



NEWSLETTER

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1. VOICE NEWS

Secretariat News

After the summer break there have been some staff changes in the Secretariat. We have a new Communications Officer, Samantha Chaitkin, who is responsible for the newsletter, Internet and information dissemination. Samantha can be contacted on information@ngovoice.org or at tel: +32 (0)2 5411365. Welcome Samantha!

Jennifer Tangney has left the Secretariat after more than two years in VOICE, she is moving to the EU delegation in South Africa as Programme Officer for Human Rights and Democracy. We wish her the best of luck.

Training of Trainers – Aid in Conflict; Conflict in Aid

The final stage of the ECHO funded conference took place on September 24th with 28 people undertaking a very successful training in conflict sensitivity/awareness training. The participants will now train people in their organisations on conflict issues both in the field and at HQ.

The training was facilitated by Joan McGregor of Responding to Conflict, a UK-based training NGO.

2. ECHO/EU NEWS

ECHO WORKSHOP ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

On 17-18 September in Brussels, ECHO held a Disaster Preparedness Workshop, bringing together experts to discuss key issues, share experiences, and learn from best practices in the field. The meeting, which focused on Community Involvement and Information Dissemination in the Caribbean and Latin America, was led by R. Albuquerque, Head of Unit, ECHO 3.

Besides ECHO/DIPECHO field experts and headquarter staff, representatives from DGs Relex, Development and EuropeAid were present. The IGO community was represented by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), CEPREDENAC (Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America), and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC). VOICE members CARE Germany and Movimondo made presentations on their practical experiences with community involvement in disaster preparedness projects, while the VOICE secretariat and VOICE member Tearfund UK also contributed to the debate.

On community involvement, ECHO concluded that DIPECHO is currently most effective at the local community level, but that linkages should be better established between the local, national and regional levels to improve information flows. The IFRC offered its unique global network structure as a potential medium to facilitate the linking of actors at the different levels. To optimise the effectiveness and accountability of disaster preparedness projects, the group concluded that existing community structures and organizations should be used, and their capabilities strengthened, wherever possible. It was understood by all that disaster preparedness is one facet of capacity building and vulnerability reduction within longer-term development activities, and DIPECHO projects are likely to be either integrated into the projects of, or handed over to, other Commission services in the future.

As for information dissemination, the discussion concentrated on the dissemination of results from disaster preparedness projects. The group noted the incapacity of different institutions to

meet information demands at all levels, because their mandates target specific beneficiaries. However, if targeted information succeeds in influencing decision making, and can be relayed to other levels, it may still be considered effective. Appropriate tools should be designed and utilized that enables information to reach all levels, utilizing existing dissemination networks (NGOs, mayors' associations, universities, etc.) where possible. Indicators and assessment mechanisms should be identified and/or designed. Importantly for NGOs, the group concluded that ECHO implementing partners should commit to promoting dissemination of project results and replicating successful project methodologies and practices in other related contexts. This facet may be integrated into future calls for proposals.

CLOSURE OF ECHO OFFICE IN MONTENEGRO

ECHO will shortly close its office in Montenegro. A positive sign for the country now that development work has taken over from relief.

PROGRAMMING ECHO'S GLOBAL PLAN FOR THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO IN 2003

All bona fide humanitarian agencies and other organisations intending to carry out operations relevant to ECHO's activities in DRC are invited to contribute to the preparation of the Global Plan for 2003. If your organisation has not been contacted directly as a current or potential ECHO partner, but would like to request further information on the programming process, submit a concept paper, or attend the meetings planned in the field or in Brussels, please contact richard.hands@cec.eu.int.

05.10.02 -20.10.02 Programming mission DRC Global Plan 2003.

- ECHO mission team: François Goemans, Richard Hands, Pierre Capdegelle,
- Pierre-Yves Scotto, Gil Collard
- General technical meetings with partners in Goma and Kinshasa
- Meetings with local authorities in Goma and Kinshasa
- Working meeting with EC Delegation in Kinshasa

- Working meeting with EU Heads of Cooperation in Kinshasa

22.10.02 Wrap-up workshop for partners at ECHO Brussels

05.12.02 Formal consultation of Member States (Humanitarian Aid Committee)

For further information please see http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/img_echo/pdf/calendrier_drc_2003.pdf

PROGRAMMING ECHO'S GLOBAL PLAN FOR BURUNDI

ECHO is also planning its humanitarian intervention for Burundi for 2003, and would like to involve all ECHO partners working in Burundi. This will involve a Programming Mission in Burundi. They plan to adopt the Global Plan next February. Any organisation that has an FPA, humanitarian experience in Burundi or another Great Lake country, and sufficient technical capacity, and wishes to submit a request for funding to ECHO for an intervention in Burundi, may contact Sandra GOFFIN (sandra.goffin@cec.eu.int). The provisional calendar is available on the internet at:

www.europa.eu.int/comm/echo/img_echo/pdf/calendrier_burundi_2003.pdf

3. MEMBER NEWS

From The Field: Save the Children UK

War will exacerbate humanitarian crisis in Iraq

Military intervention would greatly exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in Iraq: pushing a population already suffering from poverty and sanctions over the edge, warned Save the Children UK - the longest-standing non-governmental organisation operating in Northern Iraq. The charity urges the British Government to find a diplomatic solution to the current impasse and focus on improving the humanitarian situation for Iraqi citizens, almost half of who are under the age of 14.

After 12 years of sanctions, infant mortality in Iraq has doubled and the civilian population is highly vulnerable to external shocks that impact on food supplies and

basic service provision. Military conflict will interrupt the supply of food under the UN Oil for Food Programme if neighbouring states close borders, central administration and distribution systems break down, transport routes are obstructed and humanitarian agencies cease operations.

"Conflict in Northern Iraq's highly urbanised population would interrupt food supplies and cut electricity, water and sanitation, which could result in displacement on a very large scale and separating children from their families," said Rob MacGillivray, Save the Children UK's Regional Emergencies Adviser, after an assessment visit in August 2002. "If prompt humanitarian assistance cannot be delivered in accordance with refugee status, the situation could become life threatening. Access to remote mountainous areas is difficult, especially in winter. Fuel is already in short supply and private food stocks will run low in winter."

Save the Children UK's recent study of Kurdish livelihoods in Northern Iraq found that sanctions and the Oil for Food Programme have made the population in that region almost totally dependent on outside assistance. The food ration to Northern Iraq is supplied every month by Government of Iraq-controlled warehouses, further increasing the likelihood of supply interruptions to more than three million Iraqi Kurds.

Renewed military conflict is likely to encompass areas of high population density and affect key infrastructure indispensable to the survival of the civilian population. Electricity and water supplies currently do not meet minimum requirements. Poor water quality is already the prime cause of death for Iraqi children and could face sudden deterioration. Medical supplies in Iraq are already understocked. Damage to electricity installations will affect food and medicine storage, hospitals, water generation, purification and sanitation.

"Resolving the humanitarian crisis, not exacerbating it by war, must be the priority. In the light of the current impasse over weapons inspections Save the Children UK urges the UK Government to pursue a diplomatic solution via the United Nations and within the framework of international law," said Ken Caldwell, Director of Programme Operations for Save the Children UK. "Children's rights

and their survival would be violated by military action that undermines food security through the interruption of supplies, border closures or disablement of local transportation and distribution."

For further information contact the Save the Children Press Office, at Tel: 020 7716 2280 (out of hours: 07831 650 409)

4. OPPORTUNITIES

Forgotten Humanitarian Crises

Conference on the role of the media, decision-makers and humanitarian agencies

Copenhagen, 23 October, 2002

This one-day conference is organized by the Danish members of VOICE in connection with the Danish EU Presidency. Selected silent and marginalized emergencies will be examined in order to explain the complex dynamics and interactions between public opinion, news criteria, humanitarian motives, geopolitical agendas, and resource allocation.

Funded by ECHO, the conference will focus on countries such as Sudan, North Korea, Western Africa and Angola.

This international event is all the more timely in that it precedes the informal HAC (Humanitarian Aid Committee meeting) in which NGOs including VOICE are invited to participate.

Interested persons should contact forgottencrises@drc.dk no later than 15 October.

Disaster Risk Reduction Hemispheric Conference

San Jose, Costa Rica, December 4-6, 2001

In follow-up to the Third Summit of the Americas held in Quebec City in April of this year, the Governments of Costa Rica and the United States are co-hosting this hemispheric conference which will focus on the Disaster Risk Reduction, with emphasis on disaster prevention and mitigation activities as they relate to development (disaster response and preparedness issues will not be addressed.)

For complete information, consult: web site:<http://www.ofdalac.org/summit/>.

Registration is open to all sectors and agencies. Deadline date of November 15, 2001 for registration.

5. REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

InterAction Report on LRRD

Earlier this year, a team of George Washington University graduate students conducted a study of European NGOs' views on, approaches to, and concerns about developmental relief. Many VOICE members participated. The resulting paper, entitled "Developmental Relief: The European Perspective", was commissioned to consolidate existing knowledge of NGO relief practices, funding issues, and evaluation strategies. The paper is meant to build upon the knowledge gathered in a similar paper entitled "Developmental Relief: NGO Efforts to Promote Sustainable Peace and Development in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies", which looked at American NGOs' developmental relief practices and concerns.

Both documents are available for download in .pdf format on InterAction's website at:

http://www.interaction.org/disaster/dev_relief_rpt.html.

"Living With Risk"

The United Nations has just launched "Living with Risk", a global review on disaster reduction initiatives. Published by the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), "Living with Risk" is a 400 page study of the lessons learned by experts and communities in response to hazards presented by natural forces such as volcanoes, fires, hurricanes, tsunamis, landslides and tornadoes as well as technological accidents and environmental degradation.

The Report also looks at the ways in which political imagination and better communication have already begun to save lives and build hope for developing countries and examines the intricate links between

economic development and environmental insecurity.

The full text of the publication is available on ISDR's website (www.unisdr.org). For more information, please contact Helena Molin Valdes at the ISDR Secretariat (molinvaldes@un.org).

"Masters of Their Own Development; PRSPs and Their Prospects for the Poor"

World Vision has now posted onto its website a new report that reviews the progress with PRSPs (Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers) to date, including a section on the experience so far in relation to child rights policy.

The report is called "Masters of Their Own Development; PRSPs and Their Prospects for the Poor". It was launched at the PRSP review meeting held at the Finance for Development Conference in Monterrey. Copies are also available free of charge from World Vision, International Policy &

Advocacy, c/o 599 Avebury Boulevard,
Milton Keynes, MK9 3PG, UK

The report can be accessed as a pdf document at:
www.developmentstudies.org

"Disaster Chronicles: Earthquakes in El Salvador, 2001" (available in Spanish only)

PAHO/WHO has just published the latest in its "Disaster Chronicles" series. This newest publication analyses the events surrounding the 2001 earthquakes in El Salvador.

Readers will find answers to questions that arise in the aftermath of many disasters: Was the health sector adequately prepared? How was the response organized? What were the primary difficulties related to mounting health sector operations?, What procedures and actions could be improved in future operations? What lessons were learned from these catastrophic events?

If demand warrants, PAHO/WHO may translate and publish an English-language version of the report. In the meantime, those interested can read and/or download a full text copy on PAHO's web site at:

http://www.paho.org/spanish/ped/ELS_2001.htm

"Journalism, Media and the Challenge of Human Rights Reporting"

The International Council on Human Rights Policy, a Geneva-based independent research organisation, has recently released a report that critically examines human rights reporting by the international media. Based on their findings, it makes separate recommendations for journalists and media organisations, governments and international organisations, and human rights organisations. The report was presented in Brussels on 19 September, at a meeting given by the 'Journalists@YourService' International Press Centre. Many of the report's observations are equally valid in the context of humanitarian assistance.

The report concludes that while the media have become more receptive to human rights issues, many media professionals do not consider the promotion of human rights to be the media's responsibility (though a significant segment disagrees). One challenge is that rights issues are not usually articulated as such in media stories. The media should review how they cover issues that have a human rights dimension, and should take more seriously their responsibility to report them accurately. New forms of training for journalists might include information about what human rights are, where they are, and their scope. According to the report, "The key challenge for media professionals is to cover human rights issues accurately and consistently, in ways that give their audiences enough background and continuity of coverage to make sense of the events that are reported."

Among their recommendations to NGOs are suggestions of how to understand better the different roles and responsibilities of activists and reporters. The report suggests that organisations can: promote internal discussion among activists on the work of media and journalists; establish contact with journalists' groups to discuss ways to cooperate on media rights issues as well as concerns about coverage, and; suggest confidence-building measures to promote better understanding of the human rights agenda among journalists and media.

“Journalism, Media and the Challenge of Human Rights Reporting, 2002” is available in English from the International Council on Human Rights Policy. ISBN 2-940259-23-2. Orders can be placed at www.ichrp.org or www.international-council.org, by writing to info@ichrp.org, by telephone at (4122) 775-3300 or by fax at (4122) 775-03303. Summaries of the report, available in English, French and Spanish, can also be ordered.

6. ANGOLA

Excerpt from Commissioner Nielson’s Speech on successful LRRD in Angola

On 16th of September Commissioner Nielson gave a speech to students of the NOHA (Network on Humanitarian Assistance) Masters programme where he spoke about the transition from humanitarian to development aid. He specifically referred to Angola as a recent successful example of LRRD (Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development).

“Disasters disrupt economic and social development, and often throw countries back several years or even decades in terms of their economic development, as is, for example, the case in Afghanistan which now needs billions of Euro in development aid to undo the devastating effects of twenty years of civil war. Emergency humanitarian operations can take into account long-term development issues only to a limited extent. This is why development policy, at the same time, should be better prepared to cope with natural disasters, conflicts and other crises, and the need to protect vulnerable households by helping them to develop coping strategies. For many years, this aspect has been missing in many development cooperation programmes but, be assured we are getting better at it.”

According to Commissioner Nielson Angola is a recent example for a successful transition in that respect.

“In the wake of the peace process, the Commission has drawn up an extensive response strategy to support that process. This plan, in which LRRD plays a central role was drawn up in close consultation between ECHO and DG Development, including joint field missions. The Angolan LRRD strategy proposes short-, medium-

and longer-term interventions to contribute to:

- The furtherance of the 2002 peace process, national reconciliation and the consolidation of democracy, including the creation of conditions for free and fair elections;
- Good governance and development of civil society ;
- Poverty alleviation, through a gradual concentration of the EC's aid in the focal areas of food security and social sectors.

The Commission has already identified €125 million from both humanitarian and development assistance to help deal with immediate needs, including de-mining, and undertake essential rehabilitation, to be followed up by substantial development support over the longer term.

Out of this package, an amount of 54 million Euro has already been earmarked to support displaced people and to begin rehabilitation, particularly of accessible social infrastructure, in areas where the level of security is increasing. This concerns in particular the populous zones of the Central Highlands and other areas affected by the war, just to mention one example.”

Global Plan Meeting - Angola

On September 6, ECHO organised a meeting on the Global Plan for Angola. The meeting was well attended (more than 70 participants) and brought together all relevant EC services, NGOs, OCHA, and the WFP. ECHO presented its global strategy for Angola 2003 at the workshop. Steffen Stenberg, the head of unit, summarised the strategy as follows:

“For 2003, ECHO will continue to focus on short term emergency response activities, without neglecting the general response to the humanitarian situation in Angola. ECHO will phase out activities as soon as the humanitarian situation stabilises and try to assure the linking to medium-long term projects supported by other donors and notably DG Development..

“The sectoral emphasis will remain much the same as in 2002, focusing on primary health, nutrition, water and sanitation, protection, emergency relief and logistics. Priority will be given to those provinces more affected by the conflict where acute

needs arise and notably the newly accessible areas.

“Partners with proven relief experience and good past performance in their intervention sector will be considered for funding.

“Partners’ field offices have been requested to submit draft proposal, already discussed with the ECHO team in Luanda before 4 November 2002.”

Mr. Stenberg also announced some staff changes related to ECHO’s work in Angola: Ms Patricia Cavanaugh is the new Desk Officer for Angola, Ms. Montse Pantaleoni will move to ECHO 4, and Ms. Maria Olsen is the new Field Officer in the ECHO-Luanda office.

Contact details for the different speakers (and an agenda of the September 6 meeting are available on the ECHO web page:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/img_echo/pdf/Agenda_angola_6_09_2002.pdf)

7. RECENTLY GRANTED AID

Humanitarian aid package worth EUR 1,3 million for the people of Southern Peru and the Department of Potosi in Bolivia

Brussels, 10 September 2002

The European Commission has approved a total amount of €1,3 million for humanitarian aid operations for the people of Southern Peru and the department of Potosi in Bolivia affected by unusual freezing weather in July 2002. The funds, channelled through the Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), will be used to support affected families in Peru and Bolivia by improving their shelter and preserving their livestock as well as enhancing people capacity to effectively respond to natural disasters. The funds allocated by the EC are necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to about 22,000 people affected by snowstorms and extreme low temperatures in Bolivia and Peru. The main component of this humanitarian aid package (€1 million) will be allocated to Peru, while the remaining €300,000 will be provided for Bolivia. The funding will cover the rehabilitation of approximately 500 dwellings in Peru, the care of

approximately 50,000 livestock in Peru and Bolivia and the training in disaster preparedness. ECHO is also present in other South American countries where natural catastrophes are recurrent, in particular floods, landslides, droughts, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. Humanitarian aid to Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Venezuela and Paraguay amounts to over €19 million since 1999.

Source IP/02/1281

8. JOB VACANCIES

VOICE invites members to submit short job vacancies in the field of humanitarian aid. Please send to information@ngovoice.org

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL BELGIUM is recruiting a Programme Manager/ Desk RDC, Liberia, Laos

Responsibilities :

Representation of HI to donors and partners, strategic programme planning, supervision of work in countries of responsibility, responsible for security and communication, financial management, project applications, reporting, personnel management.

Profile :

- University Degree
- 2 years minimum of project management in the field with a NGO (requirement)
- Excellent spoken and written knowledge of French and English, good knowledge of Dutch,
- Willing to work in a French-speaking environment.

Conditions :

- Full time – permanent contract
- Net monthly salary – from 2,156, + experience, training, languages (+ meal vouchers, travel costs and 13th month)

CVs and letters of application should be sent before 7th October to Ana Calvo, Rue de Spa 67, 1000 Brussels or by email to ana.calvo@handicap.be

SAVE THE CHILDREN UK

Regional Emergencies Advisor, Pretoria, South Africa, Grade 2, £25,844, 25-month contract

Based in Pretoria, you will work alongside other regional advisors to provide advice and support to country programmes. In addition, working closely with the Emergencies Unit based in London, you will support and lead the process for implementation and review of the regional emergency preparedness and response plan of SC UK and the Save the Children Alliance in the region. You will ensure the development of a child rights-based approach in all preparedness plans, advise on effective monitoring, reviewing and evaluation mechanisms, support country programmes in the development of donor proposals, negotiate and liaise with key regional actors and provide active support to country programmes during emergencies.

Closing date for completed applications:
9th October 2002

First interviews: Thursday 17th October

Second interviews: Wednesday 23rd
and/or Thursday 24th October 2002 in
London.

Salary / Benefits : £25,844

Type of work : Accommodation Provided,
Full Time

To apply :

For information and an application form,
please contact Amy Berrisford, Overseas
Personnel, Save the Children Fund, 17
Grove Lane, London, SE5 8RD, fax 020
7793 7614, email
a.berrisford@scfuk.org.uk

For more information see:
<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk>

INTERACTION

Security Coordinator - Washington, DC

InterAction, the largest alliance of U.S.-based international development and humanitarian nongovernmental organizations, seeks a full-time Security Coordinator (SC) to work in its Disaster Response Unit.

(See www.interaction.org for additional information on InterAction and the Disaster Response Committee.)

Interested applicants should forward (electronic or fax transmission preferred) a resume and cover letter to: Laky Pissalidis, InterAction, Disaster Response Unit, 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Suite 701, Washington, D.C. 20036; Tel: (202) 667-8227 ext. 107; Fax: (202) 667-8236 Email: jobs@InterAction.org

MERCY CORPS

Community Development Project Manager – Kandahar, Afghanistan

Mercy Corps is currently seeking an experienced relief-to-development professional to manage Mercy Corps' SARRP project in Southern Afghanistan, a 24-month, community-driven developmental relief project aimed at the recovery of rural livelihoods in 100 communities in five districts. SARRP will be implemented closely with two local NGO partners to meet immediate cash needs for survival while laying the foundation to address longer term, more complex issues including social change and stability, economic and agricultural development and social services. SARRP, a community-based project targeting primarily rural areas, will empower communities to prioritize, plan and implement projects that foster civic participation, revitalize essential productive infrastructure, create employment and increase incomes.

Finance and Administration Manager - Kosovo

The Finance and Administration Manager will be responsible for the financial and administrative management of the Kosovo office while supporting other neighboring programs. The manager will also be responsible for ensuring compliance with MC personnel policies and procedures and all administrative procedures in the Kosovo mission.

This position requires a BA/S or equivalent in accounting/finance, 6 years finance and management experience and 4 years experience managing grants. Three years overseas experience is required, international NGO/PVO field office experience is preferred, as is experience managing umbrella grants and working in difficult conditions.

Mongolia – Chief of Party

The Chief of Party is the top management position for Mercy Corps in Mongolia with responsibility over the Gobi Regional Economic Growth Initiative (Gobi Initiative) and all in-country personnel and policies. The Chief of Party is responsible for implementing and managing the next phases of the Gobi Initiative – programs which include Herder Management and Livestock Improvement, Range Land and Water Management, and Business Development. The Chief of Party will generate program and administrative resources in the field to supplement or complement the Gobi Initiative, especially from host country government agencies and implementing partners. The Chief of Party ensures that all programs are planned and executed with quality, accountability, and measurable impact.

For more information on all three jobs and to apply, please visit our jobs page at www.mercycorps.org. Click on “Jobs.”