**Facts & Figures**

- Number of beneficiaries in 2013: 466,286
- Total EU humanitarian aid to India in 2013: €6.13 million
- Total EU humanitarian aid to India in 2012: €7.4 million
- Total EU Disaster Risk Reduction funding in 2013 & 2014: €700,000

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**Key messages**

- Assisting the victims of natural disasters, India being highly vulnerable to cyclones, floods, earthquakes and droughts remains a priority.

- Alleviating the emergency needs arising from three protracted crises: Jammu & Kashmir, the North-Eastern States, and Naxal-affected areas in central India, with a special emphasis on protection, health and nutrition remains a must.

- Targeting marginalized communities such as low caste groups or religious and tribal minorities, who are the hardest hit by natural and man-made disasters, but often fall through the social safety nets and get excluded from relief efforts is imperative.

- Strengthening people’s resilience to natural disasters will continue to be an essential part of the humanitarian effort.

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**Humanitarian situation and needs**

**Background and Situation in Country**

Over the years, floods, cyclones, earthquakes, droughts and landslides have inflicted tremendous suffering on the people of India. Schedule Castes and Tribes, whose social and economic indicators lag behind national
averages, are often the worst affected. In 2012, early monsoon floods affected an estimated two million people, displacing several hundred thousand of them.

Over 700,000 people in Jammu & Kashmir, mostly inhabitants of the Kashmir valley and border areas of Pakistan, are directly affected by the instability in the region. Tens of thousands have suffered injuries, lost family members, or have someone either detained or missing. There are other less obvious scars: many civilians, traumatised by over two decades of violence, suffer from depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress. Years of violence have stifled economic activity, leaving many people with limited means to earn a living.

The Naxal insurgency is spread across several states in India, but the indigenous people of southern Chhattisgarh living in remote areas with little or no access to basic government services are the most affected. Up to 50,000 of them are displaced, living in precarious conditions in neighbouring states.

Several insurgency groups are also active in North-East Indian states including Manipur, Nagaland, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The resulting violence continues to affect thousands of people in the region. In a report released in November 2011, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre estimates that nearly a million people were forced to flee their homes over the past 20 years due to inter-ethnic violence in the North-East1. Ethnic tensions flare up regularly. In 2012, clashes in Assam between the Bodo tribe and the Bengali-speaking Muslim community over land-right issues forced hundreds of thousands of people from both communities to flee their homes. Many have since returned, but those who haven’t still live in makeshift camps, where they need food, shelter, sanitation facilities and clean drinking water. Many also require livelihood support to rebuild their lives.

One third of the world’s malnourished children live in India; 44 percent of children under five are underweight, 48 percent stunted. According to India's National Family Health Survey data, rates of acute malnutrition among children in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, all food insecure states, are 33.3%, 19.1% and 18.5% respectively, well above the international emergency threshold of 15%. A combination of reasons – exclusion from government services and welfare schemes, food price hikes, land right issues, and natural hazards – contribute to food scarcity and deteriorating nutrition among the most vulnerable in India.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

JAMMU & KASHMIR

The projects funded by the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department focus on providing healthcare and protection, particularly in the Kashmir valley and areas close to the Line of Control. ECHO partners are providing psycho-social care on an individual or group basis, as well as through occupational therapy and livelihood support to people directly or indirectly affected by the violence, including people living with disabilities. ECHO addresses protection concerns by promoting respect for International Humanitarian Law.

Since 2002, ECHO has provided €17 million of humanitarian aid to Jammu & Kashmir.

CHHATTISGARH

ECHO-funded projects help provide healthcare, nutrition support and protection to civilians directly or indirectly affected by the insurgency in Chhattisgarh. ECHO partners focus their relief efforts in the

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most affected Southern districts of Bijapur, Dantewada, and Narayanpur. ECHO also channels assistance through its partners to support displaced people in Khammam and Warangal districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Since 2007, ECHO's humanitarian aid to this end amounts to almost €8,5 million.

**NORTH-EAST**

In 2013, ECHO has allocated close to €1.5 million to address the needs of conflict-affected people in North-East India. The funds are being used to provide food assistance, water and sanitation services and livelihood support to people displaced during clashes between Bodos and Muslims in Assam last year. People suffering from years of ethnic conflict and insurgencies across Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur receive psychosocial care, water and sanitation services and support to rebuild livelihoods.

**NUTRITION**

ECHO has allocated €2 million from its 2013 budget to treat severely malnourished children and women in Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal, where malnutrition rates are particularly alarming. The funded projects address the issues of short-term food insecurity in these States through livelihood support.

**NATURAL DISASTERS**

In 2012, ECHO channelled €3 million to address the emergency needs of people affected by Cyclone Thane in Tamil Nadu and the monsoon floods in Assam. People who had lost their homes, crops and livestock were given the opportunity to rapidly earn extra income, allowing them to rebuild their houses and livelihoods, and to build their communities’ resilience to future disasters through the restoration of hand pumps and other community assets.

Over the years, ECHO has also funded relief assistance following several major natural disasters in India, including the Tsunami in 2004, the Kashmir earthquake in 2005, the Bihar floods in 2007, Cyclone Aila in 2009, and the 2011 monsoon floods.

Thanks to its Small Scale Response Instrument, ECHO also regularly funds relief efforts to more localized crises, such as the devastating cloud burst that hit the hilly State of Uttarakhand in August 2012. In June 2013, ECHO also contributed to the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund of the International Federation of the Red Cross, in order to bring immediate relief to those affected by the massive floods that ravaged the same State of Uttarakhand.

Preparing communities to minimise natural disaster risk is an important part of ECHO’s work in India. Since 2001, ECHO’s Disaster Preparedness programme, known as DIPECHO, has supported vulnerable communities in reducing the impact of floods, cyclones, earthquakes and other natural disasters through initiatives like creating early warning systems and adapted physical infrastructure. Its total contribution to this end exceeds €8 million, including the 2013-2014 allocation.

**SRI LANKAN REFUGEES IN TAMIL NADU**

From 2002 to 2012, ECHO provided €4.7 million to assist Sri Lankan Tamil refugees living in over 100 camps across Tamil Nadu with shelter, food assistance, legal support, and water and sanitation services. This assistance has now come to an end.