

#climateconnect

THE ROLE OF THE EU IN HUMANITARIAN AID OPERATIONS AND THE
IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HUMANITARIAN CRISES

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CLIMATE CHANGE & HUMANITARIAN CRISES

Climate change is a serious threat to the world's poorest countries, as by aggravating pre-existing crises it requires increased efforts to meet the rise in humanitarian needs.

Climate change effects on humanitarian crises can worsen and/or trigger:

- **migration and displacement:** populations affected by natural hazards leave their land to seek shelter.
- **food insecurity and water scarcity:** extreme weather threatens agricultural resources. Lack of access to clean water results in waterborne diseases and diarrhoea, one of the main causes of death for children.
- **epidemics/health risks:** as temperatures rise, diseases such as cholera, malaria and dengue fever spread faster and are harder to contain.
- **conflict and security:** food shortages and scarcity of key resources can exacerbate tensions within entire regions, worsening the humanitarian situation for people already affected by conflict.

Over the last 2 decades, the number of low- and middle-income countries exposed to climate extremes increased from 76% to 98%, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).



**Climate change
is changing
people's lives**



CLIMATE-CHANGE-DRIVEN DISPLACEMENT

Every year, millions of people are forced to flee their homes due to increasingly frequent disasters, such as **floods, cyclones, droughts, and forest fires.**

In 2020 alone, 30,7 million people were internally displaced because of disasters – accounting for over 75% of the people estimated to have been internally displaced that year.

By 2050, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance every year **could rise to over 200 million.**

To meet global challenges of this size, we must work together.



INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT DRIVEN BY CLIMATE CHANGE IN 2020



HOW IS THE EU HELPING?



Climate and weather-related events requiring humanitarian assistance are intensifying and so is the EU's response.

The EU humanitarian budget allocated for disasters caused by natural hazards has steadily grown over the years, and 56% of all EU-funded humanitarian projects have included a disaster preparedness component over the past 5 years.

In 2021, the EU allocated € 150 million to help communities affected by natural hazards fulfil urgent needs, such as food, health, water, sanitation, shelter, and rehabilitation of basic infrastructure.

The EU department in charge of providing assistance to people in need worldwide is the Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations of the European Commission - **DG ECHO**.

WHAT IS DG ECHO?



DG ECHO stands for **Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations** and is one of the many specialised departments of the **European Commission**.

Whenever there is a disaster or a humanitarian emergency, DG ECHO provides assistance to affected countries and populations.

The EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department has been providing assistance to people in need since 1992.

With an annual budget of over €1 billion, the EU is one of the largest humanitarian aid donors in the world.



In line with the four principles grounded in International Humanitarian Law, EU humanitarian aid:

- addresses human suffering, with particular attention to the most vulnerable groups of people, while respecting the dignity of all victims (humanity);
- does not favour any side in a conflict (neutrality);
- is provided solely on the basis of needs, without any kind of discrimination (impartiality);
- is independent of any agenda, be it political, economic, military or else (independence).

WHAT IS #climateconnect



#climateconnect is a new campaign ran by the European Union - its aim is to raise awareness on the effects of climate change on human lives everywhere in the world, and to engage young Europeans and young members of vulnerable communities in a global, digital conversation.

OUR GOALS

- **Start** the conversation and raise awareness about the effects of climate change on human displacement.
- **Inform** young Europeans from 16 to 24 years old about climate effects that are already happening.
- **Educate** about measures that can be taken and how the EU supports those affected.
- **Connect** European and global youth to share experiences on the effects of climate change.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- **Take part** by commenting, connecting and contributing.
- **Take over** the #climateconnect hashtag on social media, share related video content, participate in video chats and more.
- **Share your experience by describing how** the effects of climate change might have impacted your life.

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DISCOVER HOW CLIMATE CHANGE DRIVES HUMANITARIAN CRISES.

LET'S TALK CLIMATE EFFECTS!

JOIN THE DISCUSSION. EC.EUROPA.EU/ECHO/CLIMATE-CONNECT. SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE.

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CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

As most of the Caribbean Island nations, the Dominican Republic is facing increasing challenges due to extreme weather-related hazards.

Rain patterns are changing, and there is increased rainfall out of the regular season leading to intense flooding. This has led local communities to search for temporary shelters and leave their homes behind.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In Santo Domingo Este – an urban area which faces frequent flooding, landslides, and tsunamis – DG ECHO is working with local partners to provide awareness sessions and to educate and prepare the local community to be ready in case of future disasters, but also to build community resilience.

DG ECHO's funding is also contributing to building future leaders as well as guiding and assisting their communities in case of sudden emergencies or evacuations. The aim is to train children ambassadors who can play an active role in sharing their knowledge with their family, friends, and local community. They will also support their communities in reducing the impact of disasters by helping coordinate local responses.

This video presents the story of Karen, a girl living in Santo Domingo Este. She is one of the many girls and boys who are part of the projects funded by the EU who are helping her community in being more resilient in the face of intensifying natural hazards.



Scan to
speak to
Karen!



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MEET KAREN FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



WATCH KARENS STORY HERE: [CLIMATE CONNECT 2022](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ZIMBABWE

- Zimbabwe's Manicaland Province has been suffering over recent years due to cyclones (such as Cyclone Idai, the world's second worst cyclone ever recorded), and droughts taking place across 2018-2019. The combination of these events has led to humanitarian crises in the region.
- DG ECHO provides funding for several projects in Manicaland, which give refugees and displaced people basic and meaningful education, including on disaster response and preparedness to equip them to tackle future natural hazards.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND ZIMBABABWE

- The projects will cover five districts in the province where the humanitarian situation has been also worsened by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic: measures to contain the outbreak have impacted people's livelihoods as well as their ability to respond to natural hazards.
- The projects will support 210,000 people, 135,555 of which are young people aged between 5 and 17. This video shows how Britta is being supported by the projects, and gives more insight into the crises affecting her and her community.



Scan to
speak to
Karen!

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MEET JAQUELINE AND BRITTA FROM ZIMBABWE



WATCH JAQUELINE AND BRITTAS STORY HERE: [CLIMATE CONNECT 2022](#)

LET'S TALK CLIMATE EFFECTS! – CLASS ACTIVITY

Being aware of climate change's impact on human lives is crucial.

However, there can be different approaches to the topic.

Divide the class in small groups. Each group will work on one of the following questions:

- Are you familiar with direct and indirect effects of climate change on vulnerable communities around the world? Describe the main needs they might have.
- Have you yourself faced the impacts of climate change? If so, what toll did it have on your life or on the lives of your families/friends?
- What solutions could you envisage to reduce the impact of climate change on human lives, especially for already fragile and vulnerable communities?

Each group will note their replies and will present them to the rest of the class.

A useful source for the groups' work is [DG ECHO's publications archive](#).



THE MANIFESTO – CLASS ACTIVITY

Climate change is a global challenge, and its impact will affect everyone, everywhere.

Just as the EU plays an important role in providing relief to vulnerable communities, you can play an important part too.

How?

By creating a manifesto which highlights your actions in contributing to a more disasters-resilient society.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- I want to follow Karen, Britta and Jaqueline's example and join a local NGO active in disaster preparedness and community support.
- I will join the national Civil Protection to be able to help directly in case of sudden natural hazards.



HACKATHON – CLASS ACTIVITY

Identifying solutions to the challenges faced by humanitarian aid operations as a result of climate change is fundamental to providing help and relief to vulnerable communities and people.

Choose one of following points, elaborate your point of view by presenting practical solutions, and prepare a final presentation to share your thesis with your colleagues.



Scan to
speak to
Karen!

1. The number of people displaced by natural hazards and extreme weather events will exponentially increase over the coming decades.
2. Climate change will undermine public health by increasing food insecurity, water stress, and disease in highly vulnerable regions.
3. Global warming will have a detrimental impact on crop yields and coastal ecosystems, which will profoundly affect the livelihoods of regions dependent on these for commerce.
4. Resource scarcity arising as a result of climate change, including basic necessities like food and water, may lead to tension and conflict between states in vulnerable regions.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! #climateconnect



To make sure your voice is heard, be sure to upload examples of your work and participation in the #climateconnect activities to our social gallery via our chatbot.

The chatbot will share more information about the EU's projects in the Dominican Republic and Zimbabwe, so you can learn more about them and how young people like yourselves are affected around the world.



Scan to
speak to
Karen!



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EU'S HUMANITARIAN AID AT THE FOREFRONT OF GLOBAL CRISES

As one of the world's leading humanitarian aid donors, the EU provides support for humanitarian relief in response to major crises across the globe. The deployment of humanitarian aid operations by the EU is vital to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of millions of vulnerable people across the world.



Scan to
speak to
Karen!

Most recently, the EU has been providing much-needed relief to the people affected by Russia's war on Ukraine – and this ranges from the provision of medical supplies and shelter equipment, to vehicles and power generators.

It is estimated that 6.5 million Ukrainians have been internally displaced as a result of the war, with a further 4.2 million having become refugees by fleeing to neighbouring countries to ensure the safety of themselves and their families.

For more information, visit the [webpage](#) dedicated to the facts.

HOW TO USE THE CREATIVE FOR YOURSELVES!

We would love for you to share our message, these stories and your involvement in this project online or in your community!

If you are interested in posting, sharing and getting more involved with the project we have provided our documentary style imagery ready to be shared and posted on your own social media, in the project package. #climateconnect

To encourage most sustainable practices, it would be great for campaign messaging to be shared digitally, but when you really need and want to print something, please find a poster version of our creative included in the project package.

For full package or for toolkit in one of the following languages –

DE, IT, ES, PL, LT, RO, EL, NL, BG, FR,

please contact:

ECHO-COMM-CAMPAIGNS@ec.europa.eu



GUIDELINES ON THE CREATIVES - GENERAL



- Official campaign hashtag must be used for all posts: **#climateconnect**
- Tag the official DG ECHO Instagram (@eu_echo)
- All posts should be delivered in your native/local language
- The aim of these posts and stories is about transmitting a message of hope and **inspire people, and you, to make positive changes in your communities**

- Do not include more than 10 hashtags on posts (including the campaign hashtag)
- Include at least one hashtag in your native language
- Keep content as apolitical as possible
- Ban on using curse words
- Refrain on negative messaging
- Refrain from using visuals that are NOT in line with the campaign (e.g vacation pictures, nudity, containing alcohol/smoking)



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THANK YOU!