

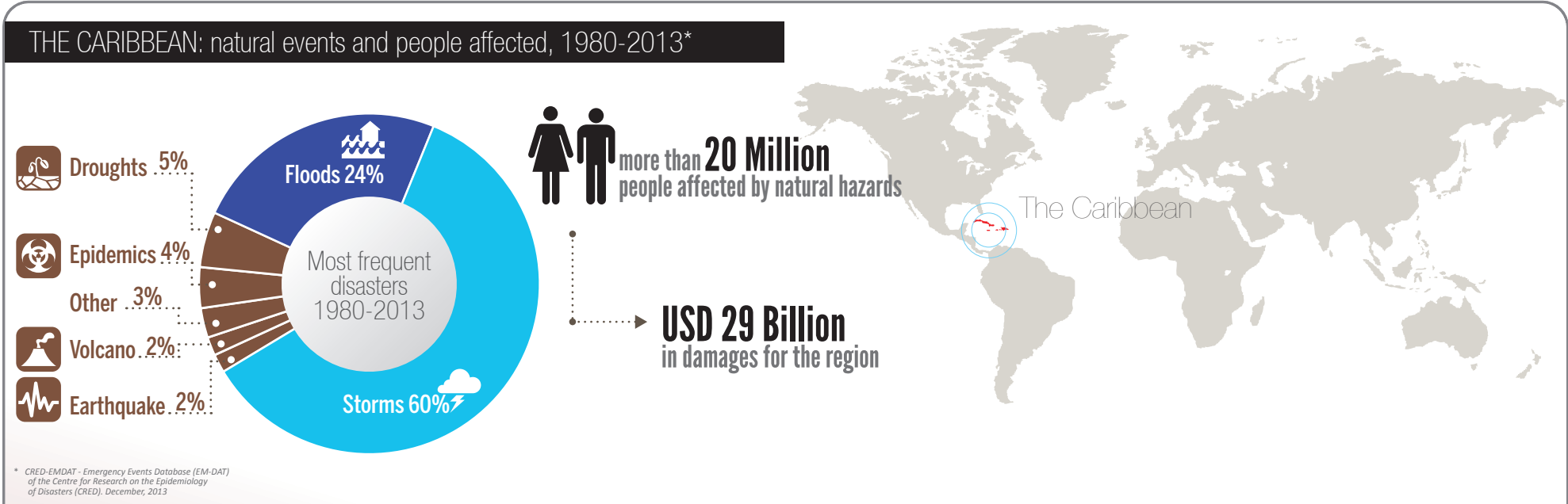


Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

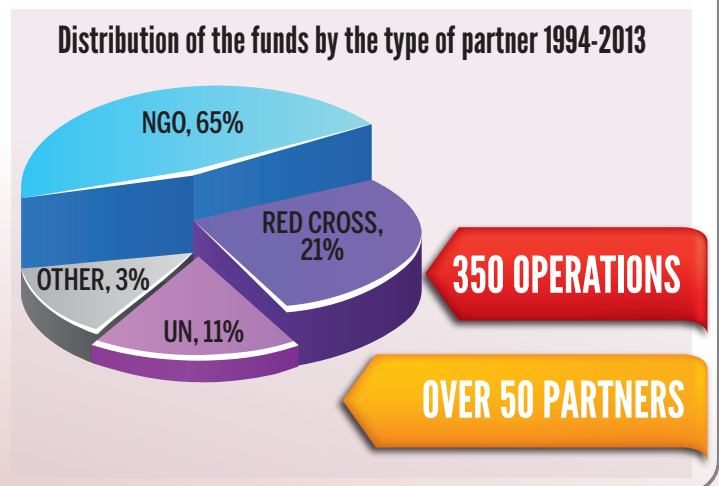
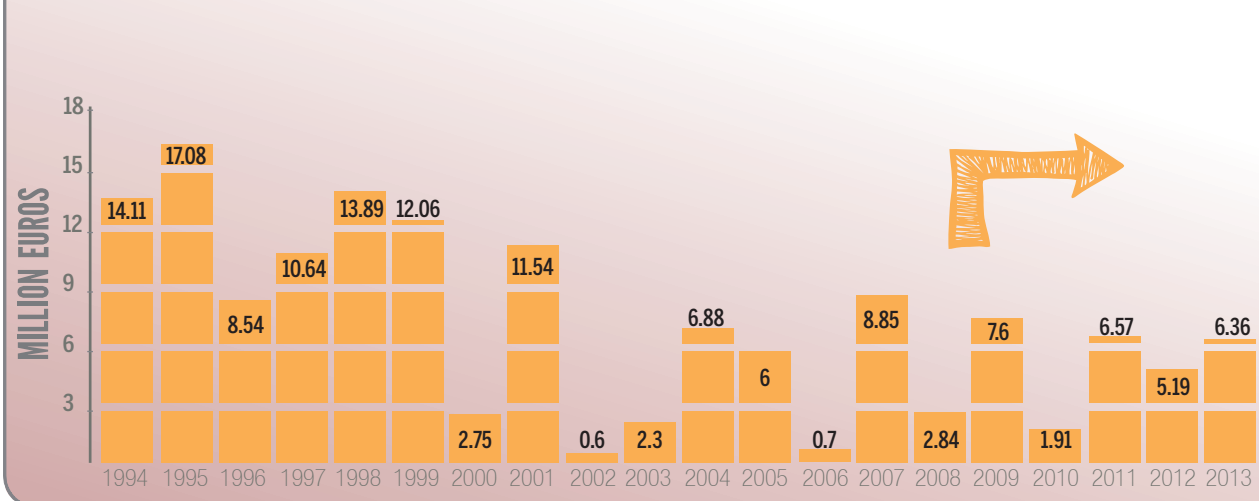
humanitarian aid

# European Commission humanitarian aid in the Caribbean

The Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission (ECHO) has an office based in the Dominican Republic, which covers 24 Caribbean countries and overseas territories (not including Haiti, which has its own office). The Caribbean region is characterised by low population density, isolation, lack of resources, and high inequality and poverty rates. From June to November, the region has its hurricane season, and commonly experiences severe storms. Much of the region is also prone to flooding and landslides, and in addition to this some islands face the risk of earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. The Caribbean is also at risk of epidemics such as Cholera and Dengue.



Humanitarian aid provided in the Caribbean 1994-2013: **€147 MILLION** (without including the funds earmarked for Haiti)



Humanitarian principles: Humanity      Neutrality      Impartiality      Independence



Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

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# Humanitarian projects 2013-2014 € 9.4 MILLION

In 2013 – 2014, ECHO supported people affected by hurricane Sandy in Cuba, Dominican Republic and Jamaica. In Dominican Republic, ECHO maintained its collaboration with actors against the spread of Cholera by improving access and quality of water and early surveillance and detection. In addition, ECHO has also continued its support to disaster preparedness with the 2013-2014 DIPECHO Action Plan, which is facilitating DRR activities in more than 9 countries in the Caribbean.



This action will continue to further engage and equip key decision-makers at the regional, national and local levels with key information and tools for achieving meaningful advances towards disaster risk reduction and disaster resilience. This project has interventions in Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Guyana, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Vincent and The Grenadines, Dominica, Bahamas, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

PAHO will continue to conduct the Safe Hospital Index, an instrument that provides a rapid assessment of the level of safety of various aspects of a hospital's structure and functioning. The project also contemplates actions to upgrade hospitals and medium size health centres, so they improve their safety index and they are able to withstand better a disaster. PAHO is carrying out activities in Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Guyana, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago.

**2 REGIONAL DIPECHO ACTIONS 2013-2014**

## A key humanitarian donor



The European Commission has a longstanding commitment to help the victims of humanitarian crisis. Since 1992, it has funded relief to millions of victims of natural and man-made disasters outside the European Union through its Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO). Aid is channeled impartially to the affected populations, regardless of their race, ethnic group, religion, gender, age, nationality or political affiliation.

The Commission's humanitarian action has two pillars: response to emergencies and disaster preparedness.

In the first field, funds are spent on goods (such as food, clothing, shelter, medical provisions, water supplies) and services (like sanitation, medical assistance, emergency repairs and logistical support). Under the disaster preparedness pillar, the Commission also funds projects that aim to increase local authorities and vulnerable communities' response capacities and mitigation projects in regions prone to disasters.

ECHO's actions rest on the humanitarian principles: **humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence**. The programmes funded are implemented in the field through partner organisations: Specialised United Nations agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and non-governmental relief organisations (NGOs).

## CONTACTS

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