

Algunos se preguntan si la ayuda humanitaria es necesaria. La respuesta es un Sí rotundo.



A continuación, algunas de las crisis que afectan a más de 120 millones de personas en todo el mundo.

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A. Statements by the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management

- Commission proposes new Emergency Assistance instrument for faster crisis response within the EU - Brussels, 2 March 2016

As the refugee crisis continues to put pressure on many European Member States, the Commission proposes a faster way for support to be provided to tackle wide-ranging humanitarian crises within the EU.

Today the European Commission has proposed an Emergency Assistance instrument to be used within the European Union to provide a faster, more targeted response to major crises, including helping Member States cope with large numbers of refugees.

The initiative comes as the refugee crisis reaches an unprecedented scale with the need to provide immediate emergency support in several Member States hosting large amounts of refugees on their territories.

From the outset the Commission has been committed to supporting its Member States through all means possible and the proposal is a direct follow up to the European Council of 18-19 February, when governments called on the Commission to develop the capacity to provide emergency assistance internally.

European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides said: “With this proposal, we will be able to deliver emergency assistance for crises much faster than before, inside the European Union. Right now, there’s no doubt that this will be particularly needed to support refugees. No time can be lost in deploying all means possible to prevent humanitarian suffering within our own borders. Today’s proposal will make €700 million available to provide help where it is most needed. I now look to European governments and the European Parliament to quickly back the proposal.”

Member States whose own response capacities are overwhelmed by urgent and exceptional circumstances, such as the sudden influx of refugees or other major disruptions could benefit from this new instrument. The provision of emergency assistance will be based on Article 122(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. This will allow for support to be provided in the fastest and broadest possible way, in a spirit of solidarity between Member States.

Emergency assistance would be provided in close coordination with Member States and organisations such as UN agencies, non-governmental organisations and international organisations, and include the provision of basic necessities such as food, shelter and medicine to the large numbers of children, women and men currently arriving in EU countries.

The Commission will urgently propose, to the European Parliament and to the Council as the budgetary authorities, an amending budget for 2016 to create the budget line for the instrument. The estimated needs for 2016 are €300 million with a further €200 million each for use in 2017 and 2018, respectively.

Funding would therefore not be diverted from existing external humanitarian aid programmes outside the EU. The EU remains committed to continue leading the international humanitarian response to the Syria crisis, amongst other global emergencies worldwide where EU humanitarian aid saves lives.

Background

The Commission already announced on 10 February its intention to develop the EU’s capacity to provide humanitarian assistance internally and the European Council conclusions of 19 February supported this inten-

tion. Building on the experience of the EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department, humanitarian assistance would be directed at covering the great humanitarian needs of refugees and migrants within EU Member States

In response to the refugee crisis within the EU, so far a number of other instruments, such as the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) the Internal Security Fund (ISF) or the European Fund for the Most Deprived (FEAD) have already been providing significant financial resources for assistance within Europe. These instruments have proven their use, but they were not designed to address large humanitarian-scale needs.

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM) has been used for mobilising material support such as shelter, hygiene material and medical supplies as well as expertise to support Hungary, Greece, Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia in coping with the increased numbers of arrival. This solidarity mechanism, however, was designed for situations where one Member State is in need – it does not provide funding and relies on voluntary offers from Member States whose own support capacities may be overstretched at this time.

The Proposal for emergency support therefore aims at filling a gap - to have a more appropriate instrument available at Union level for addressing humanitarian needs within the territory of the EU.

For More Information

- [MEMO/16/483: Questions and answers on Addressing humanitarian crises within the European Union](#)
- [Proposal for a Council Regulation on the provision of emergency support within the Union](#)
- [Communication of the Commission](#)
- [Visual factsheet](#)
- [The European Agenda on Migration](#)

B. Information on on-going humanitarian crises

NORTH AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST

Yemen - Conflict (ECHO, UN, EP, INGOs, Media)

- On 25 February, the European Parliament (EP) adopted a Resolution reminding all parties that hospitals and medical personnel are explicitly protected under international humanitarian law and that the deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure amounts to a war crime. The EP calls for an impartial and independent investigation into all alleged violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including the latest attacks targeting humanitarian infrastructure and personnel. The EP is also calling the EU to launch an initiative aimed at imposing an EU arms embargo against Saudi Arabia. In a press release, the EP also urgently called for a cease fire and the resumption of negotiation for a political settlement of the crisis.
- On 27 February, airstrikes hit a market area in Nihm district (in the Governorate of Sana'a) killing at least 32 people and injuring more than 40, mostly civilians. On 28 February, in a statement, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned the airstrikes and called for a prompt and impartial investigation into the deadly incident.

- Yemeni militiamen clashed with soldiers guarding the presidential palace in Aden on 28 February in a rare confrontation between presumably allied forces. The attackers from the Popular Southern Resistance were trying to have an audience with top officials inside the palace over unsolved financial issues.
- Saudi Arabia and UAE were the two top donors of humanitarian aid in 2015 for Yemen according to the data provided by donors to the UN Financial Tracking System, with respectively USD 331 and USD 312 million funding contributed.
- On 29 February, the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center announced that it carried out three rounds of food airdrops to Taiz over the last three days, as well as that the center signed a program of USD 10 million with the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) supporting health mobile emergency teams and rehabilitation of five health centers.
- Considering the increasing number of violations of international humanitarian law in the country, Amnesty International on 29 February called for an immediate and comprehensive embargo on arms transfers to any of the warring parties in Yemen.
- A suicide bomber killed four soldiers on 29 February at a military checkpoint in Sheikh Othman district (northeast of Aden) where security forces and pro-government militiamen had gathered. Several soldiers were wounded in the attack. No group has claimed responsibility.
- On 29 February, one MSF ambulance has been hijacked by unidentified armed men in Lahj province.

Syria – Humanitarian assistance (ECHO, UN)

- For the first time in nearly five years, Syrians are witnessing a notable decrease in violence since the cessation of hostilities started on 27 February. Despite a number of allegations of breaches, the cessation of hostilities is largely holding and applies to all parties to the conflict with the exception of Jabhat Al-Nusra, ISIL or other UN-designated terrorist organizations. In parallel, the UN Special Envoy for Syria announced yesterday that the peace talks with Syrian parties will resume on 9 March.
- The lull in conflict is bringing a much needed, long-awaited respite to Syrians. However, the humanitarian situation remains extremely fragile for most of the population. More than 75 000 persons displaced in Aleppo governorate since early February are staying in precarious conditions in overcrowded camps. Signs of strain are being increasingly apparent also among host communities mainly due to overstretched resources, reduced supplies, and sudden rise in the demand for basic commodities.
- In the besieged areas living conditions are also extreme. A joint UN/SARC convoy reached the town of Moadamiyeh – about 10km southwest of the capital city – carrying basic relief items for approximately 8 500 families on 29 February, following previous aid deliveries on 17 and 23 February under the facilitation of the ISSG humanitarian Task Force.
- Moadamiyeh is one of 18 besieged communities in Syria that are cut off from humanitarian assistance; and UN agencies expect to reach some of these in the coming days. In addition, the UN has requested approvals for delivering assistance to a number of locations in Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama and Aleppo governorates. These approvals are still outstanding.
- DG ECHO continues supporting the efforts of UN and NGO partners to reach all people in need in the

country, through all possible routes in accordance with international humanitarian law principles and the specific provisions of UN Security Council resolutions to facilitate humanitarian access throughout Syria.

Factsheet on Turkey: Refugee crisis (ECHO)

- The overwhelming influx of Syrian and other refugees and migrants into Turkey has reached over 2.5 million registered Syrian refugees, making Turkey the largest host of refugees in the world.
- In the first two months of 2016 some 100 000 people have arrived through Turkey to Greece by sea.
- The total funding provided by the EU to Turkey in response to the Syria Crisis since the beginning of the crisis, including humanitarian aid as well as longer-term assistance, amounts to €365 million. Of this amount €71 is humanitarian funding.
- In addition, the EU has launched the Refugee Facility for Turkey – with €3 billion for projects to deliver efficient and complementary support to Syrian and other refugees and host communities in Turkey.

AFRICA

Democratic Republic of Congo – Insecurity (ECHO, OCHA)

- On 2 March, armed actors abducted three staff from a humanitarian organisation in Lubero territory. In light of this incident, several organisations suspended their activities in the area.
- In the Rutshuru territory, increased inter-community tensions and insecurity (10 people killed and 45 houses burnt down) led to the suspension of activities of two other humanitarian actors (including a vaccination campaign). In Beni, attacks against civilians are still ongoing with 13 people killed last week.
- 2015 already saw an increase of 19 percent of security incidents concerning humanitarian NGOs in North Kivu due to organised armed groups and criminal activities, with 12 abductions.

Mali - Returnees (ECHO, INGOs)

- Over the last three months, there have been spontaneous return movements of Malian refugees from Mbera Camp in Mauritania to Gargando, Timbuktu region, Northern Mali. The main reasons for the spontaneous returns are attributed to both the evolution of the peace process in Mali and the difficult living conditions in the camp.
- Following the assessment carried out by an ECHO partner, Gargando has already received about 10 000 returnees. The main humanitarian needs of the returnees are in the sectors of water, hygiene, nutrition, health and, shelter.

ASIA

Fiji - Tropical Cyclone Winston (ECHO, OCHA, NEOC)

- As of 28 February, 42 people have been confirmed dead and at least 126 people are injured. 350 000 people are considered affected and dozens of thousands remain currently in evacuation centres. Agricultural crops and infrastructure were severely damaged. The majority of the schools will re-open on 29 February.

Around 100 of the most badly damaged schools will remain closed for three to six weeks to allow for repairs.

- Immediate needs are to restore power supply to major hospitals, provide shelters, emergency health kits and water purification tablets, treatment for water-borne diseases, psycho-social support, food safety.
- Aid, including food rations, is arriving to the affected communities. Assessments are underway across the country with nationally-led clusters identifying needs.
- Humanitarian donors, including France in the context of the EUCP activation are providing a range of military assets and financial contributions.
- The total damage bill is now estimated at about USD 500 million.

Indonesia - Earthquake (GDACS, USGS, BNPB, BMKG, AHA, Media)

- An earthquake of magnitude 7.8 M at a depth of 10 km occurred in the Indian Ocean, southwest of the Indonesian island of Sumatra, on 2 March at 12.49 UTC. The epicentre was 809 km southwest of the city of Padang.
- A tsunami alert was issued by the Indonesian Meteorological, Climatological and Geophysical Agency (BMKG) to several areas in Sumatra. The alert was lifted three hours later.
- The earthquake was felt in areas near the epicentre, especially in Mentawai and Padang, where people rushed to higher grounds after receiving an alert through SMS, social media, radio and TV channels. So far there are no reports of casualties or damages.

Indonesia - Severe weather (BNPB, BMKG, WMO, Local Media)

- Heavy rain has been affecting East and West Java provinces over the last days causing floods. Approx. 119 mm of rain in 24 h were recorded in the capital of Jakarta (East Java) and 74 mm in the city of Surabaya (West Java) over 25-26 February.
- Local authorities report one fatality in Cengkareng district (Jakarta city) and over 34 000 people affected in East Java province, as of 29 February early morning (UTC). Local media also report hundreds evacuated in Jakarta due to the overflow of the river Cengkareng.

Malaysia - Severe weather (WMO, NOAA, APBN, Media)

- Heavy rain has been affecting the state of Sarawak over the past few weeks causing floods and landslides. Approx. 50 mm of rain in 24 h were recorded in Kuching over 23-24 February.
- Local media report several people evacuated and several homes damaged in the district of Serian, as of 1 March early morning (UTC).

The Philippines - Conflict (ECHO, Philippines Army, Media)

- Filipino security forces have reportedly killed at least 42 Islamic militant fighters during a five days long battle in Lanao del Sur, Mindanao. The fighters are reportedly affiliated to Jemaah Islamiah (JI), the Southeast Asian Islamic militant network and claim links with IS.

- The fighting has displaced some 8 000 civilians and, according to the Army military operations are continuing.

Factsheet on Bangladesh (ECHO)

- Bangladesh is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, exposed to a variety of natural disasters including cyclones, floods, earthquakes and landslides. A very high population density exacerbates the impact of localized disasters. Responding to the emergency and early recovery needs of people affected by recurrent natural disasters is an EU priority.
- Bangladesh is an EU Flagship Country for Resilience, with a joint approach between humanitarian and development actions. Particular emphasis is put on three locations: Chittagong Hill Tracts, Cox Bazar and Satkhira.
- The Rohingya, an ethnic, religious and linguistic minority who are subjected to exclusion and discrimination in their home country of Myanmar, have sought refuge in neighbouring Bangladesh for over 30 years. EU funding provides basic life-saving support to over 45 000 unregistered Rohingya refugees living in the Kutupalong makeshift camp and Leda site. In addition, an estimated 200 000 refugees together with the local host communities also receive assistance from EU-funded projects.

Factsheet on Pakistan (ECHO)

The European Union's current humanitarian actions in Pakistan focus on several separate but interrelated crises:

- Support for people affected by the conflict in the northwest, where over one million people are presently displaced. The on-going complex emergency remains underfunded with little media attention and is classified by the European Commission as a Forgotten Crisis.
- Support for Afghan refugees living in Pakistan. There are over 1.5 million registered Afghan refugees and an estimated additional 1.2 million undocumented Afghans in Pakistan. The European Commission funds the repatriation process for those who choose to return home and helps promote protection activities including the preservation of asylum space, status determination and resettlement.
- Support for those malnourished and food insecure. A significant part of EU humanitarian funding is directed to the Sindh Province – also classified as a Forgotten Crisis -, where limited access to food, water, sanitation and medical services, is exacerbated by floods and drought.

AMERICAS

Bolivia - Severe weather (WMO, SENAMHI, Redhum, PAHO, Media)

- Heavy rain has been reportedly affecting central Bolivia over the last few days causing floods, landslides and rivers to overflow. Approximately 77 mm of rain in 24 h were recorded in San Borja (southern Beni Department) over 29 February - 1 March.
- Media report over 1 000 people affected and hundreds of homes damaged due to floods and rivers overflowing in Cochabamba department, as well as several homes damaged in Achocalla, La Paz Department, due to a landslide, as of 4 March early morning (UTC).

- Over the next 24 h moderate with locally heavy rain may still affect several parts of Bolivia, especially the central areas.

Peru - Severe weather (INDECI, WMO, SENAMHI, Media)

- Heavy rain has continued to affect several areas of the country causing more floods, damage and deaths. Approximately 96 mm of rain in 24 h were recorded in Tumbes over 2-3 March.
- Media report at least five people dead, hundreds evacuated and several homes damaged, as of 3 March.

Brazil - Severe weather (INMET, NOAA, Media)

- Severe weather, including heavy rains and strong winds, affected southern Brazil over the last few days, causing floods especially in the state of Rio de Janeiro.
- Local media reported five fatalities and hundreds of people homeless in the state of Rio de Janeiro, due to floods and landslides.
- Over the next 48 h, thunderstorms with locally heavy rains may still affect south-eastern Brazil, including the state of Rio de Janeiro.

Haiti - Severe weather (NOAA, Meteo-Haiti, Media)

- Heavy rain reportedly affected several areas of the country over 28-29 February causing floods.
- Media report at least one fatality and four persons missing in the department of Grand-Anse (south-western Haiti) as well as at least 9 600 flooded houses in the Nord department (north-eastern Haiti), as of 1 March early morning (UTC).

Guatemala - Volcano (CONRED, Media)

- The Fuego volcano, located 16 km southwest of the city of Antigua and 50 km southwest of the capital, Guatemala City, has increased its activity over the last few days, sending ash plumes up to nearly 6 000 m and at a distance of 40 km west, southwest and north. As of 2 March, an orange alert was in effect. So far no evacuation order has been issued.
- As of 3 March, media reported ash in the areas of Sangre de Cristo, Morelia, Panimaché, Yepocapa and Santa Lucía Cotzumalguapa.

EUROPE

Western Balkans, Greece - Refugee crisis (ECHO, NGOs)

- With the enforcement of the Zagreb joint statement (between Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia but without Greece) the situation along the Balkan route has drastically changed. A common registration system introduced at the border between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been limiting the transit to 580 persons per day.
- According to NGOs, about 7 000 refugees are stranded in Idomeni on the Greek side of the border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. They are staying in a transit site supposed to host only 1 500

persons. The growing deterioration of the situation and the frustration of the population facing the closed border (only allowing marginal passage every day for nearly a week) led to clashes on 29 February. The refugees from the Greek side tried to break the fence and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia security forces used tear gas to stop them.

GLOBAL

Factsheet on Gender (ECHO)

- Crises are not gender neutral - they have a different impact on women, girls, boys and men. Their respective and specific needs during and in the aftermath of crises need to be addressed accordingly.
- The European Commission is fully committed to ensuring that its humanitarian assistance takes into account the different vulnerabilities and capacities of women and men of all ages.
- Projects that do not take into account gender considerations are at risk of being off-target, not reaching those that might need aid most. This may lead to providing support in an inadequate manner or even to inadvertently doing harm.