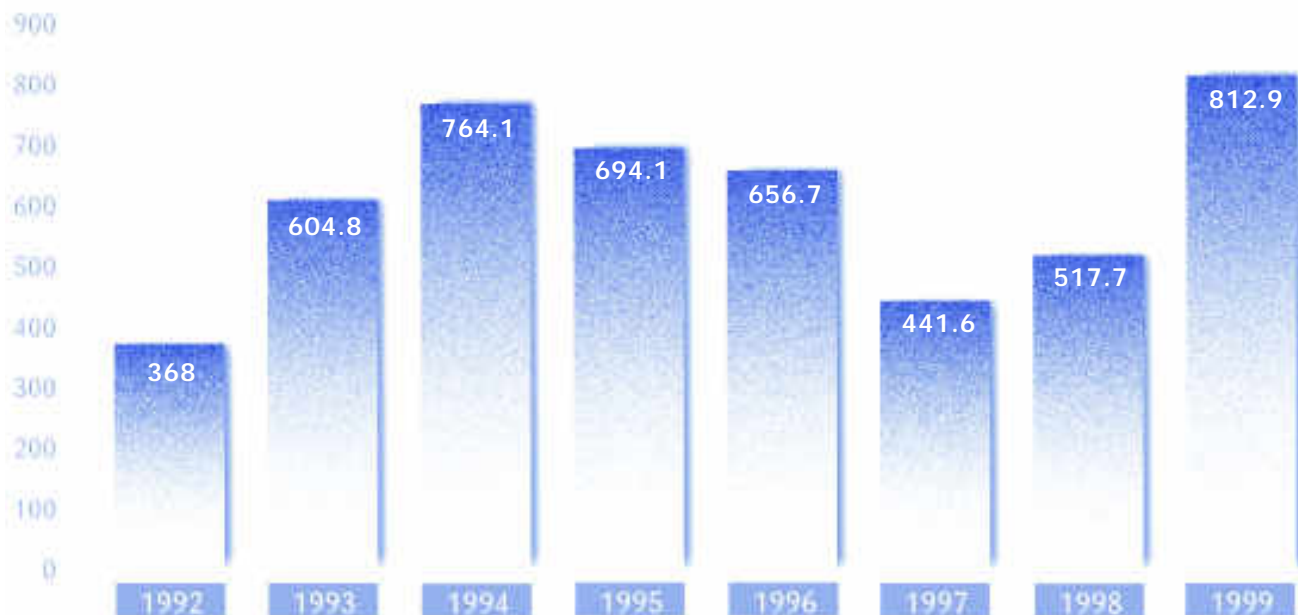
Financial decisions for humanitarian aid by region in 1999

COUNTRY/REGION	DECISIONS IN €	COUNTRY/REGION	DECISIONS IN €
EX-YUGOSLAVIA	351 500 000	INDONESIA	19 000 000
ALBANIA	97 000 000	BURMA	1 000 000
AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC	128 652 000	NORTH KOREA	4 800 000
ANGOLA	10 000 000	PAKISTAN	450 000
BAHAMAS	300 000	SRI LANKA	1 360 000
COMOROS	1 610 000	TAIWAN	310 000
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	20 000 000	THAILAND	4 500 000
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	177 000	REGIONAL	4 700 000
ETHIOPIA, ERITREA, DJIBOUTI	10 000 000	NORTH AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST	20 300 000
GUINEA BISSAU	2 900 000	ALGERIA	8 000 000
KENYA	1 130 000	YEMEN	1 300 000
MADAGASCAR	800 000	REGIONAL MIDDLE EAST	11 000 000
MOZAMBIQUE	500 000	TURKEY	30 000 000
NIGER	285 000	IRAQ	2 000 000
SIERRA LEONE	2 000 000	LATIN AMERICA	49 024 000
SOMALIA	3 340 000	BOLIVIA	1 000 000
SUDAN	13 500 000	COLOMBIA	9 900 000
TANZANIA	5 000 000	CUBA	11 000 000
ZAMBIA	1 500 000	ECUADOR	290 000
REGIONAL (AFRICA)	55 610 000	GUATEMALA	2 000 000
FORMER SOVIET UNION	55 325 000	MEXICO	1 500 000
AZERBAIJAN, ARMENIA, GEORGIA	7 000 000	NICARAGUA	500 000
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	6 800 000	PARAGUAY	334 000
TAJKISTAN	16 000 000	PERU	600 000
UKRAINE	1 225 000	VENEZUELA	400 000
REGIONAL	24 300 000	REGIONAL	21 500 000
EASTERN EUROPE	1 750 000	<i>General Studies</i>	1 970 000
ROMANIA	1 750 000	<i>Evaluation</i>	600 000
ASIA*	59 745 000	<i>Information</i>	1 825 000
AFGHANISTAN	5 750 000	<i>Co-ordination and monitoring</i>	13 070 000
BANGLADESH	3 075 000	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	150 000
CAMBODIA	6 500 000	GRAND TOTAL	812 911 000
CHINA	1 100 000		
INDIA	7 200 000		



FACTS & FIGURES

Financial decisions (in millions of €) for EU humanitarian aid 1992-1999



Organisations with an ECHO Framework Partnership Agreement

AUSTRIA: CARE ÖSTERREICH; CARITAS AUSTRIA; MALTESER HOSPITAL DIENST; ÖSTERREICHISCHES HILFSWERK INTERNATIONAL-AUSTRIAN ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION; ÖSTERREICHISCHES ROTES KREUZ.

BELGIUM: CARITAS SECOURS INTERNATIONAL; CAUSES COMMUNES; CROIX ROUGE DE BELGIQUE; FONDS MEDICAL TROPICAL (FOMETRO); HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL; IEDER VOOR ALLEEN; MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES ARTSEN ZONDER GRENZEN; MEDICUS MUNDI BELGIUM; MEMISA BELGIUM; OXFAM-Solidarité; SOLIDARITE LIBERALE INTERNATIONALE; VÉTÉRINAIRES SANS FRONTIÈRES.

DENMARK: ASF DANSK FOLKEHJÆLP; CARITAS DENMARK; DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL DANSK FLYGTNINGEHJÆLP; DANSK RODE KORS; FOLKEKIRKENS NODHJÆLP- DANCHURCHAID; MISSION OST; RED BARNET-DENMARK.

FINLAND: FINNCHURCHAID; SOUMEN PUNAINEN RISTI (Finnish Red Cross).

FRANCE: ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM; ACTION D'URGENCE INTERNATIONALE; AIDE MEDICALE INTERNATIONALE; ASSOCIATION POUR L'ACTION HUMANITAIRE; ATLAS LOGISTIQUE; COMITE D'AIDE MEDICALE ET DE PARRAINAGE SANS FRONTIERES; CROIX ROUGE FRANCAISE; ENFANTS DU MONDE/ DROITS DE L'HOMME; EUROPACT; FRANCE LIBERTES FONDATION DANIELLE MITTERRAND; HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL/ ACTION NORD SUD FRANCE; HOPITAL SANS FRONTIERES; INITIATIVE DEVELOPEMENT; INTERAIDE; INTERVENIR; MEDECINS DU MONDE; MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES; OEUVRAS HOSPITALIERES FRANCAISES DE L'ORDRE DE MALTE; PHARMACIENS SANS FRONTIERES; PREMIERE URGENCE; SECOURS CATHOLIQUE-CARITAS-FRANCE; SECOURS POPULAIRE FRANCAIS; SOLIDARITE PROTESTANTE FRANCE ARMENIE; SOLIDARITES.

GERMANY: ACTION MEDEOR; ADRA; ARBEITER-SAMARITER-BUND; CARE DEUTSCHLAND; DÄZ; DEUTSCHE WELTHUNGERHILFE; DEUTSCHER CARITASVERBAND; DEUTSCHES ROTES KREUZ; DIAKONISCHES WERK; HELP; HILFE FÜR KINDER IN DER NOT; JOHANNITER-UNFALLHILFE; LAZARUS HILFSWERK; MALTESER HILFSDIENST; MEDICO INTERNATIONAL.

GREECE: GREEK COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY; HELLENIC INSTITUTE OF SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION; HELLENIC RED CROSS; INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL AFFAIRS; KESSAP DIMITRA – GR; MEDECINS DU MONDE.

IRELAND: CONCERN WORLDWIDE; GOAL; IRISH RED CROSS SOCIETY; TROCAIRE.

ITALY: ARCI Cultura e Sviluppo (ARCS); ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA PER LA SOLIDARIETA TRA I POPOLI (AISPO); ASSOCIAZIONE VOLONTARI PER IL SERVIZIO INTERNAZIONALE (AVSI); CARITAS ITALIA; CENTRO REGIONALE D'INTERVENTO PER LA COOPERAZIONE; CESVI Cooperazione e Sviluppo; COMITATO COLLABORAZIONE MEDICA (CCM); COMITATO DI COORDINAMENTO DELLE ORGANIZZAZIONI PER IL SERVIZIO VOLONTARIO (COSV); COMITATO EUROPEO PER LA FORMAZIONE E L'AGRICOLTURA (CEFA); COMITATO INTERNAZIONALE PER LO SVILUPPO DEI POPOLI (CISP); COOPERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE (COOP); COOPERAZIONE ITALIANA NORD SUD (CINS); CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA; GRUPPO DE VOLONTARIATO



FACTS & FIGURES

CIVILE (GVC); ISTITUTO DE COOPERAZIONE UNIVERSITARIA (ICU); ISTITUTO SINDACALE PER LA COOPERAZIONE ALLO SVILUPPO (ISCOS); INTERSOS (ASSOCIAZIONE UMANITARIA PER L'EMERGENZIA); LVIA – ASSOCIAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE VOLONTARI LAICI; MEDICUS MUNDI ITALIA; MOVIMENTO SVILUPPO E PACE; MOVIMONDO MOLISV; NUOVA FRONTIERA.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS: INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES; INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS; ORDRE SOUVERAIN ET MILITAIRE DE ST. JEAN DE JERUSALEM, DE RHODES ET DE MALTE.

LUXEMBOURG: CARITAS; CROIX ROUGE LUXEMBOURG; MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES-L.

THE NETHERLANDS: CARITAS NEEDELANDICA; DUTCH RELIEF & REHABILITATION AGENCY; HET NEDERLANDSE RODE KRUIS; MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES/ ARTSEN ZONDER GRENZEN; MEMISA MEDICUS MUNDI; SAVE THE CHILDREN – NL; STICHTING OECUMENISCHE HULP (DUTCH INTERCHURCH AID).

NORWAY: NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID; NORWEGIAN PEOPLE'S AID; NORWEGIAN RED CROSS; NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL.

PORTUGAL: ASSISTENCIA MEDICA INTERNATIONAL (AMI); ASSOCIACAO DE BENEFICENCIA LUSO-ALEMA; ASSOCIACAO PARA A COOPERACAO INTERCAMBIO E CULTURA (CIC); CRUZ VERMELHA PORTUGUESA; OIKOS-Cooperacao e Desenvolvimento.

SPAIN: A.C.S.U.R. ASOCIACION PARA LA COOPERACION CON EL SUR LAS SEGOVIAS; ACCION CONTRA EL HAMBRE; ASOCIACION NAVARRA NUEVO FUTURO; CARITAS ESPAÑOLA; CRUZ ROJA ESPAÑOLA; FARMACEUTICOS SIN FRONTERAS; INTERMON; MEDICOS DEL MUNDO-E; MEDICOS SIN FRONTERAS-E; MEDICUS MUNDI ESPAÑA; MOVIMIENTO POR LA PAZ, EL DESARME Y LA LIBERTAD (MPDL); NOUS CAMINS; PAZ Y TERCER MUNDO; SOLIDARIDAD INTERNATIONAL.

SWEDEN: CHURCH OF SWEDEN AID; DIAKONIA-SWEDEN; ERIKSHALPEN; INTERNATIONAL AID SWEDEN; PMU-Interlife; SVENSKA RODA KORSET; SWEDISH COMMITTEE FOR AFGHANISTAN.

SWITZERLAND: INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC MIGRATION COMMISSION; CARITAS-SUISSE; CROIX ROUGE SUISSE; MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES-CH; HEKS (Swiss InterChurchAid); TERRE DES HOMMES.

UNITED KINGDOM: BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY; CARE INTERNATIONAL UK; CATHOLIC FUND FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT (CAFOD); CHILDREN'S AID DIRECT; CHRISTIAN AID; CONCERN UNIVERSAL; HELPAGE INTERNATIONAL; MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS; MEDICAL EMERGENCY RELIEF INTERNATIONAL (MERLIN); OXFAM UK; SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND-UK; TEARFUND; WORLD VISION UK.

UNITED STATES: CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES; INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE; INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS; INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES; WORLD CONCERN DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION.

Non-FPA organisations which worked with ECHO in 1999

AUSTRIA: AUSTRIAN HELP PROGRAM; INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR MIGRATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT

BELGIUM: CARE INTERNATIONAL - B; INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP; VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS IN COOPERATION IN EMERGENCIES.

DENMARK: INTERNATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNCIL FOR TORTURE VICTIMS.

FRANCE: ACTION NORD-SUD FRANCE; AGENCE D'AIDE A LA COOPERATION TECHNIQUE ET AU DEVELOPPEMENT; ENFANTS REFUGIES DU MONDE.

GERMANY: HUMANITARIAN CARGO CARRIERS; WORLD VISION DEUTSCHLAND.

GREECE: EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS: INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT GROUP; UNICEF (UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND); UNITED NATIONS - HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES; UNITED NATIONS - PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION; UNITED NATIONS - WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME; UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (UNOCHA); UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN NEAR EAST (UNWRA); UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP); UNITED NATIONS – FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION (FAO); UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT); WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION.

IRELAND: REFUGEE TRUST; WORLD VISION IRELAND.

ITALY: ASSOCIAZIONE PER LA PARTICIPAZIONE ALLO SVILUPPO; ASSOCIAZIONE TRANSAFRICA SVILUPPO; COOPERAZIONE PER LO SVILUPPO DEI PAESI EMERGENTI; TERRE DES HOMMES ITALIA; VOLONTARI ITALIANI SOLIDARIETA PAESI EMERGENTI.

SPAIN: INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE SPAIN; MEDICUS MUNDI NAVARRA.

FACTS & FIGURES

SWEDEN: MEDECINS DU MONDE - SUEDE.

SWITZERLAND: MEDAIR SWITZERLAND; MEDIA ACTION INTERNATIONAL; VETERINAIRES SANS FRONTIERES (CH); INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC MIGRATION COMMISSION; LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION.

THE NETHERLANDS: HEALTH NET INTERNATIONAL; NETHERLANDS ORGANIZATION FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION; ZOA REFUGEE CARE NETHERLANDS.

UNITED KINGDOM: ACTION AGAINST HUNGER; ADRA TRANS EUROPE; AGA KHAN FOUNDATION; APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY FOR TIBETANS; EDINBURGH DIRECT AID; FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY UK; MERCY CORPS EUROPE - SCOTTISH EUROPEAN AID; MINES ADVISORY GROUP-UK; PLAN INTERNATIONAL UK; THE HALO TRUST.

UNITED STATES: AMERICAN REFUGEE COMMITTEE.

Other partners

FRANCE: INSTITUT FRANCAIS DE RECHERCHE POUR L'EXPLOITATION DE LA MER; UNIVERSITÉ D'AIX MARSEILLE III- FACULTÉ DE DROIT ET DE SCIENCE POLITIQUE

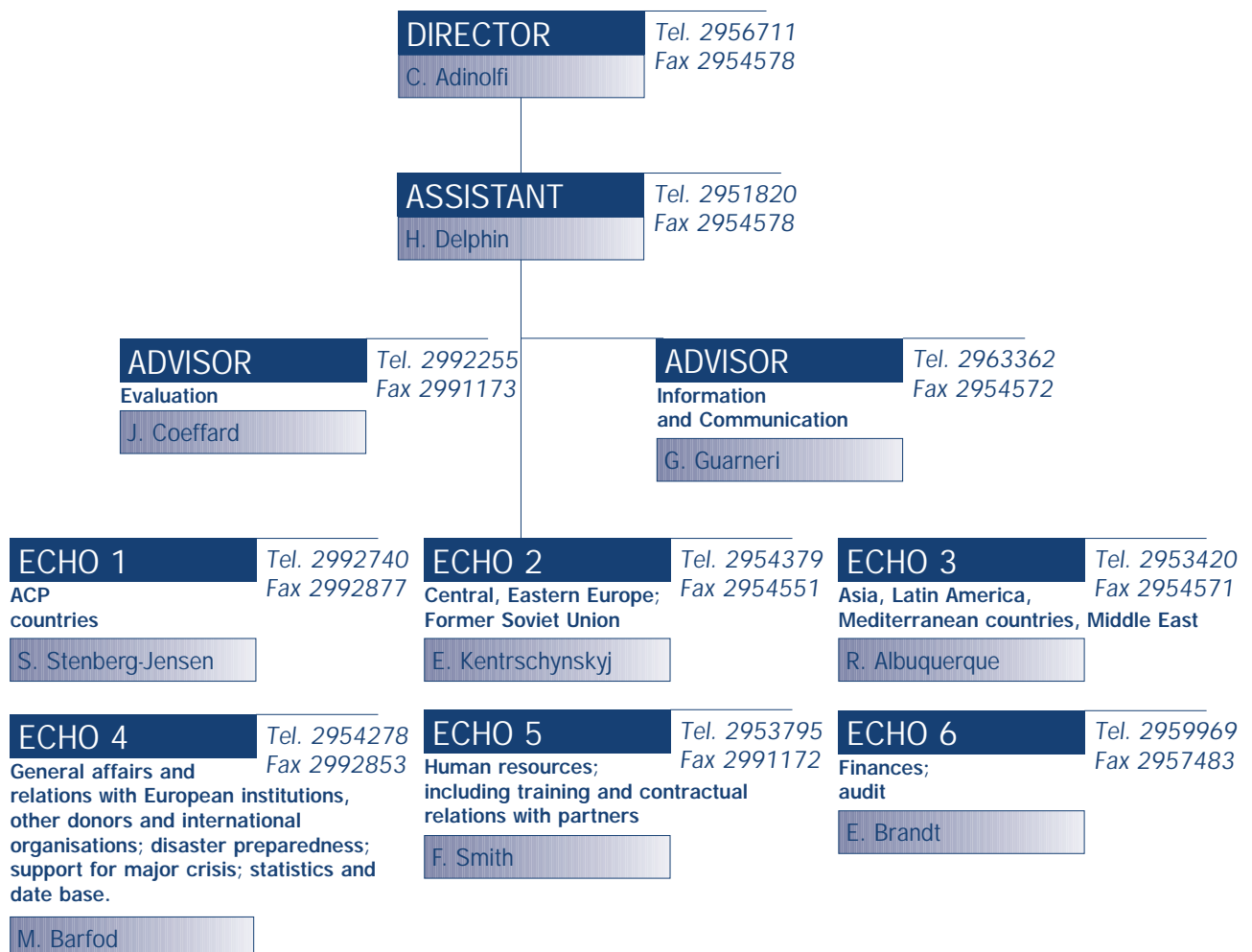
JAMAICA: UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES.

SPAIN: UNIVERSIDAD MIGUEL HERNANDEZ – SAN JUAN DE ALICANTE; UNIVERSIDAD DE DEUSTO

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS: INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATIONAL DISASTER REDUCTION

Who's who

If calling from abroad, please dial +32 2 before the number. Within Belgium, dial 02 before the number.





ABOUT ECHO INFORMATION

ECHO is committed to providing information about 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's activities. Its publications include this Annual Review and a quarterly newsletter, ECHO News. ECHO also works in cooperation with TV companies and partner organisations to produce audio-visual material and publications on ECHO-funded projects. The unit supports events such as exhibitions and seminars in cooperation with Member States.

If you wish to join our mailing list, or would like more information, contact:

ECHO Information
European Commission
200 Rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel +32 2 295 4400
Fax +32 2 295 4572

e-mail: echo-info@cec.eu.int

internet: http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/en/index_en.html

Contents

3 Message from Commissioner Poul Nielson

4 Key events in 1999

PEOPLE

Eye-witness accounts from conflict zones

7 Sierra Leone: The boy they call Civilian *Jeremy Vine*

9 Angola: Accursed by wealth and war *Jane Standley*

10 East Timor: Julia is from TimTim *Marie-France Bourgeois*

12 Kosovo: Sowing seeds of revival *Eva Kaluzynska*



Photo by Jan Banning

DISASTER AREAS

14 *ECHO assistance for victims of natural disasters in Turkey, Venezuela and India. Disaster preparedness policy, page 15*



Photo SIPA Press

CONFLICT ZONES

Pictures tell the stories

16 North Caucasus

17 Kosovo

18 Sudan

19 Great Lakes region of Africa

20 Ethiopia and Eritrea

21 Colombia

22 Afghanistan



Photo SIPA Press

IN BRIEF

23 ECHO's global reach

27 ECHO in action

31 Facts and figures

