

# Disaster Risk Reduction begins at school

## 2006-2007 Global Campaign



**Contributions by the European Commission  
Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid – DG ECHO**

**Jan Artur Sieńczewski – Head of Unit, Food Aid and Disaster Preparedness**

**International Day for Disaster Reduction, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2007**



# DG ECHO's humanitarian mandate

## EU Council regulation concerning Humanitarian Aid (1996)

Article 1: The Community's humanitarian aid shall comprise assistance, relief and protection operations.... help people in third countries, particularly the most vulnerable among them, and as a priority those in developing countries, victims of natural disasters.... *Such aid shall also comprise operations to prepare for risks or prevent disasters or comparable exceptional circumstances.*

## The 23 Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship (2003)

Principle 1: The objectives of humanitarian action are to save lives, alleviate suffering... as well as to prevent and strengthen preparedness for the occurrence of such situations.

Principle 8: Strengthen the capacity ..... to prevent, prepare for, mitigate and respond to humanitarian crises...

# DG ECHO relief funding to natural disasters and DG ECHO preparedness actions

	2004	2005	2006
<b>Natural disasters</b>	<b>€ 67.4 M</b>	<b>€ 204.4 M</b>	<b>€ 94.5 M</b>
<b>Natural disasters %</b>	<b>11.77 %</b>	<b>31.33 %</b>	<b>14.13 %</b>
<b>DIPECHO budget</b>	<b>€ 13.7 M</b>	<b>€ 17.5 M</b>	<b>€ 19.05 M</b>

**In addition, DG ECHO mainstreamed Disaster Preparedness in its relief to a level of approximately € 32 M in 2006**



# DG ECHO DRR contributions

## DG ECHO's DP/DRR work rests on three pillars:

- Funding of community-based preparedness
- Mainstreaming of disaster preparedness in relief operations
- Advocacy



# DG ECHO funding contributions to the DRR begins at school campaign



## Community-based funding - DIPECHO programme:

- More than EUR 130 million investment 1998-2006
  - Smaller-scale, people-centred preparedness
  - Strong local ownership – we build on existing capacities
  - Creating a culture of prevention
  - Projects are very concrete, very practical
  - Supports national and regional coordination
- Interventions that target vulnerable groups e.g. children
- Investments in the future, in community shelters e.g. schools

**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.**

# The six DIPECHO regions

## Central America

Droughts,  
Earthquakes,  
Floods,  
Hurricanes,  
Landslides,  
Tsunamis,  
Volcanoes

## Caribbean

Earthquakes,  
Floods,  
Hurricanes,  
Volcanoes

## Andean Community

"El Niño",  
Floods,  
Landslides,  
Tsunamis,  
Volcanoes

## Central Asia

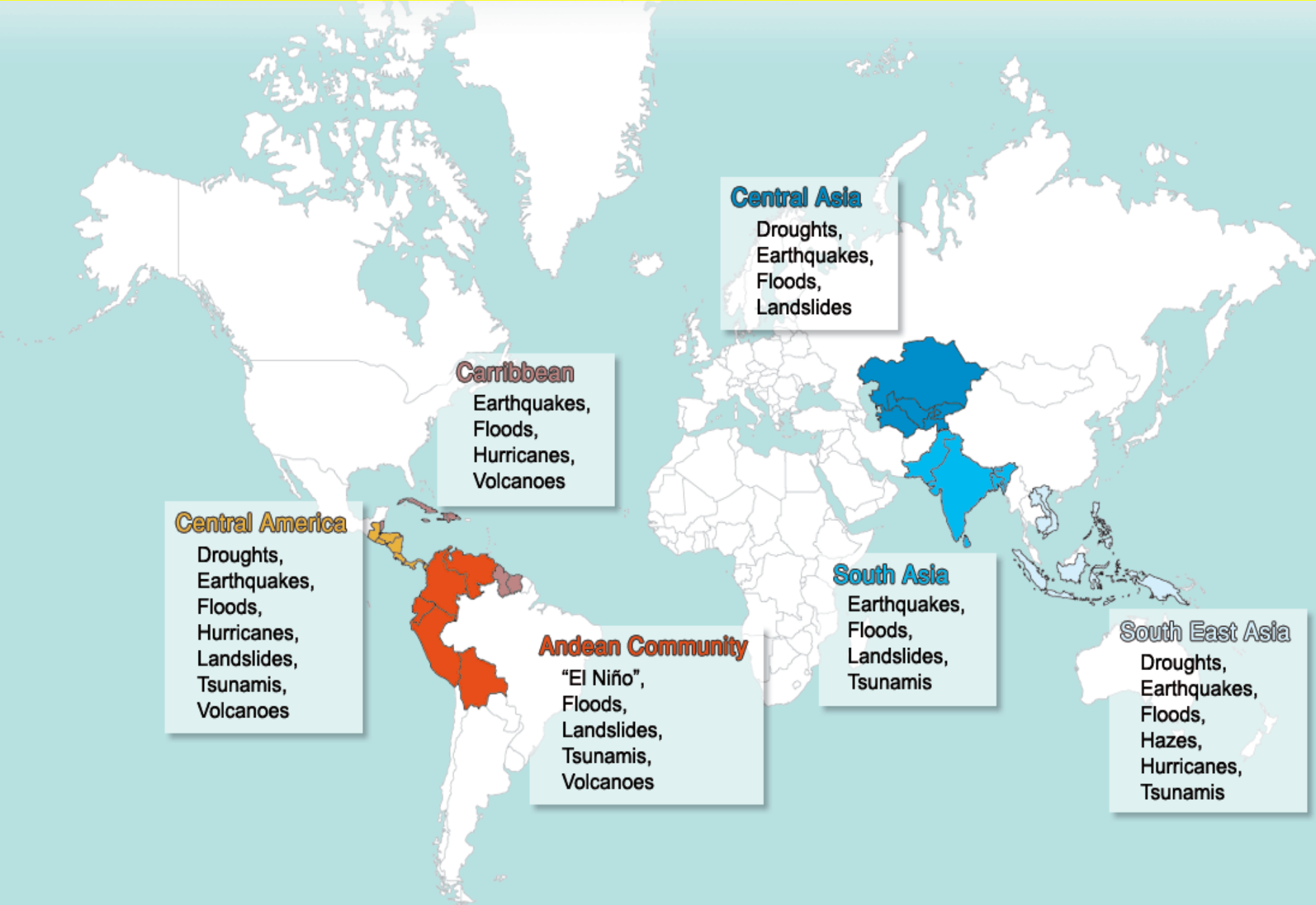
Droughts,  
Earthquakes,  
Floods,  
Landslides

## South Asia

Earthquakes,  
Floods,  
Landslides,  
Tsunamis

## South East Asia

Droughts,  
Earthquakes,  
Floods,  
Hazes,  
Hurricanes,  
Tsunamis





# DG ECHO and DRR begins at School

- Teachers = community resource persons
- Schools = important community facilities e.g. meetings, trainings, shelters when disasters strike
- Children / youth = vulnerable groups
  - = investments in the future
  - benefit from their engagement/  
role as dissemination of DRR relevant  
information within their families





# Contributions through funding (DIPECHO)

## Priority 1: Promoting the safety of school buildings

- School Safety Initiative in Shimla, India
- School EWS, evacuation plans and contingency planning initiatives in Tajikistan
- Campaign on school safety in Central America included distribution of a basic guide on “safe schools” and retrofitting of schools & adaptation to community shelters
- Revision of departmental guidelines to reflect ‘safe school’ principles



**School Earthquake Safety Project in Shimla** – small DIPECHO initiative in a state with very high risk of earthquakes and landslides as secondary effect.

Pilot project well coordinated initiative received positively by all stakeholders involved (school children and their parents, teachers, education authorities) with possible positive future through local ownership and replication. To be taken up on greater scale..



# Contributions through funding (DIPECHO)

## Priority 2: Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction (DRR) into school curricula / school activities

- Training of more than 11,000 students and teachers through the Safe School Initiative Shimla, India
- Advocacy campaigns in Bangladesh and Central America
- Facilitation of mainstreaming DRR in education sector and inclusion of DP in school curricula in Philippines, Cambodia and Lao PDR
- 1998-2000 initiative in the Caribbean – development of teaching material for secondary school and training of teachers
- Several initiatives in Central Asia that reinforces teachers knowledge and capacities to include DRR in their teaching



# Contributions through other means

- **Mainstreaming DP/DRR in (DG ECHO's) relief**
  - evaluation launched
  - tools and guidelines
  - potential impact on rehabilitation and reconstruction
- **DRR at European level**
  - DRR Communication (key sectors, hot-spot countries)
  - training of EC staff
- **Advocacy towards other donors and stakeholders**
  - in particular in DIPECHO target countries
  - focus on vulnerable groups and community structures



# Future contributions

## DG ECHO will:

- Continue its funding to community-based DRR/DP incl. funding of activities that contribute to the Global Campaign
- Improve DRR mainstreaming in relief
- Maintain focus on DRR begins at School priorities
- Seek to work with partners to upscale DIPECHO initiatives
- Share lessons learned and best practices
- Work on EC/EU capacities to strengthen DRR mainstreaming
- Regional strategies and priorities do not always facilitate a coherent approach → formulate DG ECHO DRR/DP strategy