

European Commission's Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL OFFICE

The European Commission is one of the largest humanitarian donors worldwide, distributing aid worth €1.3 billion in 2012 alone. In crisis zones across the world, a hundred and forty field advisors from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) assess humanitarian needs, help define appropriate responses and monitor the implementation of activities by partner organisations.

ECHO's Regional Support Offices

Apart from individual Country Offices, ECHO has six Regional Support Offices (RSO) around the world: in New Delhi (India), Bangkok (Thailand), Amman (Jordan), Nairobi (Kenya), Dakar (Senegal), and Managua (Nicaragua).



The RSO in New Delhi was set up in 2005 to enhance ECHO's humanitarian response to crises in South Asia. This includes humanitarian aid operations funded by the European Commission in [Afghanistan](#), [Bangladesh](#), [Bhutan](#), [India](#), [Iran](#), [Nepal](#), [Pakistan](#), [Maldives](#) and [Sri Lanka](#).

The mandate of the South Asia RSO

The Regional Support Office provides expertise and services to improve the quality and efficiency of the European Commission's humanitarian aid response in the region. It works on five core elements:

▶ **Operations:** Providing technical expertise to Country Offices in the region and headquarters in Belgium, through the support of sectoral experts in the fields of health, nutrition, food assistance, shelter, water and sanitation, and disaster risk reduction.

▶ **Rapid Response to humanitarian emergencies:** Monitoring and assessing the humanitarian situation across the region; providing technical assessments of humanitarian needs; helping define and implement appropriate responses and facilitating the deployment of the European Union Civil Protection teams.

▶ **Development of humanitarian policies and strategies:** Facilitating an exchange of best practices across the region; helping define policies and strategies and ensuring compliance in implementation on the ground.

▶ **Finance and administration:** Providing financial, logistical, safety and administrative support to Country Offices.



▶ **Communication:** Raising awareness on ECHO's activities, the principles of humanitarian aid and humanitarian concerns in the region.

European Commission humanitarian aid funding for South Asia

South Asia is a highly disaster-prone area, has alarming malnutrition rates, and contains large pockets of conflict in certain countries. ECHO responds by funding emergency humanitarian aid such as [shelter](#), [access to healthcare](#), [food assistance](#), [water and sanitation activities](#), [psycho-social care](#) and [protection](#).

In 2012, over €133 million addressed the humanitarian impact of natural disasters across South Asia as well as the needs of conflict-affected people in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and India.

ECHO also encourages the promotion of [Disaster Risk Reduction](#) within relief activities as well as funding community-based disaster preparedness which builds people's resilience. It has set aside €12.6 million for such projects across the region in 2013.

ECHO always supports people in [forgotten crises](#) such as the Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh, and those affected by conflict in India.