

## DG EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN AID OPERATIONS (DG ECHO)

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Initiative	Keyword(s)
<p>In 2016 the European Commission's DG ECHO provided over EUR 1.9 billion, or some 87% of its annual humanitarian aid budget, to projects helping refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) as well as host communities. Humanitarian aid for forcibly displaced people helps to meet their most pressing needs, protect and support them during their displacement and when returning to their homes; and increases their self-reliance.</p> <p>DG ECHO's assistance to the forcibly displaced is making a difference in the lives of many: Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Greece; Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan; Somali refugees in Kenya; Congolese refugees in the Great Lakes region; Palestinian refugees; Myanmar refugees in Thailand; Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh; and Sahrawi refugees in Algeria. Vulnerable internally displaced people are equally targeted by Commission assistance, particularly in Syria, Colombia, South Sudan, Iraq and Yemen.</p> <p>DG ECHO channels its financial support to forced displacement situations through organisations dealing with refugees, IDPs, vulnerable migrants and (in some cases) host communities. Its main partners include UNHCR, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the Red Cross and Red Crescent family, and non-governmental organisations. DG ECHO also assists refugees trapped in protracted situations, i.e. in exile for five years or more without prospects of durable solutions. Protracted displacement affects more than 45% of the world's refugees.</p> <p>Besides geographical funding, DG ECHO supports programmes aimed to strengthen the humanitarian system as such, including information management and data collection aspects.</p> <p>Finally, while supporting the victims of displacement, DG ECHO is also working to decrease the number and scale of refugee crises: for instance, through its work on disaster preparedness and prevention, which aims to reduce the vulnerability of disadvantaged communities and prevent their displacement.</p> <p>In June 2016, the European Commission adopted a Staff Working Document for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. This will help the EU take a risk-informed approach to all its policies, and</p>	<p>Refugees, IDPs, humanitarian aid</p>

<p>contribute in particular to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change.</p> <p>In March 2016, the Council adopted the Emergency Support Regulation (ESR) on the provision of emergency support within the European Union, with an initial budget of EUR 700 million for three years. This new legal instrument enables the EU to implement a needs-based emergency response in urgent and exceptional circumstances where no other sufficient means of response is available, e.g. in the case of the increased refugee influx into Greece. The instrument has been activated for Greece until 2019, and so far over EUR 200 million have been contracted to DG ECHO's partners for the provision of life-saving assistance to refugees in Greece.</p> <p>Since the beginning of the wider European refugee crisis in 2015, DG ECHO has also helped coordinate in-kind assistance to Greece (and previously Serbia, Croatia and Hungary) through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). To date, twenty UCPM Participating States have offered more than 185 000 items of material support to Greece to respond to needs created by the refugee crisis. DG ECHO's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) acts as the operational hub of the UCPM, and facilitates the coordination of assistance offered by Participating States. The ERCC is closely supported by its scientific partner, the Joint Research Centre.</p>	
<p>In June 2016, the European Commission also adopted a Communication on forced displacement recognising the particular challenge of forced displacement and the need to do things differently through a new development-led approach. The "Lives in Dignity" Communication aims at harnessing and strengthening the resilience and self-reliance of both the forcibly displaced and their host communities. The Commission's new approach stipulates that political, economic, development and humanitarian actors should engage from the outset of a displacement crisis, and work with third countries towards the gradual socio-economic inclusion of the forcibly displaced, harnessing their productive capacities and recognising the economic opportunities they can create. This should happen in practice through joint analysis and programming between the different actors. The objective is to make people's lives more dignified during displacement; and ultimately, to end forced displacement. The Commission is currently working on the roll out of this policy, in a number of countries, such as Uganda and Tanzania, building on good practices gathered in the Middle East.</p>	<p>Together with :  DG International  Cooperation and  Development (DEVCO),  DG Neighbourhood and  Enlargement Negotiations  (NEAR),  European External Action  Service (EEAS)</p>