



# Disaster Preparedness Programme DIPECHO

## DIPECHO: Reducing the impact of natural disasters

The European Commission Humanitarian Aid department's Disaster Preparedness Programme (DIPECHO) targets vulnerable people living in the main disaster-prone regions of the world. The objective is to reduce the impact of natural disasters by strengthening local physical and human resources in high risk areas.

The programme demonstrates through pilot activities that simple inexpensive preparatory measures can save lives and livelihoods at community level.

In parallel, it raises awareness among decision-makers for the need to integrate disaster risk reduction into longer term development policies.

## Targeting disaster-prone regions worldwide

DIPECHO targets vulnerable communities in the six most disaster-prone regions of the world: South East Asia, Central Asia, South Asia, the Andean Community, Latin America, the Caribbean. In 2008, the Programme expanded to include South East Africa and the Indian Ocean. Since 1996 DIPECHO provided more than €165 million for over 400 projects worldwide, out of which €30.7 million for 109

projects in South-East Asia.

## A typical project

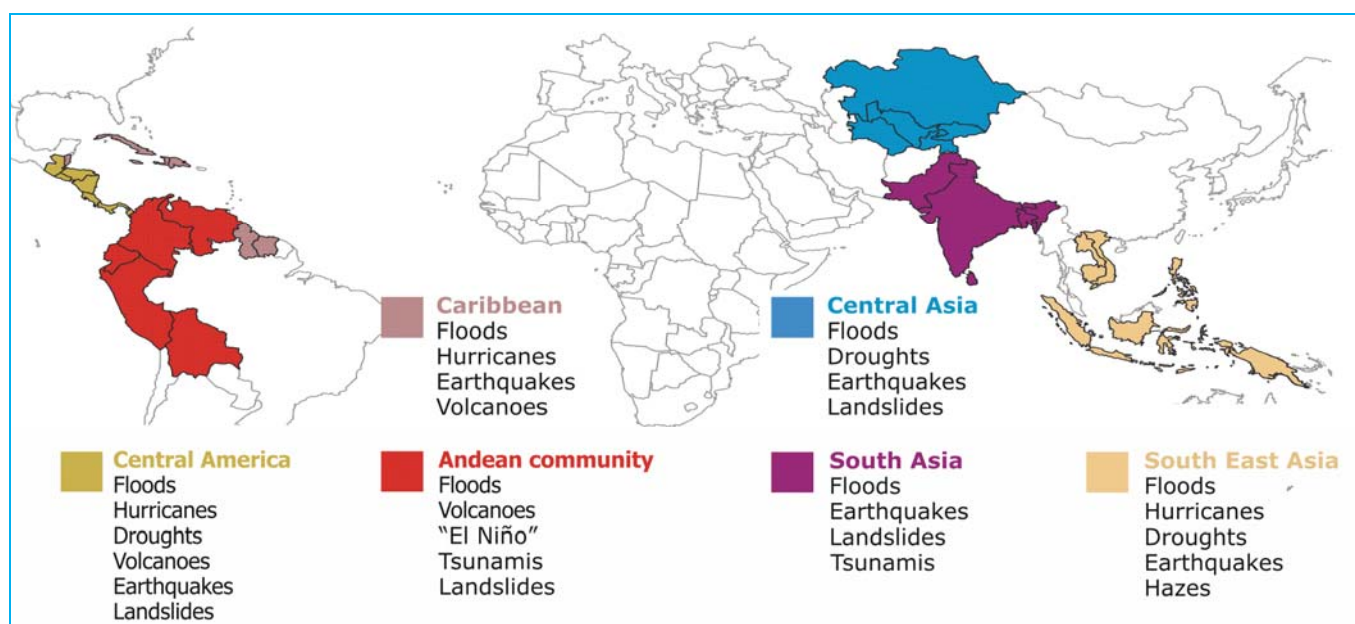
DIPECHO projects are implemented by EU-based non-governmental organisations, UN agencies, Red Cross Societies and international organisations experienced in disaster risk reduction and the country they operate in. In turn, these partner organisations work closely with local agencies.

On average, projects last 15 months. A co-financing share of at least 15% is required from implementing agencies.

Projects develop affordable measures which can be replicated locally and be integrated into longer term mechanisms. Typically activities include:

- Local disaster management components: early warning systems, map and data digitization, local capacity-building, training.
- Institutional linkages: advocacy, facilitation of coordination, institutional strengthening.
- Information, education, communication, including public awareness raising.
- Small scale infrastructure and services.

## Regions targeted by ECHO's disaster preparedness programmes and the major risks they face





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## The DIPECHO programming cycle

So far funding has been available every two years. However DIPECHO puts more and more emphasis on longer term programming cycles through consecutive action plans. The preparation of each phase is based on a series of internal and external evaluations and reviews, as well as the input received from implementing partners and other stakeholders during an ongoing consultative process. Action Plans are then translated into an expression of interest, inviting organisations to submit project proposals.

Presently, DIPECHO South East Asia is carrying out its 6<sup>th</sup> Action Plan (July 2008 - January 2009). The expression of interest for the 7<sup>th</sup> Action plan is due to be published towards the end of 2009.



*Risk assessment workshop for Red Cross volunteers, Vietnam*  
Photo Credit: H Veit, ECHO

About ECHO: The Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) is part of the European Commission, the European Union's executive arm. It comes under the direct responsibility of Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid. Through ECHO funding, nearly 20 million people are helped each year in more than 90 countries through 200 partners (NGOs, international organisations, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, and UN agencies). In 2007, the European Commission provided €768 million for humanitarian programmes. Web: <http://ec.europa.eu/echo/>

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