

Climate Change and Humanitarian Aid
from the viewpoint
of the European Commission

Climate Conference
14 February 2008
Bonn

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Humanitarian Aid

Humanitarian Aid and Climate Change

- Humanitarian Aid can not stop climate change
- Humanitarian Aid can not provide developing countries with the tools to implement disaster risk reduction on a national scale
- Humanitarian Aid can and must contribute towards **preparing** those populations who are most vulnerable to the effects of disaster

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humanitarian aid

What type of preparedness?

Preparedness to cope - resilience:

- **Community-based, people-centred approach**
- **Awareness, early-warning, education, training, low-tech technical input**

Preparedness to respond:

- **Mostly capital/national level investments**
- **Strongly biased towards civil protection, hardware, hi-tech**
- **Pre-positioning**

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The European Commission and HA

- ECHO is the Commission's Humanitarian Aid department
- Humanitarian operations are implemented by partner organisations and agencies
- ECHO has three potential types of partners:
 - ▶ EC Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
 - ▶ International organisations i.e. United Nations agencies, ICRC, IFRC, IOM,...
 - ▶ Specialised agencies of the Member states

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ECHO's comparative advantage in disaster preparedness

- **Projects implemented at a local level, especially in co-operation with local actors**
- **Projects targeting vulnerable populations, even those not considered priority by their government**
- **DP in a crisis context, where communities are more receptive to DP issues**



Disaster Risk Reduction in ECHO

Three main pillars:

- Disaster preparedness programme DIPECHO
- Integration of disaster preparedness elements in relief operations
- Advocacy towards other Commission services and outside



Disaster Risk Reduction in ECHO(2)

Other initiatives

- Thematic funding on emergency preparedness (UNICEF, WFP, IFRC)
- Drought ad hoc preparedness decision in the Horn of Africa



DIPECHO Programme

- Launched in 1996 – expanded over the years
- Focus on the most vulnerable groups in high-risk countries
- Focussing on sudden-onset disasters
- Short-term, community-based and people-centred preparedness
- Very concrete, very practical - strong local ownership
- Support to national and regional coordination

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DIPECHO

Type of activities

Soft ware type: Advocacy and public awareness raising, training, capacity building, institutional strengthening, early warning systems (EWS);

Hard ware type: Small-scale mitigation work, infrastructure support

A few figures

- approx. 100 projects currently funded
- Budget:
 - ▶ 2003 - EUR 12.0 million
 - ▶ 2006 - EUR 17.5 million
 - ▶ 2008 - EUR 32.3 million



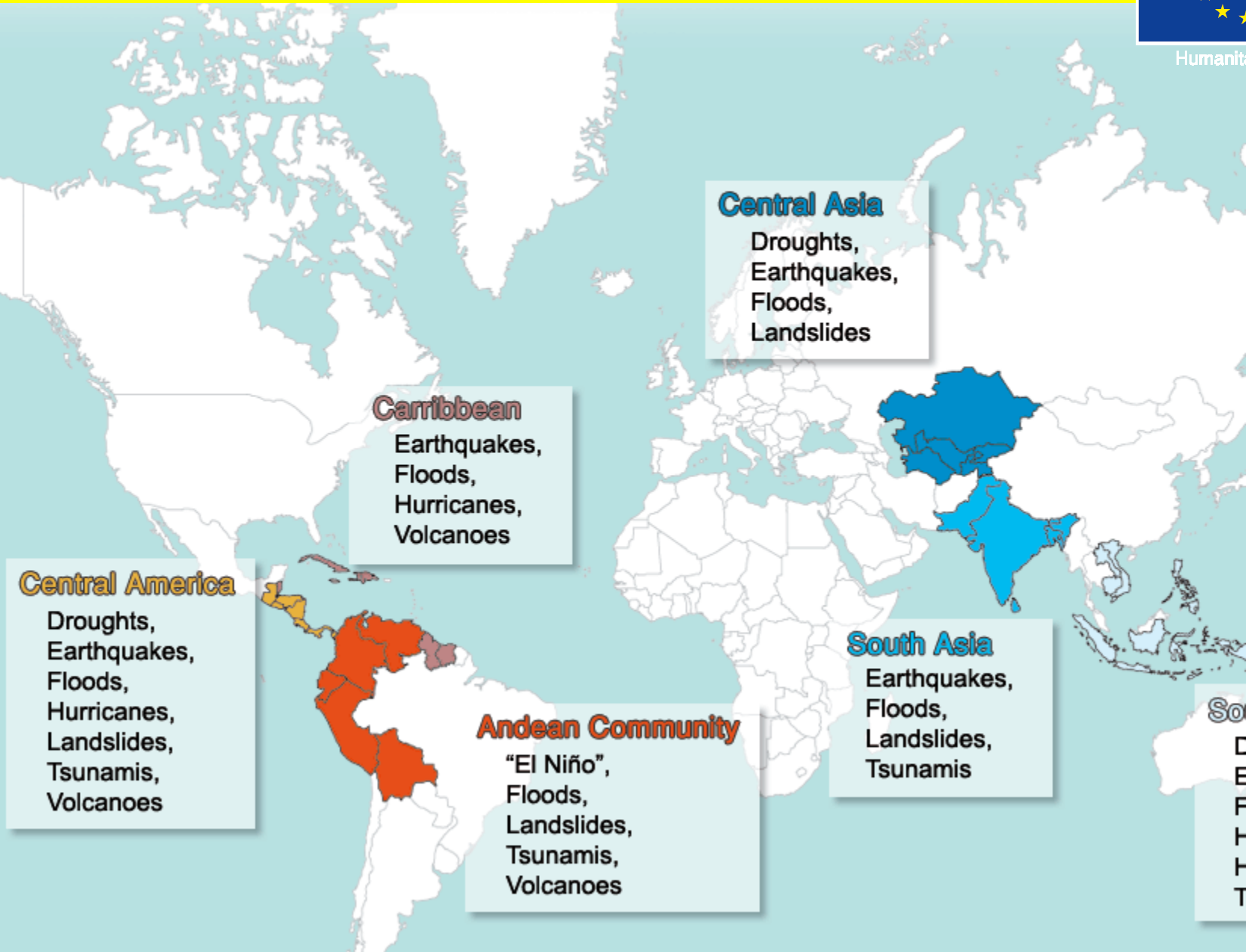
DIPECHO projects are designed as PILOT strategies for their region. Their impact is multiplied when the strategies are systematically integrated into long term development planning and projects

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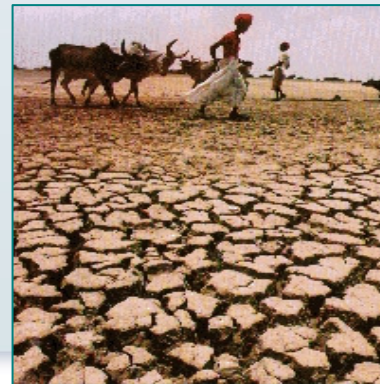
The six DIPECHO regions





Drought Preparedness in the Greater Horn of Africa

- Targeting 7 countries (Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Kenya and Somalia) and 12 million pastoralists
- approx. 20 projects
- Main focus is water and animal health
- 2008 budget: EUR 30 million



Mainstreaming

- **Assure that all disaster relief and rehabilitation strategies, programmes and projects:**
 - ▶ **Do not contribute to creating exacerbating future risks/vulnerability.**
 - ▶ **Contribute to an improved awareness of risks/vulnerability by the beneficiary population and (local) governance structures**
 - ▶ **are designed with consideration for potential disaster risk and to resist hazard impact**



DIPECHO versus mainstreaming

DIPECHO

- Stand-alone projects
- Strong visibility + advocacy frame
- DIPECHO projects are small-scale and is only one of the contributions to a comprehensive national Disaster Risk Reduction framework

Mainstreaming

- Humanitarian response to natural disaster is a precondition
- Little analysis of practices, at what stage and what works?
- Risk of too small and diversified components
- Good relief providers do not always have DRR expertise
- Vulnerable groups are often very eager after a disaster



ECHO DRR Advocacy and Coordination

- **EU member states, EC services, other bilateral donors**
- **UN ISDR, other UN organisations**
- **International Financial Institutions**
- **National authorities and local authorities**
- **IFRC and national RC societies**
- **NGO partners**

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ECHO DP successes and concerns

- **Successes:**
- **Piloting of innovative & effective DP initiatives**
- **DP initiatives are often the first response – direct impact**
- **Close and valuable partnership with key DRR stakeholders**
- **Strong visibility + advocacy frame**
- **Concerns:**
- **Overall levels of preparedness remain too low despite**
- **Replication of good practices to other communities?**
- **Lessons learned at community-level reflected in national level strategies and programming?**
- **ECHO mandate limited; necessity to hand-over**

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Vielen Dank fürs Zuhören.

Weitere infos unter

www.ec.europa.eu/echo

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