



EYD2015

HUMANITARIAN AID

2015 is a landmark year for international aid and development cooperation as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) come to their conclusion. Based on these, the world will come together to agree on a new course of action and a post-2015 development agenda. Each month, the EYD2015 will focus on a different development theme, to raise awareness of the benefits of the EU's development cooperation in that field, and encourage direct involvement, critical thinking and active interest of EU citizens.

AUGUST, THE MONTH OF HUMANITARIAN AID

Recent years have been marked by a surge in humanitarian crises.

Armed conflicts and protracted crises show worrying trends across the globe. At the same time, natural disasters are growing in frequency, complexity and severity, and are aggravated by challenges such as climate change, rapid urbanisation and under-development. According to the UN, around 100 million people are affected by natural disasters every year. The UN also estimates that 79 million people in 37 countries are in need of humanitarian support and close to 60 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes due to conflict.

The impact of disasters worldwide has greatly stretched the response capacity of the international community over the last few years. There is increasingly a mismatch between rising global humanitarian needs and the scarce financial resources available for the response. The UN currently estimates the humanitarian funding gap to be some €12.5 billion.

Humanitarian aid offers relief assistance to the most vulnerable people around the world. It throws a lifeline to those who are hit by natural or man-made disasters, and prepares communities, victims of recurrent crises, to better face the impact of future emergencies.

EYD2015 AND HUMANITARIAN AID

Visit the official EYD2015 website <https://europa.eu/eyd2015/> and find out more about events, initiatives and activities organised by EYD partners! Find out more about EU Humanitarian Aid at ec.europa.eu/echo



Three-year-old Nhial is severely malnourished and receiving treatment at Save the Children's feeding clinic. The conflict in South Sudan has hit children particularly hard. Photo credit: Save the Children. Read his story on europa.eu/eyd/2015.

COUNTRY FOCUS

- **Syria:** The EU has led the response to the largest humanitarian crisis since World War II. Over half of the Syrian population is in need of humanitarian assistance. 4 million people have fled to neighbouring countries, while over 7.5 million are displaced within Syria. The EU's humanitarian support provides for basic needs, such as protection, food, water, and health, both inside Syria and in the wider region;
- **Ebola in West Africa:** The EU response to the Ebola epidemic, which has hit a number of West African countries since 2014, causing over 11 000 deaths and over 27 000 cases, has been instrumental towards bringing the epidemic under control. The EU's support has focused on containment, control, treatment and ultimately defeating the Ebola outbreak;
- **Ukraine:** As a result of the conflict in Ukraine, over 5 million people are in need of humanitarian aid. The EU has been at the forefront of relief efforts in a joint gesture of solidarity since the beginning of the crisis. The EU is providing relief supplies by air and road and is funding support centres for those affected by the conflict, providing shelter, clothing and medical, legal and psychological aid;
- **Ethiopia:** Ethiopia is disaster prone, notably to droughts, and has over 25 million people living below the poverty line. In order to build the country's resilience, the EU is bringing together humanitarian and development actors to increase food security, improve nutrition, support livelihoods (especially in agriculture), strengthen social and health services, and improve environmental protection and disaster risk management.



A man gazes towards Kawergosk refugee camp, Erbil governorate, Kurdistan region of Iraq. Built to accommodate 10 000 people the camp is full to capacity and currently houses around 13 000 Syrian refugees. Photo credit: EU/ECHO/Caroline Gluck.

EU Humanitarian Aid

By providing humanitarian assistance, the EU seeks to save lives and alleviate human suffering caused by wars, conflict, natural disasters and other crisis situations by providing life-saving assistance. The EU is the world's biggest donor of humanitarian aid. The EU is contributing to the relief efforts of all major crises but also responds to 'forgotten crises', which are often protracted disasters that do not make newspaper headlines around the world.

The assistance provided by the EU is based on the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence which are enshrined in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid. Aid is distributed to people in need, regardless of nationality, religion, gender, ethnicity or political affiliation.

The EU funds humanitarian partner organisations (UN agencies, international organisations such as the Red Cross, and NGOs) that deliver assistance on the ground. This assistance can be material (food, medicine, clothing, etc.); cash or vouchers; technical; logistics; infrastructure and the provision of personnel.

The EU attaches great importance to the link between humanitarian aid – as a measure to rapidly respond to crises – and medium and long-term development action. Moreover, the EU supports an array of activities to help countries and communities better prepare for disasters. If communities are better prepared for disasters, the impact and level of suffering can be significantly reduced.

EU HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN NUMBERS

- The **European Union helps over 120 million victims** of conflict and disasters worldwide **each year**.
- **Since 1992**, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (**ECHO**) has **provided assistance** in over **140 countries**.
- **In 2015**, the EU launched the **EU Aid Volunteers initiative** which will provide some **18 400 volunteering opportunities** over the next 7 years. Some **4 000 EU citizens** will be deployed in the field to support humanitarian work around the world.

THEMATIC MONTHS

Each month during the campaign will focus on a different theme involved in development around the world:

- January:* **EUROPE IN THE WORLD**
- February:* **EDUCATION**
- March:* **WOMEN AND GIRLS**
- April:* **HEALTH**
- May:* **PEACE AND SECURITY**
- June:* **SUSTAINABLE GREEN GROWTH, DECENT JOBS, BUSINESSES**
- July:* **CHILDREN AND YOUTH**
- August:* **HUMANITARIAN AID**
- September:* **DEMOGRAPHY AND MIGRATION**
- October:* **FOOD SECURITY**
- November:* **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION**
- December:* **HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE**



SPREAD THE WORD!

Join the EYD2015 campaign online!

Join the EYD2015 campaign online! Stay up to date with information and news on the official campaign website, join the conversation on Twitter (#EYD2015) and have your say on Facebook.

Infographics, online banners, videos and more materials can be downloaded from the EYD2015 website. You can also join the group "European Year for Development 2015" on capacity4dev.eu to join the debate and get the latest news.

To get more involved, you can join us at events across the EU, and spread the impact of the campaign by co-branding with the EYD2015.

europa.eu/eyd2015

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