



NEWSLETTER

ADDRESS → Rue Dejoncker 46, 1060 Brussels, Belgium tel. +32 (0)2 5411360 fax +32 (0)2 5349953
e.mail: secretariat@ngovoice.org **PUBLISHER** → Kathrin Schick

VOL 9. No. 6
JUNE-JULY 2002

1. VOICE NEWS.....	1
2. MEMBER NEWS.....	2
3. OPPORTUNITIES.....	4
4. NEWS BRIEF.....	4
5. ECHO/EU NEWS.....	6
6. PALESTINE.....	7
7.RECENTLY GRANTED AID.....	8
8. JOB VACANCIES.....	11

1. VOICE NEWS

Improving Quality of Humanitarian Aid in Conflict Situations: Training for Good Practice

Part of an ECHO-funded project, this VOICE organized Conference 30-31st May, was a huge success with a high level of attendance and participation by VOICE members and other relevant organisations. Speakers at the conference included:

- Mr. Steffen Stenberg (ECHO 1)
- Mr Mark Bowden (UN OCHA)

- Cnl Dermot Earley (Irish Defense Forces)
- Dr. Jos De La Haye (Field Diplomacy Initiative)
- Mr Rudy Scholeart (WV, Kosovo)
- Mr Inigo Barrena (IFRC)
- Dr. Roger MacGinty (University of York)
- Prof Dominic Murray (University of Limerick)
- Mr Alberto Navarro (Head of Cabinet of Secretary General European Council)

The workshops held at the conference:

- ❖ Information Management
- ❖ Project Cycle Management

- ❖ Security Management
- ❖ Local Staff/Partners

A report on the conference will be available in some weeks and will include the speeches, workshop debates and recommendations. A Training of Trainers session will be held as a follow-up for conference participants in September 2002, in order to increase the training capacity of NGOs for dealing with conflict situations. **For further information please contact: Jennifer Tangney – Jennifer@ngovoice.org**

2. MEMBER NEWS

FROM THE FIELD:

Norwegian People's Aid

Denial of Access: New restrictions on humanitarian assistance in Palestine

New restrictions on movement within the West Bank and within Gaza Strip have serious consequences for humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian population. Israeli authorities have introduced a permit system in which Palestinian staff of local and international NGOs, and of donor organizations, no longer can move freely between villages and cities within the Palestinian territories.

Since the outbreak of the new Intifada in September 2000, local Palestinian staff of Norwegian People Aid in Palestine (NPA) has only been issued permits twice to travel from Gaza to the West Bank for project visits. Travel permit was granted once in 2001 and in February 2002. Since that time no permits have been issued. Additionally, NPA cars are prevented from passing out of Gaza to the West Bank even when driven by international staff for project visits.

NPA is concerned with the emergence of a new situation. Local NGOs are increasingly facing difficulties in carrying out their humanitarian activities within their regions. We have seen during the last weeks an intensification of unprecedented Israeli military restrictions on

humanitarian access to the populations affected by conflict. Local Palestinian organizations and Palestinian staff of international organizations have reported that they have been harassed at checkpoints. They have been denied travel between project sites and offices within the West Bank and within Gaza Strip. Military checkpoints have multiplied and have been strengthened. Temporary military checkpoints are turning into permanent ones. At the time of writing all Palestinian cities in the West Bank except from Jericho and Jerusalem are under curfew. Some areas are severely affected by the closures, - a number of smaller villages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been under permanent curfew for up to 18 months.

What we see is that Israeli military are in the process of developing a new and more comprehensive permit system. This is to replace the already existing permit system for travel between the West Bank/Gaza and Jerusalem/Israel. Permits must be obtained from the Israeli military a week in advance to allow (or reject) movement also within the West Bank. The Palestinian NGO network (PNGO) warns that the new system aims at reintroducing Israeli military control over the Palestinian territories. Members of the Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA) in Palestine also oppose the new system on the basis that it is a violation of humanitarian law. Humanitarian workers should not be denied access to carry out their services to the civilian population affected by conflict. Also goods are denied access and only a 'back-to-back' system for transport of goods into the West Bank, as well as between cities and villages, will be allowed on a case-by-case basis.

In Gaza Strip there is a different kind of internal closure. Parts of the Palestinian road network have been closed with physical barriers and there is now one road linking the north to the south of Gaza Strip. This road is frequently closed half way at Abu Hole, close to Kfar Darom settlement, where there is a military point. At this military point there is no checking of

ID cards. Cars are merely stopped from both directions and for the last weeks the road has been opened for a few hours in the morning and evening. The only road connecting the north and the south of Gaza remains closed for most of the day.

The situation also affects peoples living conditions. **NPA** is forced to put more emphasis on emergency relief. Ongoing long term development projects in the fields of refugee rights, women workers right, health education, culture and youth activities have to be re-planned in terms of what is operationally possible in each particular region and in terms of peoples immediate needs.

NPA is working through local Palestinian organizations and has encouraged decentralization of local NGOs as a strategy to deal with the closures. Providing technical support to strengthen the competence of staff in the organization's field offices has proven successful until this time. Organizations like Palestinian Working Women Society for Development (PWWS) and Tamer Institute for Community Education have established regional offices in Gaza, with support from **NPA**, working relatively independent of their head offices in the West Bank. While the head office of PWWS in Ramallah was looted and equipment destroyed during Israeli military incursions, PWWS regional office in Gaza continued implementation and reporting as usual.

It is due to the continuous efforts of local Palestinian NGOs that **NPA** supported projects are running. The local organizations adapt in creative, but also risky ways. Palestinian humanitarian workers bypass roadblocks and checkpoints in their efforts to continue their work. In Nablus last week, a female field worker walked kilometers in the night in mountainous terrains to reach home after project visits. Others sleep in their office, as there is not way to pass the checkpoint to return home. Ard El-Insaan, a women-led organization, is cooperating with other local organizations to further decentralize their activities within Gaza. Travel between even short distances is

difficult for project staff as well as for beneficiaries. The beneficiaries, who are mothers with severe undernourished children, cannot risk delays on checkpoints for up to eight hours in the summer heat.

NPA Palestine is seriously concerned with the increasingly difficult working conditions for Palestinian humanitarian organizations and their staff. Humanitarian assistance is dependant on freedom of movement for staff of local and international NGO's. With the new restrictions, humanitarian agencies are no longer able to effectively reach the population in immediate need of assistance and our capacity to provide sustained and quality support in the long term has been severely undermined.

Gudrun Bertinussen, Norwegian Peoples Aid Resident Representative in Palestine
24.06.02

[see also special section on Palestine]

VOICE would like to offer members the opportunity to submit articles on humanitarian aid issues and to take advantage of the wide audience the Newsletter reaches in the European institutions.

"Transforming the Economy of War in Sudan" conference took place 12-13th June in Brussels, organized by European Coalition on Oil in Sudan (ECOS) and Bonn International Centre for Conversion (BICC).
Chairman's Conclusions¹:

- Oil has changed the pattern of life in Sudan, leading to Human Rights violations - killing, displacement and famine
- The balance of power has shifted towards the government on the strength of the oil revenues
- The oil companies are exploiting the unstable situation
- Oil is however not the sole cause of the conflict. Other factors include racism, cultural differences, and quasi-colonial situation. There are

¹ Kindly provided by Diana White of EU CORD

also conflicts within the North and within the South

- Sudan is not a failed state but a failed economy
- As the EU currently reconsiders development aid is it promoting a just and lasting peace or a more exploitative dependency?
- More research and transparency is required

Medair Desk Officer for Sudan Philip Walker on the conference:

The conference sought to analyse the dynamics of the conflict in the context of Sudan's socio-economic history. More precisely, how do the warring parties generate support and funds to continue the conflict? Are humanitarian and relief programmes funded by NGOs naively contributing to the war and prolonging it? Or are NGO's contributing to *peace building* through the relief and rehabilitation programmes? These are some of the essential questions that NGO's operating in Sudan must ask themselves. The presentations by leading experts and practitioners on Sudan gave the NGOs present some excellent tools to analyse their particular interventions in the Sudan.

The post 11 September era has heralded a '*constructive engagement*' policy from some principle donors. This has increased the flow of funds based on the premises (or perhaps more realistically the hope), that relief and aid programmes will lead to the development of peace. Is this a naive strategy, or does it reflect a covert interest in strategic natural resources namely oil? Perhaps NGO programmes in the North and government controlled areas in the South can, through advocacy and lobbying, could bring the benefits of oil revenues to the much neglected rural populations? A question for debate and consideration.

The '*constructive engagement*' policy by some is seen as a compromise, ignoring the issue of 'oil field cleansing' and the large displacement of populations around the oil fields. Some historians argue however that the road to development is

painful. The displacement of people is a necessary evil to provide labour for the mechanised farming sector in the North, paving the way to eventual development and prosperity. For example, displacement in western Europe during the 18th 19th Centuries has been an important tool used in the industrialisation era, leading to eventual prosperity.

There are no easy answers to the issues facing all NGOs working in Sudan. It is important that we as NGO's are aware of any negative impacts of our programmes and prevent, or at least minimise them in whatever ways possible. Medair's programmes based in the south are meeting humanitarian needs, through strengthening local communities in health, water and food security and household support projects. In the North interventions are focused on strengthening and equipping local medical practitioners, while linking them in with Ministry of Health structures in the provinces. The longer-term objective is to ensure responsibility and commitment from the Government both in moral and financial terms, so as to enhance peace building and development.

3. OPPORTUNITIES

RedR workshop for Managers of Evaluations in Humanitarian Action

Based on materials devised, developed and piloted by ALNAP (Active Learning Network for Accountability & Performance in Humanitarian Action) this one-week workshop gives participants an opportunity to examine principles of good practice. Takes place 23-27th Sept near Brighton, south coast of England. Cost: £620 GBP includes food, accommodation, training and training materials. For more information contact: Sarah Last, at sarah@redr.demon.co.uk or +44 (0) 207 233 3116

4. NEWS BRIEF

Civil-Military Co-operation (CIMIC) conference organized by EU Military Staff 24th-25th June.

VOICE was invited to represent the international NGO community at this first intended exchange of views on the pros and cons, dangers and advantages of civilian-military co-operation in the field. Director Kathrin Schick welcomed the opportunity to express the range of opinion within the humanitarian community which came out in a workshop on the theme at the **VOICE** Forum in May. She made a comprehensive presentation outlining the opportunities and risks of such co-operation.

The EU Military Staff (EUMS) presented a full overview of the functioning of the European Security & Defence Policy (ESDP) and the CIMIC concept. However, over the two day conference, active participation from the military wings from EU member states was disappointing..

VOICE members also present were CARE International, World Vision, Handicap International and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA). NPA pointed to the longstanding involvement of NGOs in the military exercises in Scandinavia. The EU's 22-28th May Crisis Management Exercise (CME02), aimed at testing the EU's existing structures managing how civil and military instruments would operate in a real situation, did not involve NGOs. EUMS replied it was too early to report to the success of the exercise.

It was decided that EUMS would maintain contacts within individual bilateral frameworks as a conference follow-up. Swedish and Finnish representatives expressed an interest in future training possibilities with **VOICE**. The conference also became an excellent opportunity for strengthening relations with ECHO on the subject, much of whose presentation to the conference revealed similar concerns to those expressed by **VOICE**. UN agencies such as UN OCHA and UN DPKO were also present as was ICRC.

As other ways forward, OCHA in consultation with states, other agencies and NGOs, are drafting revised Oslo Guidelines,

adapting them to apply to complex emergencies not just natural disasters. Drafters of new guidelines were Australia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Sudan, Switzerland, UK, US, DPKO, Steering Committee on Humanitarian Response, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP. Reviewers of the draft include Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, Mauritius, Poland, Russia, Sweden, EADRCC, EU Military Staff, ICRC, ICVA, Interaction, IOM, OCHA, WHO.

***VOICE** will continue to follow the process closely and would like to receive expressions of interest from members in the possibility of establishing a Working Group following civil-military issues.*

“International Field Protection for Internally Displaced Persons” conference organised 5-6th June in Brussels by the European Office of Peace Brigades International (PBI).

The Seminar shared strategies on to improving cooperation among actors. Special focus was paid to case studies of Indonesia and Columbia. Participation included UNHCR (US Desk, Dept. of International Protection) UNOCHA—IDP Unit, ECHO and IFRC. Also present were the Indonesian embassy and the Indonesian Embassy Rbuk.

UN agencies

UNHCR outlined its strategy and challenges in general towards IDPs, and specifically in Columbia. UNOCHA IDP Unit said it will announce the creation of Protection Coalition soon; and a series of 8 seminars in 5 countries with NGOs, agencies will be run in 2002. UNHCHR stressed the need mainstream human rights in humanitarian aid.

Columbia/Indonesia

The Indonesian embassy outlined its efforts in dealing with IDPs while Rbuk the Indonesian NGO outlined human rights abuses in Aceh. On Columbia, a representative of the Intercongregational

Commission of Justice and Peace in Colombia, decried the Colombian government failure to enforce existing mechanisms for the protection of IDPs, and called on the EU to bring pressure. The Columbian representative claimed the drug factor was ignored._

European Union

Richard Howitt, MEP highlighted that potential changes to EU policy towards IDPs could have a negative effect, while Susan Hay of ECHO clarified that ECHO makes no distinction between IDPs and others in humanitarian crises. ECHO supports the Guiding Principles, as developed by U.N. Secretary General's Special Representative on Internally Displaced Persons Francis M Deng. ECHO does not however support the creation of new specific international legal instruments for IDPs, nor designation of one single lead IDP agency.

IFRC Disaster Report

VOICE welcomes the launch June 20th at the European Parliament of IFRC's well-received **World Disasters Report 2002**. Main points raised on natural disasters:

- ❑ deaths down over a decade to 800,000 from 2mln, but economic losses rose to \$629bln from \$125bln
- ❑ specific targets and commitments for risk reduction and disaster preparedness are more than ever essential
- ❑ there remains a lack of integrated response to disasters
- ❑ local needs as opposed to donor agenda need to be taken more into account

VOICE Director Kathrin Schick made the point that the Country Strategy Papers produced by the Commission might be the appropriate instrument for integrating disaster preparedness targets. In terms of simple training on the ground, NGOs have a role to play in this. Currently, there appears to be a lack of co-ordination between ECHO, Development and External Relations services.

ECHO official Susan Hay said ECHO is doing more than the report claims. Contrary to the €8mln ECHO puts aside for disaster preparedness as claimed in the report, €60mln is earmarked for such activities in DG External Relations, she said, pointing to the importance of LRRD in this regard. **VOICE**, which has issued two major publications in the last two years on LRRD, fully supports more co-ordinated LRRD perspectives in EC strategies.

VOICE member World Vision regretted the pressure on the ACP Rehabilitation budget line. For 2002, the amount has been drastically reduced to €2mln. The EU response has been to divert NGOs to the European Development Fund available at Delegation level. Delegations however, currently do not have the capacity to manage effectively the funds, nor is there a quick disbursement mechanism yet in place. Further information will be provided to the EP on the issue.

5. ECHO/EU NEWS

NEW: 2002 Grant facility for training and study activities

ECHO announced the expected call for proposal for training and study activities. Priorities are improving the ability to apply administrative, financial tools and procedures to ensure quality and accountability in aid; studies on security management, including security of relief workers, IDPs and refugees; and, comparative studies on policy and guidelines in relation to refugees and IDPs.

Deadline for submitting proposals: 30 August 2002.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/en/whatsnew/whatsnew_1.htm

2002: Grant facility for projects to raise public awareness about humanitarian aid

The 2002 Grant Facility consists of non-renewable grants for information-related initiatives designed to highlight the visibility of the European Union through the action of the European Community Humanitarian Aid

Office. **Deadline for submitting proposals: 31 July 2002.**

http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/en/whatsnew/whatsnew_1.htm

EU chiefs take first step in subordinating Humanitarian Aid to EU Foreign Policy

Issues of Humanitarian Aid and Development will from now on be dealt with in a new 'General Affairs and External Relations Council', and be placed in the same basket of the "whole of the Union's external action, namely common foreign and security policy, European security and defence policy, foreign trade..."

The contentious move, agreed by EU leaders in Seville June 22nd and described in an annex to the Summit conclusions as aimed at "improving the functioning of the Council in the run-up to enlargement", signals the abolition of the Development Council, where issues of humanitarian aid have also been dealt with up to today.

In an intensive lobbying campaign in the run up to the Summit, **VOICE** and other NGOs expressed concern that in the longer term, the restructuring will in fact lead to the humanitarian agenda being further subordinated to the EU's external relations policies, and as a consequence the objectives of humanitarian aid and development policy would be increasingly marginalised in practice.

The decision also flies in the face of a European Parliament resolution June 13th ahead of the Seville summit, which among other issues, expressed "[concern] about certain information on the unilateral and exclusive abolition of some Councils, and considers that Parliament, as one arm of the budgetary authority, should be consulted on/included in any reform of the Council" [point 5].

The Development Council late November under the Danish Presidency is expected to be the last one as an independent meeting body.

6. PALESTINE

As VOICE continues to lobby on security/access issues, latest EU developments on Palestine:

Commission refutes Israeli allegations of misuse of EU funds by the Palestine Authority

European Commissioner for External Relations Chris Patten refuted June 20th in front of the EP Committee on Foreign Affairs and Budget, allegations made May 5th by the Israeli government in the so-called Naveh Report and widely reported in the European media, that EU funds were being misused by the Palestine Authority (PA) for 'terror activities'.

"After scrupulous examination of all the allegations that have been made, I can report to you today that there is no evidence for EU funds used for other purposes than those agreed. There is no reason to state that EU money has financed terrorism or bought weapons," Commissioner Patten said.

"We started the work of reform of the Palestinian Authority. If there is to be a Palestinian State there has to be a Palestinian Authority. We will continue our budgetary assistance of €10m a month... Europe should be in the vanguard of a concerted development plan for Palestine," he added.

One ECHO official told **VOICE** clear monitoring systems are in place, and they need to come up with clear evidence. "One thing is accusing...as Europeans, we should not get involved in the lobbying machine, or have doubts about ourselves. We know what we are doing."

An External Relations official was quick to stress that from the EC's perspective, the PA is still a functioning body and that, despite different positions from Member States on latest developments the Council mandate for continued support is unanimous, adding at the same time a number of conditionalities to assistance – reform of the PA in terms of transparency,

consolidation of accounts and reform of the judiciary – have been in place for months.

The official denied any connection between Patten's assurances and the subsequent approval for €18.7m to the EC's Middle East Peace Process budget line, claiming the funds were already committed funds and their transfer merely relieved a problem of "cash flow".

€9.5m ECHO decision expected mid-July

VOICE members Action Contre la Faim, Care Austria and Movimondo as well as International Federation Terre des Hommes are expected to benefit mid-July from a new €9.5m funding allocation from ECHO for health, water, sanitation, psycho-social, income generating and shelter projects mostly in the Palestine territories, but also in the Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

RRM funds extra €5m for infrastructure projects

The Commission decided 27th June to allocate €5m under the Rapid Reaction Mechanism to fund rehabilitation of the PA's administrative infrastructure following damages inflicted by the Israeli army, to allow it to continue to provide basic services to the population of the Palestinian Territories.

The funds will provide IT and office equipment to key ministries of the Palestinian Authority, those delivering essential welfare services to the population (e.g. Health Ministry), those responsible for revenue raising and budgetary management (Finance Ministry), and those with a lead role in the reconstruction effort (e.g. Transport Ministry).

VOICE stresses humanitarian concerns at a EP cross-party forum on EU-Israel relations

At a cross-party forum at the European Parliament June 20th on the relationship between the developments in Palestine and the EU-Israel Association Agreement, **VOICE** raised the on-going issue of security of humanitarian aid workers in Palestine territories and

restrictions of access to those most in need by the Israeli defence forces on NGOs.

With some 20 members active in Palestine, **VOICE** welcomed the debate and the opportunity for experts to share information on latest violations of international humanitarian law. **VOICE** member Norwegian People's Aid described Gaza as "grotesque" and the "world's largest prison".

VOICE has been lobbying on behalf of its members on security and access issues in the Palestine territories for some time, and provided copies to the some 100 participants of its joint letter April 15th with Save the Children UK and International Federation Terre des Hommes sent to Commission President Romano Prodi calling for more urgent action.

Speakers at the Forum, organised by Brussels based networks (including several **VOICE** members) developed arguments to challenge Israel's notion that it is fighting a "defensive war" and the myth that Israel is a democracy but in reality a system of apartheid. While some argued that the issue is not one of a lack of information but of political will, others called for more advocacy efforts.

On the issue of the association agreement, some pointed to the double standards of the EU when relations with Israel are compared for example with Zimbabwe. Separately, Commission officials acknowledged however, that the tools available to persuade the Israeli government, particularly over access for humanitarian aid workers, except for continued reference to humanitarian law on a diplomatic level, remains "limited".

7. RECENTLY GRANTED AID

ECHO grants €4.5m more for Chechnya, €10-15m expected in September

A new €4.5m ECHO funds granted June 13th to NGOs active in Chechnya, topping up the over €60m already allocated

to Chechnya since Sept 99, means some new projects are already underway, and a further decision ranging between €10-15m in total is expected in September this year. The fresh funds – of which Danish Refugee Council and Action Contre la Faim received the lion share. Other **VOICE** members on the list include Care, Medecins du Monde, Osterreichisches Hilfswerk International-A and Help – will focus considerably on providing food aid to the estimated 170,000 IDPs and up to 13,800 young children and other IDPs in Ingushetia, but also seek to provide medical assistance and non-food items.

“The activities for September will be similar. There may be more of a focus on children, psycho-social and maybe income generating...we will see what we get,” a ECHO official told **VOICE**, reminding members that the deadline for proposals for projects is 9th August. She added there may be a possibility in July of a decision under the emergency procedure for assistance to combat the effects of the recent flooding, although any decision will depend on assessments currently being carried out.

NGOs must better co-ordinate, better focus needs assessments, says ECHO

ECHO said it regrets the lack of co-ordination between NGOs in Chechnya, including inter-sectorial co-ordination, saying that NGOs are often badly organized, but noted that blame also lies with OCHA, which ECHO is funding solely as co-ordinator. “We are a bit disappointed with the quality of the work carried out in Chechnya. I understand it’s difficult and people must be demotivated, but there is a risk of duplication. It’s a pity,” she said.

The official said ECHO would like to see more focused needs assessments on project proposals, which to date has been “poor”. “The conditions are tricky but we do not really want to fund projects which are just indiscriminate distribution without a focus on real specific needs,” she said.

Officials said they recognized the difficulties faced by NGOs on the ground and the on-going access and security problems since the upsurge in fighting this

year. “The aid is being delivered, but it is a question of efficiency and safety. The problem is the people in Moscow are not fully in control on the ground,” one official said.

On the question of human rights, the official said that Military Order no. 80, namely the requirement for security forces in ‘mopping-up operations’ to be clearly identifiable with marked vehicles and to not wear masks, has been signed, but reports indicate it is not always being complied with in practice.

EU grants €22m to Afghan refugees

The European Commission approved June 19th a further €22m targeted at the unprecedented number of over 800,000 Afghan returnees, according to UNHCR figures, which could become a cause of instability.

The programme has two main aims: first to make return to areas outside the major cities possible, by rehabilitating and reconstructing the infrastructure in returnees’ places of origin; second, to support communities during the reintegration process, helping them tackle the consequences of the long-standing conflict, unprecedented drought, and loss of productive assets.

VOICE member German Agro Action is joined by Danish Committee for Afghan Refugees - DACAAR, Afghanaid (UK), Swedish Committee for Afghanistan and Healthnet International (NL) in a consortium of 5 European NGOs chosen to implement the funds.

ECHO pulls out of Montenegro, Albania to follow

After ten years of activities by ECHO in Montenegro, the European Commission closed June 24th the ECHO office in Podgorica handing over to other services, notably to the European Agency for Reconstruction. According to UNHCR figures used by the Commission, displaced persons still approach 10% of the population. “But they are pretty well integrated. They have possibilities for

representation and citizenship. These sort of issues are more social welfare responsibilities of the government,” a Commission official told VOICE, adding emergency type work is declining throughout the Balkans. ECHO’s Kosovo operations officially closed last year, and with no more new projects in the pipeline Albania will follow by the end of the year, she said while activities will drop away in Serbia for 2003 despite a “high caseload”.

ECHO grants €2m food relief for Zimbabwe’s under-fives

Care International and Save the Children and UNICEF will be ECHO’s partners for the delivery of €2m food to hungry children in Zimbabwe through supplementary feeding for under-fives and a school meals programme (IP/02/912). Farm workers adversely affected by the land resettlement programme and prevailing food insecurity will also receive emergency food aid. The 24th June decision supplements €4m aid to be implemented over the next weeks by WFP.

ECHO grants Ecuador EUR 800 000 to help victims of coastal flooding

ECHO approved 31st May €800,000 of aid for Ecuador to help people in coastal areas affected by flooding (IP/02/789). The money will be used to pay for restoration of drinking water supplies to some 10,000 families and help a further 4,000 families regain a measure of self-sufficiency. Some of the money will be used to improve local disaster prevention and preparedness capacity.

Commission adopts 4 new humanitarian aid decisions June 7th worth almost €6m

India €2m

Humanitarian funding is being provided to assist victims of conflict in Kashmir and internal violence in Gujarat. Activities envisaged include food and nutritional aid, health interventions, psychosocial support and education for

children affected by conflict. The decision also has a major component in support of the protection activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Kashmir. Some of the funds will also be directed towards Sri Lankan refugees living in camps in Tamil Nadu.

Uganda €1.2 m

This decision aims to assist and protect people affected by the largely forgotten crisis affecting northern, eastern and southwestern districts of Uganda, resulting from a combination of long-running local conflicts and a refugee influx from neighbouring states. Measures include improving access to primary health care for displaced people and other vulnerable groups, providing clean water and adequate sanitation, supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of child soldiers and helping displaced people to return to their home areas.

Ethiopia €1.15m

This decision involves funding for the Integrated Protection Programme run by the ICRC and the Pastoral Early Warning Programme being implemented by Save the Children (UK). The former is designed to ensure that conflicts affecting Ethiopia are closely monitored, and that the victims are assisted in accordance with international and humanitarian law. The latter involves the establishment of an early warning system for the monitoring of drought conditions in the Somali Region of Ethiopia with a view to ensuring that effective action is taken speedily when required.

Sri Lanka €1.5m

Assistance is being provided to internally displaced people and other vulnerable groups (women and children) in the war-affected north and north-east of Sri Lanka. The main aim of the funding is to reduce the risks presented by mines and unexploded ordnance encountered by people returning to their home areas, through surveys, disposal operations and awareness-

raising actions. The decision includes the provision of psychosocial support for landmine victims and measures to improve access to healthcare for women and children.

8. JOB VACANCIES

VOICE invites members to submit short job vacancies in the field of humanitarian aid.

The **Global Emergency Operations (GEO)** team helps to spearhead **Mercy Corps'** response to both natural and man-made emergencies worldwide. We are currently seeking an experienced and energetic individual to join the team who will deploy to actual or potential emergency areas to help prepare for, design and implement response operations. The successful candidate will have a minimum of four years experience in field emergency/relief settings and proven experience designing and implementing water/sanitation, health, agriculture, camp management, distribution and/or engineering programming. **Salary Range: £31-39,000** Applications to <http://mercycorps.recruitingcenter.net/public/jobs/>

Oxfam seeks Team Manager for Humanitarian Dept (HD) to develop work plans, provide strategic analysis on key humanitarian issues; to create framework for learning incl. training events; lead in the adoption of working practices and approaches in HD that strengthen the sharing of knowledge & expertise. Manage/evaluate projects; deputise for the Humanitarian Director if necessary. **Requirements:** high level of analytical skills, deep understanding of humanitarian issues relating to conflict & calamity gained through extensive humanitarian action experience. Excellent communication skills, both written & verbal in English, French/Spanish knowledge advantageous. Oxford based. Salary: £32,800 - £42,200 per annum. For more info and forms see www.oxfam.org.uk **Deadline: 5th July**

Save the Children UK seeks Health Advisor to help advise the Ministry of Health to strengthen the delivery of integrated primary health care services in two provinces and to assist in the process of health sector reforms. Requirements: you will be a qualified Doctor or experienced Health/Medical professional with a post graduate degree in Public Health/Health Planning; significant experience in team management, substantial record in managing health programmes and working in countries undergoing health sector reform. Excellent communication skills, ability to work in French/English. Based in UK/Burundi. See <http://www.scfuk.org.uk/vacancies/index.html> for more info. **Deadline: 11th July**

Handicap International Belgium seeks Head of Mission for representation in Afghanistan/Pakistan and China. Responsibilities include supervising, coordinating mission, strategy/project framework definition, personnel management. Minimum 2 years NGO field project experience, English language. See www.handicapinternational.be CV and cover to Handicap International FAO Paule Delcambe Oosterbosch, 67 rue de Spa, 1000 Bruxelles or paule.delcambe@handicap.be