



**VOICE ASBL**

**ACTIVITY REPORT 2008**

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

ALNAP	Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in humanitarian action
CAN	Climate Action Network
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
COHAFA	Council working group on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid
CONCORD	European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development
DG	Directorate General (European Commission Department)
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EC	European Commission
ECHO	European Commission Department for Humanitarian Aid
ECPDM	European Centre for Policy Development Management
EEAS	European External Action Service
EISF	European Interagency Security Forum
ENNA	European Network of NGOs in Afghanistan
EP	European Parliament
EPLO	European Peacebuilding Liaison Office
EU	European Union
EUFOR	European Forces
FPA	Framework Partnership Agreement
GA	General Assembly (VOICE Annual General Assembly)
GCCA	Global Climate Change Alliance
GHP	Global Humanitarian Platform
HAC	Humanitarian Aid Committee
HRDN	Human Right Democracy Network
IASC	Inter Agency Standing Committee (inter agency coordination for humanitarian assistance)
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICVA	International Council of Voluntary Organisations
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
MEP	Member of the European Parliament
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NOHA	Network on Humanitarian Action
PoP	Principles of Partnership
RELEX	European Commission Department for External Relations
SCHA	Steering Committee for Humanitarian Aid (VOICE Board)
SCHR	Standing Committee on Humanitarian Response
UN	United Nations
UNISDR	United Nations International strategy for Disaster Reduction
VOICE	Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies

## Introduction

Humanitarian operations are becoming increasingly more complex for NGOs, as well as for other civilian humanitarian actors, such as UN agencies and the Red Cross family. The two main issues are access to vulnerable populations and the security of aid workers.

On the ground, gaining access to crises affected populations becomes increasingly more difficult and politicized, especially in countries where there are internal conflicts such as Sri Lanka, Israel/Palestine as well as Sudan. It seems that there is little the international community is willing to do in order to strengthen the respect of International Humanitarian Law and the humanitarian principles of impartiality, neutrality and independence.

2008 has seen a surge in violence against humanitarian aid workers, with 122 killed while carrying out their work, the majority of them being national staff. In addition we have also witnessed a dramatic increase in kidnappings over the past three years<sup>1</sup>. NGOs are increasingly seen as political actors and perceived by local populations and groups as having western interests at heart. Unfortunately, the perspectives for 2009 are not better, with the deteriorating security conditions in Afghanistan, Somalia, Darfur and Pakistan.

Despite these challenges, humanitarian NGOs continue to deliver between 60-80% of global humanitarian aid on the ground. The recent expulsions of 13 NGOs of Sudan, have clearly demonstrated the importance of their operations for the affected populations, and the problems which arise when humanitarian aid delivery becomes politicised. NGOs also constantly continued to improve the quality of their work and 2008 saw a strong engagement in relation to accountability as far as crises affected populations are concerned.

With 55 % of global humanitarian funding, the European Union is the single biggest donor on humanitarian aid globally. The added value of humanitarian NGOs is also recognized by the European Commission: in 2008 DG ECHO had more than 180 NGO partners, who received 44% of operational funds.

Through the adoption of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid in December 2007, the European Union has put in place a comprehensive and wide ranging policy framework for the future of EU humanitarian aid. It gives the EU member states and the EU institutions a baseline for action. During the first half of 2008, a range of consultations with relevant stakeholders, including VOICE, were conducted in order to develop the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid - Action Plan which will put the principles and the spirit of the Consensus into practice. The Action Plan was approved by EU member states in May. Throughout the autumn, the VOICE network has been engaged in sharing its content and drawing the attention of the wider NGO community to the importance of the Consensus for Humanitarian Aid and the need for monitoring its implementation.

For a while, there had been discussions about how to create more space to discuss EU humanitarian policy issues among the member states in the Council. During the Slovenian Presidency, work moved on, concerning the creation of a Council Working Group for Humanitarian Aid. The new Council Working Group for Humanitarian aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) started its work in January 2009 under the Czech Presidency. With the adoption of the European Consensus for Humanitarian Aid, the Council Working Group, and a Standing Rapporteur for Humanitarian Aid in the European Parliament, the European Union has now a strong political architecture for humanitarian policies. It should be very well equipped to play an even stronger role in international humanitarian aid, not just as a donor, but also concerning policy developments and principles and especially as far as access and security are concerned.

A formal mid term review of the Action Plan is planned for 2010. Therefore, it will be important to monitor both the application of the European Consensus and the implementation of its Action Plan by the European Commission and in EU Member States. Several EU Member States are restructuring their emergency and humanitarian structures and it will be important to see how the new strategies are to be reflected.



Kathrin Schick  
VOICE Director

<sup>1</sup> Center on International Co-operation in New York and the Overseas Development Institute in London. "Providing Aid in Insecure Environments", 2009.

## 1 – Advocate for the implementation of independent humanitarian action

After having strongly lobbied for the adoption of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid in December 2007, the VOICE network was heavily involved in the follow-up process. This was reflected in its substantial input to the development of an EU Action Plan that seeks to put into practice the values and principles agreed in the European Consensus by the European Institutions and the 27 EU Member States.

In 2008, VOICE Members agreed to insist on two humanitarian issues – disaster risk reduction and civil-military relations - for continuous and focused advocacy towards the European Institution and national governments. On these issues, VOICE is facilitating members' working groups.

In 2008, VOICE has also engaged in two long-term EU processes, which are likely to have an impact on European humanitarian aid. Firstly, VOICE engaged in the European Commission's initiative to prepare a proposal for a new framework for the EU budget as from the year 2014. Secondly, VOICE monitored the Lisbon Treaty ratification process and drew the attention to some of its consequences on EU humanitarian aid.

Throughout the year VOICE expertise was frequently sought (information requests and invitations to intervene in seminars and workshops). Exchange and collaboration with other NGO networks and humanitarian actors were also high on VOICE priorities.

### 1. European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid

#### 1.1 Follow-up on the Consensus

After having been involved in the development process of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid in 2007, VOICE has been looking at how this policy statement and commitment are translated into concrete actions by the European Institutions and the 27 European Union Member States.

VOICE welcomed the initiative of the Development Committee of the European Parliament to host in January a public hearing on "EU Humanitarian Aid after the Consensus". Thanks to VOICE, the presence of NGOs in this public hearing was ensured. The public hearing gave VOICE member Concern the

opportunity to present the humanitarian situation in Haiti and to emphasise the added value of NGOs in the delivery of humanitarian aid to affected populations. Further reflections on the European Consensus on humanitarian aid in the international context were provided by the European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid Louis Michel, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Sir John Holmes, and the Director General of the International Committee of the Red Cross Angelo Gnaedinger.

Throughout the year, VOICE advocated for the importance of the Consensus and its practical implementation during discussions with the EU Institutions in Brussels and through contacts in EU Member States. In April, VOICE General Assembly called for its Policy Resolution for Member States' commitment to continue the strengthened dialogue with humanitarian NGOs and to report annually on the implementation of the Consensus.

In the run-up to the French EU Presidency, VOICE was invited by the French "*Revue Humanitaire*" to discuss NGO expectations to put into practice the policy set in the Consensus. Later in the autumn, VOICE shared the experience of the successful Consensus advocacy campaign at the Autumn School of the Urgence, Réhabilitation et Développement (URD) group, which brought together NGOs, the International Committee of the Red Cross, representatives from Member States and academics.

The engagement and expertise of VOICE regarding the Consensus process has been widely acknowledged and VOICE received numerous requests for information on the Consensus and the NGO perspective. For example, a group of journalists visiting the EU Institutions from South East Asia asked VOICE to provide information on the EU humanitarian aid policy and practice and its impact on NGOs' work.

#### 1.2 Consensus Action Plan

The first half of 2008 culminated in the adoption of the 5-year Action Plan for the Consensus by the Commission in the end of May. In April, DG ECHO organised a Brussels roundtable consultation meeting with their implementing partners. This was the opportunity for VOICE members to comment, clarify and provide input to the draft Action Plan, which lists the activities that are to be implemented by the EU institutions and Member States in order to put the Consensus

into practice. The VOICE coordinated NGO input resulted in a strengthened focus on partnership with NGOs and the need to consult with partners on a wide range of issues throughout the implementation process of the action plan.

In September, and according to the Consensus Action Plan, the European Parliament and the European Commission organised a high-level conference in Brussels drawing European attention to the need for respect of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). The aim was to raise awareness of IHL violations and to discuss how to promote compliance with IHL. VOICE lobbied for NGO participation to the panel and NGOs were very prominently present in the conference audience.

Since the adoption of the Action Plan, VOICE has engaged in regular exchange with DG ECHO, who included and consulted its NGO Partners in several policy development processes. VOICE participated in several of these consultations, which took the form of roundtables, meetings and/or written questionnaires on issues such as disaster risk reduction, HIV/AIDS, and thematic funding and capacity building. Also, in order to monitor the engagement of EU Member States, VOICE established contacts with the upcoming Czech Presidency and relevant representatives of other member states, preparing to engage with the new Council Working Group on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA), which will be bringing together Member States' representatives on humanitarian aid for regular policy and strategic debates. This group will start working in January 2009.

VOICE was also requested to provide input to the Action Plan through the European Parliament. The focus was on NGOs' wide expertise and experience in humanitarian response and in public awareness-raising in Europe, NGOs' concerns in regard to civil-military relations, the EU's use of civil protection assets in humanitarian aid, support to disaster risk reduction, and the need for progress in linking relief, rehabilitation and development.

## **2. The added value of Members Coordinated Advocacy**

Based on the outcomes of a full-membership workshop the previous year, VOICE members focused their advocacy for EU humanitarian aid policy and practice on two issues in 2008: disaster risk reduction and civil-military

relations. Two subsequent working groups, consisting of experts from VOICE member organisations, and facilitated by the VOICE secretariat, have been very active throughout the year and have implemented ambitious work programmes. These working groups have provided an excellent opportunity for information sharing, exchange of good practice and networking.

### **2.1 VOICE working group on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**

In 2008, the working group, first set up in 2007 and composed of 24 VOICE member organisations, continued to contribute to the mainstreaming of DRR into EU humanitarian and development policies both at EU and at national level. EU-CORD, as the lead agency, facilitated and coordinated the group's work in collaboration with VOICE secretariat. The working group met four times throughout the year.

In 2008, the group focused on 1) influencing the EU Strategy for DRR, 2) contributing to DG ECHO's evaluation on DRR mainstreaming in its humanitarian actions, 3) analysing the DRR content of EC Country Strategy Papers in view of the upcoming mid-term revisions, and 4) monitoring the policy discussions on building a Global Climate Change Alliance between EU and developing countries.

Following the working group's achievement in 2007 of influencing the DRR content of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, the group continued to call for and obtained related activities to be included in the Action Plan e.g. DRR mainstreaming, support to community-based measures, and linkages to climate change policies.

During the elaboration process of a policy on disaster risk reduction in developing countries, the working group outlined key issues and questions, which the European Commission should consider in its Communication. These suggestions were welcomed by DG Development, the Commission's department responsible for drafting the Communication. The expertise of the working group and the input from NGOs were highly appreciated. Working group members were invited to a stakeholder consultation meeting for further input and discussion. In addition, working group members responded to the written stakeholder consultation with a joint contribution. The working group continued to monitor the drafting of the Communication through regular contacts with DG

Development. The adoption of the Communication and the discussion in the Council in view of an EU Strategy are foreseen in the first half of 2009.

The working group carried out an analysis of several European Commission's Country Strategy Papers in order to identify how much the DG ECHO - DIPECHO projects are linked with EC development projects. This analysis was aimed at providing DG Development with useful input for the development of the EU Strategy on DRR. It also aimed at advocating for increased DRR funding during the European Commission's mid-term reviews of the Development Cooperation Instrument in 2009.

VOICE working group on DRR was the main NGO reference group in a DG ECHO review on DRR mainstreaming in DG ECHO's actions. The group provided general comments on the Terms of Reference, provided consultants with relevant research, studies and tools produced by individual member organisations, as well as contact information for interviews during field visits. The group was also invited to participate in the debriefing session with the consultants and DG ECHO in the finalisation phase of the review report. Since then, DG ECHO has been developing a policy framework for DRR, and it is foreseen that the working group would be consulted in 2009.

The working group also established solid working relations with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), who seek to promote DRR mainstreaming into EU humanitarian aid and development policies. In 2008, during the EU climate change policy developments, the group shared its expertise with MEPs on the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA), the International Commission on climate change and development, and more generally on the European Parliament's role in DRR policy work.

In the preparation of the 2009 Global Platform meeting on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action, the working group met and exchanged with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR).

The working group has also been building alliances with other relevant NGO networks, such as the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction, Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD) and Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-E).

During the almost two years of its existence the group has achieved important results and is considered by DG ECHO and the Commission as the main NGO group to refer to for DRR expertise.

## **2.2 VOICE working group on EU civil-military relations**

As an outcome of the very successful NGO seminar on civil-military relations in December 2007, and in line with VOICE members concerns regarding humanitarian space, it was decided that VOICE would facilitate NGOs' policy work and dialogue with European Union's civilian and military policymakers. As a result, the VOICE working group on EU civil-military relations was established. It is composed of 26 VOICE member organisations. The Steering Committee, composed of CARE International, Christian Aid, Cordaid, International Rescue Committee, Médecins du Monde and Mercy Corps, facilitates and coordinates the work with the VOICE secretariat. In 2008, the group met three times and defined its Terms of References and its first Work Plan.

The overarching goal of the working group is to safeguard and strengthen humanitarian operational space by promoting humanitarian principles and the respect of International Humanitarian Law through NGO advocacy and reinforced dialogue on civil-military relations at EU institutional and Member States level, and through improving NGO capacity in civil-military relations at the operational level.

More specifically the objectives are 1) to strengthen NGOs' role in policy dialogue on civil military relations in EU institutions and Member States, including both civilian and military policy makers when appropriate; 2) to increase EU institutions and Member States respect and adherence to existing international guidelines and standards concerning civil protection and military involvement in disaster response and in complex emergencies; and 3) to increase NGO capacity in civil-military relations policy and coherence in operational practice by sharing experience and exchanging on civil-military relations.

This working group brings together VOICE members based throughout Europe and operational worldwide to work on the challenging but prominent issue of civil-military relations in humanitarian aid. The group has started compiling a Lexicon on civil-military terminology and to develop common recommendations to enhance dialogue with

political and military decision-makers. NGOs emphasise the importance of the respect of humanitarian principles and International Humanitarian Law for aid delivery. On this basis, working group members actively intervened in the annual DG ECHO Partners' Conference workshop on military actors.

In November, VOICE collaborated with the French NGO Platform and US NGO Network Interaction, in organising a seminar initiating civil-military dialogue in France and emphasising the importance of putting into practice the principles and commitments of the Consensus.

The working group also liaised with other NGO networks working on civil-military relations. The European Network of NGOs in Afghanistan (ENNA) presented and discussed the results of their research project in Afghanistan, while links with the European Interagency Security Forum (EISF) were established. The group also discussed the work of International Council of Voluntary Organisations (ICVA) and InterAction on civil-military relations.

In its meetings, the working group exchanged with some relevant counterparts in the European Commission, both in DG ECHO and DG External Relations. Also, first contacts with the EU Council Secretariat took place. In addition to information sharing, the working group members have exchanged on good practices and have participated in relevant dialogues at national level, such as the workshop on civil-military relations that took place in Paris in November.

### **3. Humanitarian concerns in EU policy processes**

#### **3.1 EU budget review**

In March, VOICE developed recommendations for the EU budget review "Reforming the Budget, Changing Europe". VOICE called for the European Union to ensure greater attention to external action, and especially to humanitarian aid, in future EU budgets. With these recommendations, VOICE contributed to the European Commission's public consultation on the revision of the EU budget, which aims at creating a budget framework that would support the EU's ability to face future challenges.

VOICE emphasised the added value of independent humanitarian aid to EU external relations as an expression of European solidarity and its relevance, given the

increasing frequency and complexity of humanitarian emergencies. Alongside a call for continuity and coherence in European external action, VOICE also reminded the EU on its commitment to the principles and values set in the European Consensus of Humanitarian Aid, adopted in December 2007.

The Commission adopted these recommendations, and humanitarian aid was included in the discussion about the 'EU in the world' section in the stakeholder conference in Brussels in November. Participants, including EU governments, academics, and civil society, were briefed on the results of the Commission's consultation. The budget priorities were further debated in workshops. VOICE recommendations were part of a workshop intervention and used as quotations in background and conference materials. In 2009, VOICE will continue to engage in this Budget Review process.

#### **3.2 EU institutions reform - European External Action Service**

In the autumn, VOICE issued a joint paper with the European NGO CONCORD, the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) and the Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN). This joint paper raised the shared concerns about the lack of transparency and the absence of civil society involvement in the process of reforming EU Institutions, particularly with reference to the foreseen European External Action Service (EEAS), a new EU service established by the Lisbon Treaty.

In this joint paper, VOICE and the other three civil society networks shared the following expectations on the EEAS: 1) It should be created through a transparent and inclusive consultation process, and improve the consistency of the European Union's external action. 2) It should assist the High Representative in ensuring coordination and complementarity of external action according to the principles and values established in the Treaties and seek to improve democratic accountability through greater involvement of the European Parliament. 3) It should lead to effective institutional and geographical coordination. 4) It should ensure democratic accountability by involving the European Parliament and seeking continuous participation of civil society, and be composed of expert personnel. VOICE plans to continue monitoring the ratification and coming into force of the Lisbon Treaty during 2009.

## **4. Collaboration with humanitarian actors**

### ***4.1 Relations with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Family***

In April, VOICE and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) collaborated in organising a roundtable debate on "*Water and Conflict: Future Humanitarian Challenges*" in Brussels, which saw the participation of more than 60 representatives from VOICE member organisations, the ICRC, UN agencies and EU Member States' representation offices. It was an opportunity to exchange views on the challenges that water related issues are bringing to the humanitarian sector. In addition to technical and operational issues, the importance of awareness-raising among the general public and advocacy work for increased public funding were discussed. On this occasion, VOICE took the opportunity to publish its newsletter VOICE Out Loud on humanitarian aid and water linkages, based on VOICE member organisations experiences.

Punctual exchange with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has taken place on various thematic topics, such as the Consensus Action Plan, disaster risk reduction, and civil-military relations. In addition, the regular collaboration within the framework of the VOICE facilitated FPA Watch Group, to which the IFRC is an observer, has continued.

### ***4.2 Global Humanitarian Reforms***

Throughout the year, VOICE continued to support the Global Humanitarian Reform through its membership in the Task Force of the Global Humanitarian Platform (GHP). VOICE President, Wolf-Dieter Eberwein participated actively in the annual high-level meeting in July, while VOICE insisted on and succeeded in having the promotion of the Principles of Partnership developed by the GHP in 2007, included into the European Consensus Action Plan.

In relation to the evaluation of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF), VOICE stressed the need for direct NGO participation, less transaction costs and faster implementation.

VOICE also strengthened its exchange with other humanitarian NGO networks on issues related to the EU and global humanitarian reforms, through attending ICVA Board meetings and speaking to the Standing Committee on Humanitarian Response (SCHR) Policy Working Group on the importance of the European Consensus for Humanitarian Aid and the monitoring of its implementation.

## **2 – Facilitate VOICE members' collective influence vis-à-vis the EU and in the humanitarian community**

**VOICE seeks to collectively influence relevant policymakers in the EU Institutions and at Member State level alike. In 2008, VOICE members have brought in their experience and positions to DG ECHO through various channels. One of the regular means of dialogue was the FPA Watch Group. VOICE members also provided the European Parliament with their expertise on humanitarian issues.**

### **1. European Commission**

#### ***1.1 Partnership with DG ECHO***

VOICE is the main NGO interlocutor of the EU on humanitarian aid. Indeed, over the years, VOICE has developed a regular dialogue with DG ECHO on humanitarian policies in addition to the partnerships in aid implementation of the majority of VOICE member organisations. The policy dialogue takes many forms and it complements the work of the VOICE facilitated Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) Watch Group.

#### FPA Watch Group

2008 was a very important year for the FPA Watch Group; at the beginning of the year, VOICE reconstituted the Watch Group and, as in previous years, many NGOs were interested in joining it. The 31 member organisations updated the Terms of Reference and agreed on the annual work plan. In order to further strengthen the FPA Watch Group, non-member NGOs were asked to express their support to the group, which 84 NGOs did.

The Task Force which gathers the most dedicated Watch Group members was also renewed. Together with the WG, the Task Force identifies the main problems NGOs encounter in the implementation of the FPA, and gives input on FPA related documents

The FPA Watch Group met twice and the Task Force seven times in 2008. VOICE consolidated its role and gained further recognition as key facilitator between DG ECHO and all its NGO Partners.

In 2008, the FPA Watch Group worked in close collaboration with DG ECHO and was able to get many of the concerns of operational NGOs reflected in the various

support documents such as the Single Form guidelines, the Financial Reporting guidelines, the Grant Agreement guidelines, and the Fact Sheets. In addition, specific questions related to the FPA, such as the transition period between the old and the new FPA were also raised, and DG ECHO subsequently gave clarifications to all partners through the Frequent Asked Questions tool on their website. The E-single form-project was also being monitored and a Working Document outlining NGO's main concerns was sent. A formal answer was received by the end of the year and the issue will be followed up in 2009. The use and function of the so-called concept notes were also raised and DG ECHO agreed to abandon them completely.

As a general conclusion, the FPA Watch Group considers its partnership relations and the dialogue with DG ECHO as very positive and constructive. At the end of the year it was still too early for NGOs to have a full overview of the functioning of the new FPA, but so far the impression is rather positive. Thanks to the regular exchange and numerous meetings between DG ECHO and the Watch Group/Task Force, the dialogue in 2008 was considered transparent. Both parties were aiming at implementing a practical and efficient FPA that meets the expectations of both. NGOs expect 2009 to be as fruitful as 2008. The main challenges for 2009 will be the consultation on remaining guidelines and the overall monitoring of the implementation of this new FPA.

#### VOICE General Assembly 2008

DG ECHO Director of Operations, Mr. Steffen Stenberg, accompanied by the Heads of Unit for Policy Affairs and for Finance Management, addressed the VOICE General Assembly in April. The discussion referred to the importance of both the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid and the new FPA for ECHO NGO partners and the added value of NGO involvement in both processes. During a lively debate, the General Assembly asked questions on the consequences of the Lisbon Treaty on the following issues:

- the independency of EU humanitarian aid,
- the eventual security risks the Commission's transparency initiative and publishing of information on EU funding could create for implementing NGO Partners in the field,
- the role of EU civil protection in humanitarian aid delivery in armed conflicts

- accreditation requirements.

#### DG ECHO Director General and VOICE President meeting

In October, the new VOICE President Wolf-Dieter Eberwein on behalf of the VOICE network, and newly nominated DG ECHO Director-General Peter Zangl met to discuss future collaboration and exchanged on current topics, such as the global food crisis and European Union's financial capacity to respond. Mr Zangl confirmed the importance of diversity of DG ECHO Partners and the complementarity of three pillars (NGOs, Red Cross movement and UN agencies). NGOs' engagement in networks and platforms was stated as a significant way of contributing to the development of the humanitarian sector.

#### DG ECHO Partners' Conference

VOICE was very visible during the annual DG ECHO Partners' Conference in Brussels in December. DG ECHO agreed to link the discussions to the follow-up on the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid and picked several of the policy issues VOICE had proposed for the workshops, such as civil-military relations, disaster risk reduction and climate change impacts on the humanitarian aid sector. VOICE actively contributed to the debates during these workshops. During plenary sessions, VOICE members, using Colombia as an example, raised issues of future EU funding for humanitarian aid and the importance of consistency and respect of humanitarian principles by the EU actions. Operational challenges related to the implementation of the new Framework Partnership Agreement and procedures were also discussed.

VOICE President, Wolf-Dieter Eberwein, stressed, in his intervention, the importance of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid and the need for monitoring and follow-up if the EU is to see its intentions reflected in EU Member States' humanitarian policies and practice. He also highlighted VOICE focus and main priorities for 2009.

The network had a stand and distributed more than 200 copies of its most recent newsletter entitled Humanitarian NGOs and EU diversity.

#### DG ECHO reviews and Partner consultations

In 2008, VOICE continued to be involved by DG ECHO in several stakeholder consultations and was interviewed for relevant DG ECHO reviews. To facilitate members' involvement in DG ECHO thematic reviews, VOICE distributed information on the ongoing reviews

and consultations and on case-by-case basis facilitated members' input.

During the spring, VOICE was engaged in the EC process of developing a follow-up Action Plan to the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid and in a dialogue with the consultants tasked to review the disaster risk reduction mainstreaming into DG ECHO activities. VOICE members also provided a significant input in a roundtable consultation on DG ECHO policy on HIV/AIDS in emergencies, and VOICE members' expertise was also prominent in developing EU policies on women and children in crisis.

In early 2008, VOICE secretariat was specifically consulted and interviewed for the review of the DG ECHO's Thematic Funding and the Grant Facility, given that VOICE had implemented two Grant Facility projects. The Grant Facility, which has been in existence since 2000, funds NGOs and networks for training initiatives, studies etc. corresponding to a number of priorities identified by DG ECHO on an annual basis. VOICE secretariat emphasised the need for more capacity building for NGOs separate from UN agencies, the advantages of multi-annual funding, and the importance of capacity building of Southern Partners. This Grant Facility review took place in the context of a DG ECHO internal reflection on a re-shaping of these funding mechanisms for capacity building. Consequently, in December, DG ECHO launched a NGO call for proposals with revised objectives and increased funds for the Grant Facility.

#### **1.2 Collaboration with other Commission DGs**

In addition to strong relations with DG ECHO, VOICE has been engaging in dialogue with other Commission's Directorates General (DG) as relevant to humanitarian aid.

Throughout the year, the VOICE working group on disaster risk reduction (DRR) was in close contact with DG Development in the process of drafting a Commission Communication on DRR in developing countries.

In addition, VOICE continued to monitor the reinforcement of the EU's capacity to respond to disasters, including the civil protection mechanism managed by the DG Environment, as well as the discussion on global coordination of the use of civil protection assets. The focus was set on the Commission

Communication on reinforcing the Union's response capacity, which was particularly concerning to VOICE due to its broad definition of 'disaster' and to its lack of consistency with the Consensus' definitions on roles and mandates of different actors and the specificity of humanitarian aid.

The contacts with the DG for External Relations (RELEX) were mainly around the issue of civil-military relations. The VOICE working group on EU civil-military relations met with DG RELEX to discuss the humanitarian aid related aspects of the EUFOR mission in Chad and the Central African Republic. The group was presented to the DG RELEX and the EU Council organisational structures relevant to civil-military relations.

Several VOICE members were also active in advocating on the issues related to the humanitarian situation in Iraq, and established contacts and exchanged with relevant Commission departments. VOICE supported these initiatives by facilitating information flow to network members on roundtable discussions and joint letters.

## 2. European Parliament (EP)

During the process leading to the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid VOICE established a good relation with the EP Standing Rapporteur on Humanitarian Aid, Mr Thierry Cornillet. VOICE facilitated NGOs participation and contacts with MEP Cornillet and the EP Development Committee for the public hearing on "EU Humanitarian Aid after the Consensus", which contributed to bringing the newly signed Consensus to the attention of the wider humanitarian community and policymakers.

In relation to the General Assembly 2008, VOICE provided its members with the opportunity to visit and improve their knowledge on the European Parliament. In addition to general information on the EU and the EP, participants received information on EP Development Committee, whose mandate includes humanitarian aid issues. The group was also briefed on the importance of the Lisbon Treaty and its implications for EU humanitarian aid.

During the drafting of the European Parliament's report on the Global Climate Change Alliance, VOICE working group on disaster risk reduction gave input to the Rapporteur MEP Anders Wijkman. Further

exchange took place on DRR linkages with climate change adaptation, the International Commission on climate change and development, and European Parliament's role in developing EU's DRR Strategy in developing countries.

Throughout 2008, VOICE participated in various exchanges, hearings and discussions organised and/or supported by the European Parliament. Some of the issues covered were the UN reform, the food crisis and increasing food prices, reproductive health, and climate change. On several of these occasions, VOICE member organisations were co-organisers and liaised with the MEPs.

## 3. Outreach to EU Member States

Throughout the year VOICE initiated and took up various opportunities to communicate humanitarian aid issues, and particularly the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, in EU Member States.

VOICE monitored and engaged on issues prioritised by the EU Council Presidencies. During the first half of 2008, the Slovenian Presidency prioritised the development of EU policies on women and children affected by armed conflict. VOICE facilitated members' contacts with the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), which undertook a study on this issue for the Presidency.

In the autumn, VOICE was invited, at a seminar in Spain, to speak on the challenges related to coordination in humanitarian aid. The event saw a wide participation from both NGOs and governmental representatives and was a good opportunity to network and reinforce the relationships between VOICE members and other relevant humanitarian stakeholders.

During the French EU Presidency in the latter half of 2008, VOICE focused on the opportunities to enhance the implementation of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid and its Action Plan both by the European Commission and the EU Member States, to promote IHL and humanitarian principles, to discuss civil-military relations as well as the issue of humanitarian coordination.

In addition to the participation in a roundtable discussion organised by the French NGOs' periodical "Revue Humanitaire", in the Autumn School of Groupe URD with French

government representatives, VOICE President was a participant at the International Forum for the Challenges of Peace Operations, hosted by the French government. The event saw the participation of the UN Emergency Resident Coordinator, Mr. Holmes and DG ECHO's Director General Mr. Zangl.

VOICE also collaborated with Coordination SUD (the French NGO Platform) and particularly with its Commission Humanitaire, and with InterAction to organise a workshop on humanitarian NGOs and their relations with armed forces. The workshop brought together mainly humanitarian NGOs – many of them members of the VOICE working group - and French and US government representatives and military staff, and took stock of and discussed the modalities of dialogue between humanitarian NGOs and military actors.

During the French presidency, VOICE was also invited to address the representatives of EU member states in the Humanitarian Aid Committee (HAC), which met to discuss partnership with local actors in humanitarian action. VOICE presentation focused on the issues surrounding the reform of the international humanitarian system and on the limited participation of national NGOs/platforms in the Global Humanitarian Platform. The activities of the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction and a project which seeks to increase the effective engagement of international, national and local NGOs in humanitarian reform, currently being implemented by seven VOICE members and ICVA, were brought to the attention of the participants. It was also stressed that capacity building had to be two ways, and that donors should consider funding for Southern national and regional NGO networks in order for them to participate more actively in international discussion fora.

In 2008, VOICE had increasing contacts with the EU Council, in addition to preparing interaction with the new Council working party (COHAFA) in 2009. One of the occasions during which contacts with the EU Council Secretariat were built was the NGO meeting organised to brief humanitarian actors and discuss the mid-term review of the EUFOR Chad/CAR operation. It was a very useful opportunity for exchange, and a regular update of relevant activities was established.

In 2008, VOICE encouraged and supported the participation in trainings and policy related activities of humanitarian NGOs from the

twelve New EU Member States, which joined the EU in 2004 and 2007. This outreach was part of the VOICE project "Supporting capacity building: Networking, Training, and Coordination for humanitarian actors in Europe with special focus on new Member States", which was co-financed by DG ECHO (2007 Grant Facility). The main purpose of this transversal activity was to facilitate and increase the participation of these NGOs in relevant VOICE activities particularly on capacity building and awareness-raising on relevant EU policies. In September, VOICE also gave a lecture at the NOHA Master's introduction seminar which took place in Poland. VOICE interventions stressed the need for independent humanitarian action and the importance of a strong civil society and humanitarian NGOs in aid delivery.

The outcomes from the outreach to the EU Member States indicate that the messages from humanitarian NGOs have been heard, and that the dialogue around the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid should continue in 2009.

#### **4. VOICE Outreach to stakeholders and members**

##### **4.1 VOICE Out Loud**

VOICE Out Loud is the external thematic newsletter of the network, published by the Secretariat. It is intended to contribute to the understanding of the professional reality of humanitarian NGOs thanks to the accounts of members' experiences, either operationally, or through policy work and the expression of their resulting opinions. It is targeted at stakeholders in the humanitarian community and decision makers at EU level. In 2008, there were two issues of the newsletter; in April and in December.

VOICE Out Loud had a highly successful year in 2008. Both electronic and print distributions increased significantly. In terms of electronic distribution, the newsletter is sent to the European institutions, to VOICE members (who are asked to forward the newsletter to colleagues), other NGOs, NOHA and relevant NGO networks, in addition to subscribers via the VOICE website.

VOICE Out Loud is also published on the VOICE website, on the ReliefWeb website and the DG ECHO Intranet. VOICE distributes printed copies of the newsletter at VOICE events and roundtables, conferences, and

during other external events. For each issue, the total number of people contacted through email and print distributions is over 1,200 individuals.

Issue 7 was launched at the VOICE / ICRC Roundtable event in April 2008. It focused on Humanitarian Aid and Water. While they all agree on the right for safe and reliable access to water, VOICE members' perspectives on how to achieve this vary. In this issue VOICE members highlight their different approaches as well as linkages to conflict transformation, community empowerment and improved disaster preparedness. In the Editorial the outgoing VOICE President, Paul Grossrieder, reflected about the network's achievements and future goals, in addition to presenting the new strategic objectives.

The launch of VOICE Out Loud 8 coincided with the annual ECHO Partners' conference in December 2008. In this issue, VOICE Board members shared their views and experiences regarding humanitarian NGOs and EU diversity. VOICE Members in Spain, France, Ireland, Germany, the UK, the Netherlands and Denmark discussed the impacts of their governments' policies on their operational work as well as on their advocacy efforts. By bringing together these NGOs' points of view, the common challenges they face became more visible. At the same time, the reader learns about their progress in gaining recognition from their governments, the EU institutions and the wider public through high-quality humanitarian aid and effective policy advocacy.

#### **4.2 VOICE website**

The VOICE website offers visitors the possibility to learn more about the network's organisational structure in general (President, Board, and Secretariat), about VOICE members, activities (conferences, roundtables, trainings) and publications (position statements, briefings, reports, VOICE Out Loud Newsletters). It provides links to all Member organisations' web sites, as well as a selection of quality networks and humanitarian aid-related online resources. The most frequently visited information in the VOICE website in 2008, apart from the Homepage, were the listing and descriptions of individual member organisations with a link to their website, contact information to VOICE Secretariat staff, and information about VOICE.

#### **4.3 New VOICE leaflet**

In order to promote the added value of NGOs and the network to relevant stakeholders, and following the approval of a new three year VOICE Strategy, a new leaflet was published. The leaflet summarises the main strategic objectives as well as outlines the vision and mission of the network. It also provides a brief summary of VOICE members' common goals on humanitarian action and a list of member organisations.

#### **4.4 VOICE Extranet**

In order to further strengthen the communication with members, the secretariat created an extranet site exclusively accessible to members, which was developed and launched in 2008. More than 300 people working in VOICE member organisations were invited as users and granted access.

The Extranet offers the opportunity to keep up with relevant information on humanitarian aid, such as key information concerning the VOICE advocacy and lobbying, the work and meetings of the three VOICE facilitated working groups, an archive of the FLASH e-bulletin and timely events via the Extranet Calendar. Members also have access to information related to VOICE as an organisation, including documentation about the annual General Assemblies.

#### **4.5 VOICE Flash**

The VOICE Flash is the internal e-bulletin of the network, which keeps VOICE members informed on the latest EU humanitarian aid issues, on the activities of the secretariat, and on other relevant initiatives from the humanitarian community. The Flash also includes announcements on vacancies, events and publications from members and other relevant actors. In 2008, six issues of the Flash were disseminated. The distribution is mainly through VOICE contact persons in member organisations, but increasingly interested colleagues subscribe to the VOICE Flash directly. These e-bulletins are also available on the VOICE Extranet.

### 3 – Support a high level of quality of VOICE members' humanitarian response

**VOICE supports the work of its member organisations by organising training workshops and keeping members informed on the latest developments in a variety of NGO quality initiatives. VOICE's choice in training sessions has been strongly directed by the feedback and requests from its trainees.**

#### 1. VOICE training sessions

##### The Sphere Project

In 2008, as a follow-up on the previous year, VOICE organised two successful workshops on the Sphere Project that were highly appreciated by VOICE members and other NGOs. These courses aimed at reinforcing the knowledge of the participants on quality management and more precisely on how to use the Sphere standards and indicators in humanitarian projects. 46 workers from NGOs and DG ECHO attended these workshops.

##### Quality COMPASS

The training on quality management in the humanitarian sector based on the Compass Method was the first to be organised by VOICE in collaboration with Groupe URD. It enabled the participants to deepen their understanding of the concept of quality and its relevance to the humanitarian sector as well as help them get familiar with this Compass Method tool. 19 humanitarian workers benefited from this training session.

##### PCM training

In 2008, VOICE, in collaboration with Punto.Sud, organised three workshops on the Project Cycle Management (PCM), focusing on the Logical Framework. The first one took place in December 2008 and gathered 17 participants. Targeting experienced staff in project management, it aimed at improving their ability to elaborate a 'logframe' and challenged the classical approach in favour of a Result Based one.

The evaluations of these sessions reflected the strong interest and relevance of such activities for NGOs. In 2008, 37 humanitarian organisations had one or more staff benefiting from these courses. DG ECHO was also represented in the sessions and hosted all trainings.

#### 2. Promotion of quality

##### The Sphere Project

In addition to the training sessions on Sphere Standards, VOICE collaborated with the Sphere Project and DG ECHO in order to organise an event in July in Brussels. The Sphere Project presented an update of their activities and the plans for the Revision of the Sphere Handbook. The audience consisted of representatives of European donors, DG ECHO personnel, several VOICE members and other NGOs.

##### Preventing Corruption in Humanitarian Aid

In December, VOICE and Transparency International (TI) held an event to launch TI's recent research report "*Preventing Corruption in Humanitarian Assistance*" and to promote discussion on this issue. The research analysed corruption risks faced by humanitarian aid providers, the measures they use to address those risks and how aid recipients perceive corruption. It was carried out in partnership with a number of international humanitarian NGOs that are among the leading providers of relief and reconstruction assistance. More than 60 participants, including donors and NGOs alike, engaged in a lively debate, after which they were also addressed by VOICE members DanChurchAid and Médecins du Monde France and from DG ECHO on their perspectives and reactions.

##### Networking for quality

In support of members' efforts in quality and accountability, VOICE liaises and explores possibilities of collaboration with various NGO fora established to support high-level professional humanitarian response. Throughout the year VOICE members were kept informed on the various training sessions, studies, publications and tools provided by these quality initiatives. In addition, VOICE members' efforts and commitment towards high quality and professionalism, but also the voluntary nature of adherence by NGOs to the different initiatives, have repeatedly been highlighted during discussions with European decision makers and other humanitarian actors. VOICE is also a member of ALNAP (Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action) and benefits from the members' exchange and reflection on aspects impacting the delivery of humanitarian aid.

## **4 – Organisational developments of the network**

### **1. VOICE General Assembly (Forum)**

VOICE Annual Forum was organised on 28-29 April 2008, it consisted in a visit of the European Parliament, the organisation of a roundtable on water and conflict and the holding of the General Assembly (GA). Through individual membership and family representation, a total of 69 VOICE member organisations were represented at the GA; which corresponds to 82% of the total VOICE membership. Members elected a new President and three new members to the Board (SCHA) and approved a new three year strategy. Members also heard an address by DG ECHO and learned about the activities of the different VOICE working groups.

The General Assembly 2008 elected Dr. Wolf-Dieter Eberwein as the new President of VOICE. The participants expressed their gratitude to the out-going VOICE President, Paul Grossrieder, for his dedicated and enthusiastic service to the network over the last three years.

The VOICE Forum 2008 also welcomed participants from NGOs from new Member States. During the VOICE General Assembly, People in Need (Czech Republic), Foundation "TOGETHER" - Regional Centre for the Psychosocial Well-being of Children (Slovenia) and SOS Malta (Malta) attended as observers. Feedback from these organisations was very positive. The observers considered their participation as a very good opportunity for networking, information sharing and mutual learning.

Through the General Policy Resolution, the General Assembly welcomed the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid and noted its appreciation for the commitment to develop an Action Plan for its implementation and the recognition of NGOs' expertise in European humanitarian responses. It called upon the institutions of the European Union and the Member States:

- 1) to commit to continue the strengthened dialogue between EU Member States and humanitarian NGOs and to report annually on the implementation of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid,
- 2) to ensure that humanitarian aid is considered as a separate budgetary item in the 2013-2020 EU budget and to significantly increase funding to humanitarian NGOs,

3) to ensure that the European External Action Service respects humanitarian principles.

### **2. VOICE Strategic Plan 2008-2010**

VOICE developed its 2008-2010 Strategy based on the results of continuous discussions with its members and Board (SCHA), a mid-term review in 2006 of the previous Strategic Plan, and two workshops organised in spring 2008. The starting point for this Strategic Plan was the external assessment of the network's previous Strategic Plan. In the external assessment, VOICE members stressed the need to work on EU policies related to humanitarian aid, quality and accountability, and to foster communication and collaboration.

The VOICE Strategy 2008-2010 includes the following main objectives:

- 1) VOICE will advocate for the implementation of independent humanitarian action.
- 2) VOICE will facilitate its members' collective influence with relevant EU institutions, governments and other humanitarian actors.
- 3) VOICE will support a high level of quality of VOICE members' humanitarian responses.
- 4) VOICE will ensure the sustainability of VOICE as a network.

### **3. VOICE network members in 2008**

VOICE is a network focusing on EU humanitarian aid, and the main NGO interlocutor with the European Union on emergency aid, relief, rehabilitation and disaster preparedness. In 2008, the network was composed of eighty-four operational European humanitarian NGOs active in humanitarian aid worldwide. The Network's Secretariat is based in Brussels. VOICE, unlike its members, is not operational in emergencies.

VOICE members are dedicated to saving lives, preventing suffering, and bringing swift humanitarian relief to the most vulnerable groups. They base their work on humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality and independence. They are committed to following Codes of Conduct and set high standards of professionalism and expertise. They seek to include a participatory approach with their local partners and to link relief, rehabilitation and development in order to ensure the sustainability of their interventions. Seventy-six of eighty-four VOICE members (90%) have signed a Framework Partnership Agreement with DG ECHO.

#### 4. VOICE President

The General Assembly 2008 elected Dr. Wolf-Dieter Eberwein as President of the network for a three-year mandate.

He is Professor of Political Science and director of the Master's program in International Organisations at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Grenoble, France. He is also a member of the editorial board of Global Society Interdisciplinary Journal of International Relations, and of the Coordination Committee for Humanitarian Aid in Germany. Dr. Eberwein has been involved in humanitarian evaluations with the IFRC, the ICRC and as a consultant for the German Red Cross project on the Balkans. He is a member of the Humanitarian Policy Network and is an Associated Member of ALNAP. Professor Eberwein has also been active as a journalist and has published widely on humanitarian issues. Dr. Eberwein is German.

#### 5. VOICE Board

The VOICE Board is called the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Aid (SCHA). Its role is to ensure that VOICE adheres to its purpose and statutes. It decides on strategic directions and policies, provides governance and accountability and ensures proper management of the network. The SCHA members contribute their professional experience, on a voluntary basis, and as such represent the broader membership of the VOICE network. The SCHA met five times in 2008.

VOICE General Assembly 2008 elected Lisa Henry, Brian Ingle, and Paul O'Brien as new SCHA members for a three-year mandate.

At the end of 2008, the VOICE SCHA was comprised of Wolf-Dieter Eberwein (VOICE President); Andréa Brezovsek (Handicap International France); Thomas Gonnet (Action Contre la Faim); Jean Saslawsky (Médecins du Monde France), Evert Van Bodegom (ICCO), Lisa Henry (DanChurchAid), Brian Ingle (Plan International UK), and Paul O'Brien (Concern Worldwide).

Louise McLean (Action Aid International UK) resigned from the SCHA in September due to a new assignment.

The 'Bureau' is the executive body of the SCHA for administrative tasks, and guarantees the financial and legal accountability of VOICE. The Bureau 2008 consisted of Wolf-Dieter Eberwein (President), Jean Saslawsky (Treasurer), Evert Van Bodegom (Secretary)

and Kathrin Schick (Director; without a vote). The Bureau met three times in 2008.

#### 6. VOICE Secretariat

The VOICE Secretariat is responsible for facilitating the implementation of the activities as indicated in the VOICE Annual Work Programme. It is also in charge of the financial management of the association, under the supervision and general control of the VOICE SCHA.

The core staff of the VOICE Secretariat in 2008 comprised the Director (Kathrin Schick), the Advocacy and Communication Officer (Paula Hokkanen) and the Administration Officer (Teg Malla). The Project Coordinator (Sonia Giannone replaced by Magali Mourlon in September) coordinated a DG ECHO co-financed project of capacity building actions for the benefit of DG ECHO Partners. We would like to thank Sonia Giannone for her dedication and commitment and welcome Magali Mourlon, who has joined the Secretariat. We also thank the very capable interns, Ciara Eustace and Molly Hurley-Dépret, who have supported the work of VOICE during the year.

#### 7. DG ECHO Grant Facility project

In 2008, VOICE implemented the project 'Supporting capacity building: Networking, Training and Coordination for humanitarian actors in Europe with a special focus on New Member States'. This action is co-financed by DG ECHO under the Grant Facility 2007. It started in January 2008 and finishes in March 2009. The main objective is to support organisational preparedness of European humanitarian NGOs by providing training and roundtables and raising awareness on humanitarian policy developments. The transversal focus on new Member States gave the network the opportunity to have a better understanding and knowledge of humanitarian actors in these countries. Also, VOICE has been able to enlarge its contacts and visibility in the EU-27. Thanks to this project, VOICE also reinforced its internal capacity as well as its role and external recognition in advocacy and networking.

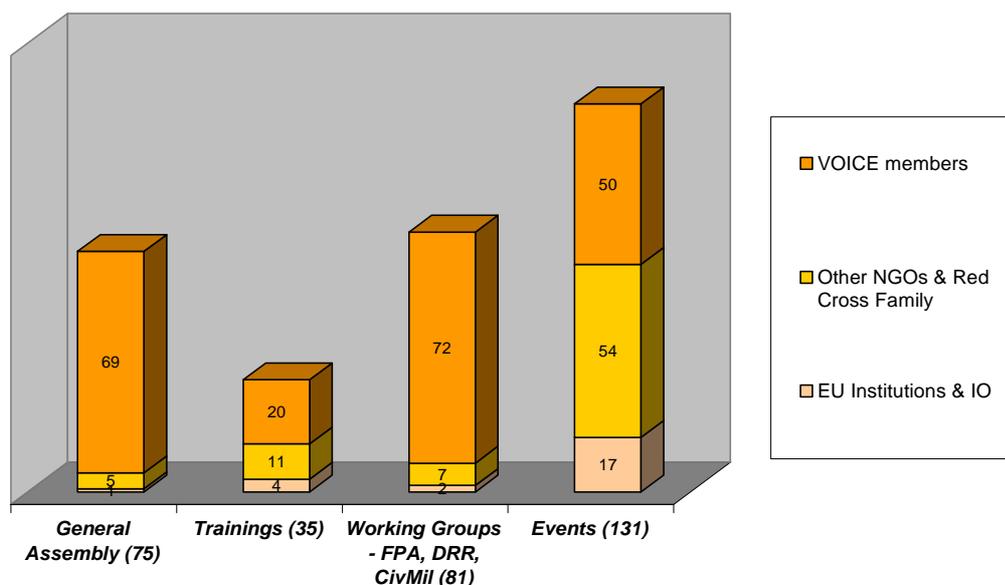
#### 8. Finances

Financial independence has always been of importance to the network. The core structure of three staff is therefore foreseen to be financed through the membership fees. In 2008, the total turnover of the VOICE Secretariat was € 424.878. This amount was made up of 61% membership fees and 39% from other sources.

## 5 – Statistics

In 2008 VOICE network consisted of eighty-four (84) European humanitarian NGOs. Around 50% of DG ECHO NGO partners are VOICE members. The statistics below are drawn from participation in VOICE activities, which are targeted at VOICE members or at European humanitarian NGOs at large. In addition, VOICE facilitates network's information sharing and advocacy as well as ensures liaising with European policymakers and other humanitarian actors.

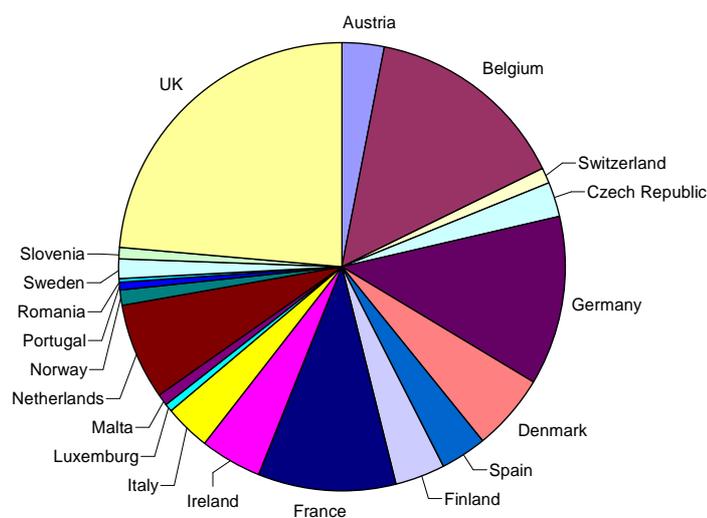
### Participation to VOICE activities in 2008

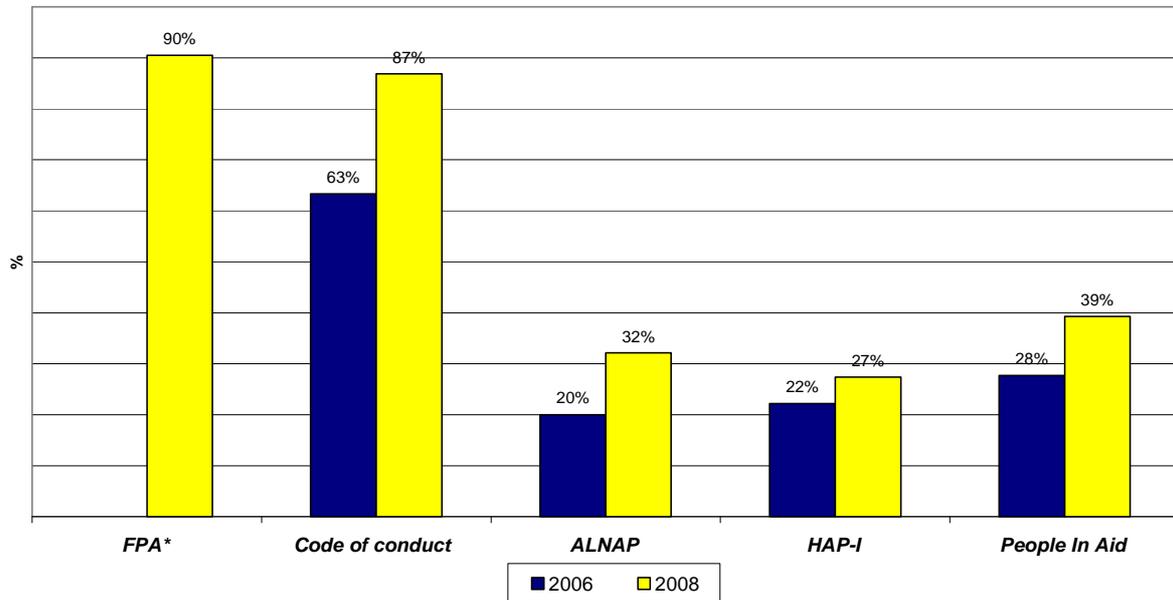


### Most active members in VOICE activities in 2008

FR	ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM
NL	ICCO - Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation
DE	DIAKONIE Katastrophenhilfe
FR	MEDECINS DU MONDE
IE	CONCERN Worldwide
DE	JOHANNITER-UNFALLHILFE E.V.
NL	CORDAID
BE	HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL
UK	CAFOD - Catholic Agency For Overseas Development
UK	MERLIN - Medical Emergency Relief International
DK	FOLKEKIRKENS NODHJAELP - DANCHURCHAID
FI	FIDA International
FR	SOLIDARITES
IT	CESVI Cooperazione e Sviluppo
UK	TEARFUND
UK	PLAN INTERNATIONAL UK

### Participation per Country



**Members' commitment to Quality and Accountability projects**

\* no baseline for 2006

The **Sphere Project** is not mentioned in this graph as it does not function through membership or subscription. More than 30 VOICE members are engaged directly or through other networks in the Sphere Management Committee. Many more are applying the Sphere Standards and the Humanitarian Charter in their work: 12 members benefited from Sphere trainings organised by VOICE in 2008.

## VOICE MEMBER ORGANISATIONS in 2008

### Austria

- CARE Österreich
- CARITAS Österreich
- Hilfswerk Austria
- SOS Kinderdorf International
- World Vision Österreich

### Belgium

- CARITAS Secours International Belgium
- Handicap International Belgium
- OXFAM Solidarité – Solidariteit Belgium
- Médecins du Monde Belgium

### Denmark

- ADRA Denmark
- ASF Dansk Folkehjælp
- Dansk CARITAS
- DanChurchAid – Folkekirkens Nødhjælp
- Danish Refugee Council – Dansk Flygtningehjælp
- Mission East – Mission Øst

### Finland

- FIDA International
- FinnChurchAid
- World Vision Finland

### France

- ACF – Action Contre la Faim
- ACTED – Agence d'Aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement
- CARE France
- CARITAS France (Secours Catholique)
- Handicap International France
- MDM – Médecins du Monde France
- Première Urgence
- Secours Populaire Français
- Solidarités
- Triangle "Génération Humanitaire"
- TSF – Télécoms sans Frontières

### Germany

- ADRA – Adventist Development and Relief Agency Germany
- ASB – Arbeiter Samariter Bund Deutschland
- CARE Germany
- CARITAS Germany
- Welthungerhilfe
- Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe
- Johanniter Unfall Hilfe Bundesgeschäftsstelle
- Malteser Hilfsdienst
- Medico International
- World Vision Germany

### Greece

- Médecins du Monde - Greece

### Ireland

- CONCERN Worldwide
- Trócaire
- World Vision Ireland

### Italy

- CARITAS Italia
- CESVI – Cooperazione e Sviluppo
- CISP – Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli

### Luxembourg

- CARITAS Luxembourg

### The Netherlands

- Cordaid
- CARE Nederland
- HealthNet – TPO
- ICCO
- NOVIB – Oxfam Netherlands
- World Vision Nederland
- ZOA Refugee Care

### Norway

- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

### Portugal

- Medicos do Mundo – Portugal

### Spain

- Acción contra el Hambre
- CARITAS Spain
- Intermón-Oxfam
- Medicos del Mundo
- MPDL – Movimiento Por La Paz, El Desarme y la Libertad

### Sweden

- CARITAS Sverige
- Church of Sweden Aid – Lutherhjälpen
- IAS–International Aid Services Sweden
- PMU Interlife Sverige
- Star of Hope International

### Switzerland

- ACT– Action by Churches Together
- Lutheran World Federation
- MEDAIR

### United Kingdom

- Action Against Hunger
- ActionAid UK
- ADRA UK
- CAFOD – Catholic Fund For Overseas Development
- CARE UK
- Christian Aid UK
- CORD
- Health Unlimited
- IRC UK – International Rescue Committee UK
- International Medical Corps
- Islamic Relief Worldwide UK
- Marie Stopes International UK
- Mercy Corps Scotland
- Merlin
- Oxfam GB
- Plan International UK
- Save The Children UK
- Tear Fund
- World Vision UK