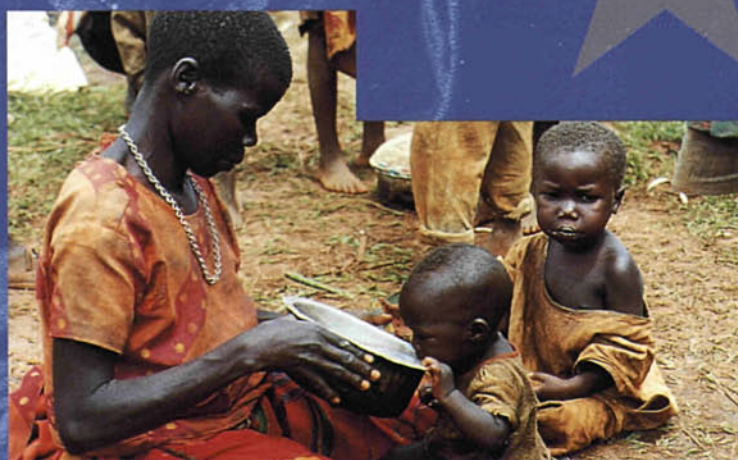


# HUMANITARIAN AID

OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



ANNUAL REPORT 1993



E C H O







HUMANITARIAN  
AID OF THE  
EUROPEAN  
UNION

ANNUAL REPORT

**1993**

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# INTRODUCTION

BY

## Manuel MARIN

VICE-PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

The setting up of the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) in 1992 was a milestone in the path of European Union humanitarian policy. It was born out of the will to provide relief speedily and more effectively to victims of natural calamities and of conflicts in countries outside the European Union.

In the past year I am delighted to record some good results. It is not only the massive operations mounted in ex-Yugoslavia but also those in the Caucasus, in Central Africa, in Northern Iraq, in Cambodia and in Central America, to name a few, that have fully stretched our resources in taking humanitarian aid where most needed.

This difficult task has been undertaken in partnership with a host of non-governmental organisations and with UN relief agencies. They play an invaluable role in humanitarian aid. The European Commission intends to continue and develop further cooperation and coordination with these relief organisations. With this in mind Framework Partnership Agreements have been signed with over 100 international and non-governmental organisations during the past year.

While some concrete steps have been taken to establish more regular consultation and coordination together with



the Member States, we still have some way to go in this area.

During 1994 the European Commission proposes to put in place a programme on disaster preparedness which will in a tangible way link up with other international players in this area.

In pledging to go to the aid of victims of armed conflicts and natural disasters, the European Union has become the world's largest donor of humanitarian aid. However, this has sometimes resulted in humanitarian action filling in for the lack of decisions on the political level.

Another challenge that we face is that of access and delivery to the victims, raising the very relevant question of the right of humanitarian intervention in such situations. On the other hand

the use of armed forces in humanitarian actions raises questions about the limits of such international humanitarian assistance and of peace keeping operations.

For its part, the European Commission will continue to render assistance to the needs of victims in every corner of the world as an expression of solidarity of the European Union.

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT Santiago GOMEZ-REINO

In February 1994 the European Commission approved the first annual report of the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO).

Since its inception, effectively coming into operation at the end of 1992, ECHO has moved some way towards meeting the objectives it was set up to achieve.

The European Union's concern for the victims of natural or man-made disasters however, is not a recent phenomenon. For nearly 20 years the Commission has, on behalf of the Union, been providing assistance to the victims of disasters and conflicts irrespective of origin or location of the disaster in question. In recent years the eruption of civil and ethnic conflict in various parts of





the globe called for a more adequate response from the international community. Hence the creation of ECHO to direct on behalf of the Commission, humanitarian operations in partnership with international relief agencies and non-governmental organisations outside the borders of the European Union.

The results in the field during the past year are encouraging, in spite of the fact that so soon after its launch ECHO has found itself fully engaged due to a very high level of activity generated by the ex-Yugoslav crisis, in addition to a multitude of others in Africa and Asia.

The Commission approved humanitarian aid allocations totalling over 600 million Ecus involving almost 700 contracts, for some 50 countries from Albania to Zimbabwe. The top recipients were the affected populations in former Yugoslavia, in the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) in Burundi, Rwanda, Northern Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, the Occupied Territories, Liberia, Cuba and Angola.

Over 90 per cent of these aid projects have been carried out by the organisations that are, and must remain, the chief players in humanitarian aid, namely the NGOs, international relief organisations and the UN agencies. It is relevant to note that of the total resources administered by ECHO, NGOs account for 44 per cent, the UN agencies for 35 per cent and other international organisations for 11 per cent.

While attending to a high volume of operations, ECHO has also been engaged in setting up a more adequate administrative machinery to ensure transparency and speed in the decision making process. In this context Framework Partnership Agreements have now been signed with over 100 NGOs and international organisations such as the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Through this new instrument we hope further to build a partnership with the relief agencies and thus make an efficient and effective use of the resources allocated to humanitarian actions.

The Commission will continue to develop close working relationships with all recognised humanitarian organisations, whether large or small, which have the requisite experience and resources to tackle the problems created by natural or human disasters.

In some instances we have already engaged in joint assessments of humanitarian emergency relief required in given theatres of operation. With the UNHCR, the European Commission's most important UN partner, there is now an agreement to establish a Joint High Level Group to coordinate our actions and strategies. Furthermore, the European Commission has decided to set up an Inter-Service Group within the Institution to promote a uniform refugee policy.

We are also developing close cooperation with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations in other than immediately operational areas. Apart from exchange of information these include consolidated humanitarian appeals, disaster preparedness under the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) as well as the use of military assets in humanitarian crises.

The Development Council of May 1993 instituted quarterly meetings with Member States' heads of emergency units on both general and specific issues concerning humanitarian aid. These have proved to be a useful forum for exchange of information and eventual coordination on essential aspects of humanitarian action on behalf of the European Union.

At the end of a little more than a year of ECHO operation one begins to see a growing public awareness of the European Union's contribution in the humanitarian field. As the largest donor this was to be expected. However our main concern, behind all the framework agreements and streamlined procedures will continue to be a rapid and caring response to victims of tragedies wherever they may be, irrespective of any considerations other than humanitarian.

S. GÓMEZ-REINO



*Distribution of medical aid in Armenia.*



# ECHO: the first full year

For more than two decades the European Union has been financing humanitarian operations in most parts of the world. However, with the recent dramatic upsurge in ethnic conflicts following the ending of the cold war it became apparent that the European Commission needed to face this new challenge in the humanitarian field and set up a structure with the necessary resources to take on the urgent task.

Where hitherto many departments were involved in responding to requests for humanitarian aid, the Commission decided to create a single focal point to administer and coordinate such assistance. The European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) was created in the spring of 1992 and it began to operate by autumn of that year. Effectively it is now a little more than a year old but well tested on the ground.



*ECHO and the UNHCR signing the framework contract. Manuel Marin, European Commission Vice-President and Sadako Ogata, UN High Commissioner for Refugees*

## PRINCIPLES

The Office offers its assistance free of charge to any non-EC country struck by natural disaster (such as drought, earthquake, flood, severe storm) man-made crisis (such as war) or any other emergency. Aid is channelled impartially straight to the victims, regardless of race, religion or political beliefs. ECHO's brief on behalf of the Commission covers specifically the following areas:

### **General humanitarian aid:**

To cover the needs of people affected by long-term scarcity, often as a result of prolonged conflict.

### **Emergency humanitarian aid**

This is to finance priority emergency and post-emergency operations for disaster victims. It includes the supply of goods and services needed to ensure the survival or avert the immediate threat to the lives of those affected.

### **Emergency food aid**

This is granted in kind (cereals, rice, sugar, powdered milk, flour) for communities facing famine or serious shortages as a result of a disaster or conflict.

### **Aid to refugees and displaced persons**

To cover humanitarian assistance for refugees both in their country of stay and in their home country following repatriation.

### **Disaster prevention and preparedness**

This entails reinforcing early warning systems or financing disaster prevention projects in "high risk" countries, as well as close European and UN cooperation for combined or joint operations in emergencies.



## MEANS

The Office rapidly mobilizes and supplies aid either in kind (essentials, special food, medical equipment, drugs, fuel) or in the form of services (medical teams, water-treatment experts, mine-sweeping personnel, logistic support). To do this, ECHO uses either its own operational personnel or calls on its traditional partners, in other words specialized aid agencies and private firms.

### Procedures simplified

One of the first priorities of ECHO during its first year of operation was to simplify its procedures, and to set up a management information system in order to speed up the decision making process and the overall conduct of the relief operations.

An important element in this context was the drawing up of a Framework Partnership Agreement. Once an organisation has demonstrated its professionalism and suitability for the type of operations that ECHO finances, the Framework Partnership Agreement sets the basis on which we can then proceed to negotiate on the specifics of a given operation.

The NGOs response to this new arrangement has been enthusiastic and around 100 have now signed the FPA demonstrating their willingness to work closely with the European Commission in the humanitarian field.

### Own operational capacity

While around 94% of ECHO financing went through NGOs and international organisations, the remainder was administered directly and mainly concerned the operations in Croatia and Serbia. There is no question of ECHO taking the place of traditional partners. The intention here is to build ECHO's own operational capacity for those situations where our partners are not in a position to provide the service.

ECHO is now setting up a pool of expertise and logistic resources (teams of advisors, coordinators on the ground, stocks of basic emergency supplies and means of transport) ready for eventual deployment when necessary.

## INFORMATION

The contribution that the European Union makes in the humanitarian field needless to say generates considerable interest among the public, not only in the Member States but also internationally. This is why ECHO in addition to publishing the Annual on Humanitarian Aid, now brings out a quarterly

newsletter - ECHO NEWS - in English and French for those interested in this field, as well as to the public at large.

Brochures, audio-visuals and a touring exhibition illustrating EU humanitarian actions, are some of the tools now used in this information campaign.

## SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

With disasters becoming ever more complex, no agency can successfully undertake a major field operation acting on its own. Bringing together the key humanitarian organisations in working groups helps to produce a more combined approach to international relief efforts.

ECHO has taken the initiative to organise a number of sessions on important humanitarian issues starting with

a workshop last June on "Efficiency, Effectiveness and International Collaboration in Emergency Relief." Jointly run by the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, (CRED), this brought together experts from NGOs, UN agencies, major donors and universities to cover a range of topics from disaster preparedness to professional management techniques and the role of the military in humanitarian operations.

## EVALUATION

Were the needs correctly assessed before intervention, were the best means of transport used, were the personnel engaged competent, were the objectives set at the start achieved? These are some of the questions that are ever present in carrying out the operations professionally as well as with sensitivity.

ECHO has taken the first steps in setting up evaluation exercises of the field operations, on-site as well as ex-post. Some of these were carried out jointly with the partners while a few were done by the Commission using its in-house experi-

ence. A 'Control and Evaluation Manual' outlining the method to be used in evaluation is now in preparation.

*The first ECHO evaluation took place in Rwanda owing to the particularly complex situation there: displaced persons in the north and drought, political instability and Burundian refugees in the south.*





# Key interventions around the world

## FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

is still being played out in 1993 in former Yugoslavia, in particular in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In April 1992, hard on the heels of the fighting in Croatia, war broke out in Bosnia, an ethnic mosaic of Moslems (44% of the population), Serbs (31%) and Croats (17%). Two months later the biggest humanitarian aid operation ever staged was launched to help the victims. In September 1992, given the enormous risks to the aid workers coordinated by the UNHCR, the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) mandate was widened to include protection of relief convoys. Supply lorries started to be escorted by UN troops. In April 1993 the fighting entered a new phase. The practice of ethnic cleansing is now being perpetrated by all the parties to the conflict. The fighting is intensifying in central and southern Bosnia and tens of thousands of civilians have fled or have been encircled.

Nearly four million people are today directly dependent on international humanitarian aid, including practically the whole population of Bosnia.

### The background

200 000 dead, more than four million refugees and displaced persons, towns destroyed, their inhabitants on the brink of starvation and under siege, mass exodus, detention camps and refugee camps: this is a human drama the likes of which we have not seen in Europe since the Second World War. This drama

### HARSH WORKING CONDITIONS

#### Relief by land and air

The winter in central Bosnia is extremely harsh: not only does the weather render access for humanitarian convoys difficult but the

many checkpoints put in place by the various parties to the conflict make the task of aid workers extremely difficult.

In 1993 more or less systematic obstruction of relief operations continued despite undertakings by the parties to allow convoys to pass freely. Any pretext has been good enough to halt the lorries: new authorization procedures, searches, accusations of helping the enemy and confiscation of part of the load.

they have to wear bullet-proof vests, travel in armoured vehicles and use sophisticated communications equipment. Unfortunately they have been unable to prevent ambushes on relief workers and lorry drivers, who continue to ply the roads of Bosnia undaunted at great risk to life and limb.

*Severe shortages in Sarajevo: local people spend their days scratching for food and fuel.*



All this against the backdrop of fighting, sieges of towns and villages, artillery attacks, persecution and displacement of civilians. These conditions even obliged the UNHCR, ECHO's principal partner in former Yugoslavia, to suspend its convoys to central Bosnia on 25 October when a Danish driver was killed and others wounded in an attack on a convoy. Supplies did not resume until 19 November.

Humanitarian staff are frequently the victims of attacks, pillage and sniper fire. In some regions

### Sarajevo

In July 1993, a year after the Sarajevo airlift started, 81 attacks against aircraft, staff and the airport had been recorded, not to mention the very many minor shooting incidents. On several occasions, the humanitarian airlift - the biggest of its kind since the Berlin airlift - had to be suspended. Meanwhile, the situation in Sarajevo has continued to get worse. Food shortages, lack of electricity and fuel, sabotage of drinking water and the risk of epidemics, artillery attacks and continuous sniper fire have continued to weaken the town's 380 000 inhabitants both physically and psychologically. The people spend their day searching for food and fuel, becoming potential targets for snipers hidden in the hills.





1993:  
former Yugoslavia  
still the scene of death  
and destruction.

## European Union: top donor

The Union is the chief contributor to the biggest humanitarian aid operation ever. It is aimed at bringing relief to the victims of the fighting in former Yugoslavia. This action, carried out principally by the UNHCR, could not have been mounted without the Union's financial backing. ECHO is also financing the ICRC and around thirty NGOs active on the ground. Since the war began the Union's contribution has topped ECU 1 billion. In 1993 ECHO aid to former Yugoslavia has soared, reaching ECU 410 million in 1993 as against ECU 277 million the year before and ECU 13 million in 1991. Europe cannot turn a blind eye to an unprecedented human drama taking place just 90 minutes' flight away from Brussels.

But the European Union's help is not just financial: the huge needs and dire situation have for the first time led to the deployment of personnel on the ground. The Zagreb Task force (ECTF) provides help in the shape of staff and equipment to the UNHCR and implements direct Commission action.

The Commission's relief operations in former Yugoslavia, coordinated by ECHO, cover food aid, medical assistance, provision of hygiene articles and essentials, construction of shelter, repair of infrastructure and help in the psychological and social field.

The aid is distributed according to needs in the various republics directly or indirectly affected by the fighting. In Bosnia, help goes to the victims of the war, people cut off by the fighting and hundreds of thousands of displaced persons. In the neighbouring republics the aid includes assistance to refugees and displaced persons and in certain cases help to the local populace where living standards have fallen steeply.

## Operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina

One million people have left Bosnia to get away from the violence, executions, attacks, bombing and expulsions. The three million who have remained all depend on humanitarian aid. Hundreds of thousands are cut off or encircled and the convoys are unable to reach them. The winter has increased their needs. ECHO aid focuses on food, winter clothing, and domestic fuel such as heating oil, wood and coal. Despite the efforts of the relief workers, the situation in Bosnia remains critical: Mostar and Tuzla are without water and virtually without power. The same goes for Sarajevo,



which is still the scene of death and destruction. The lack of energy for vital institutions has had disastrous effects: hospitals are cold and damp, and there are constant power cuts even in operating theatres and casualty wings. Sadako Ogata, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, says that relief convoys can save lives but can do nothing

about the living conditions of women and children suffering from shock and those cowering in cellars in sub-zero temperatures. Food and other essentials do not get through because there is no diesel for the lorries. The fact that the convoys are constantly being held up increases the isolation of those living in desperate straits in the enclaves.

*Emotional reunion  
for two sisters  
separated by the  
frontline for more  
than a year.*



## CAUGHT UP IN THE FIGHTING

From March 1993 air drops were set in motion to bring supplies to the besieged Moslem enclaves of Srebrenica, Gorazde and Zepa in eastern Bosnia where thousands are living in appalling conditions. ECHO has been playing an active role in this operation. A glimmer of hope of survival has come from the skies: for many people the parcels dropped in the airlifts represent the only link with the outside world.

MORCAU/STEVIE / PHOTO NEWS



In March 1993 the town of Srebrenica, besieged by Bosnian Serbs, was virtually on its knees. Surrounded, cut off from all outside aid for nearly a year, the population was only just clinging on. The initial population of 6,000 had swollen to 50,000 in the wake of attacks on neighbouring villages. Despite the air drops, most people were on the verge of starvation. Thanks to the dramatic refusal by General Morillon, the UNPROFOR commander, to leave Srebrenica before the convoys were allowed in, the first convoy finally reached the town on 19 March. A large-scale evacuation got under way and within a month 9,000 people had been taken out. The evacuation by lorry took place in often deplorable conditions, with scenes of hysteria and anguish when parents, unable to get on the lorries themselves, threw their children into the arms of those who had managed to clamber aboard. There were more heart-rending scenes during the journey when packed convoys were repeatedly stopped in icy temperatures.

*The aid convoys finally get to Srebrenica: but scenes of hysteria erupt when the empty trucks are stormed by people desperate to be evacuated.*



VON REDA/KAUSEN / PHOTO NEWS





Arrival of refugees from Srebrenica.

## Croatia starts to get back on its feet

Although nearly a third of its territory had been occupied, and despite serious war damage, cut communication, supply and distribution lines and the burden of refugees and displaced persons, Croatia is slowly starting to get back on its feet and life is going back to normal. Of all the former Yugoslav republics it is the best covered by humanitarian aid, quite simply because there is access and freedom of movement virtually the length and breadth of the country. The aid there is also the most varied.

ECHO is directly covering the food and hygiene requirements of some 750,000 people, the bulk of them refugees and displaced persons, but this figure includes nearly 200,000 social cases identified by the local Red Cross. ECHO has set up certain reception facilities for refugees such as accommodation in hotels on the Dalmatian coast. Aid also covers medical assistance in the shape of rehabilitating hospitals or supplying mobile hospitals to criss-cross those regions poorly equipped with health centres. Various psychological and social projects also receive ECHO support: their aim is to give therapy to those, women and children in particular, who have been severely traumatised as a result of the war.

The European Community Task Force (ECTF) based in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, brings together ECHO teams and staff dispatched by EU Member States and coordinates initiatives and projects to make them as effective as possible. The ECTF specialists plan the convoys, evaluate needs, coordinate operations by the Commission, Member States, international organizations and NGOs and negotiate with local authorities. The machinery is well-oiled and the ECTF structure is proving to be an effective instrument on the ground.

## Chaos in Serbia-Montenegro

Although not directly affected by the war raging in Bosnia, the situation of the people of Serbia and Montenegro is none the less desperate. The international embargo has hit the population hard: output has slumped, living inflation is soaring and social facilities have broken down. 50% of the population in employment before the sanctions were slapped on the country have been temporarily laid off, and two-thirds are living below the poverty line.

To compound matters, a population already at the end of its tether has had to take in some 500,000 refugees from Bosnia. Their number is declining but the incidence of social cases has risen alarmingly: old people are without pensions (there has been a rise in the rate of suicides among the elderly), institutions for the disabled and orphanages have seen their subsidies cut off. ECHO is backing various projects to support them.

All this has engendered increasing friction between locals and the refugees, who are the principal recipients of humanitarian aid. The distribution of aid parcels frequently leads to near-riots when those not entitled to hand-outs try to get their hands on a parcel. In an effort to reduce tensions ECHO has organized a special scheme for the host families who have taken in 95% of the refugees in Serbia-Montenegro. To help already impecunious families who have welcomed refugees into their homes ECHO supplies family parcels containing various foodstuffs. This complements the aid given by the WFP.

These republics' medical facilities have practically ground to a halt. They have no heating, medicines, equipment or electricity, and hospitals are at a standstill. ECHO is financing medical projects implemented by its operational partners to remedy this drastic state of affairs.



MORGANISTONE/PHOTO NEWS

*What does the future hold for these children, Bosnian, Croat, Serb or Montenegrin, in the absence of a political solution?*

## Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)

The trade embargo imposed on Serbia and Montenegro has had serious repercussions on this small country already affected by the disintegration of the Yugoslav market. The chief victims are vulnerable groups like children, the sick, the handicapped and the old. There are around 6,000 refugees or displaced persons in the country who have fled the fighting in Bosnia. ECHO is financing a dozen projects in FYROM in the fields of energy supply (oil), medical support, food and essential supplies.

One of the programmes involves running 14 reception facilities until June 1994 to help vulnerable groups such as the handicapped, orphans and the elderly. Another involves providing hot school meals to 30,000 children five days a week. More than 16,000 families in distress are receiving food and clothing parcels and firewood.

ECHO is also present in Slovenia, where it is backing projects to help some 30,000 to 70,000 Bosnian refugees and certain other vulnerable groups.



## CAUCASUS

Tensions have mounted over the past year in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, the former Soviet republics of the Caucasus. The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh has escalated, leading to bloody battles and population movements on a massive scale. In Georgia, the fighting between government forces and the autonomous regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia has also displaced large numbers of people. The three republics of the Caucasus have seen their standards of living plummet since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the subsequent severing of long-standing economic and political ties, while matters have been made still worse by increased ethnic tensions.

For all these reasons, ECHO has stepped up its activities in the region, and now has a coordinator in each of the three republics, among which Community aid is distributed evenhandedly. The aid requirements are enormous.

*Food is scarce, and there is no electricity or fuel: a harsh winter in prospect for Armenians against a backdrop of slumping living standards.*



*Scene of the fighting between Armenians and Azeris: the mountains of Nagorno-Karabakh.*

### ARMENIA

1993 has been a terrible year for the Armenian people. The country's borders have been more or less hermetically sealed by its neighbours in response to the conflict with Azerbaijan, and Armenia is literally suffocating. There are no more energy reserves, imports are blocked, and domestic production has dried up. Moreover, the country has still not recovered from the Spitak earthquake of 1988, which destroyed much of its infrastructure.







The Armenian people have experienced dreadful hardship this winter, with no heating, an average of one hour's electricity per day, and only bread to eat. Scavenging for food and fuel is now the main activity of the day for the inhabitants of Yerevan. Many are suffering from hypothermia, as the temperature indoors frequently goes down to 10°C. All the trees in the capital and the surrounding area have been felled for fuel, creating a truly apocalyptic landscape. The harsh

climate, the mountainous terrain and the blockade make access to Armenia a daunting proposition for relief convoys, which take two or three weeks to reach their destination.

ECHO is providing food and medical aid to Armenia, and has supplied potato seed on a large scale to relaunch domestic production. However, the key problem is energy, and Community aid also includes heating for schools in the earthquake region and the rehabilitation of a large number of hydro-electric power plants, the country's sole source of energy. Community aid to Armenia totalled ECU 10.4 million in 1993.

## AZERBAIJAN

In 1993 Azerbaijan witnessed a constant stream of refugees and displaced persons, losing 20% of its territory as the Armenians scored a number of victories in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Despite the physical, material and psychological exhaustion of both parties, the war has continued to claim many victims, causing a massive exodus of Azeris to the eastern part of the country.

Today there are around a million refugees and displaced people in Azerbaijan. Many have been lodged with families, in the spirit of hospitality traditional among Muslims, but others are squatting public buildings such as schools, which prevents them from functioning normally. Consequently, the entire social system has broken down in a country that simply cannot absorb any more people.

Some 400,000 refugees are living in critical conditions, camping by the roadside, sheltering in livestock sheds, railway carriages or camps set up by international humanitarian aid agencies, including ECHO. In 1993, the Community's total contribution, including food aid, large-scale medical aid, and basic necessities, was ECU 12.2 million.



*ECHO contributes to the relief operation to help refugees in Azerbaijan who have fled the war zones in their hundreds of thousands.*

## GEORGIA

Like the rest of the Caucasus, Georgia is an ethnic melting pot which has boiled over with the dismantling of the former Soviet Union. Although not at war with its neighbours, Georgia has been badly rocked by domestic conflict, pitting government forces against the autonomous regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Sukhumi, capital of Abkhazia and until recently a peaceful seaside resort, has been reduced to rubble by a conflict that, in less than a year, has killed between 1,000 and 3,000. Large-scale population movements have ensued; in the autumn, 200,000 Georgians were forced to flee from the horrors of ethnic cleansing in

Abkhazia, 50,000 of them having no choice but to cross the snow-covered Svanetia mountains without food or warm clothing.

In addition to the fuel shortage and the alarming economic situation, Georgia is also having to contend with a thorny refugee problem. ECHO has endeavoured to come to the aid of all vulnerable groups, and has been particularly efficient in delivering medical supplies rapidly. Community humanitarian aid to Georgia in 1993 totalled ECU 11.7 million, comprising medical and food aid, clothing and heating equipment.





Homelessness in Moscow.

## RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND UKRAINE

The transition to a market economy continues to impose an enormous burden on the people of Russia and Ukraine. Some 11 million Russians now live below the subsistence threshold. Standards of living are on the slide, and there is no sign of an upturn in the foreseeable future.

The ranks of those with no claim to any form of social security are swelling, medical care is in decline and diseases thought to have been eradicated, such as tuberculosis, are rearing their ugly heads again.

ECHO is supplying medical aid to treat cancer and prevent the spread of tuberculosis as a result of nuclear leaks in the Russian Federation (Tomsk 7 leak in April 1993).

### The Moscow homeless

Since vagrancy ceased to be a criminal offence, Moscow has been invaded by tens of thousands of homeless people, who scrape a living in the capital by begging. There were 30,000 homeless in the city at the beginning of 1992 and nearly three times as many in 1993. They tend to congregate around

the stations, where they live in the most appallingly unhygienic conditions. There is no government provision to feed or care for them. ECHO supplies emergency medical aid to this new underclass.

### Seven years on, Chernobyl continues to claim new victims

Chernobyl continues to claim fresh victims among the 4 million people living in Ukraine, the Russian Federation and Belarus who were directly affected by the disaster. ECHO is supporting a medical programme to educate and treat some 100,000 people with no access to public health services. The aim is to teach them about contamination levels in food, drinking water and the environment, and to carry-out check-ups to assess their health. In 1993, ECHO provided ECU 4.8 million in aid to the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

## TAJIKISTAN

Tajikistan is the poorest of the former Soviet republics. Civil war has displaced 450,000 people, 210,000 of whom have yet to return home. ECHO has provided the most vulnerable groups with medical and food aid, shelters and essential items such as winter clothing and children's shoes. ECHO granted ECU 7.9 million for Tajikistan in 1993.

## KIRGHIZISTAN

Some 40% of the population lives below the poverty threshold in Kyrgyzstan, the economy of which has been paralysed by the reforms. There is simply no more food, clothing or heating: the country is unable to provide for its people. ECHO has supplied food, basic necessities and other aid to the most vulnerable groups, such as pensioners, invalids, unemployed women with children, orphans and large families.



## RWANDA

Rwanda has for three years been in the throes of a civil war that has caused large-scale population movements, particularly in the north of the country. In February 1993, the Front Patriotique Rwandais (FPR) launched an offensive that forced more than a million people to flee towards the capital, depriving them of even the minimum needed for survival. Working with Unicef, ECHO organized medical supervision for the displaced children, including rehydration and vaccination programmes, and also provided equipment for 60 emergency medical centres.

Since August last year, some 600 000 displaced people have returned to their villages, which have often been totally destroyed. ECHO has provided these people with resettlement kits, comprising essential household items such as blankets, pots and pans, and cooking utensils, together with roofing, window-frames and other materials for rebuilding their houses.

A further 400 000 people are still living in camps, their future uncertain because the countryside has been mined. In addition to problems related to sanitation and nutrition, these people are also suffering the psychological trauma of refugees with no immediate prospects.

Rwanda was dealt another severe blow by the coup d'état in neighbouring Burundi last October, which brought hundreds of thousands of refugees streaming into the country and made living conditions even more precarious (see "Burundian refugees and displaced persons").

ECHO allocated ECU 7 million in aid to the displaced people of Rwanda in 1993.

100-401

*Life is harsh  
in the refugees camps:  
cramped conditions  
and torrential rain  
spawn epidemics.*



# BURUNDIAN REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

On 18 October 1993 Tutsi rebels assassinated Melchior Ndadaye, Burundi's first democratically elected president and the first member of the Hutu majority to govern a country whose army is dominated by the Tutsi minority. This set the alarm bells ringing among the Hutus, 700 000 of whom immediately fled the country to escape the unprecedented violence that spread like wildfire throughout the country; the true extent of the ensuing massacres has yet to be accurately gauged. Two weeks later, there were 375 000 Burundian refugees in Rwanda, 245 000 in Tanzania and 50 000 in Zaire, with

an estimated 250 000 displaced persons in Burundi itself, most of them Tutsis seeking refuge at and around health centres or public buildings.

European Union aid was initially deployed to accommodate Burundian refugees in the three neighbouring countries (Rwanda, Tanzania, Zaire), as Burundi itself was still too dangerous, the rebels having sealed the borders and severed all links with the outside world. However, relief teams gradually started to make their way into the country, where they found the victims of the fighting in need of large-scale medical assistance.

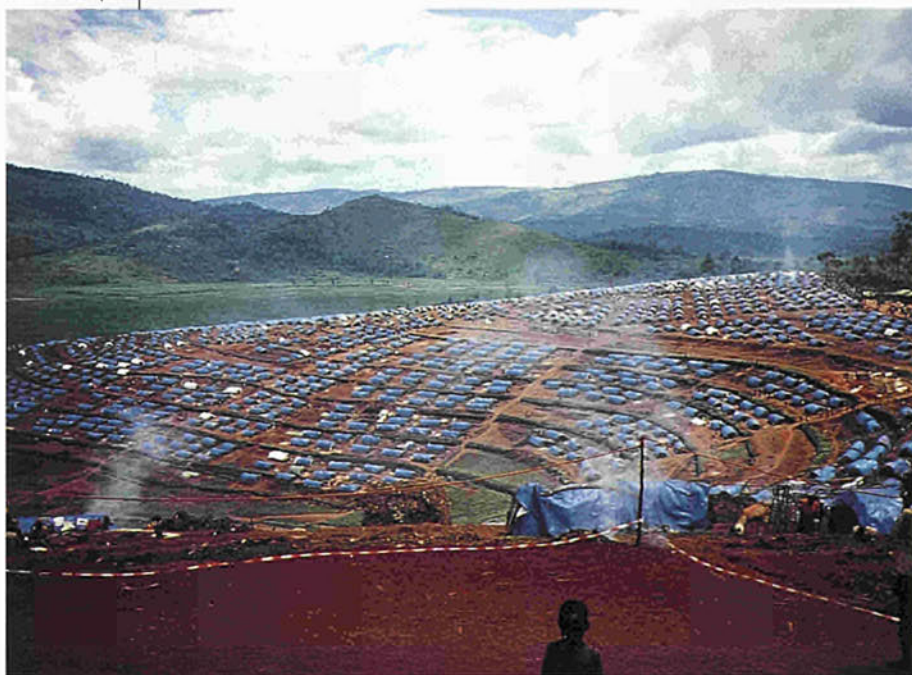
At the end of November, the Commission and the UNHCR organized a joint fact-finding mission to evaluate the needs of the Burundian refugees. "Living conditions in the camps in Rwanda are terribly difficult", says Helen Jenkinson of ECHO. "From a distance, the camps look like a series of little mounds of branches covered with the blue plastic sheeting distributed by the relief organizations. These tiny huts are the makeshift shelters into which entire families of refugees are crammed. The ground is a morass and the stench is unbearable."

The Burundian refugee crisis could not have come at a worse time. It is the rainy season, the camps are regularly deluged with torrential rain, while the fires lighted inside the shelters make the air unbreathable: according to a UNHCR report issued in early November, all the children are coughing. The crowded conditions create a fertile breeding ground for epidemics, and there have already been cases of dysentery and measles. Large-scale vaccination drives are one of the major priorities for humanitarian agencies on the ground.

In the light of the EC-UNHCR mission, and in response to the extent of the Burundian refugees' needs, a six-month plan to provide ECU 18 million in aid for an initial period of 2 months was adopted at the end of the year.

In 1993, ECHO granted ECU 25 million in aid to the Burundian refugees in Rwanda (ECU 14 million), Tanzania (ECU 6.8 million) and Zaire (ECU 2 million).

*Already facing serious difficulties, Rwanda has to cope with an influx of refugees from Burundi. These people have taken refuge in frontier camps.*



## ZAIRE

Zaire's interminable political crisis has had ruinous repercussions for the economy. The State has ceased to exist, and public and private structures have collapsed. Standards of living are in free fall, creating ethnic tensions and causing immense suffering among the poorer sections of the population. Though the humanitarian situation is dire throughout the country, it is particularly acute in such areas as Shaba, Kasai and Kivu, which are reeling from population movements in the wake of ethnic conflicts, and Kinshasa, where the health and food situation is alarming.

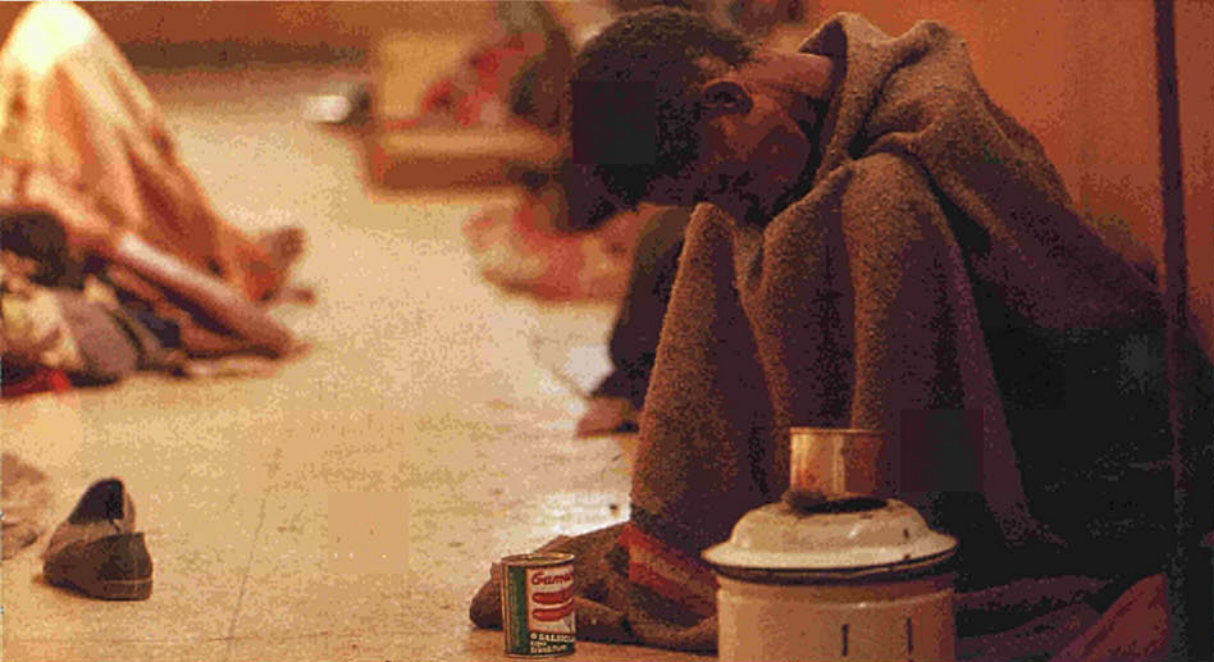
ECHO has acted to bring immediate assistance to the displaced people in North Kivu and to the Kasaïans expelled from Shaba to Kasai.

The latter are being forcibly displaced. To return to their villages of origin in Kasai, they have to travel by train in utterly inhuman conditions. The journey takes an average of 19 days, with people arriving in the transit town of Mwene Ditu suffering from exhaustion and malnutrition. Some 20% of children under five fail to survive this experience. ECHO provides medical, sanitary and nutritional supervision for

arrivals in Kasai, and organizes their transport back to their villages of origin. Other Kasaïans are still in Shaba awaiting transport, crammed into hangars and school buildings in the most appalling conditions. ECHO aid goes some way towards making their wait more bearable.

In 1993, ECHO provided ECU 8.4 million in aid to displaced people in Zaire, and a further ECU 2 million to Burundian refugees who fled to Zaire following the coup d'état in Burundi (see "Burundian refugees and displaced persons").





*Humanitarian aid is a lifeline for Angolans: the towns have been almost completely cut-off by the rebels.*

## ANGOLA

Angola is on the rack. The civil war that has raged since 1975 between the Luanda government and Jonas Savimbi's UNITA has completely devastated the country.

There is immense human suffering. Fleeing from offensives launched by UNITA, which now controls 80% of the country, hundreds of thousands of peasants have left the land to seek refuge in the cities still under government control. These cities are overcrowded and under siege, the people in them

surviving on a drip-feed of humanitarian aid. Two thirds of the country's population have been forced to become city-dwellers. Luanda, once one of Africa's most beautiful cities, now resembles a refugee camp; with its lack of drinking water, piles of rubbish and devastated hospitals, it has become a fertile breeding ground for epidemics. Almost the whole population is suffering from malnutrition.

There is no way the people can return to the land: the fields are mined, making the entire countryside a deathtrap. The irony is that Angola has all it needs to prosper, since it is not overpopulated and has fertile land, a good climate

and large reserves of oil and other minerals. Yet in 1993 the country became still further enmeshed in one of the most vicious wars of our times, estimated by the United Nations to be claiming a thousand lives a day.

Humanitarian aid is a lifeline to the Angolan people. In 1993 ECHO granted a total of ECU 7 million in aid, providing food supplies, health and nutritional supervision (especially for children) and medical assistance in the form of hospital refurbishment and vaccination programmes. The situation continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate, and will no doubt require an even greater effort in 1994.

## LIBERIA

As with most wars, Liberia's civilian population is bearing the brunt of the civil war that has ravaged the country for the last four years. Three different groups are fighting for power - the IGNU (interim government), Charles Taylor's INPFL, and ULIMO. A constantly shifting front line, air raids, ambushes and shelling have forced tens of thousands onto the roads in a desperate bid to escape the slaughter.

### **Aid to displaced persons in the North**

The North, which is controlled by Charles Taylor's rebels, is the object of a general embargo, with the result that even the most basic products are lacking, with the exception of those that can be imported from Côte d'Ivoire by relief agencies. ECHO is helping hundreds of thousands of displaced persons living in appallingly

squalid conditions and suffering from severe malnutrition. Community aid is used to keep hospitals and clinics operational and to set up nutritional programmes for children.

The North also has to contend with around a hundred thousand refugees from Sierra Leone, who are receiving food aid, sanitation and basic necessities from ECHO.

### **Monrovia**

Monrovia, the capital, is in the hands of government forces; it is under curfew and has no electricity or running water. Not a drop of water has passed through Monrovia's mains since the water works (situated some 20 km from the city) fell to the INPFL right at the start of the six-month dry season. Millions of litres have to be trucked from springs to the refugee camps, hospitals and public water tanks. There are 80 000 displaced persons in Monrovia, sheltering in schools, churches and public buildings.

ECHO aid is providing basic medical care for the people of Monrovia and to around 300 000 displaced persons in the area. There are 12 clinics operating in the city, plus 6 infirmaries in the camps and 4 mobile emergency units serving key areas.

In 1993, ECHO allocated ECU 8.9 million in aid to the people of Liberia.

*A constantly shifting frontline, air raids and ambushes have caused tens of thousands to take to the roads to escape the killing.*







*Famine has been kept at bay, but the Somalis' nutritional needs are still a priority.*

## SOMALIA

1993 saw the end of the famine in Somalia. However controversial, the military and humanitarian intervention of the United Nations was instrumental in achieving this objective. As the year progressed, emergency food aid gradually gave way to medical, infrastructure and hygiene projects. ECHO itself diversified into water supply projects, medical aid, medical training for local personnel, nutritional supervision, mine clearance on certain roads in the North, and shelters.

However, things remain very tense between the eight tribal clans, and anti-Western feeling has been running high since Operation Restore Hope. The endless roadblocks, the vital need to maintain constant radio contact and the ubiquitous heavily-armed guards induce an immediate sense of insecurity in anyone driving through Mogadishu. Relief workers are greatly at risk; often robbed and assaulted.

The environment with which ECHO and its partners in Somalia have to contend is one of nationalism, clan rivalries, Islamic fervour and anti-Western feeling.

Aid distribution is a difficult task in these circumstances. Deliveries by road are out of the question, it being highly inadvisable to undertake car trips of more than an hour, so ECHO has responded by organizing air transport on a large scale for humanitarian aid and personnel, with secure flights linking several destinations in Somalia with Nairobi, where an ECHO coordinator is based, and Djibouti. A good example of ECHO providing logistical backup to complement the work of the operational partners on the ground: this free service is used by forty or more NGOs.

ECHO allocated ECU 7 million to Somalia last year, taking to ECU 63 million the Commission's total aid contribution from 1991 to the end of 1993.

TOULOUSE VAN DER STOKT / PHOTO NEWS



*A French checkpoint: crossing Mogadishu by car, the sense of insecurity pervading the country is immediately obvious.*





## SUDAN

Sudan continues to sink ever deeper into isolation, humanitarian aid being now virtually its only link with the outside world. The Islamic junta in Khartoum is at war with the animist and Christian rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which holds sway in the South. People in that part of the country are suffering not only

from bombardment by government forces, but from fighting between rival rebel factions. Peasant farmers have been severely affected by drought, with hundreds of thousands fleeing the danger zones to camps near the Ugandan border. Most of these people have already been forced to flee on several occasions, and have long since lost their cattle, land and other goods. They are badly undernourished and entirely dependent on international aid in the camps.

In 1993 ECHO allocated a total of ECU 11 million to provide some 105 000 displaced people living in the Ame, Atepi and Aswa camps in southern Sudan with food and medical aid and basic necessities.

The big problem confronting humanitarian organizations in southern Sudan is access to the victims of the fighting. Relief agencies have to negotiate with Khartoum and the rebels for authorization to distribute aid, and that authorization is often suspended.

*Peasants from southern Sudan are fleeing in their hundreds of thousands to escape drought and shelling by government forces.*

## MOZAMBIQUE

1993 saw Mozambique at peace for the first time in 16 years. Following the agreements of October 1992, the ceasefire between the Maputo government and the Renamo rebels has held, and elections are scheduled for the end of 1994. 1993 also marked the return of the rains, putting an end to a long and severe drought. At long last, there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

However, there are still huge problems. Millions of refugees have fled to the seven neighbouring countries, and there are also large numbers of displaced people within Mozambique. The country's infrastructure is in ruins, and must be rebuilt from scratch, while agricultural production has virtually ceased. The international community is quite literally feeding Mozambique with its deliveries of food supplies.

Some 350 000 refugees have already returned, either of their own accord or with the help of the UNHCR. ECHO is encouraging repatriation by setting up medical and feeding stations along the routes travelled by refugees and displaced people, and by financing mine clearance activities on the country's main roads. In total, ECHO contributed ECU 3 million in aid to Mozambique in 1993.

Although there is currently a lull, it must be borne in mind that the demilitarization of the Renamo rebels is not yet under way, and that the outcome of the elections might re-ignite the conflict, as happened in Angola after an eighteen-month ceasefire.



*ECHO provides refugees with food and care on their homeward journey.*





Getting supplies through to Palestinians in the Occupied Territories is fraught with difficulties.

## IRAQ

### Aid to Kurds in northern Iraq

Three years on from the Gulf War, the situation remains critical for the Kurds in northern Iraq, who are suffering the consequences of both the UN embargo on Iraq as a whole and the blockade imposed by Baghdad in response to the creation of an autonomous Kurdish authority in the region. People are still being forced to flee from the regular Iraqi attacks on the region, with the result that the Kurds' situation is very precarious.

While the entire population needs help, the needs of elderly and sick people and children are particularly pressing. In March 1993, ECHO conducted a fact-finding mission on the ground to establish the priorities for the next stages of an aid commitment that has not wavered since the Gulf War. The mission assessed the main needs as food aid, cooking and heating oil, water supplies, basic sanitation and medical services.

## THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES GAZA AND THE WEST BANK

At the end of March 1993 the Israeli army sealed off the Occupied Territories, closing Israel's borders to Palestinians living in Gaza and the West Bank. They thus imposed a total blockade on trade with Israel and the outside world for an indefinite period, depriving the Territories of their lifeline. This created acute food supply problems, and the nutrition situation rapidly became alarming. ECHO responded immediately, providing food aid to 120 000 Palestinian families in the Gaza strip.

Medical infrastructure is conspicuous by its absence in the Territories, and ECHO has been backing up its food aid input with contributions of basic medical equipment, baby milk, tents and blankets. The Community aid programme also comprises a shelter construction project and some small-scale rehabilitation measures.

The historic handshake between Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat on 13 September last year has given peace a fresh chance in the region. However, the humanitarian situation in the Territories remains alarming. Some 40% of the population of Gaza lives in camps, as does 11% in the West Bank area - a total of around 500 000. In 1993, ECHO approved another aid package to these people, including medical aid to a number of hospitals and health centres and assistance with the social reintegration of prisoners as they are released.

In all, ECHO provided the Palestinians of the Occupied Territories with ECU 10.4 million in 1993.





At the end of the year, ECHO continued its support for the Kurdish people by approving an additional food and medical aid package, and a village rehabilitation package. Clearing mines and caring for their many victims are also key elements.

NICOLA BERGULI/USCIB/PHOTO NEWS



Kabul, the focus of fighting between the different factions is reduced to rubble.

## AFGHANISTAN

### Shi'ites in southern Iraq

ECHO is also helping the Shi'ite population in southern Iraq, where the draining of the marshes has prompted the displacement of 21 000 people to the Iranian border area.

In 1993, the Commission contributed a total of ECU 21.5 million to Kurds in the north and Shi'ites in the south of Iraq.

*Mines and unexploded shells in Iraqi Kurdistan: a constant threat for the Kurdish people, especially the children.*



V. MICHARDI - PHOTOGRAPH INTERNATIONAL

### Violent struggle for control of Kabul

Afghanistan has disappeared from the news, public opinion having reached saturation point after 13 years of war against the occupying communists. In fact, not long after the last Soviet soldier left in 1989, the country erupted in ethnic and religious strife, and today the Afghan people are a helpless witness to the carnage on the streets of Kabul. Scores are being bloodily settled between the four militias present in the city, where the Islamic fundamentalist prime minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar is pitted against General Massoud, leader of the guerillas from the north east, who primarily represents the Tajiks.

The situation in Kabul bears little relation to what is going on in the rest of the country's 29 provinces, where things are relatively calm. The capital is the stake disputed by the warring factions. January 1993 saw fighting of unprecedented ferocity, with 2 000 dead and over 1 000 wounded, whom the few hospitals functioning were hard pressed to treat. The fighting has continued ever since, reducing the capital to a rubble in which looting, arbitrary gunfire and banditry reign.

Hundreds of thousands of people have fled the city or, trapped there, are wandering from district to district in an attempt to escape the fighting and shelling. The destruction of sanitary installations and the lack of drinking water has caused outbreaks of epidemics like typhoid, while the hospitals are swamped with wounded every time one or other of the warring factions starts shelling.

ECHO is focusing on medical aid, for which there is a huge demand among

the victims of the fighting in Kabul: it is supplying drugs and medical equipment for the capital's main hospitals and medical centres, together with a hospital in Jalalabad, to which many of those fleeing Kabul make their way. ECHO's partners on the ground are working in extremely dangerous conditions: MSF's office, for example, is a veritable fortress, with sandbags in front of the windows, where all business is conducted underground. Relief workers risk their lives every time they step outside the door.

### Aid to Tajik refugees in the north

Fleeing persecution at home, some 30,000 Tajiks have sought refuge in northern Afghanistan. Towards the end of 1993 ECHO took action to help them through the winter, with food and medical aid, blankets, drinking water and epidemic prevention measures.

### Afghan wounded in Pakistan

Kandahar province in the south east of the country has been the scene of confrontations that have caused an exodus of wounded who cross the Pakistan border to seek medical care. The hospital in Quetta has been equipped by ECHO to cope with emergency surgery.

In 1993, ECHO's contribution to Afghan victims of the civil war totalled ECU 2.7 million.





*ECHO is contributing to the programme aimed at clearing the mines littering the rice paddies around the archaeological site of the Angkor temples. A new chance for tourism?*

## CAMBODIA

Hope is returning to Cambodia, a country utterly devastated by 20 years of war. First came Pol Pot's rule of terror (1975-78), in which one million Cambodians were reckoned to have perished, with many more forced to leave their homes and work as slave labourers. This was followed by the Vietnamese occupation, which lasted until 1989, and then by a period of prolonged instability marked by fighting between government forces and resistance groups. All those years of conflict have indelibly scarred a people who have had to flee, in their hundreds of thousands, to camps on the Thai border to escape the violence.

Between January and April 1993, the Khmer Rouge launched a series of attacks on the UNTAC contingent and the government army. However, the May elections went off quietly, with victory going to the movement led by Prince Sihanouk, who had returned to the country after 13 years in exile.

Cambodia is at present slowly hauling itself to its feet, and in spite of the perilous security situation, people are once again beginning to entertain hopes of returning to normal life after so many years of fighting.

### Repatriation and medical aid

ECHO is taking part in a huge project launched by the UNHCR to repatriate Cambodians from Thailand. By the end of 1993, some 370.000 had returned voluntarily.

The Community is also supplying basic medical equipment to health centres in the north-east. There is virtually no health care system in this part of the country, where 50% of all medical attention is war surgery on wounds caused by bullets, shrapnel and mines.

### The mines continue to kill and maim

The millions of anti-personnel mines littering the rice paddies are one of the key problems facing post-war Cambodia. These hidden traps kill and maim countless people every day, most of them children. ECHO is tackling this issue head on by contributing to a huge mine-clearance programme in the north-western province of Siem Riep, where the problem is acute. The programme covers the archaeological sites at Angkor, which, once the mines have been cleared, could be a focal point for the development of tourism. ECHO is also helping amputees by financing the local manufacture of artificial limbs, which will enable the victims to learn to walk again. This assistance also includes training for staff at rehabilitation centres.

In 1993, ECHO contributed ECU 1.7 million to Cambodia.



Some Latin American countries are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters like earthquakes and hurricanes, which create large numbers of homeless people with considerable food and medical needs.

## CUBA

The implosion of the Soviet Union and the severing of its numerous economic ties with Cuba has brought about a dramatic fall in living standards on the island. The country's economy is virtually paralysed and food shortages are being sorely felt: Cuba has lost over 70% of its imports in the last three years. The health and hygiene situation has deteriorated sharply, causing numerous infectious illnesses such as dysentery and skin disease, while asthma is on the increase. High levels of alcohol and tobacco consumption, coupled with an inadequate diet (particularly a lack of vitamin B) led to an alarming epidemic of optic neuritis. The lion's share of ECHO's aid contribution in 1993 was aimed at stamping out the epidemic by providing drugs, vitamins and food and soap parcels distributed to Cuba's poorest families. The Cuban people were also hit by two natural disasters in 1993, a hurricane in March was followed in November by severe flooding, which led to the evacuation of 50 000 people. ECHO came to their assistance with medical and food aid and basic necessities such as shelters, mattresses, blankets and cooking utensils.

ECHO's total aid allocation to Cuba in 1993 was ECU 7.8 million.

## PERU

The people of the rainforest in the north-eastern part of the country were hit by severe flooding that wiped out their crops, their only means of subsistence. ECHO came to the aid of 1.000 farmers in the region, supplying seeds and tools to relaunch agricultural production. Over the past ten years, the River Apurimac area has been the scene of terrorist activity that has caused the local population to leave the area. Between 5.000 and 7.000 people have become displaced, and their health has deteriorated rapidly. ECHO is supplying them with medical aid to improve health care facilities. Cholera is still wreaking havoc in Peru, and an epidemic was declared at the end of the year in the north-eastern area of Loreto. ECHO is helping to improve health services for around 700.000 people, of whom 8.000 are affected by the epidemic.

## HONDURAS

Hurricane Gert struck Honduras in September 1993, flooding large tracts of land in the northeastern part of the country. Some 10.000 people were stricken, 3.000 of whom were lodged in community centres. Then, in November, torrential rains and rivers bursting their banks made a further 12.000 people homeless. ECHO responded with a number of measures to supply essential items, followed by a rebuilding programme also aimed at relaunching agricultural production, which had been badly hit by the disasters.

In 1993, Honduras received more than ECU 2 million in ECHO aid.

## ECUADOR

In November 1993 an earthquake caused a landslide which engulfed the town of Nambija, in the south-eastern part of the country. Some 250 people died, while a further 1.000 were deprived of their homes and livelihoods. ECHO responded by supplying 160 families with food, kitchen equipment, cleaning products and sanitary installations.

*Havana shantytown: declining living standards have had a major impact on Cubans' health.*



PAOLO BARRA / PHOTO NEWS





*ECHO aid in Bolivia is designed to improve the living conditions of street children.*

## BOLIVIA

Thousands of children and adolescents live in the streets of the overcrowded city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra. With malnutrition, the lack of educational facilities, and a general dearth of hygiene and sanitary installations, these young people are particularly vulnerable; their very survival is uncertain, particularly in the wake of an outbreak of cholera. ECHO is providing aid to improve living conditions through medical assistance and measures to prevent epidemics.

At the end of the year, the city of Sucre was flooded by torrential rains, with disastrous results for 1 500 people living in the poor parts of town. ECHO provided emergency aid to meet their immediate needs.

## BRAZIL

The coastal city of Fortaleza, which has a population of three million, most of them living in shantytowns, is in the throes of a cholera epidemic brought on by overpopulation (resulting from an influx from the countryside after bad weather caused crops to fail) and poor sanitary conditions - the city has running water only one day in four.

ECHO is contributing to a project comprising medical aid, preventive measures and sanitation, the aim being to improve living conditions in the shantytowns.

## NICARAGUA

In September 1993 hurricanes Bret and Gert struck Nicaragua in succession, causing widespread destruction of crops that led to severe food shortages among a population already weakened by civil war. Some 55 000 people were directly affected, and ECHO set up a food aid and health project to help them.

## COLOMBIA

The Choco area, where access is difficult and the climate particularly severe, was hit by a sequence of floods and earthquakes of such violence that by October 1993 some 30 000 people had been made homeless. The already precarious health situation deteriorated still further, with cholera and hepatitis breaking out in several places. ECHO provided medical aid to treat and prevent epidemics.

*Overcrowded Brazilian shantytowns: breeding ground for epidemics.*





# A full panoply of humanitarian aid

To the general public, "humanitarian aid" means the provision of food, blankets and urgent medical care. These classic forms of aid are certainly the most eye-catching and their budgets are the largest, but the term embraces a whole host of other kinds of aid designed to meet more specific needs of those in distress.



*Humanitarian aid would get nowhere without NGOs: their range of experience and expertise is vital if ECHO's financial aid is to be used effectively.*

## BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: IN THE WAR ZONES

In the war zones of Bosnia-Herzegovina aid is targeted primarily at the civilian victims of shelling, sniperfire, violent attack and frequent looting. Food and medicines - the basic necessities - are supplied over land where the roads are passable or by air to people living in the enclaves. ECHO plays its part via the UNHCR, the main relief agency operating in former Yugoslavia. An escort is provided by UNPROFOR troops. Needs have become more acute with the onset of winter so heating oil, various other fuels and clothing have been added to the list of essential supplies. Exceptionally, convoys have been used to evacuate people cut off by the fighting, as in the case of Srebrenica.

## IN THE NEIGHBOURING REPUBLICS

Away from the fighting, in the neighbouring republics, humanitarian aid is of a different kind. The essential needs of refugees who have fled in their hundreds of thousands to Croatia and Serbia-Montenegro have been covered: they consist of shelter, food and medicines, but as the fighting has dragged on their requirements have become more diverse. Examples include:

## NGOs and international organizations: indispensable partners

In the event of natural disasters or war, the success of humanitarian aid operations hinges crucially on a correct assessment of needs and intimate knowledge of the area receiving the aid. This is why ECHO relies on the expertise of myriad international and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which are the key players on the humanitarian aid stage, complementing as they do the funds provided by ECHO with their experience and professionalism in a whole variety of fields.

### Soap and toothpaste

Proper hygiene is essential for the well-being of refugees who have lost practically everything: ECHO has enlisted the help of several NGOs; among them Equilibre, to put together parcels of hygiene articles designed to meet the basic needs of families of refugees in Croatia. There are separate parcels for



men, women and children containing 11 different items including toothpaste, washing powder, soap, nappies and talc for babies, women's sanitary protection products and condoms.

### Family parcels

In Serbia-Montenegro living conditions are so difficult (see section on former Yugoslavia) that refugees, who are the only people to receive aid, are much better off than the local populace. This situation creates tensions and prompted ECHO to put together a new type of family parcel designed to help the local

people indirectly by giving support to the host families who put up 95% of the refugees in these republics. They contain oil, yeast, feta cheese, pasta, soap, sugar and powdered milk. This enables the host families who have to house a large number of refugees in difficult and cramped conditions for long periods. Thanks to its highly developed local network the Red Cross ensures that the parcels are distributed efficiently.

### Seeds by airmail

The dearth of fuel and the trade embargo have made the use of

farm equipment on a large-scale impossible in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

To help families cover their own needs a seed delivery programme has been launched by the UNHCR with the help of ECHO.

Family parcels containing two kilos of bean seeds, 250 grammes of spinach seeds and 50 grammes of seeds of various other vegetables have been air-dropped into inaccessible places such as Sarajevo, Maglaj, Tesanj and other enclaves, or delivered by land convoy in other cases. The programme also includes assistance for rearing chickens.



### Psychological and social aid

Catering for the psychological and social needs of the victims of the war in Bosnia has for the first time become part and parcel of a humanitarian aid programme. The war in former Yugoslavia has clearly had a profound impact on the physical and mental health of the whole population, particularly the refugees and displaced persons. The latter have lost all they owned and have no work and nothing to cling to in surroundings far removed from their normal environment. Their lives are in limbo for the foreseeable future. Having nothing to do and nothing to look forward to causes depression and a feeling of isolation among these refugees.

Psychological help for Bosnian women traumatized by the war.

Marie Stopes, a British NGO, has set up a network of women's groups to help the victims reintegrate socially.

## INVISIBLE WAR WOUNDS

The UNHCR reports the case of a fifteen-year-old Bosnian girl diagnosed as "mentally ill". She has hallucinations and speaks only of her fear of explosions and bombing. The doctors say she is suffering from schizophrenia as a result of severe shock brought on by the war. She lived in a district of Sarajevo which was constantly under sniper fire and artillery bombardment. Similar cases have been reported recently in the same area: adolescents with crying fits, others attempting suicide. Children's behaviour is becoming increasingly violent. A Tuzla farmer is being treated in a psychiatric clinic: since his four sons were killed in front of him he has been living in another world. There are many like him who have been the direct victims of violence or who have witnessed atrocities. These are the invisible but deepest and most indelible wounds of this terrible war.



### An array of projects

ECHO has sought to support a wide range of projects proposed by NGOs in different fields. In Sarajevo the NGO France-Libertés organizes a few hours of educational activities each day for the children. In the Split area, Handicap International is seeking to prevent asocial behaviour and reduce delinquency among adolescents. The NGO is also trying to alleviate the traumas suffered by young children and their mothers, strengthen bonds between elderly people and bolster their role as witnesses of the past.

Professionals from Marie

The invisible wounds of war: these traumatized children cry continually.



## ARMENIA:

### HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS

Armenia is in an isolated position in the wake of the war with Azerbaijan over control of Nagorno-Karabakh. Supplies have dried up, there is no heating, no electricity and severe food shortages. The whole population is suffering (see section on Caucasus). To help the Armenians, ECHO is financing projects to rehabilitate hydroelectric power stations, the country's only source of energy.

Stopes International (a British NGO) are helping rape victims in Bosnia by giving them support and therapy. The same NGO has set up a local network of aid groups to help women refugees reintegrate by organizing sewing and embroidery workshops and other activities. The programme also includes training volunteers to run these groups and disseminating the information to women by means of brochures, posters and radio programmes.

Such projects are not costly compared with other humanitarian operations but they play a major role in alleviating the suffering of the victims and enabling them to protect themselves and get over their trauma.

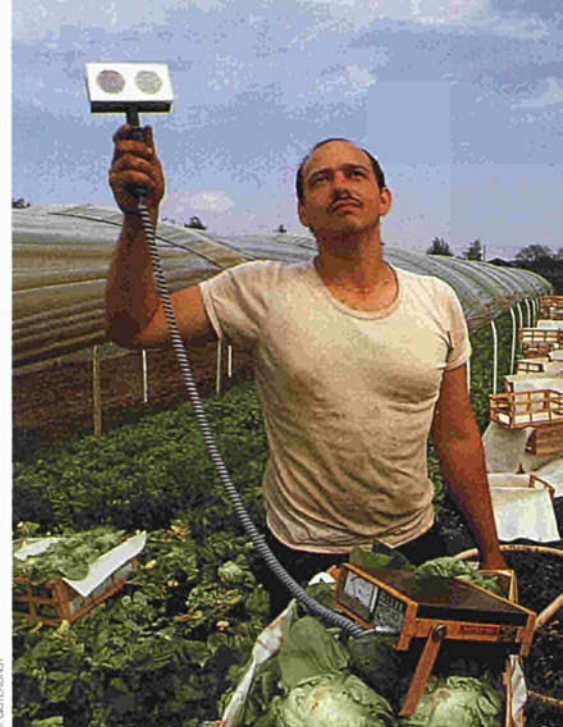
*Unexploded mines and shells wreak havoc in Iraqi Kurdistan: civilians are the principal victims.*



## ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER

### Helping the victims of Chernobyl

Cancer and tuberculosis are rife in the huge swathes of territory affected by the radioactive fallout from Chernobyl. Eight years on, the health of the population is still very worrying. ECHO is supporting the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Federation in its information campaigns to make the population aware of contamination of food, drinking water and the environment. The NGO "Children of Chernobyl" is running a project to help children affected by radiation and the German NGO, DAZ is providing equipment some 500 km from Moscow for the treatment of cancer and tuberculosis besides training local doctors.



*Chernobyl: ECHO is backing an information campaign to alert the population to contamination levels in food, drinking water and the environment.*

## ONCE THE WAR IS OVER

### Clearing mines: a priority

Mines are the ugliest weapons of war as they continue to kill and maim even after peace has been restored. They lie dormant until an unfortunate and often innocent foot brushes against them and sets them off. In Cambodia, Afghanistan, Angola and Iraqi Kurdistan, they prevent civilians from entering certain areas and condemn them to permanent underdevelopment. They strike indiscriminately, killing and maiming soldiers and civilians, men, women and, above all, children.

The initial goal of humanitarian operations was to repair the damage caused by mines by providing medical care and fitting artificial limbs. Then local staff had to be trained: these include physiotherapists and artificial limb technicians, whose job it is to help maimed people regain mobility. But it quickly became apparent that there was little purpose to all this work unless the mines were eradicated. Handicap International which works in the field of the disabled and the Mines Advisory Group, a British NGO specialized in mine clearance, have joined forces in this task and have received ECHO's support in the fight against this "cowards' war".

Mine clearance comes under the heading of humanitarian aid in certain circumstances, in particular where it is designed to help those at risk.

In Cambodia, hundreds of thousands of refugees from camps in Thailand are returning home: peasant farmers are returning to rice fields littered with mines. They have no choice: they are prepared to risk their lives to survive and prefer to cultivate their fields. The result is that Cambodia has the highest rate of physically disabled people in the world. In Iraqi Kurdistan millions of mines planted by the Iraqi army represent a permanent threat to the Kurdish population in mountain areas. The programme backed by ECHO includes mine clearance operations and training of local staff, plus information campaigns to warn people of the dangers. In Mozambique, mine clearance operations are aimed at enabling hundreds of thousands of refugees to head for home now that the cease-fire is being observed.



# ECHO and the international organizations

*The UNHCR is the main humanitarian aid agency in former Yugoslavia and a virtually important partner for ECHO.*

## THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS



With a wealth of expertise and experience spanning more than 50 years of humanitarian aid operations on the ground, the United Nations agencies are considered to be indispensable partners in the humanitarian field. In fact, the UN family as a whole are the Community's most important operational partners in the field after the NGOs managing around 35 per cent of ECHO's total budget. ECHO collaborates with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children and Education Fund (UNICEF) and UN Refugee Works Agency (UNRWA) but by far the most important partners are the UNHCR and the World Food Programme.

## UNHCR

Set-up in 1951, the office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has evolved into the principal agency within the UN for providing help to refugees, and is therefore on the very front line of humanitarian relief operations.

The unprecedented explosion of ethnic conflicts around the world in over the past few years has led to a dramatic multiplying in the number of people uprooted and in desperate need of protection. There are currently 19 million refugees around the globe and the UNHCR is endeavouring to provide assistance to over 13 million of them. The unique expertise of the UNHCR in this sphere give it a special importance as a partner for ECHO and in 1993 it was allocated 84 million ECU or 17 per cent of all humanitarian contracts. The massive displacement of refugees fleeing war and ethnic cleansing in Bosnia meant that the majority of this was spent on actions in the former Yugoslavia where the UNHCR has been entrusted with the role of lead coordinating agency for the overall guidance of the international relief effort and, to a large extent, its operation in the field.

In 1993 this cooperation extended to some 20 countries around the world including Angola, Somalia, Rwanda, Afghanistan and the former Soviet Union.

The complexity of relief operations designed to tackle crises of such magnitude make a coherent coordination of the international response especially important and a lot of effort is going into ways of reinforcing the working relationship between the two organisations. Their commitment of Cooperation was cemented in December with the signing of a Framework Partnership Agreement. ECHO has also established a High-Level Inter-Service Group to develop means of working more closely and harmonising the Community's overall approach to fu-

ture refugee crises so that all the various tools at its disposal work towards the same goal.

## WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

For the past thirty years the WFP has been an important player in the arena of international food aid and has developed a particular expertise in making sure that food provided by donor governments and other organisations reaches the people it was intended for. With the recent mushrooming of violent conflicts around the globe and the





serious disruption this has caused to the basic food supply of many millions of people, the WFP has increasingly been forced to focus on its emergency food aid.

In a major humanitarian operation, the WFP assumes primary responsibility for the logistics of distribution ensuring that food reaches the point of entry to the recipient country then organises its internal transport to the emergency site and supervises delivery to those who need it most. In situations where the physical infrastructure of the country has totally deteriorated as in Afghanistan for example, the WFP establishes special emergency operations employing local staff to build roads and bridges to ensure that supplies reach their destination.

Concentrating almost exclusively on the delivery of food in response to emergency situations the WFP has become an extremely valuable partner for ECHO in its humanitarian operations. As ECHO's second single most important partner around 59 million ECU of assistance was channeled through the WFP in 1993, equivalent to 12 per cent of the total humanitarian contracts financed by the Commission. In Angola and in the former Yugoslavia, as conflict escalated with millions of people trapped by fighting in inaccessible pockets of land and with airdrops often the only way to reach people in need, major WFP operations financed by ECHO provided a crucial lifeline. Important food relief actions were also mounted in Sudan, Ghana and Nepal.

*Logistics and food distribution are in the hands of the World Food Programme.*

## THE RED CROSS

With a vast humanitarian network of over 160 national societies worldwide, the international Red Cross Movement is in a unique position to respond appropriately and effectively wherever disaster strikes. Comprising the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and the national societies the movement is therefore a key element of the international relief effort and is another major partner for ECHO in its humanitarian actions, being one of the first to sign the new Framework Partnership Contracts.

In the event of a disaster, any national society can call on the IFRC which then launches an international appeal to other National Societies and coordinates the action to be taken. Because they can draw from local structures already in place working with local staff and volunteers familiar with the needs of the affected population, these societies are regarded as vital links in the humanitarian chain ensuring that assistance reaches those who need it most quickly.

While the IFRC operates outside immediate conflict areas, the primary role of the ICRC is to provide protection and assistance to the victims of armed con-



*Thanks to its well-established local network the Red Cross deals with the distribution side of most direct action by ECHO in former Yugoslavia.*

flicts. As the world's oldest humanitarian organisation and with over 130 years of experience of providing emergency relief and medical assistance specifically in situations of violent conflict, the ICRC is an extremely important partner for the humanitarian office in its own right.

Altogether ECHO channeled around 69 million ECUs or 14 per cent of its total humanitarian budget through the Red Cross family of organisations and financed major relief operations in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Caucasus as well as the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Mozambique.

## THE AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS

After the European Community, the United States Government is the largest single source of funding for humanitarian aid. It makes good sense then, that there should be a closer working relationship between these two bodies sharing information and pooling resources when needed to provide a better coordinated response in major international crises.

Since ECHO became fully operational at the beginning of 1993, a lot of effort has gone into strengthening cooperation at all levels between the humanitarian services of the Commission and its counterparts in the American government including the Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance 'OFDA', lately renamed Bureau for Humanitarian Relief (BHR). The commission and US officials are now in regular contact and swap information at all levels about major humanitarian actions. This gearing up of cooperation also extends beyond concrete actions and with the relevant UN agencies participating, a regular programme of meetings is being established to discuss the planning of future humanitarian policy. At the same time, support is being given by both the Commission and the US Government in collaboration with the Red Cross and many other donors to the development of a powerful disaster information network within the UN. When completed, this will give relief organisations immediate access to a vast range of valuable information on emergencies.

Improved international coordination will enable the collective impact of future humanitarian actions to be far more effective than that of totally independent actions. Resources will be used more efficiently and a better quality, more appropriate response will be provided to people in urgent need of assistance.



# Disaster preparedness: THE ROLE OF ECHO

By planning for disasters of all kinds, it is possible to limit the number of victims and contain the material damage. Aid intervention is more efficient, reaction time quicker and unnecessary expenditure avoided.

The key to success for relief operations in the wake of disasters is the local authorities' ability to respond and organize. Pallets of tents and blankets delivered by international donors are of no use if there are no trucks to distribute them on the ground, just as there is little point in sending sophisticated medical equipment if no one knows how to use it.

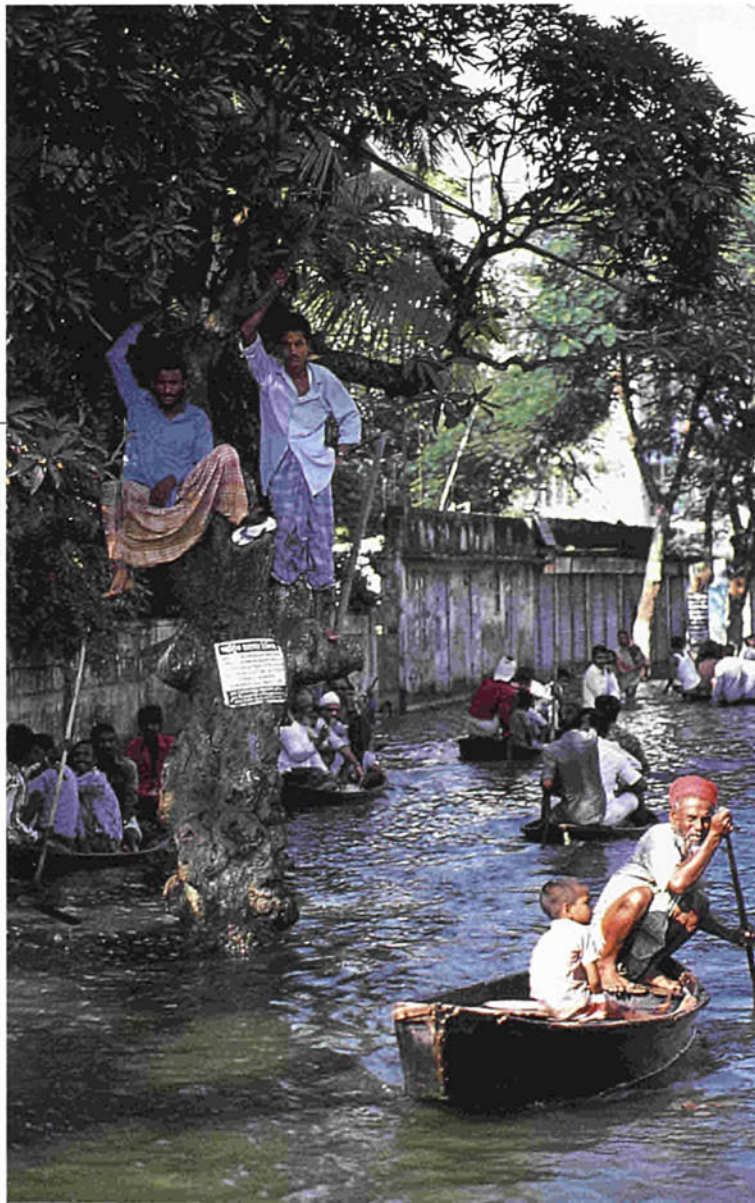
Preparedness, training and coordination are therefore vital to the success of emergency relief operations, which is why ECHO takes a keen interest in disaster planning.

The concept of disaster preparedness is so broad that it is difficult to define in a few words. Briefly, it involves predicting, anticipating, and preparing the ground, with a view to being able to respond as necessary in disaster situations and thereby cushion their impact. The Red Cross defines disasters as extreme events, whether natural or human in origin, which are visited on vulnerable population groups, for example droughts, floods, earthquakes, cyclones, civil wars, etc.

Many different disciplines are involved in disaster preparedness. They include science (for example seismology and volcanology), development, health and environmental programmes, civil engineering (such as construction of buildings and dams) and even administration. A wide range of bodies may contribute, including universities and research institutions, charities, UN agencies, businesses, ministries and governments. What they have in common is their humanitarian objective, namely to forestall disasters or to limit or reduce their impact on the population of a given country or area.

ECHO's mandate here is to develop, coordinate and implement a true Community disaster prevention policy towards non-Member States.

*In high-risk areas such as Bangladesh, where flooding is frequent, disaster preparedness can substantially reduce the number of victims and the extent of the damage.*



## Disaster planning: an essential prerequisite

In 1974 Bangladesh was devastated by a cyclone which killed 467 000. Subsequently, a number of preparatory measures were taken, including the construction of shelters, the creation of a radio communication network and evacuation training. In 1991 the country was again the victim of a cyclone of unparalleled ferocity, with winds of 255 kmph and tidal waves tens of metres high. Despite its greater destructive strength, the second storm claimed only 140 000 lives. The figures speak for themselves.



# HUMANITARIAN AID UNDER THE PHARE PROGRAMME in 1993

## ALBANIA

Three years on from the country's first ever free elections, held in March 1991, Albania is still trying to break free of the isolation and poverty to which it was condemned during 45 years of communist dictatorship. The industrial sector has remained paralysed by its dilapidated machinery, and the health and education sectors are in a disastrous state.



In addition to its huge economic aid programme, PHARE is also providing support for humanitarian projects in Albania. Last year saw the finalization of a ECU 30 million emergency imports programme and the implementation of 25 local projects backed by a fund set up to support NGOs. These projects covered a variety of areas, such as the rehabilitation of provincial orphanages, creches and hospitals and supplies of clothing for people living in mountain areas. PHARE is also contributing to the reintegration of former political prisoners by financing the construction of housing by and for them and providing social workers.

In December, an additional aid package of ECU 10 million was approved in response to the particularly severe social and economic problems faced by Albania. This allocation will be used to rebuild a large number of schools and prisons throughout the country, to support local NGOs' projects and to extend the aid programme for former political prisoners to other parts of Albania.

The aim of the PHARE programme is to underpin the economic restructuring process under way in Central and Eastern Europe and in the Baltic states and help create a market economy in those countries. Although the programme's main objective is an economic one, it can help meet urgent short-term needs, such as humanitarian aid, in fields not directly related to the economic sector.

*Albania: industry has virtually ground to a halt because of dilapidated machinery.*

## FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

The trade embargo imposed on Serbia and Montenegro by the international community has dealt a severe blow to a small country already badly affected by the disintegration of the Yugoslav market. Industrial production has fallen by 50% in a single year, and the country is also host to 60 000 refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Last year PHARE supplemented its economic aid package with a ECU 5 million allocation to finance emergency imports of drugs and medical equipment. FYROM's industrial sector is currently receiving support in the form of a ECU 25 million programme to finance emergency imports of raw materials and parts.

## ROMANIA

PHARE's humanitarian aid to Romanian children's homes in 1993. Working with the Romanian government, PHARE is implementing a genuine policy for the protection of children by supporting a thorough overhaul of the entire system. Although living conditions in the institutions are now much more humane, there is no substitute for family life, and PHARE's programme in Romania gives priority to preventing children being placed in homes.



*Romania: there is no substitute for the bonds between mother and child. PHARE is helping to set up a genuine child protection policy.*





*Prefab dwellings for 15,000 people displaced as a result of the fighting between Armenians and Azeris.*

# HUMANITARIAN AID UNDER THE **TACIS** PROGRAMME in 1993

TACIS is the European Union's programme of technical assistance to the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union. Its aim is to ease their transition to democracy and a market economy. Like the PHARE programme for the Central and Eastern European countries, TACIS can also give support humanitarian to operations if need be. In 1993 it provided humanitarian aid to three republics in the Caucasus: Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan.

## **GEORGIA**

In Georgia, TACIS is also using its humanitarian aid to supply oil in order to meet the heating and power needs of a large section of the population. The oil comes in via Turkmenistan or Azerbaijan.

## **AZERBAIJAN**

In Nagorno-Karabakh, TACIS in collaboration with ECHO has provided prefabricated dwellings for 15,000 persons displaced as a result of the fighting. The ECU 8 million allocated to this project also covers sanitary needs, water supply and essential household products. In keeping with the programme's philosophy, the organization and management of these camps will gradually be handed over to the Azeris.

## **ARMENIA**

The key problem in Armenia is energy supply. The country has no energy sources of its own, apart from hydro-electricity. It has huge oil requirements but the embargo imposed by Azerbaijan is stopping imports. The only way to get supplies in is by rail via Georgia, but political instability in the region, civil war and the secession of the Georgia's autonomous regions have regularly interrupted the convoys, which have experienced endless hold-ups on the way to their destination. 20,000 tons of fuel have been delivered by TACIS so far and the operation is pressing ahead despite the difficulties.

*Due to severe fuel shortages, Armenia is at a standstill.*





# HELPING refugees, displaced persons and returnees BECOME SELF-RELIANT

In the context of its external economic relations the European Commission supports each year a wide range of schemes to help refugees, displaced persons and returnees. The help is given to bridge the gap between emergency aid and development schemes. Where the need arises this programme can also cover humanitarian aid, but its prime objective is to help the recipients of aid become more self-reliant and enable them to reintegrate into society after their difficult ordeal.

The Commission acts on two fronts:

- aid to the population in the area where the refugees, displaced persons and returnees are first accommodated (maintaining the camps), and
- help towards resettlement in their country of origin (wide-ranging pro-

grammes covering rehabilitation, reconstruction, vocational training, education, etc.).

## ASIA

Three large population groups received Commission assistance in 1993, to the tune of ECU 45 million:

In Afghanistan some ECU 20 million went towards the resettlement of returnees coming back from Pakistan and Iran, covering health and rural rehabilitation schemes and camp maintenance.

A budget of ECU 17 million was given over to resettlement schemes to help Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian refugees from the various camps dotted around south-east Asia.

ECU 5 million was allocated to cover the basic humanitarian needs of

Burmese refugees in camps in Bangladesh.

Over and above these three major programmes, schemes to help refugees from Bhutan and displaced persons in Sri Lanka also received support.

## LATIN AMERICA

Assistance to Guatemalan refugees in Mexico and to returnees accounted for more than half of the ECU 20 million available. The projects include vocational training and the promotion of income-generating activities.

In El Salvador the Commission supported resettlement and rehabilitation schemes run by NGOs. ECU 4 million went on a job-creation scheme.

In Nicaragua ECU 4.7 million was allocated to integrated development projects carried out in conjunction with the government.

## Vocational training IN HUMANITARIAN AID

ECHO is setting up a post-graduate diploma.

Humanitarian aid will be taught in universities from September 1994. In collaboration with five respected European universities, ECHO and the Task Force for Human Resources, Education, Training and Youth have organized a special degree course for which all university graduates will be eligible. In a major new development, students will be instructed in a range of disciplines that play a role in humanitarian aid, from logistics to geopolitics to epidemiology.

### Why a special degree course in humanitarian aid?

Since ECHO was set up, the European Union's humanitarian activities have increased dramatically, requiring more and more specialized staff. Until now, there has been no comprehensive training available in this field in any of

the Member States, and both employers and potential students increasingly feel the need for a professional approach. The situations in which ECHO is required to intervene - for example in former Yugoslavia and the Caucasus are becoming ever more complex. Modern humanitarian aid is not a matter for improvisation - it requires specialist expertise.

Humanitarian aid is becoming a genuine Community policy, and it is important that policy should be reflected in the field of education. The creation of a European diploma is also an essential step in developing a community approach to humanitarian aid.

The course will be organized as part of the ERASMUS programme for exchanges of university students and teachers. ECHO is proud to have set up this programme less than a year after the initial discussion took place.

### The 5 participating universities

- Aix-Marseille (France)
- Bochum (Germany)
- Deusto (Spain)
- Louvain (Belgium)
- Oxford (United Kingdom)

When the system has been tested, it could be extended to universities in the other member states.

### COURSE PROGRAMME

The programme adopts a multidisciplinary approach covering the following fields: law, geopolitics, management / logistics, anthropology, medicine / epidemiology.

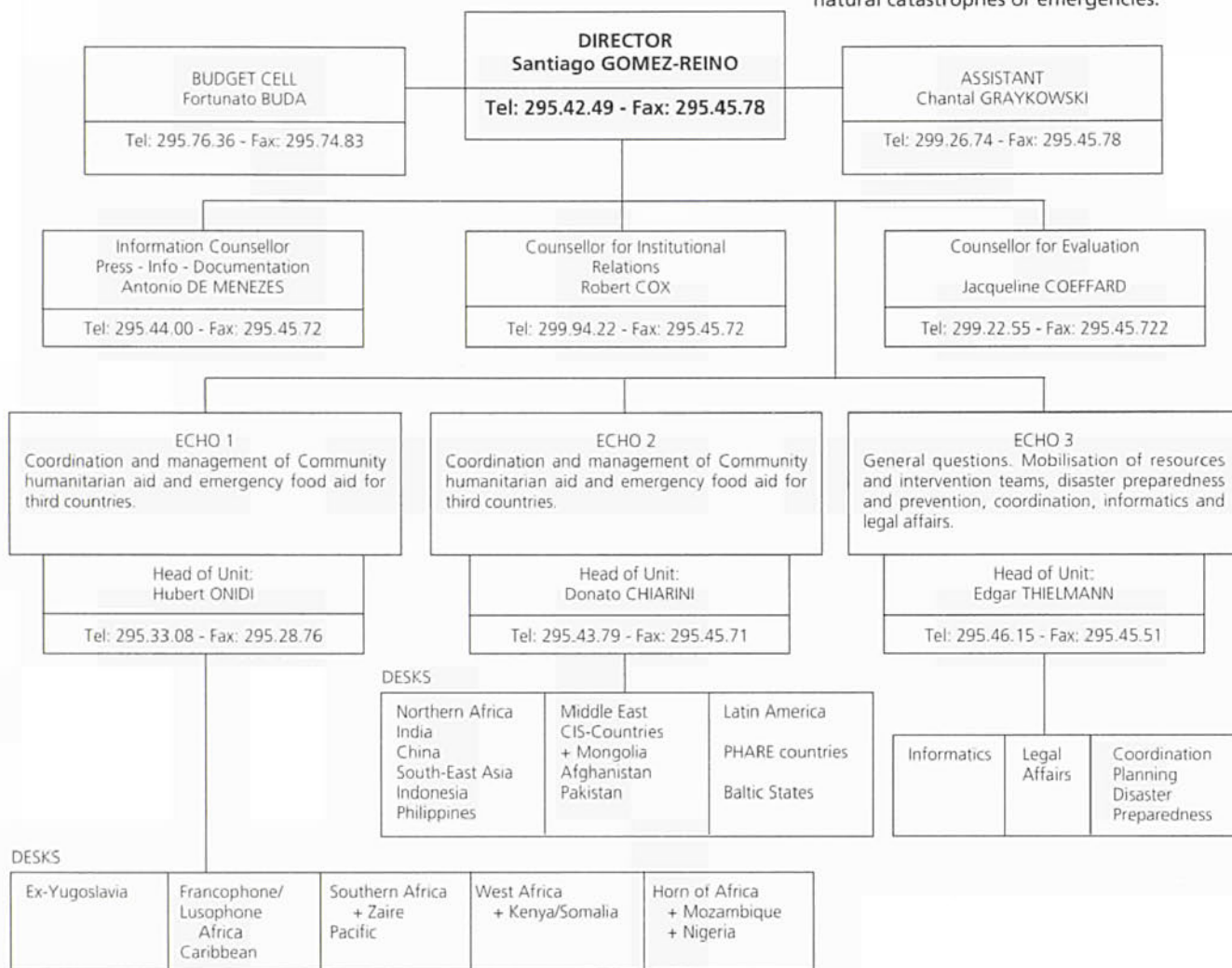


arnexes

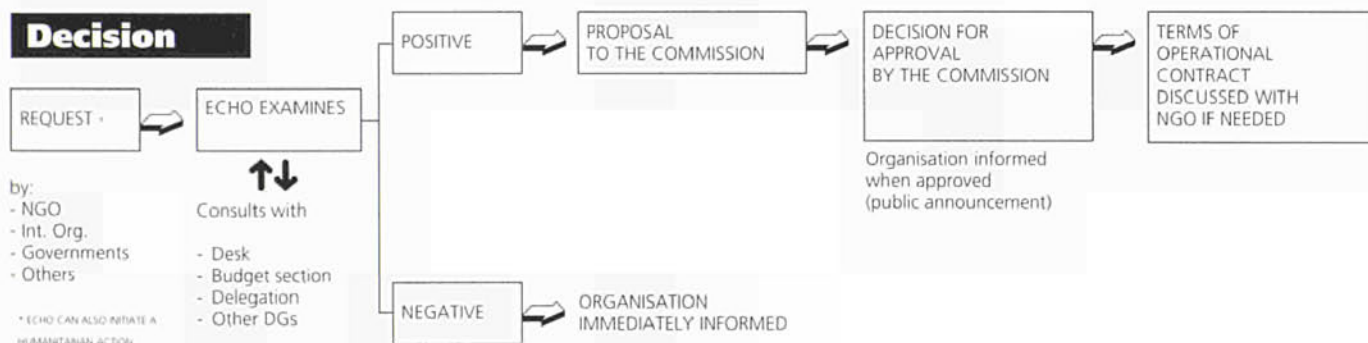


# European Community Humanitarian Office

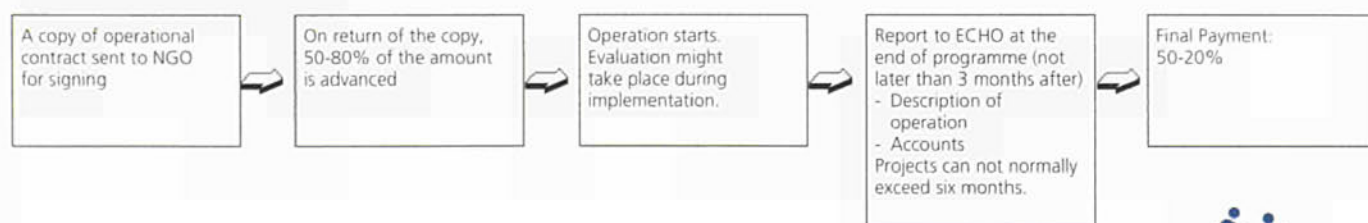
The European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) is responsible for humanitarian action in aid of populations from any part of the world outside the Community, affected by natural catastrophes or emergencies.



## ECHO's response in 10 steps

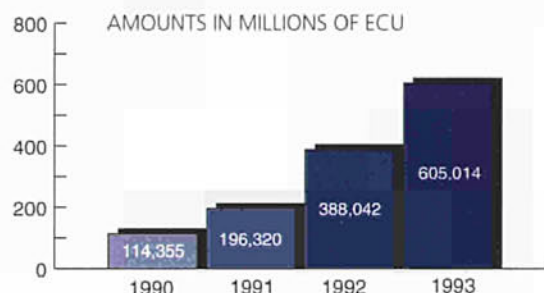


## Implementation





# Financial Decisions for EC Humanitarian Aid



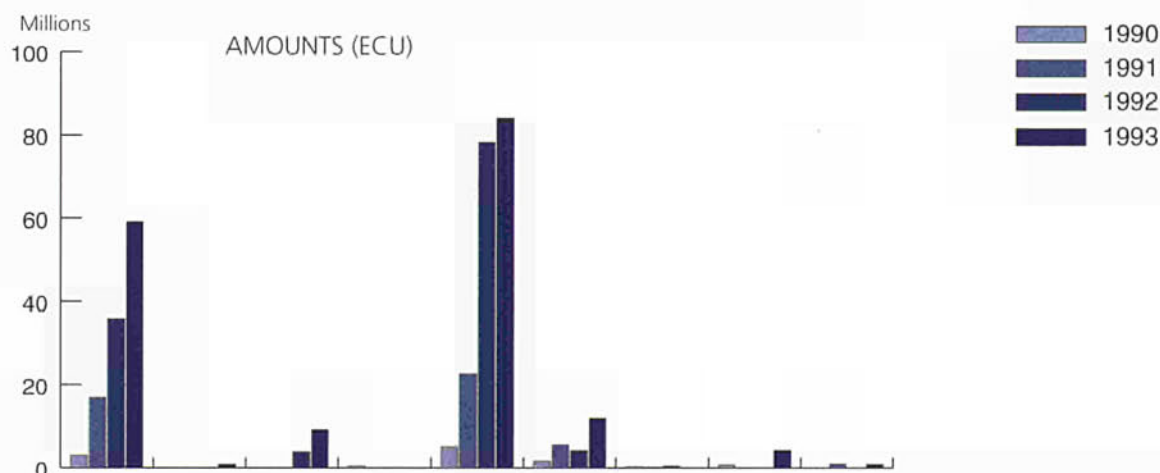
## Overview of Financial Decisions for EC Humanitarian Aid by Source of Finance

SOURCE OF FINANCE BUDGET LINE	DESCRIPTION	1990 DECISIONS (ECU)	1991 DECISIONS (ECU)	1992 DECISIONS (ECU)	1993 DECISIONS (ECU)
LOME III	National Indicative Programme (NIP 1)	-	-	40,000,000	6,500,000
LOME III	ART 203	41,620,000	42,445,000	-	1,296,000
LOME IV	ART 254 (2)	-	13,500,000	31,675,000	82,385,000
FEOGA	Fonds Eur. d'orientation et de garantie AGRL (3)	-	-	72,500,000	-
B7-5000	Humanitarian & Emergency Aid	72,735,000	139,375,000	154,867,297	-
B7-510	Disaster Aid to Developing countries	-	-	-	70,033,195
B7-511	Emergency Food Aid	-	-	-	17,425,000
B7-514	Humanitarian Aid to C&E Europe	-	-	-	385,000,000
B7-515	Humanitarian Aid to ex-USSR	-	-	-	30,000,000
B7-516	Humanitarian Action in 3 <sup>rd</sup> countries	-	-	-	8,713,000
B7-517	Refugees & Displ. personnes in dev. countries	-	-	-	3,662,000
B7-6000	PHARE	-	-	69,000,000	-
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>114,355,000</b>	<b>195,320,000</b>	<b>368,042,297</b>	<b>605,014,195</b>

Foot notes:

- (1) National indicative Programme for Somalia  
 (2) 5-Year Allocation (1991-95) under LOME IV (250,000,000 ECU)  
 (3) Decided on a case-by-case basis

## EC funding of United Nations agencies





# NGOs and humanitarian organizations

## WHO HAVE SIGNED

### THE FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP CONTRACT

(as of 03.05.94)

B	Y	C	O	U	N	T	R	Y
<b>FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY</b>								
DEUTSCHES ROTES KREUZ			CCP 0001	<b>IRELAND</b>				
DEUTSCHER CARITASVERBAND			CCP 0007	IRISH RED CROSS SOCIETY				
DIAKONISCHES WERK of the Evangelical Churches in Germany			CCP 0019	GOAL				
DEUTSCHE WELTHUNGHERHILFE (GERMAN AGROACTION)			CCP 0042	CONCERN IRELAND				
JOHANNITER-UNFALL-HILFE (INTERNATIONAL SERVICES)			CCP 0046	TROCAIRE				
HELP			CCP 0053	<b>ITALY</b>				
MALTESER HILFSDIENST E.V. (M.H.D.)			CCP 0065	CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA				
DAZ (DEUTSCHE ARZTEGELEINSCHAFT FÜR MEDIZINISCHE ZUSAMMEN ARBEID		CCP 0085		CARITAS ITALIANA				
<b>AUSTRIA</b>								
CARITAS AUTRICHE		CCP 0049		ASSOCIAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE VOLONTARI LAICI				
MALTESER HOSPITAL DIENST-AUSTRIA (M.H.D. A)		CCP 0065		COMITATO INTERNAZIONALE PER LO SVILUPPO DEI POPOLI				
ÖSTERREICHISCHES HILFSWERK		CCP 0079		CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE DE COOPERAZIONE ALLO SVILUPPO				
<b>BELGIUM</b>								
CROIX ROUGE DE BELGIQUE		CCP 0001		CENTRO REGIONALE D'INTERVENTO PER LA COOPERAZIONE				
SECOURS INTERNATIONAL DE CARITAS CATHOLICA BELGICA		CCP 0012		COOPERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE				
MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES/ARTSEN ZONDER GRENZEN		CCP 0013		GRUPPO VOLONTARIATO CIVILE				
CARE INTERNATIONAL		CCP 0014		COMITATO DI COORDINAMENTO DELLE ORGANIZZAZIONI				
HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL (B)		CCP 0030		PER IL SERVIZIO VOLONTARIO (C.O.S.V.)				
OXFAM BELGIQUE		CCP 0043		MEDICUS MUNDI ITALIA				
IEDER VOOR ALLEN		CCP 0056		COMITATO COLLABORAZIONE MEDICA				
HÔPITAL SANS FRONTIERE (B)		CCP 0068		ISTITUTO COOPERAZIONE UNIVERSITARIA (ICU)				
MEDICUS MUNDI INTERNATIONAL		CCP 0080		COMITATO EUROPEO FORMAZIONE AGRARIA (CEFA)				
MEDICUS MUNDI BELGIUM		CCP 0080		<b>LUXEMBURG</b>				
MEMISA BELGIUM		CCP 0080		CROIX ROUGE LUXEMBOURGEOISE				
<b>DENMARK</b>								
DANSK RODE KORS		CCP 0001		MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES				
CARITAS DANMARK		CCP 0008		CARITAS LUXEMBOURG				
FOLKEKIRKENS NØDHJÆLP/DANCHURCHAID		CCP 0020		HÔPITAL SANS FRONTIERE				
RED BARNET		CCP 0004		<b>NORWAY</b>				
DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL		CCP 0041		KIRKENS NØDHJELP, Norway				
MISSION EAST		CCP 0060		<b>NETHERLANDS</b>				
ACTION MEDEOR		CCP 0080		HET NEDERLANDSE RODE KRUIS				
<b>SPAIN</b>								
CRUZ ROJA ESPAÑOLA		CCP 0001		CARITAS NEERLANDICA				
CARITAS ESPAÑOLA		CCP 0005		MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES/ARTSEN ZONDER GRENZEN				
MEDICOS SIN FRONTERAS		CCP 0013		STICHTING OECUMENISCHE HULP (Dutch Interchurch Aid)				
SOLIDARIDAD INTERNACIONAL				MEDICUS MUNDI HOLLAND				
(FUNDACIÓN ESPAÑOLA PARA LA COOPERACIÓN)		CCP 0040		<b>PORTUGAL</b>				
MEDICOS DEL MUNDO		CCP 0044		CRUZ VERMELHA PORTUGUESA				
MOVIMIENTO POR LA PAZ, EL DESARME Y LA LIBERTAD		CCP 0050		AMI - Fundação Assistência Médica Internacional				
ASOCIACIÓN NAVARRA "NUEVO FUTURO"		CCP 0054		OIKOS Cooperação et desenvolvimento				
A.C.S.U.R. ASOCIACIÓN PARA LA COOPERACIÓN				C.I.C. Associação para a Cooperação, Intercambio e Cultura				
CON EL SUR LAS SEGOVIAS		CCP 0057		UNIAO DES CIDADES CAPITAIS LUSO-AFRO-AMERICO-ASIATICAS				
INTERMON		CCP 0063		(U.C.C.L.A.)				
NOUS CAMINS		CCP 0077		<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>				
MEDICUS MUNDI ESPANA		CCP 0080		BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY				
<b>UNITED STATES</b>								
INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES		CCP 0055		SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND				
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES		CCP 0074		CATHOLIC FUND FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT				
INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS		CCP 0082		CARE BRITAIN				
<b>FRANCE</b>								
CROIX ROUGE FRANCAISE		CCP 0001		CHRISTIAN AID				
SECOURS CATHOLIQUE		CCP 0006		FEED THE CHILDREN				
MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES		CCP 0013		OXFAM UK				
ACTION INTERNATIONALE CONTRE LA FAIM		CCP 0026		HELPSIDE INTERNATIONAL				
HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL (F)		CCP 0029		TEAR FUND				
ACTION NORD SUD		CCP 0031		MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS				
MEDECINS DU MONDE		CCP 0032		MERLIN				
EQUILIBRE		CCP 0033		CONCERN UNIVERSAL				
PREMIERE URGENCE		CCP 0034		<b>SWEDEN</b>				
PHARMACIENS SANS FRONTIERES		CCP 0039		DIAKONIA				
FRANCE - LIBERTES (FONDATION DANIELLE MITTERRAND)		CCP 0058		<b>SWITZERLAND</b>				
OEUVRES HOSPITALIERES FRANCAISES DE L'ORDRE DE MALTE (O.H.F.O.M.)		CCP 0065		MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES				
HÔPITAL SANS FRONTIERE (F)		CCP 0068		LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION				
SECOURS POPULAIRE FRANCAIS		CCP 0071		HEKS (SWISS INTERCHURCH AID)				
MEDICUS MUNDI FRANCE		CCP 0080		CARITAS SUISSE				
INTERAIDE		CCP 0087		TERRE DES HOMMES				
INITIATIVE DEVELOPPEMENT		CCP 0087		MEDICUS MUNDI SCHWEIZ				
ESSOR		CCP 0087		<b>INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</b>				
EUROPACT		CCP 0087		INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS				
<b>GREECE</b>								
CROIX ROUGE HELLENIQUE		CCP 0001		AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES (IFRC)				
GREEK COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY		CCP 0072		INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)				
MEDECINS DU MONDE		CCP 0081		UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)				
<b>IRELAND</b>								
IRISH RED CROSS SOCIETY		CCP 0001		ORDRE SOUVERAIN ET MILITAIRE DE ST.JEAN DE JERUSALEM, RHODES ET DE MALTE				
GOAL		CCP 0024		INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)				
CONCERN IRELAND		CCP 0038		PAN AMERICAN WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (PAHO)				
TROCAIRE		CCP 0067						



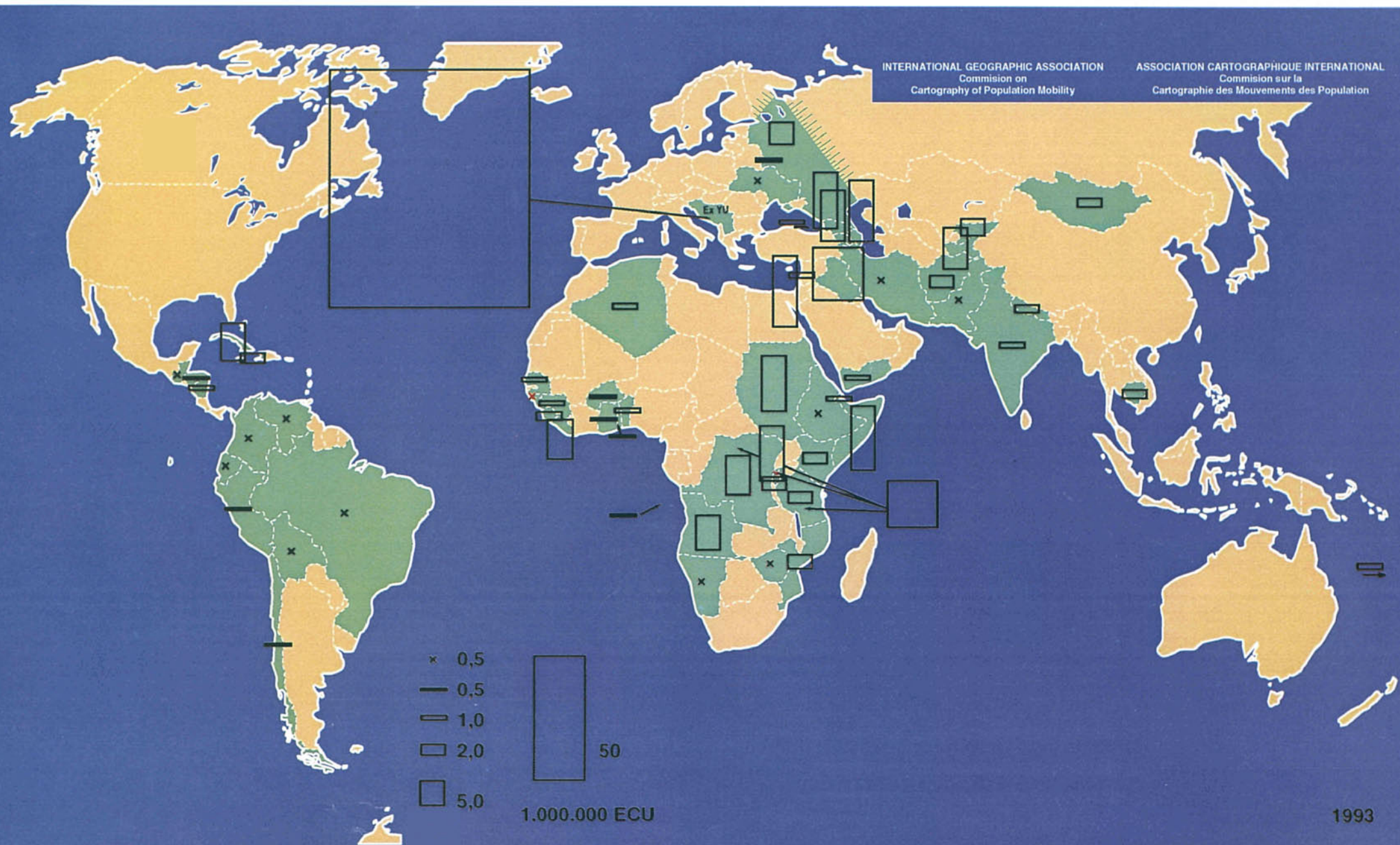
# ECHO humanitarian aid

## Decisions in 1993

RECIPIENT	NATURE OF DISASTER	AMOUNT (ECU)
Afghanistan	Conflict; Refugees from Tadjikistan	2,750,000
Africa	Locust invasion	1,000,000
Albania	Economic difficulties	456,000
Algeria	Refugees; Epidemics	1,225,000
Angola	Internal troubles; Drought	7,000,000
Benin	Togolese refugees	1,000,000
Bolivia	Cholera epidemic; Floods	445,000
Brazil	Cholera epidemic; Aid for children	470,000
Burundi	Displaced population	22,300,000
Burkina Faso	Tuareg refugees	500,000
Cambodia	Internal troubles; Refugees	1,785,000
Central Africa	Chad refugees	200,000
Chile	Floods	500,000
Colombia	Epidemic	470,000
Cuba	Typhoon; Neuropathic epidemic; Medical aid	7,805,000
Ecuador	Landslide	350,000
Djibouti	Cholera epidemic	515,000
Ethiopia	Displaced population	350,000
Fiji	Cyclone 'Tina'	1,000,000
Ghana	Togolese refugees	500,000
Guatemala	Internal troubles	250,000
Guinea	Refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone	1,000,000
Guinea Bissau	Senegalese refugees	300,000
Haiti	Internal tension	2,000,000
Honduras	Hurricane 'Gert'; Flooding	595,000
India	Earthquake	920,000
Iran	Floods	230,000
Iraq	Kurdish population	21,500,000
Kenya	Displaced population, Somali refugees	2,400,000
Lebanon	Conflict; Medical aid for children	1,800,000
Liberia	Conflict; Refugees	8,990,000
Mongolia	Medical aid; Economic difficulties	1,820,000
Mozambique	Drought and repatriation of refugees	3,000,000
Namibia	Drought	180,000
Nepal	Drought; Floods; Refugees from Bhutan	1,800,000
Nicaragua	Hurricane 'Bret'	700,000
Palastine/Israel	Internal troubles (Occupied Territories)	10,400,000
Pakistan	Locust invasions	430,000
Peru	Floods; Cholera epidemic	510,000
Rumania	Economic difficulties	350,000
Rwanda	Conflict; Refugees from Burundi	11,000,000
Senegal	Displaced population	1,000,000
Sierra Leone	Conflict; Displaced population	1,850,000
Somalia	Conflict	12,296,000
Sri Lanka	Internal conflict	150,000
Sudan	Conflict and Drought; Displaced population	10,400,000
Tanzania	Refugees from Burundi	2,000,000
Togo	Displaced population	500,000
Uganda	Refugees from Sudan	1,000,000
Venezuela	Hurricane 'Bret'	150,000
Vietnam	Medical assistance	110,000
Yemen	Floods	75,000
Former Yugoslavia	Conflict; Refugees in Bosnia and Croatia	395,080,195
Former USSR	Conflicts; displaced populations	51,295,000
Zaire	Internal unrest; Displaced population	7,800,000
Zimbabwe	Internal conflict; Drought	12,000
<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION</b>		<b>604,514,195 ECU</b>



# ECHO HUMANITARIAN AID **Decisions in 1993**





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