

# European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC)

**The European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC)** is a set of operational tools designed to fill operational gaps in the humanitarian response to disasters. The EHRC is one of the EU's instruments to immediately respond to new crises. The EHRC is context-specific and supports the humanitarian community to deliver humanitarian assistance. It also contributes to cover the immediate needs of affected populations. The **added value of the EHRC is the support to humanitarian partners and emergency responders** to enable a more effective and efficient humanitarian action whenever an urgent operational gap has been identified and where the direct beneficiaries are humanitarian actors and emergency responders.

The EHRC offers a range of services:

- **Common logistics services** proposed to the humanitarian community; these are a set of services ranging from the EU Humanitarian Air Bridge (EU HAB) to a variety of transport options including international and in-country (last-mile) solutions, warehousing services, and other logistics options.
- **Regional Emergency Stockpiles** of EU owned humanitarian aid supplies such as emergency kits (shelter, WASH, and hygiene kits) and other goods. Their regional pre-positioning helps deliver the items as swiftly as possible. The stockpiled goods can be made available, upon request from partners and subsequent assessment and approval by DG ECHO, free-of-charge to DG ECHO's humanitarian partners.
- **Deployment of expertise**, such as public health experts and EU logistics experts.

These capacities are developed in collaboration with selected partners (based on proposals submitted using the e-Single Form).



## EHRC - how can partners access the services?

The request for activation/deployment of any of the EHRC capacities can be made by any humanitarian partner and stakeholder, including DG ECHO Country Offices, EU Member States, and affected countries. The decision to activate the EHRC capacities is taken by DG ECHO, following an established internal procedure, aimed at securing the full complementarity of EHRC deployments with other ECHO-funded actions, or humanitarian priorities identified by DG ECHO. The rationale of the internal procedure is to intervene in a rapid onset crisis or to a spike in a protracted crisis to cover identified gaps in the response and ideally through partners well positioned on the ground and already operational.

**The EHRC capacities are operated on a needs-based approach to cover urgent operational gaps.** The decision to deploy these capacities is driven by needs on the ground.

### EU Humanitarian Air Bridge (EU HAB)

The European Commission puts at the disposal of humanitarian partners air transport services covering all the transport costs, including pre-shipment costs. Nevertheless, **custom clearance at arrival and handling from the point of arrival** of the plane until the final destination are the **responsibility of partners**. The users of the EU HAB operations provide the cargo and supplies transported on board.

**Consolidation of the cargo needs for the EU HAB is implemented by HuLO** with DG ECHO's funding as well as the coordination of the operations in collaboration with transport operators. **DG ECHO oversees the whole operation.** All humanitarian partners interested in receiving information, updates on ongoing and future EU HAB operations should log on [transport.hulo.coop](https://transport.hulo.coop) and register their profile, country (-ies) of interest and cargo details or contact <https://transport.hulo.coop/landing/euhab@hulo.coop>.

### Warehousing/last-mile delivery

In case of acute crises, EHRC can deploy in partnership with ECHO's partners, such as Atlas Logistique, **common warehousing, and transportation services for humanitarian stakeholders**. These services are available free of charge to all humanitarian partners. Information about these services – deployed for a limited amount of time – is available via in-country coordination (Logistics Cluster or Working Group, Humanitarian Country Team).

### EU Humanitarian Aid Flight

**Via the EHRC, the European Commission supports in-country aerial capacities in crisis contexts.** These passenger/cargo flights are implemented by DG ECHO partner UNHAS-WFP. Information on UNHAS services and how to access them is available at country level through UNHAS, OCHA or ECHO offices.

**Stockpiles:**

EU owned stocks of wash and shelter items are available in four locations worldwide (Panama, Brindisi, Dubai and Kuala Lumpur), and managed by UNHRD. Partners can at any moment [register with UNHRD](#) to have access to updated information on the availability of items in each stockpile. Stocks are at the disposal of DG ECHO certified partners on a no-cost basis.

**Provision of Expertise**

The EHRC can provide expertise in the logistics and health sectors. For the logistics sector, the ECHO field network includes a number of logistics experts, based in Panama, Bangkok, Dakar and Nairobi. Specific additional expertise can be deployed in case of specific needs, with the purpose of identifying potential areas of logistics development. For the health sector, DG ECHO has developed a specific Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) to deploy its own, as well as Member States', public health experts from its EU Health Task Force. These deployments would support international emergency preparedness and response to infectious diseases events or outbreaks of unknown origin in humanitarian contexts. ECDC experts could be put at the disposal of UN or INGO health partners with relevant field presence according to needs and opportunity, and in coordination with the established humanitarian coordination system.

For any questions related to EHRC services, please contact: [ECHO-European-Humanitarian-Response-Capacity@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ECHO-European-Humanitarian-Response-Capacity@ec.europa.eu)