

VOICE

ACTIVITY REPORT 2011

BRUSSELS, MAY 2012

The logo for the 20th anniversary of NGO VOICE. It features the number '20' in a large, dark blue, sans-serif font. To the right of the '0' is the word 'years' in a smaller, dark blue, sans-serif font. Above the '0' and 'years', there are several yellow stars of varying sizes, some of which are partially overlapping the letters.

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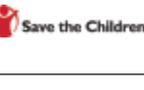
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ACRONYMS

ALNAP	Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in humanitarian action
COHAFA	Council working party On Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid
CONCORD	European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development
DEVE	Committee on Development (European Parliament)
DG	Directorate General (European Commission Department)
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EC	European Commission
ECHO	European Commission department for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection
EEAS	European External Action Service
EP	European Parliament
EU	European Union
FPA	Framework Partnership Agreement
GHP	Global Humanitarian Platform
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICVA	International Council of Voluntary Agencies
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
LRRD	Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development
MCDA	Military and Civil Defence Assets
MEP	Member of the European Parliament
MFF	Multi-Annual Financial Framework
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NOHA	Network on Humanitarian Action
Q & A	Quality and Accountability
SCHR	Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response
UN	United Nations
UNOCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
VOICE	Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies
WG	VOICE Working Group

INTRODUCTION



2011 was a challenging year for the European Union (EU) due to the financial crisis and market pressure on the Eurozone as a whole. This pressure resulted not only in spending cuts in several EU member states, but also in a renewed focus on effectiveness and efficiency among others in the aid sector. For NGOs, delivering a big share of humanitarian aid worldwide, a diversity of funding is important to support crises-affected populations. One priority area for the VOICE network in 2011 was therefore engaging in a number of initiatives related to funding: in the European Parliament with the Budgetary Control Committee, in advocacy for adequate EU funding for humanitarian aid when the EU started its discussions for its long term budget for the period 2014-2020 and with DG ECHO on the implementation of the Framework Partnership Agreement.

In 2011 the “Arab Spring”, provided an early test for the new EU set up for external affairs. The conflict in Libya triggered an international response and as the security situation worsened, the EU decided on April 1 to send military troops to support humanitarian aid (EUFOR Libya), if requested by UNOCHA and in accordance with the international MCDA guidelines¹.

In response, VOICE issued a position paper stressing that there was no need at that point in time for EU military assets in support of humanitarian aid, and that the conditions stipulated in the Council Conclusions should be respected. It is to be welcomed that member states respected the principles of the European Consensus for Humanitarian Aid and were consistent in their decision making, and it is to be hoped that this would also be the case in future crises. However, much remains to be done in order that EU member states’ humanitarian policies and practice reflect the principles of the Consensus.

With the number of disasters expected to increase, the EU continues to strengthen its crisis response capacity through developing its tools and mechanisms to complement humanitarian aid delivered through partners. VOICE in 2011 advocated for the importance of investing in Disaster Risk Reduction both via funding and programme approach, and started to collaborate with the development sector to push for making the so-called LRRD (Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development) approach a reality in the field.

Throughout the year, the network has deepened its good relations with the European Parliament, as well as with the Council Working Group for Humanitarian Affairs and Food Aid (COHAFSA). VOICE has continuously promoted the added value of NGOs in the humanitarian endeavour, brought their field expertise to the table and stressed the importance of the humanitarian principles, emphasizing that EU humanitarian aid must be given on the basis of needs alone.

A lot of time and attention in 2011 was also dedicated by members, the Board and external stakeholders to support and feed into the process of developing a new Strategic Plan for the VOICE network which will be guiding its work as of 2013, after approval by the General Assembly in 2012.

Overall 2011 was a busy year where, in a context of increasing political interest in humanitarian aid, VOICE enabled the views and concerns of NGOs to influence policy-making processes. As VOICE arrives at its 20th birthday the network remains highly relevant both to members and a wide range of stakeholders, not least the crisis affected populations who are the reason behind all our activities.

On our 20th anniversary, congratulations and gratitude are due to VOICE members, many of whom have been part of the network since its birth, and who have driven its growth and activity over the years. Many others also deserve thanks for the network’s success, including Presidents, Boards and staff who have contributed with their expertise, time and engagement over the years. In true network spirit, the VOICE of today is the result of the work of many.

Kathrin Schick
Director VOICE

1. Guidelines on the use of military assets in support of humanitarian action have been agreed by a large number of states, the UN, and NGOs: the Oslo Guidelines and the MCDA guidelines. The MCDA guidelines apply in a situation of war/conflict, the Oslo Guidelines apply in the context of a natural disaster.

1. ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

In 2011, VOICE advocated for principled EU humanitarian aid based upon the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, both at member state level and at EU institutional level. This was especially important since 2011 was the first year that the European External Action Service was fully operational, and the Libya crisis became its first major challenge to tackle. Moreover, the EU was also working on its architecture for disaster response, developing legislation for civil protection and the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps, which will complement EU humanitarian aid provided by NGOs, UN and Red Cross. Another major advocacy priority for VOICE was the future EU funding for humanitarian aid.

2011 also saw a number of major disasters in which VOICE members were active both through delivery on the ground and through advocacy, such as the conflict in Ivory Coast, the famine in the Horn of Africa, the floods in South-East Asia and the conflict in Somalia and Sudan/South-Sudan.

1.1 ADVOCATING FOR HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

In the context of financial constraint described above, the EU embarked on discussions for the next **Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF)**, which is a multi-year spending plan reflecting the Union's policy priorities. The forthcoming MFF will last from 2014 to 2020 and will determine the EU humanitarian aid budget for that 7-year period. Given that the European Commission (EC), together with the member states, is the largest humanitarian donor in the world, the outcome of these discussions is crucial for the entire humanitarian community and for disaster-affected populations worldwide. As such, the VOICE network has been, and continues to be, strongly engaged throughout the process.

VOICE members very actively engaged in the preparation of the European Commission's proposal for the MFF. The network gave a consolidated answer to the EC's questionnaire on the subject. In addition, members took part in consultation meetings, raising key arguments for the added value of EU humanitarian aid. In March, the network wrote to all EU Commissioners stressing the importance of a separation between the humanitarian budget of the Commission and the budget for crisis management, as independent decision making is crucial to ensure that EU humanitarian aid remains needs-based and impartial. This was also one of the key messages in the VOICE position paper, which was widely disseminated among EU decision makers:

- A separate budget line for EU humanitarian aid in the next MFF is crucial
- The EC humanitarian aid budget line requires a minimum of 7 billion€ in the MFF period
- The European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps needs to add value to humanitarian action
- A predictable proportion of funding from development instruments should be dedicated to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- The EU has to make tangible adaptations to its financial instruments, making them more flexible to ensure the effective transition from relief to recovery and development (LRRD)

The Commission's proposal, published in June, has a separate budget line for humanitarian aid, but gives too little attention to LRRD and DRR.

As the proposal was subsequently discussed by member states, VOICE advocacy focused at national level. In several countries VOICE members coordinated their actions, often through a strong engagement by VOICE Board members. The VOICE position paper was brought to the attention of relevant ministries, in cooperation with the national NGO platforms. This process will continue in 2012.

In a parallel process, the European Parliament (EP) developed its position on the MFF, through a special committee set up for this purpose. Meetings were held with two Members of Parliament (MEPs) involved in this committee. The final text of the committee clearly states that there is a need for more humanitarian funding in relation to the increased needs.

While the amount of funding is important, also the **mechanisms for disbursement of funding** need to match humanitarian reality. How humanitarian funding works is crucial to ensuring quality humanitarian aid, and is linked to important discussions around accountability, efficiency and effectiveness. This was the focus of the **VOICE event 'Money Matters: Humanitarian funding in the spotlight'** on October 17th which brought together over 120 participants from NGOs, EU institutions, UN and other international organisations. With speakers from Médecins du Monde, Handicap International and Oxfam, the panel discussion allowed stocktaking on the current state of funding for European humanitarian NGOs, as well as showcasing the operational challenges NGOs face in the field. The presentations emphasised the role of NGOs in shaping funding principles and mechanisms. The pros and cons of an increased emphasis on use of consortia were a particular theme for debate.

1.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN CONSENSUS ON HUMANITARIAN AID

The EU's core policy document for humanitarian aid is the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid (2007). After significant input by the network to the mid-term review of the Consensus Action Plan in 2010, its recommendations were reflected in the Council Conclusions and the European Parliament's resolution:

- Promotion of International Humanitarian Law (IHL)
- Reduction of administrative burden of EU financing to partners
- Consistent implementation of the Consensus by member states
- Facilitation of humanitarian-military relationships
- Improvement of EU mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Linking Relief Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD)

In the course of 2011, VOICE lobbied for their implementation and attention to most of these areas actually increased, with LRRD finally appearing on the humanitarian work programme of all three EU institutions in 2012 - a clear achievement after years of NGO advocacy.

In several EU member states VOICE members engaged with their governments in developing national humanitarian strategies with a clear reference to the Humanitarian Consensus. The Dutch government for example decided to revive its development of a humanitarian strategy, and a successful meeting with VOICE members led to a commitment to consult NGOs in the process. A similar commitment was made in France at the National Conference on Humanitarian Aid in November. At that conference, the VOICE Director stressed in her speech the importance of the Consensus as a solid reference for what professional humanitarian aid is about and as a tool to guide practice in member states.

Given the importance of the Consensus, VOICE member Caritas Europa launched a report '*Bridging the gap between policy and practice*', urging EU member states to apply the principles of the Consensus across all areas of government activity. Moreover, looking ahead, the report stressed the importance of an independent evaluation of the implementation of the Consensus in preparation of the new Action Plan after 2012.

1.3 INFLUENCING EU POLICY IN SPECIFIC HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

In 2011, the EU continued to further develop its response to crises worldwide. The **European External Action Service (EEAS)** officially started its work in December 2010 and built up its capacities throughout the year. A meeting between VOICE and the person responsible for crisis response



in the EEAS, Mr. Miozzo, took place as early as February, giving VOICE the opportunity to share humanitarian concerns.

The new EU set-up for external affairs was quickly put to a test in “the Arab Spring”. The **conflict in Libya** in particular led to intensive exchange between the EEAS, including the EU Military Staff, and DG ECHO, the humanitarian aid and civil protection department of the Commission. While humanitarian aid was being provided where possible, EU civil protection assets were used to evacuate European citizens and transport migrant workers seeking to leave Libya. As the security situation worsened, the EU decided on April 1 to send military troops to support humanitarian aid (**EUFOR Libya**), if requested by UNOCHA and in accordance with the international MCDA guidelines¹. In response, VOICE issued a **position paper** stressing that there was at that point in time no need for EU military assets in support of humanitarian aid, and that the conditions stipulated in the Council Conclusions should be respected. This position paper was very much welcomed by the humanitarian community and widely disseminated by members in Brussels and among national governments. UNOCHA did not consider at any point that EU military assets would have an added value in support of humanitarian aid, so EUFOR Libya was eventually not deployed. It is to be welcomed that member states respected the principles of the Consensus and were consistent in their decision making, and to be hoped that this would also be the case in future crises.

On another point, the VOICE network has regularly briefed **decision makers on disaster-affected countries**. During the Hungarian and Polish EU presidencies, the network shared NGO concerns from the field with the Chair of the Council Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) to inform member states’ discussions on Libya, OPT, Somalia, Horn of Africa, South Sudan and Afghanistan. NGO messages were also shared with MEPs going on mission to Haiti and Kenya.

1.4 THE ROLE OF CIVIL PROTECTION IN A STRENGTHENED EUROPEAN DISASTER RESPONSE

As civil protection became a part of the portfolio of DG ECHO in 2010, and is increasingly involved in disaster response outside the EU, the network followed developments closely. As a main stakeholder VOICE was invited to several consultations which took place in advance of the drafting of the EC legislative proposal on civil protection.

On May 16th, VOICE invited the Head of Emergency Response of DG ECHO as a speaker for its event. The event succeeded in fostering debate on the application of humanitarian principles in the field and increased the understanding of the different roles and mandates of humanitarian actors and civil protection.

In advance of the drafting of the regulation, VOICE was interviewed for an evaluation of EU civil protection work between 2007 and 2009, commissioned by the EC and gave input to two reports on the matter in the European Parliament. The main messages raised include:

- The use of civil protection assets should be based on humanitarian needs assessments
- The need to clearly distinguish between civil protection contexts inside and outside the EU, given that these are two entirely different realities
- The need to clearly distinguish outside the EU between natural disasters and complex emergencies, as in conflict situations the governmental nature of civil protection may pose challenges

In the draft Regulation released in December, only the last point was not explicitly addressed, despite clear guidance in the MCDA guidelines and the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid (art.60): *“in complex emergencies recourse to civil protection assets should rather be the exception”*.

To celebrate the 10th birthday of EU civil protection, the Italian government organised a conference on “Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Facing Disasters and Crises Together” on 11-12 November. Speakers included the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs and the EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection. In his intervention, the VOICE President pointed out that civil protection is an instrument of the foreign and security policy of states. It should be complementary to humanitarian aid and respect the Oslo and MCDA guidelines when intervening outside Europe. Lastly, the President drew attention to the issue of perception: how actors intervening in disasters are perceived locally and which consequences this has for their work with crisis-affected populations.

1.5 INFLUENCING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY HUMANITARIAN AID CORPS

The Lisbon Treaty foresees the establishment of a *European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps*, which aims to establish a framework for young Europeans to show their solidarity through participating in humanitarian aid operations of the EU. Volunteerism is a long-established feature of the humanitarian community. However, against the background of increasing humanitarian needs and funding cuts, VOICE has continuously stressed that the Corps needs to provide real added value in the humanitarian endeavour. The network has thus actively sought to influence the development of the Voluntary Corps.

In 2011 the Voluntary Corps has been increasingly prominent on ECHO's agenda as a legislative proposal setting up the Corps is expected in mid-2012. Several VOICE members were involved in the piloting process through projects aimed at exploring collaborative ways of selecting, training and deploying volunteers into a variety of field contexts. In parallel, the network's opinion as an important stakeholder has been sought; VOICE gave input to an online consultation and an impact assessment on the Corps organised by the EC. The network participated also in various events on volunteering including as rapporteur in the closing conference of the European Year of Volunteering organised by the Polish Presidency. Other speakers included the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DG ECHO, UN Volunteers, IFRC and Voluntary Service Overseas.

In May 2011 the Council of the European Union released its position on the Voluntary Corps, which reflected VOICE main messages. The Council stressed that the Voluntary Corps:

- Should support local capacities
- Should not to encroach upon the Commission's existing humanitarian aid budget
- Should provide added value to the work of professional humanitarian ECHO partners by addressing concrete needs and gaps in the humanitarian field

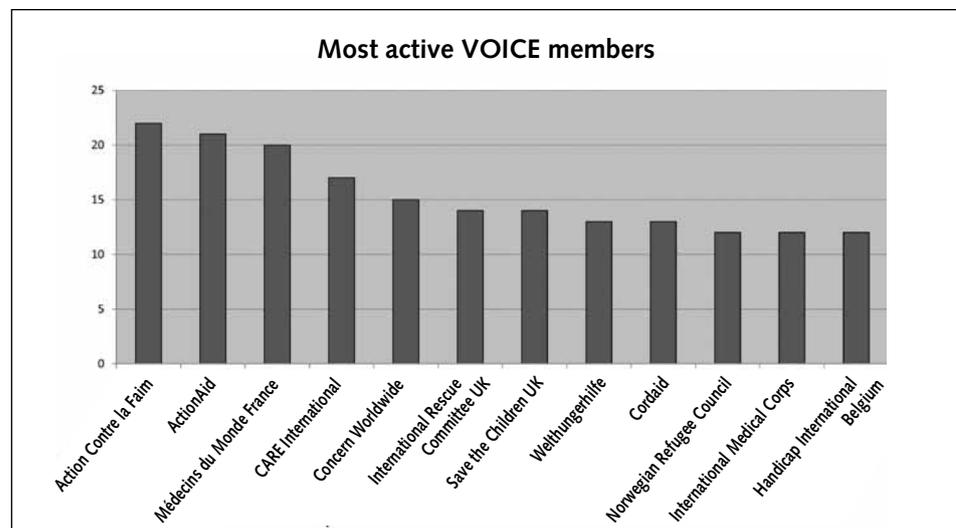
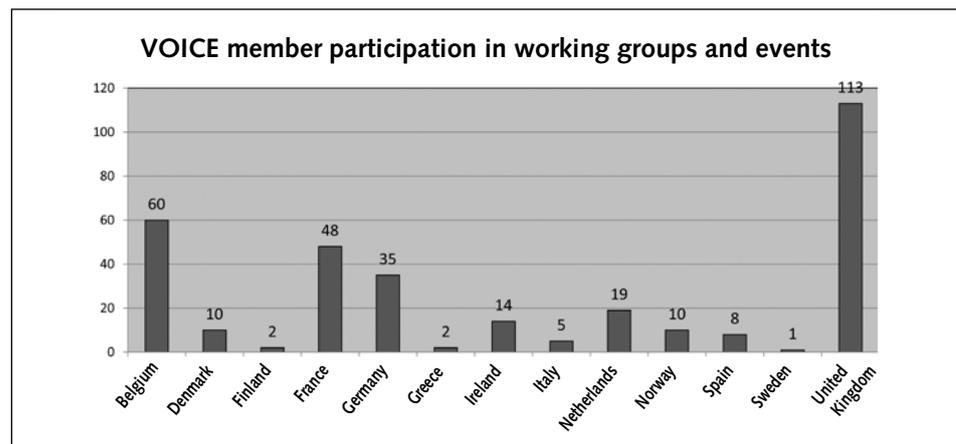
In its July position paper, VOICE welcomed these Council Conclusions and re-emphasized the need to guarantee that the Corps represents the best possible use of limited resources to provide EU assistance to crisis-affected populations.

2. STRENGTHENING VOICE MEMBERS' COLLECTIVE INFLUENCE: ONGOING ADVOCACY THEMES AND TARGETS

As VOICE members are active in a variety of contexts in humanitarian aid delivery worldwide, and specialised in different sectors, the network can build upon a wealth of professional experience and expertise. This is one of the strengths of the VOICE network and has over the years led to the credibility of the network's positions in a range of debates.

VOICE Working Groups (WG) bring together experts from VOICE member organisations to develop common positions generating well-founded positions for advocacy purposes and policy development. Exchange of information and best practice also take place on a regular basis. In 2011, the Secretariat facilitated working groups on the Framework Partnership Agreement, Disaster Risk Reduction and Civil-Military Relations. In addition, ad hoc Task Forces were convened to work on the Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) (see section 1.1) and Linking Relief Rehabilitation and Development, permitting the network to react to upcoming advocacy opportunities in a flexible and efficient manner.

According to a survey completed by WG members in November, 62% consider working groups to be a 'key benefit' of VOICE membership, while the remaining 38% view WGs to bring 'some benefit'. In 2011, 48% of VOICE member organisations participated in WG meetings, with a total number of 204 participations.



The positions, established through such coordination and collaboration, were brought to the attention of **decision makers in the European Commission, EU member states/Council and the European Parliament**. Long-established relationships with civil servants within these bodies facilitated exchange on common areas of concern.

2.1 ONGOING COLLECTIVE POSITIONING

2.1.1 The Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA)

The Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) governs the contractual relations between ECHO

and its NGO partners. The FPA Watch Group, facilitated by VOICE, has represented all ECHO NGO partners in the monitoring, review and consultation of the FPA for more than a decade. It remains a cornerstone of VOICE work and has strong engagement from NGOs. As the recognised representative of ECHO NGO partners, the Watch Group maintains an active dialogue with ECHO, including through regular meetings and by providing consolidated written comments to FPA-related issues and documents under development.

- In 2011 the Watch Group had 36 member organisations, six of whom were not members of VOICE. IFRC attends meetings as an observer
- Watch Group members represented 40% of ECHO NGO partners directly or via family groupings. The Watch Group as a whole is mandated to represent all ECHO NGO partners in its work towards common interpretation and consistent application of the FPA
- The Watch Group is led by a task force (TF) which met 8 times in 2011, including 3 meetings with DG ECHO. In 2011, the TF consisted of Médecins du Monde, Action Contre la Faim, Handicap International, CARE, Concern Worldwide, International Rescue Committee, International Medical Corps, COOPI and Mercy Corps
- In 2010, Watch Group members accounted for 67% of ECHO funding to NGOs, which equals 35% of all ECHO funding (to partners including NGOs, UN and Red Cross)

In keeping with its mandate, in 2011 the group continued to monitor and evaluate elements of the FPA application, and share NGO concerns with ECHO. Feedback on the difficulties of operating in consortia under the FPA influenced ECHO's release of *"Frequently Asked Questions on consortia"*. Results of a group survey on the impact of the new financing decision mechanisms (including the Humanitarian Implementation Plans) were shared with ECHO. Another survey assessed the impact of the introduction of the e-tool on NGOs working with ECHO, and presented recommendations for change to the e-tool system. Towards the end of the year, the group's interaction with ECHO began to focus on the revision of the FPA, and this will be the key area of work for 2012.

2.1.2 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Disaster Risk Reduction aims to minimize vulnerabilities and disaster risks throughout a society, to avoid (prevention) or to limit (mitigation and preparedness) the adverse impacts of hazards (UNISDR 2004). The last few years have seen increasing public and political recognition of the need for a focus on DRR, reinforced by countless high level statements and commitments, also at EU level. However, it seems to remain difficult to transfer these commitments into practice as well as corresponding funding.

The driving force behind the VOICE policy work on DRR is the DRR working group which in 2011 had 24 member organisations from 8 different countries, including the Global Network on Disaster Risk Reduction. Since it was set up in 2007, it has established itself as the main NGO reference point for EU institutions on DRR. The group's overarching goal is to contribute to and improve EU policy and practice on Disaster Risk Reduction, primarily within the context of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

In 2011 the Implementation Plan for the EU Strategy on DRR in Development Countries was released, and reflected key messages from the DRR Working Group. The group continued to push for commitment to ensure implementation via the Strategy's Steering Group, and relevant staff in DG DEVCO. In anticipation of DG ECHO's development of a DRR policy, the group also prepared input for use in the upcoming policy consultation process. The WG also supported the network's advocacy around the Multi-Annual Financial Framework via the development of DRR funding messages.

Besides functioning as a platform for developing joint advocacy, the group acts as an active forum for information sharing between NGO DRR experts across Europe. For example, the group exchanged views and engaged in common preparation and development of key messages in advance of Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery in advance of civil society strategy consultation meetings in London and Brussels. Exchange on DRR also took place with the US-based NGO forum Interaction, including in relation to the Global Platform.

There is growing recognition within the sector that, while reducing the risks of disasters makes sense on both humanitarian and economic grounds, natural disasters are just one of many factors driving vulnerability. Therefore, VOICE and its member ActionAid UK organised a **panel discussion "From DRR to resilience"** in London. The panel discussion explored how DRR relates to comprehensive resilience, with the aim of moving towards a common understanding of the increasingly prominent concept of 'resilience', including discussing different measures and barriers to applying the concept in practice. The event was well attended by representatives from NGOs, academia, networks and donors.

In November, DRR WG member CARE Netherlands co-organised an EU stakeholder workshop on the integration of DRR, Climate Change Adaptation and poverty reduction in the framework of a larger project on Resilience. As one outcome of the project, a handbook for policy makers will be published in 2012.

2.1.3 Civil-Military Relations

In the case of humanitarian emergencies in conflict settings, military forces and humanitarian actors each have different mandates, objectives, strategies, approaches, and accountability frameworks. Humanitarian civilian actors that are perceived as acting according to agendas other than their humanitarian mandate may lose their credibility in the eyes of local actors as well as the trust of the populations they are there to serve. This can severely affect their ability to operate and, ultimately, create security risks for their staff and for the aforementioned populations. Therefore, relations between civilians and military/combatants constitute a sensitive and complex issue to humanitarian NGOs.

On April 13, the Development Committee in the European Parliament organised a well attended **Hearing on 'The blurring of roles between humanitarian and military actors: state of play and perspectives'**, after continued requests by the network. VOICE members CARE International, Norwegian Refugee Council and Oxfam Novib were among the panellists, together with speakers from the EEAS, UNOCHA, ICRC, the EU military and DG ECHO. They discussed the consequences of the comprehensive approach on field operations and funding, as well as the role of the EEAS in relation to humanitarian aid and DG ECHO. All humanitarian actors stressed the tangible impact of adhering to the humanitarian principles on access to populations in need and the importance of following the Oslo and MCDA guidelines. Through practical examples from the field and engaging presentations, VOICE members were able to enhance the understanding of this topic among EU institutions' staff present.

In advance of this hearing, the VOICE Civ-mil Working Group (WG) had developed **advocacy messages** to be addressed to relevant EU politicians who are often the driving forces behind military deployment decisions in emergency settings. These messages fed into the VOICE position paper on Libya (see section 1.3). WG members also had a fruitful exchange on civ-mil policies within their organisations and their application in the field. In addition, structures for civ-mil exchange across member states were compared and current trends at national level identified, in order to explore national level action based on shared best practices. The group also put together a list of issues that they would like to see addressed in a forthcoming ECHO policy on civil-military relations. At the end

of 2011, the group agreed to meet when there are concrete policy initiatives to be influenced and/or advocacy products to be developed.

In 2011, VOICE also engaged in the IASC Informal forum on Civil-Military Relations and the IASC Task Force on Humanitarian Space and Civil-Military Relations. In September, the VOICE president gave a presentation at a forum organised by the Association of Austrian peacekeepers. In his speech, he stressed the professional character of humanitarian aid which surpasses technical dimensions, and reflected on the factors which will influence the potential future role of the military in natural disasters.

2.1.4 Linking Relief Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD)

Together with Disaster Risk Reduction, Linking Relief Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) is a cross-cutting issue of vital importance both for humanitarian and development NGOs. Therefore, VOICE initiated collaboration on these issues with CONCORD, the European network of development NGOs. As a first step, a jointly-agreed discussion note on LRRD was shared with the chair of the Council Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid, in advance of its workshop on LRRD. For 2012, it was planned to develop a common position paper on LRRD.

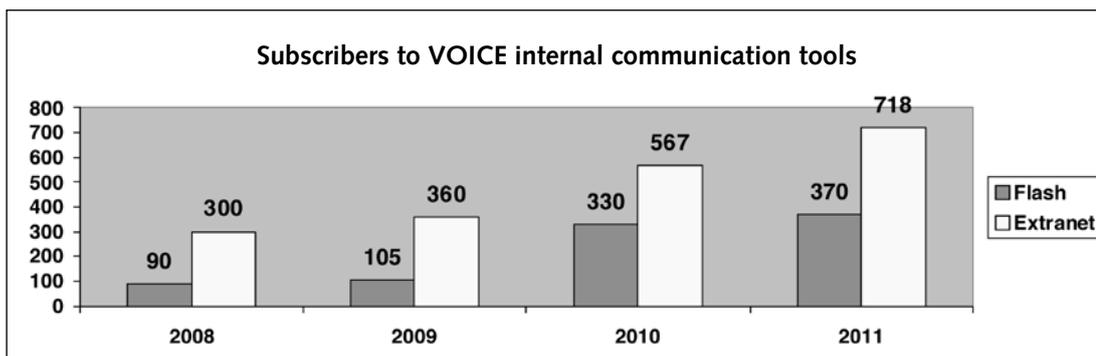
After more than a decade of NGO advocacy, LRRD finally appeared as one of the main priorities in the Danish presidency's programme for humanitarian aid, the EP development committee and the 2012 work programme of DG ECHO. This renewed political attention, in combination with the ongoing discussions on the future EU funding 2014-2020, makes common NGO advocacy on the issue all the more important.

2.1.5 Advocacy and Communication tools

Through the internal newsletter, "**VOICE Flash**", information is shared inside the VOICE network. The Flash is produced by the Secretariat to regularly update members on advocacy opportunities and activities and achievements of the network. As an example, the box demonstrates the progression of information shared on the Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) in the Flash throughout the year.

- **March:** Sharing information of wide variety of ongoing activities in campaign for independent humanitarian funding in EC MFF proposal
- **June:** Analysis of the results of the EC consultation "What funding for EU external action after 2013?"
- **July:** Analysis of the Commission's draft MFF proposal from a humanitarian perspective and explanation of the next steps in the process thus also identifying the key actors to lobby at the next stages
- **September:** Presentation of the updated position paper on MFF, new advocacy strategy and a new timeline for advocacy activities
- **November:** Sharing of good practices on MFF advocacy by members at national level
- **December 2011:** Stock-taking of the state of the MFF negotiations as well as on the advocacy activities of the network. Outline of feedback received on VOICE messages on the MFF, the outcomes of key EU events in autumn, intelligence on member states' stances with regards to EU humanitarian aid funding and explanation of the next steps in the negotiations under the Danish presidency

Another important communication tool is the **VOICE extranet**- an internal website for members only. It is a key means of sharing information on VOICE advocacy priorities, documentation for WGs, VOICE governance documents, as well as other useful reference material including a section on quality and accountability initiatives in the humanitarian sector.



In addition, the Secretariat develops **ad hoc support tools**. For example, the Secretariat produced several internal advocacy briefings for members in advance of them meeting Commissioner Georgieva in visits to member states. In addition, each six months an "Advocacy Flash" was developed to give an extensive update on the state of play of relevant policy processes with regards to the VOICE priorities. Lastly, a special "Advocacy Sheet" was developed to enable members to lobby the European Parliament (EP). It explains which powers the EP has, how it works and how it can be lobbied, using examples for each potential activity.

2.2 THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION: PARTNERSHIP WITH DG ECHO

During 2011 DG ECHO, the humanitarian aid and civil protection department of the Commission, saw some reorganisation due to the inclusion of the civil protection portfolio and a change of Director General in the middle of the year. The partnership approach between DG ECHO and its partners was re-confirmed at the Annual Partner conference which saw a high-level panel discussing common challenges to the humanitarian community including donors and partners.

VOICE reasserted its position as the main NGO interlocutor with the European Commission on humanitarian aid issues, mainly with the responsible Commissioner and DG ECHO. The relevance of the network as a focal point and facilitator of collective NGO action was also reconfirmed by DG ECHO through renewed financial support towards some of the network activities.

In February 2011, the VOICE Board met with the **Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Kristalina Georgieva**, discussing security issues and the comprehensive approach as well as the future EU budget. Also discussed was the issue of simplification of administrative requirements - which EU institutions have committed to in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid- as well as the drive towards consortia and larger projects. It was an open and constructive dialogue which led to regular exchanges with her Cabinet throughout the year.

Exchange with DG ECHO took place at several levels. At the VOICE General Assembly 2011, Director-General Zangl discussed with VOICE members the EU response to the crisis in Libya, the relationship between DG ECHO and the EEAS, the UN-led humanitarian reform, LRRD and consortia. In June 2011, Mr. Zangl was followed by Mr. Sørensen. A first exchange between him and the VOICE Board took place in July 2011 to establish contact and build trust for future cooperation. In addition, VOICE regularly exchanges with staff in the three directorates of ECHO.

Formal contributions to policy development were provided by VOICE on a number of occasions. In November 2011, VOICE was asked to bring NGO perspectives into the OECD DAC peer review of DG ECHO, which was being evaluated by two of its peers, Norway and Japan. The aim of these peer reviews is to give advice and recommendations on how to improve aid effectiveness and to share best practices. VOICE members presented a balanced view of positive elements and areas for improvement, which were well reflected in the resulting report.

VOICE also gave a consolidated input to the Commission's questionnaire on external action funding in the MFF and to a number of ECHO-commissioned studies such as the evaluation on humanitarian

access and on the participation of disaster-affected communities in humanitarian response. In addition, VOICE continued the exchange on the Food Aid Convention (FAC), including a meeting between members and DG ECHO as the mandated negotiator from the EU on the FAC.

Policy messages were of course also shared with DG ECHO and other relevant Commission services by the various working groups and task forces, as discussed in the sections above on the Framework Partnership Agreement, Disaster Risk Reduction, Multi-Annual Financial Framework and Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development. In addition, VOICE members and the Secretariat participated in a number of events which are closely related to operations, such as the Humanitarian Implementation Plan meetings and a roundtable on scaling up cash transfer programming in emergencies.

2.3 BRINGING VOICE MESSAGES TO MEMBER STATES

2.3.1 At national level

At member state level, VOICE members play a key role in ensuring that VOICE messages are known by the relevant sections in their government and national parliament. VOICE Board members often facilitate these efforts. Activities at national level are assisted by the VOICE Secretariat, which regularly gives briefings to link relevant EU discussions with national realities.

In February, the Secretariat gave a briefing on key EU concerns to the 'Commission Humanitaire' of the French NGO platform Coordination Sud, chaired by a VOICE Board member. This was followed by an exchange between French humanitarian actors and the Crisis Cell in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during which both EU and French humanitarian policy were discussed. Similarly, a Dutch Board member facilitated a briefing for Dutch VOICE members in June, after which a common meeting took place with the humanitarian unit in the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Key concerns were shared and the plan for regular exchange in co-chaired meetings was revived. In order to support advocacy on the MFF, a meeting between VOICE members in the UK was convened in London, together with a representative of the NGO platform BOND. This meeting subsequently led to more regular exchange on humanitarian issues with BOND. Lastly, a German Board member regularly brought EU humanitarian policy issues to the relevant coordination bodies, and in October the humanitarian working group within the German NGO platform VENRO invited the secretariat for discussion on current EU humanitarian debates. In addition, the President and the secretariat have given presentations and actively participated in numerous events organised by members, strengthening the visibility of the network at national level. Moreover, the VOICE Secretariat continued its outreach to NGOs in the "EU12", for example by meeting with the Polish NGO platform Zagranica Group and speaking at a conference organised by the Slovene platform SLOGA.

2.3.2 Through the rotating presidencies of the Council of the European Union

Another way of reaching out to and influencing member states' policy is through building up a strong line of contact with the rotating presidencies' Chair of the **Council Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA)**. The COHAFA brings together the humanitarian experts of the member states. In order to inform discussions on specific country situations, concerns from VOICE members are regularly shared with the Chair. Moreover, in February the Hungarian Chair invited VOICE member Oxfam and the VOICE Director to speak on humanitarian funding and the risk of instrumentalisation of aid. VOICE also shared messages in preparation of Council Conclusions on the mid-term review of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid Action Plan and on the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps.

In July, the Polish presidency organised a meeting on the Horn of Africa to discuss the rapidly deteriorating situation, affecting the lives of 12 million people. During the meeting, VOICE member Oxfam and several ECHO partners shared their concerns with the member states' representatives. The VOICE Director stressed the importance of adhering to the humanitarian principles and warned against establishing any kind of humanitarian corridors, in particular given the sensitive conflict situation in Somalia.

2.4 WORKING WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

In 2011, VOICE consolidated its relationship with the **Standing Rapporteur of the European Parliament (EP)**, Michèle Striffler, who was reconfirmed in this position at the mid-term reshuffle of the EP in January 2012. The main messages of the VOICE network were taken up in her report on the mid-term review of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid Action Plan, which was then voted as an EP resolution. Also the Haiti resolution of the EP reflected the contribution from VOICE.

Meetings were also held with other MEPs in the **DEVE committee** as well as with development advisors of different Parliamentary groups. This approach aimed to increase overall awareness of VOICE's scope of work in the DEVE committee. As a result there was a notable increase of requests from the EP for VOICE analysis and input for policy development, as well as in preparation of delegation visits to the field (e.g. to Haiti and Kenya).

Moreover, VOICE engaged in a strategy of **widening its support base in the EP**, including beyond the traditional humanitarian contacts. Relevant MEPs in the Foreign Affairs committee (AFET), the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety committee (ENVI), the Budget committee (BUDG) and the Budgetary Control (CONT) committee were targeted. For example, a meeting was held with MEP Brok of the AFET committee, in order to share the VOICE stance with regards EUFOR Libya and civil-military relations.

In June, MEP Ehrenhauser started an own-initiative report on **budgetary control of EU humanitarian aid** managed by ECHO. Given the importance of this initiative for NGOs, the secretariat engaged actively in the process and organised a meeting between the MEP's office and members, allowing for a fruitful exchange on the professional reality of NGOs and the experiences of the EC as a donor. Input was also provided to the draft report and the DEVE opinion on the issue. In line with VOICE messages, the final report stresses the importance of a realistic EU humanitarian aid budget and the need to preserve the delivery of aid through a diversity of professional humanitarian partners. In addition, the report calls for a reduction of administrative burden for FPA partners, as well as for concrete progress on LRRD through greater flexibility of existing financial mechanisms.

As mentioned above, VOICE has also shared points in preparation of a number of reports, studies and resolutions of the European parliament on Haiti (see section 1.1), civil protection (see section 1.4) and the MFF (see section 1.3).

3. OUTREACH AND VISIBILITY WITHIN AND BEYOND THE HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY

VOICE has built up a strong contact network with other humanitarian actors. Regular exchange is important to explore synergies, exchange information and look into possibilities to support each others' advocacy work. The network invited a number of humanitarian stakeholders to its Annual General Assembly and participated in several events organised by these organisations. Outside the humanitarian community, VOICE ensures visibility through the regularly updated website, VOICE Out Loud newsletters and media contacts.

3.1 COLLABORATION WITH HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

3.1.1 VOICE and Brussels-based humanitarian actors

In EU-capital Brussels, VOICE maintains a successful interaction with other key humanitarian actors, including the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the International

Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). Frequent contact enables ongoing sharing of perspectives on political and institutional developments.

At the Brussels launch of the IFRC World Disasters Report 2011, a VOICE Board member from Action Against Hunger UK presented the NGO perspective. A number of thematic meetings were organised between UN agencies and VOICE members, for example with UNOCHA on the leadership pillar of the UN-led humanitarian reform process, and with UNRWA (UN Relief Works Agency for Palestinian refugees) on the situation in the West Bank and advocacy in the EU on Palestinian refugees.

In addition, Brussels-based VOICE members have at times organised common meetings between the VOICE Secretariat and their counterparts in the field, resulting for example in an advocacy meeting with the South-Sudan NGO Forum.

3.1.2 VOICE cooperation with ICVA and SCHR in Geneva

Cooperation with other networks, including ICVA (International Council of Voluntary Agencies) and SCHR (Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response) is important to ensure complementarity of each others' work while avoiding duplication and raise awareness of important EU policy issues across the wider humanitarian NGO community.

VOICE has a longstanding relationship with **ICVA** which results in exchanges between Secretariats, Board and members. In the case of the VOICE position paper on Libya, such interaction resulted in a coordinated advocacy strategy, with ICVA releasing a complementary position to the one developed by VOICE, giving greater strength to the messages expressed. In May 2011, the VOICE Board and ICVA Board had a second joint meeting in which they agreed on a common position on the Global Humanitarian Platform and engaged in dialogue on the "responsibility to protect" doctrine against the background of the Libya crisis. They also discussed quality and accountability-related issues. On another occasion, VOICE ensured participation of its members in an ICVA-chaired exchange on the situation in Sudan.

In February 2011, VOICE continued its annual exchange with **SCHR** and gave a much appreciated briefing in Geneva to their Policy Working Group on EU policy developments, including the EC Communications released in the autumn of 2010. SCHR, VOICE and ICVA have also been active in the Task Force of the **Global Humanitarian Platform (GHP)**. The GHP is a forum bringing together the three main families of the humanitarian community - NGOs, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and the UN- and it is the only such Forum where southern NGOs participate. Despite many preparatory meetings, it was decided by the co-chairs of the GHP to postpone the high-level meeting of the GHP which was originally scheduled for July 2011.

While the VOICE network has a clear EU humanitarian focus, it obviously does not function in a vacuum. It participated in numerous events and exchanges to keep abreast of developments and ensure its work is seen in a wider perspective. A few are mentioned below:

- Annual Stakeholder Forum of the Humanitarian Futures Programme
- UNISDR exchange on DRR and climate change adaptation (CCA) in Asia
- ODI event on humanitarian partnership
- AIDEX, a trade fair and conference for humanitarian organisations
- CONCORD workshop on Civil Society Organisations and global justice
- Event from working group on violence against women in conflict
- Exchanges with USAID, the Humanitarian Forum, Solidar, Internews, European Network of NGOs in Afghanistan, Crisis Action, TAFAD...

3.1.3 Promoting quality and accountability in humanitarian action

VOICE promotes humanitarian **quality and accountability (Q&A) initiatives**. In order to demonstrate the commitment of the VOICE network to quality in EU humanitarian aid, an information sheet on the issue was released in March.

VOICE also spoke at the Brussels launch of the revised Sphere handbook, which updates technical guidance, takes increased account of protection and horizontal issues and includes an updated Humanitarian Charter. VOICE emphasized that besides being a practical guidebook for implementing humanitarian aid, the handbook can and should also be used as an advocacy tool. It can work as a great example on how humanitarian values and principles should be applied in practice. VOICE continued to be a full member of ALNAP and an Associate Member of People in Aid and publications and trainings from the Q&A initiatives are regularly promoted to members.

In 2011, VOICE frequently participated in discussions organised by the “**Enhancing Learning and Research for Humanitarian Assistance**” (ELRHA) initiative, including a conference in Geneva on Humanitarian Education and Training.

In addition, VOICE maintains a good relationship with the **NOHA network**, which brings together European universities for a master's degree programme in humanitarian aid. The network was represented on panels in the NOHA Intensive Programme in Warsaw and in the Fall School in Brussels. Raising awareness of principled humanitarian action especially among young people - the decision makers of tomorrow - is an important task. However, the time available in the secretariat for these activities is limited and only a selected number of requests could be attended (e.g. MSF conference in Berlin).

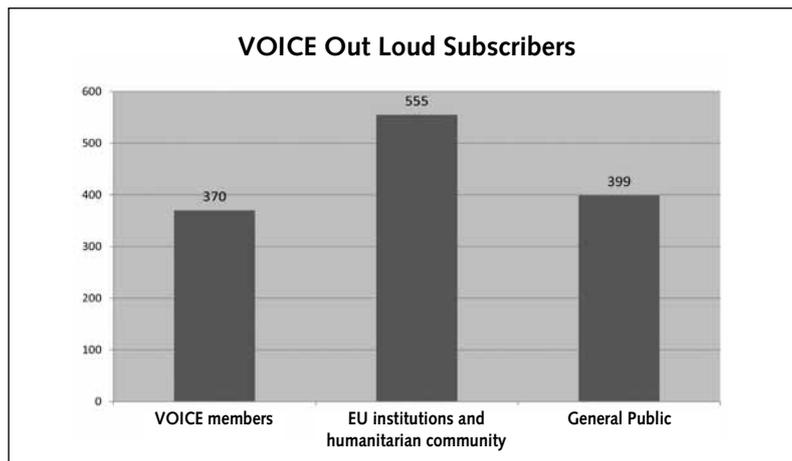
3.2 VOICE VISIBILITY THROUGH WEBSITE, VOICE OUT LOUD AND MEDIA

The **VOICE website** enables the general public to access information on the network, its purpose and activities, and highlights issues connected with EU humanitarian policy. The website acts as a multiplier to other advocacy and information activities and has seen a steady increase in visits over recent years. To increase the relevance of the website in demonstrating the continuous European NGO input to policy making, the network has nearly doubled the amount of news articles on the website compared to 2010. Through these news items, readers were able to deepen their knowledge on diverse issues such as VOICE members' recommendations to decision makers on the Horn of Africa crisis, priorities for action in the new Republic of South Sudan as well as VOICE members' first steps in pilot projects towards the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps.

The most widely disseminated product of the VOICE network is the bi-annual **newsletter VOICE Out Loud**. In the first issue of the year (Vol. 13) “**Is independent humanitarian action a myth?**”, operational NGOs reflected on the increasing instrumentalisation of humanitarian aid. The articles, written by VOICE members, demonstrated the tension between the humanitarian principles and the instrumentalisation of aid by donors, affected countries and armed forces, highlighting the consequences of this instrumentalisation trend for field operations. The issue also contained an interview with Ross Mountain, Director-General of DARA.

The second issue (Vol. 14) “**Partnerships for humanitarian aid**” was released in October and was widely distributed at the ECHO Annual Partner conference. Against the background of rising humanitarian needs, successful partnerships have become ever more necessary and important to effectively reach and support crisis affected populations. In this issue, VOICE members reflected on the various forms of partnership that NGOs have engaged in to achieve greater efficiency, including with other humanitarian and non-humanitarian NGOs, local partners, donors and the private sector. The issue also contained an interview with Commissioner Georgieva.

These two issues of VOICE Out Loud were distributed both electronically and as print copies to over 1300 people. The newsletter is also freely downloadable on the VOICE website, increasing further the number of readers per issue.



In 2011, VOICE maintained the level of **media exposure** from 2010, participating in public debates with top level decision makers and sharing VOICE opinions with journalists.

Together with VOICE member Oxfam, VOICE put out a press release raising concerns about a potential merger between the humanitarian budget of the Commission and the budget for crisis management. This was picked up by the media who further discussed the issue with Commissioner Georgieva.

Moreover, in November, the VOICE Director was interviewed by the European Parliament television on MEP Ehrenhauser's report on budgetary control of EU humanitarian aid, explaining that every euro spent was accounted for. Ms. Schick explained the in-depth pre-selection process of ECHO partners through the FPA and the detailed reporting and audit requirements, on top of the monitoring in the field. VOICE also contributed two articles to the European Parliament magazine, on Haiti and on the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps.

In addition, the VOICE President has written articles for various newsletters and papers, such as in 'Média et Humanitaire', in which he reflected on international solidarity, humanitarian actors and the future of humanitarian action.

Visibility is also achieved through **events**. In 2011, VOICE organised events on:

- EU civil protection
- Disaster Risk Reduction and resilience
- Humanitarian funding

More information on these events can be found in the sections above.

4. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS OF THE NETWORK

4.1 VOICE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Through individual and family representations, a total of 68 VOICE member organisations participated in the 2011 General Assembly, representing 82% of the total membership of the network. The GA also saw the participation of ICVA, ICRC and IFRC as observers.

The 2011 General Assembly re-appointed Sandrine Chopin and Brian Ingle for another term of office on the Board, and elected three new Board members: Jean-Michel Grand, Youri Saadallah and Joëlle Melin.

Among the key VOICE documents approved was the 2011 General Policy Resolution, which had a new approach compared to previous such statements. The aim of the 2011 Resolution was to clarify to external stakeholders which conditions had to be fulfilled to ensure an enabling environment for humanitarian action. The main messages stressed were:

- Ensuring respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and humanitarian principles
- Committing sufficient and timely funding to a diversity of professional humanitarian actors
- Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction (DRR) into development, recovery and humanitarian policies
- Ensuring the complementarity between professional humanitarian actors and other actors involved in disaster response

VOICE members exchanged in workshops on the challenges of the external environment for NGOs, how NGOs adapt to these and how they can be supported in this effort by the VOICE network. A prioritisation of the outcomes fed into the development of the next VOICE Strategic Plan.

Other policy discussions took place at the eve before the GA which provided an opportunity to learn more about EU civil protection, while during the GA itself VOICE members exchanged on a number of policy issues with keynote speaker ECHO Director-General Peter Zangl (see section 2.2).

4.2 VOICE NETWORK MEMBERS IN 2011

VOICE is a network focusing on EU humanitarian aid, and is the main NGO interlocutor with the European Union on emergency aid, relief, rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction. In 2011, the network was composed of 83 operational European 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 the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality. They are committed to follow the "Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in disaster relief" and the "Humanitarian Charter" from the Sphere project, 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. The great majority of VOICE members (98% in 2011) have a Framework Partnership Agreement with DG ECHO.

4.3 VOICE BOARD

The role of the VOICE Board 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 Board members contribute their professional experience on a voluntary basis, and as such represent the broader membership of the VOICE network.

The Board met five times in 2011, with several additional teleconferences. Much attention was devoted to the preparation of the forthcoming strategic plan, based on consultations with members and



external stakeholders and through discussing achievements of the current strategic plan (2008-2012).

Other priorities were the monitoring of trends as it relates to the policy issues, high-level interaction with the Commissioner and the Director General of DG ECHO, and membership applications. A common board meeting was also held with ICVA.

At the end of 2011, the VOICE Board was comprised of (on picture, left to right from the top) Evert Van Bodegom (ICCO), Dominic Crowley (Concern Worldwide), Sid Peruvemba (Malteser International), Sandrine Chopin (Handicap International France), Brian Ingle (Plan International UK), Wolf-Dieter Eberwein (VOICE President), Jean-Michel Grand (Action Against Hunger UK), Youri Saadallah (Norwegian Refugee Council) and Joëlle Melin (ACTED; not on the picture).

The Executive Committee (Excom) is the executive body of the Board which oversees the functioning of the Secretariat and guarantees the financial and legal accountability of VOICE. The 2011 ExCom consisted of Wolf-Dieter Eberwein (President), Sid Peruvemba (Treasurer), Evert Van Bodegom (Secretary) and Kathrin Schick (Director; without a vote). It met four times in 2011.

4.4 VOICE SECRETARIAT

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

The staff of the VOICE Secretariat in 2011 included the Director (Kathrin Schick), Advocacy and Communication Officer (Inge Brees) and Office Administrator (Riika Lempiainen). The Project Coordinator (Mags Bird) oversaw a DG ECHO co-financed project. An intern (Veera Haapaniemi) supported the work of VOICE during the first half of the year and then continued to work for the Secretariat in the capacity of Policy and Communication Assistant.

4.5 FINANCES

Financial independence is of ongoing importance to the network. In 2011, the turnover of the VOICE network as administered by the Secretariat totalled € 432 632. 68% of this was made up of membership fees and 32% from other funding sources. In 2011, VOICE received an operating grant under the DG ECHO Policy Support Decision as co-financing for the action titled 'Strengthening NGO networking through VOICE - enhanced cooperation for collective influence towards improved quality and effectiveness of humanitarian aid'. This provided resources for additional activities and services to members and DG ECHO partners, and enabled the network to increase its outreach and support to collective advocacy.

83 VOICE MEMBERS IN 2011

AUSTRIA

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

BELGIUM

CARITAS Secours International Belgium
Handicap International Belgium
Médecins du Monde Belgium
Oxfam Solidarité - Solidariteit

CZECH REPUBLIC

People in Need (PIN)

DENMARK

ADRA Denmark - Nødhjælp og udvikling
ASF Dansk Folkehjælp
DanChurchAid (DCA)
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
Mission East - Mission Øst
Save the Children Denmark

FINLAND

FIDA International
Finn Church Aid
World Vision Finland

FRANCE

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

GERMANY

ADRA Deutschland e.V
Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB)
Deutschland
CARE Deutschland - Luxemburg e.V
Deutscher Caritasverband e.V (CARITAS
Germany)
Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe
Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V.
Malteser International
Medico International
Plan International Germany
Welthungerhilfe
World Vision Germany

GREECE

Médecins du Monde - Greece

IRELAND

Concern Worldwide
Trócaire

ITALY

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

LUXEMBOURG

CARITAS Luxembourg

THE NETHERLANDS

CARE Nederland
Cordaid
HealthNet TPO
ICCO
Oxfam Novib
World Vision Nederland
ZOA Refugee Care

NORWAY

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

PORTUGAL

Medicos do Mundo

SPAIN

Acción Contra el Hambre
CARITAS Española
Intermón Oxfam
Médicos del Mundo

SWEDEN

Church of Sweden - Svenska kyrkan
International Aid Services (IAS)
PMU Interlife

SWITZERLAND

Medair

UNITED KINGDOM

Action Against Hunger
ActionAid
ADRA UK - Adventist Development and
Relief Agency
CARE International UK
CAFOD
Christian Aid
International Medical Corps UK
International Rescue Committee (IRC-UK)
Islamic Relief Worldwide
Marie Stopes International
Mercy Corps
Merlin
Oxfam GB
Plan International UK
Save the Children UK
Tearfund
World Vision UK

VOICE

VOICE stands for 'Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies'. It is a network representing 83 European non-governmental organisations (NGOs) active in humanitarian aid worldwide. VOICE is the main NGO interlocutor with the European Union on emergency aid, relief, rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction. As a European network, it represents and promotes the values and specificities of humanitarian NGOs, in collaboration with other humanitarian actors.