

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid

Acronym: ECHO
Full Name: European Commission Humanitarian Aid
Website: ec.europa.eu/echo/
Established: 1992
Location: Brussels, Belgium

Areas of expertise: Funding humanitarian aid, humanitarian operations, monitoring humanitarian projects, coordination, prevention, technical assistance and training.

Main Partners and collaborations: International Committee of the Red Cross, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), World Health Organization (WHO), UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), World Food Program (WFP), UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

Short Description:

The Humanitarian Aid department of the European Commission (ECHO) was established in 1992 and its mandate is, according to the Regulation (CE) n° 1257/96, to "provide emergency assistance and relief to the victims of natural disasters or armed conflict **outside the European Union**. The aid is intended to go directly to those in distress, irrespective of race, religion or political convictions."*

Main activities:

In order to accomplish its mandate, ECHO funds humanitarian aid in form of goods (specific foodstuffs, medical equipment, medicines and fuel) and services (medical teams, water purification teams and logistical support). In addition, ECHO activities are focused on the accomplishment of feasibility studies for its humanitarian operations, the monitoring of humanitarian projects and the establishment of coordination arrangements, the promotion of disaster prevention, technical assistance and training.*

ECHO encourages the recognition of not for profit organizations specialized in the technical and commercial management of supplies and services as Humanitarian Procurement Centers (HPC) to implement humanitarian actions.

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Source:

* European Commission Humanitarian Aid (http://ec.europa.eu/echo/about/what/history_en.htm - 26.03.2010)