



European Civil Protection Mechanism

The role of the Emergency Response Centre



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ECHO B1 – Emergency Response

EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

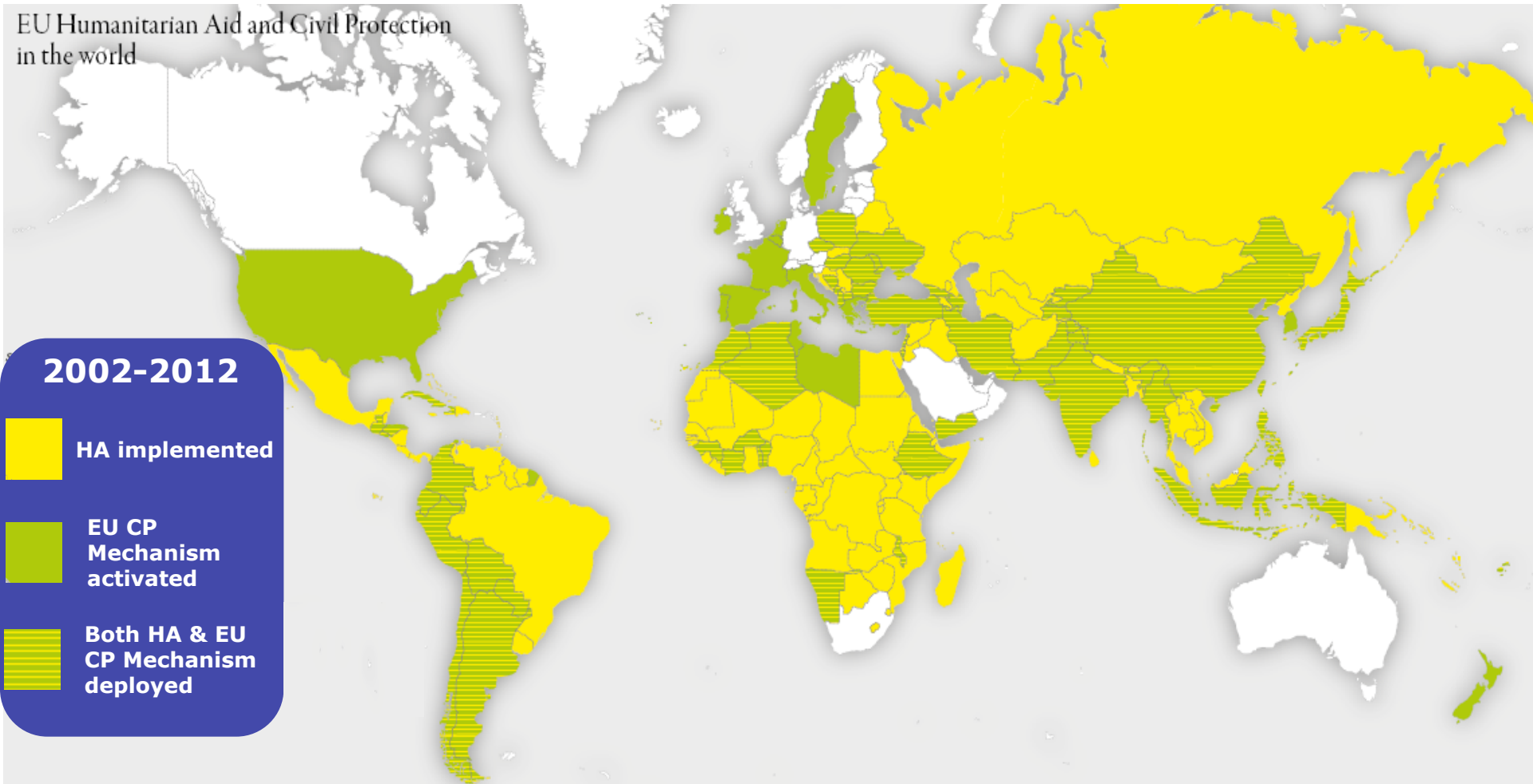
EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection
in the world

2002-2012

HA implemented

EU CP
Mechanism
activated

Both HA & EU
CP Mechanism
deployed





Fundamentals of Civil Protection

- **Responsibility:** Member States are responsible for the security and the safety of their citizens and foreigners on their territory.
- **Solidarity:** Member States have the responsibility to support Member States affected by a disaster when needed. (re-enforced by Lisbon Treaty Solidarity Clause).
- **Call for assistance:** Member States and third countries can call for assistance when overwhelmed by a disaster. After needs identification, they are responsible to receive / and for the use of EU/ foreign assistance.
- **Voluntary:** The level of support / assistance is determined by the Member State providing assistance.
- **Commission as facilitator:** EU supports preparation, facilitates cooperation, coordination and complements MS. (Art. 196 Lisbon Treaty).



The Civil Protection Mechanism

- **Response:** Facilitates cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions in the event of major disasters inside and outside the EU.
- **Preparedness:** Training, exercises, exchange of experts, modules.
- **Prevention:** Support MS in preventing risks or reducing harm to people, the environment or property resulting from emergencies.
- **32 participating countries:** 28 MS + Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- The Mechanism's **tools**
 - Emergency Response Centre (ERC)
 - Common Emergency and Information System (CECIS)
 - Training programme
 - Civil Protection modules

Types of disasters covered by EU CP Mechanism

- **Natural disasters**

- Floods, earthquakes, forest fires, cyclones

- **Manmade disasters**

- Environmental disasters (Deepwater Horizon, HU alkali sludge accident 2010)

- Complex emergencies (Georgia 2008)

- **Health emergencies**

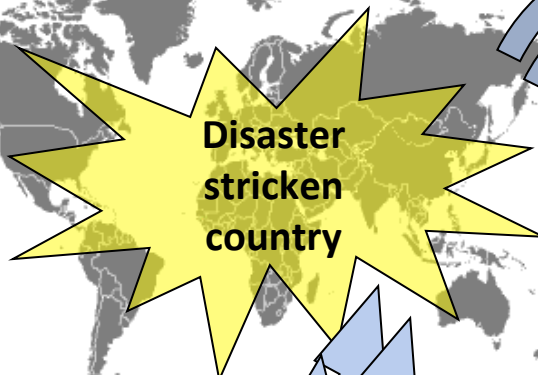
- H1N1 crisis (medical support Bulgaria, Ukraine)

- **Assistance to consular support**

- Terrorist attacks (medical evacuation Mumbai)

- Evacuation of EU citizens from Libya and TCN from Tunisia/Egypt





Request for assistance
Acceptance / rejection of assistance offered
Information update



Offer of assistance
Deployment of EU CP Teams
Coordination of Transport

Activation of the Mechanism

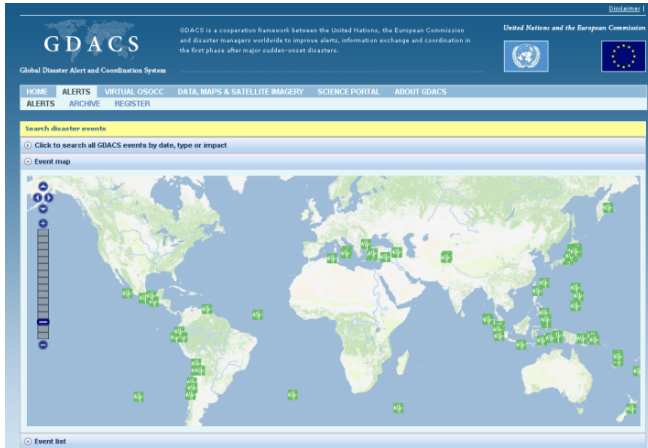
ECHO B1 – Emergency Response Unit

ERC- Emergency Response Centre

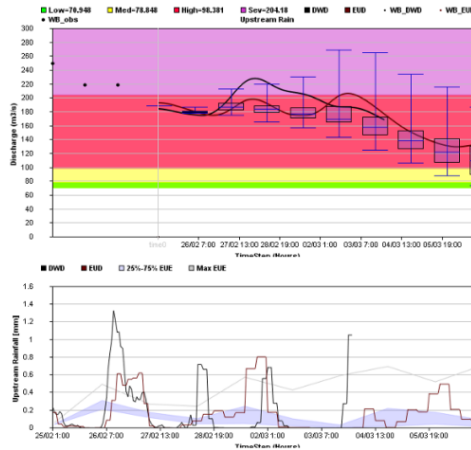
- 24/7 on call (DG ECHO staff)
- „One-stop-shop“
- Key operational roles:
 - **M**onitoring
 - Early warning and alert.
 - Satellite images (GMES).
 - **I**nformation
 - ECHO Info Products.
 - CECIS
 - **C**oordination
 - Deployment of EU CP Teams.
 - UN and other partners.
 - Transport facilitation.



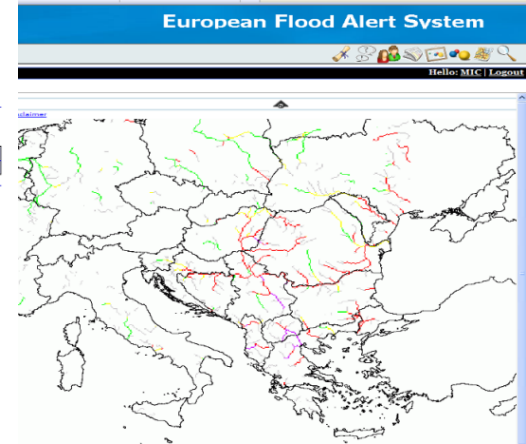
Monitoring tools



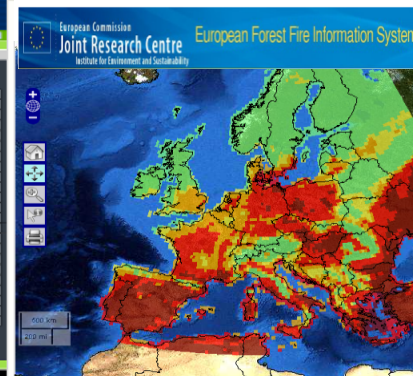
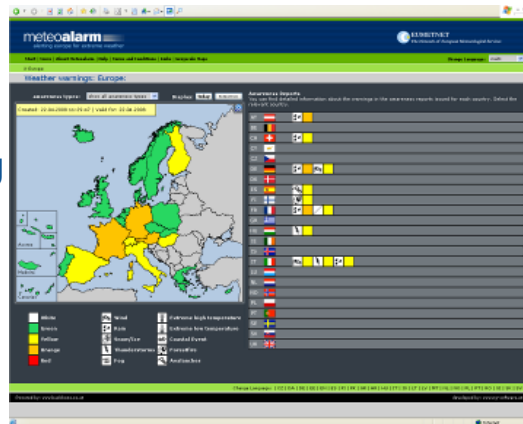
GDACS: Global Disaster Alert And Coordination System



EFAS - European Flood Awareness System: Floods forecasting and Flood alerts



Weather monitoring



EFFIS – European Forest Fire Information System: Fires forecasting



GMES* Initial Operations (GIO) Emergency Management Service / COPERNICUS

- **Mapping Service in rush and non-rush mode**
- **For earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, storms, industrial accidents and humanitarian crises**
- **Satellite data and other geospatial data useful for analysing a crisis situation**

Rush mode

- **Provided on a 24/7/365 basis**
- **On-demand and fast provision of geo-spatial information**

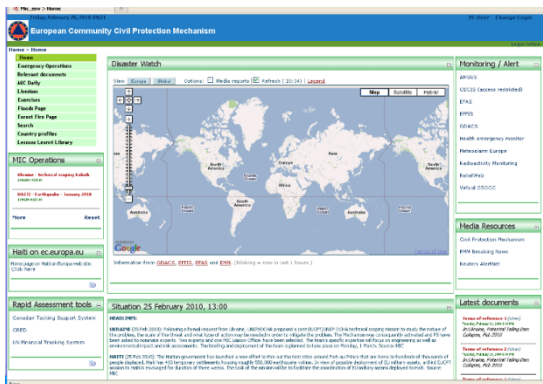
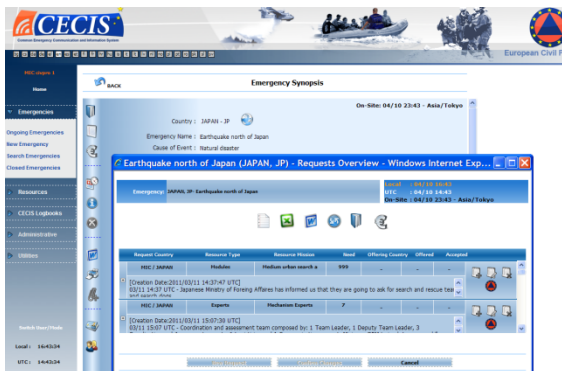
***GMES = Global Monitoring for Environment and Security**





Information

CECIS: Common Emergency Communication and Information System



ECHO/ERC Portal

Website: www.europa.eu/echo



23/01/2013

I. International

- Mozambique – Floods (UN, OCHA, AFP, IRIN, Local Media)**
- Continuous heavy rainfall in Mozambique over the past 10 days has caused flooding in 19 districts across the country. As of 22 January 9 people had died and at least 18,000 were affected, mostly in the central-western province of Manica, the southern province of Gaza and around the capital Maputo. Around 3,000 houses have been damaged, as well as roads, drainage and power infrastructure. At least 6,000 people are reported displaced and housed in shelters, mostly around Maputo.
 - On 22 January the government declared an institutional red alert in the central and southern regions, as rivers in the Incomati and Limpopo basins flow above critical level. According to Disaster Management Officials quoted in the media, 55,000 people in the Chokwe district in Gaza are at risk of flooding and evacuations have started in the area.

ECHO Crisis Reports



Central African Republic crisis ECHO CRISIS REPORT SITREP N°3

Period covered: 23/12/2012 to 04/01/2013
Time of validity: 00:00 (UTC)
ECHO Field Office: Bangui

1. Map

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MAP

IDPs in CAR (OCHA): Accurate numbers are not currently available. However it can be estimated that more than 100,000 people are displaced. Accurate figures should be available as soon as the RRM have conducted their assessments next week. More than 300,000 people are living in the conflict-affected areas.

Number of Central African refugees in Chad: 65,000 (UNHCR).

Number of Central African refugees in Cameroon (UNHCR): 85,000

Number of Central African refugees in DR Congo (UNHCR): 6,500 including 2,500 new refugees linked to the current crisis.

2. ECHO Recommendations / action

- Strengthen humanitarian coordination, leadership and decision-making.

ECHO Daily Flash

Facilitation of coordination

- Facilitation of coordination of offers of assistance and their acceptance through CECIS
- Deployment of coordination and assessment teams
- Facilitation of coordination through regular videoconferences with Member States during emergencies (e.g. forest fires)
- Cooperation with other players (e.g. UN)
- Facilitation of transport (pooling, grants, broker)



Present: Emergency Response Centre (ERC)





Why ERC ?

- **Changes in the institutional and legislative framework**
 - Lisbon Treaty (Solidarity Clause, creation of EEAS)
 - New civil protection legislation (current legislation expires in 2014)
- **Changes in the organizational framework**
 - Merger of civil protection and humanitarian aid
 - Review of coordination processes (Argus)
- **Changes in the disaster framework**
 - Climate: more hydrogeological disasters
 - Demographic: more people in hazardous zones
 - Political: new political challenges, financial crisis
- **Conclusion**
 - Higher expectations on coordination and efficiency not matched by the current set-up (2 buildings, 2 crisis rooms, 2 secure zones, 2 organizational cultures...)
- **Key objective:**
 - More efficiency, quality and better performance through more dedicated and professional facilities for both, humanitarian aid and civil protection



3 Main Functions

- 1. In-house coordination hub:** Coordinating and implementing DG ECHO's rapid response capacity
- 2. 'MIC plus':** current MIC mandate plus voluntary pool, risk assessment, scenarios and response plans, EU funded assets
- 3. Enhanced coordination hub for the whole Commission:** entry point for Argus, CCA and "Solidarity Clause" activations

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THANK YOU