



European
Commission



Humanitarian aid *at a glance*

Humanitarian
Aid and Civil
Protection

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY, GLOBALLY



© European Union 2017
(photo by Peter Biro)



Photographer: Olivier Chassignole

Mission: saving lives

Many people suffer from crises, emergencies or disasters. Bringing relief to those in need is at the heart of the European Union's humanitarian actions around the world. Wherever crisis strikes, the EU funds humanitarian interventions to address the basic needs of those most affected. This support is a concrete expression of the European Union's solidarity with vulnerable communities.

European Union Humanitarian Air Bridge

The EU Humanitarian Air Bridge flight operations are intended to help reinforce humanitarian responses in countries facing fragile contexts. These flights help fill gaps by facilitating the delivery of emergency assistance when required. The operation was initially launched in May 2020, with the first flight to the Central African Republic. In 2020 and 2021, more than 80 operations have reached critical areas in Africa, Asia and the Americas.

21

Countries assisted
in 2020 & 2021

1,570

Tons of humanitarian and
medical aid transported

82

Number of flights

1,700

Humanitarian workers
transported

Core humanitarian values

The EU's humanitarian action is guided by a set of fundamental principles: **humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence**. This means that humanitarian aid is not a political tool: it is about helping people in need, without taking sides and without an agenda.

Humanity

Human suffering must be addressed with particular attention to the most vulnerable. The dignity of all victims must be respected and promoted.

Neutrality

Humanitarian aid must not favour any side in an armed conflict or other dispute.

Impartiality

Humanitarian aid must be provided solely on the basis of need, without discrimination of any kind between or within affected populations.

Independence

Humanitarian objectives are independent of political, economic, military or other agendas: the sole purpose is to relieve and prevent suffering.



Leader in humanitarian aid

The European Union, together with its Member States, is a leading humanitarian donor, accounting for over 30% of global humanitarian assistance.

In 2021, the humanitarian budget of the European Commission exceeded €2.4 billion.

Working with a diverse range of partners, the EU has been supporting humanitarian operations in **110 countries** over the past thirty years, providing critical relief to millions of people.

Health, food, protection and shelter

Across a wide range of traditional humanitarian sectors, EU humanitarian aid benefits the most vulnerable victims through a number of interventions, including access to

basic healthcare, food, nutrition, critical protection and other in-kind assistance.

Education in Emergencies

The EU aims to help children affected by humanitarian crises to have access to safe, quality and accredited primary and secondary education.

One in every ten euro of EU humanitarian funding is dedicated to support the learning needs of the world's most vulnerable boys and girls.

Cash transfers and digital tools

In humanitarian crises, goods are available on the market, but the affected population has lost the means to buy them. Cash transfers, as either physical currency or e-cash, enable aid beneficiaries to choose how to use the money, giving them the dignity of choice.

Renewed vision for humanitarian aid

In 2021, the European Commission adopted a Communication on EU humanitarian action, setting out a strategic outlook for the European Union's global aid delivery. In line with the EU's role as world leading donor, the strategy outlines a series of key actions to address recent worrying trends and challenges.



Ensure a swift and efficient delivery of EU humanitarian aid by developing a **European Humanitarian Response Capacity**.



Tackle root causes of crises by better linking humanitarian, development and peace policies.



Promote flexible and efficient humanitarian action and funding mechanisms.



Significantly increase the resource base for humanitarian action.



Step up advocacy, preparedness and anticipatory action on climate and environment.



Put international humanitarian law at the heart of EU external action.



Enhance EU's global leadership to maximise the impact of its humanitarian aid.

“I want to help mothers and children,”

says Nazmun Nahere, a 22-year-old midwife from the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka, who now lives in Cox’s Bazar despite objection from her family. She currently works at a healthcare centre supported by the European Union in Charkmarkul refugee camp.

“It has been very fulfilling for me. Not only are we supporting people who are in need, we’re also learning many things.”

In 2021, the European Union provided over €38 million in humanitarian aid in response to the Rohingya refugee crisis and the worsening COVID-19 pandemic in the country. It will also support efforts to reduce the impact of natural hazards in highly affected parts of Bangladesh.



© European Union 2019 (photographer: Mallika Panorati)

For further information:

Tel. +32 22954400

E-mail: echo-info@ec.europa.eu

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/echo>

 <https://www.facebook.com/ec.humanitarian.aid>

 https://www.twitter.com/eu_echo/

 https://www.instagram.com/eu_echo

 <http://www.youtube.com/user/HumanitarianAidECHO>



Publications Office
of the European Union

Publications Office of the European Union, 2022
ISBN 978-92-76-47020-5, doi: 10.2795/55024, KR-01-22-061-EN-N

© European Union, 2022

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.