



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HUMANITARIAN AID OFFICE (ECHO)

Humanitarian Aid Decision
F9 (FED9)

Title: Humanitarian aid to vulnerable populations in Angola who are food insecure due to heavy rainfall

Location of operation: ANGOLA

Amount of decision: 800,000 euro

Decision reference number: ECHO/AGO/EDF/2004/01000

Explanatory Memorandum

1 - Rationale, needs and target population:

1.1. - Rationale:

The April 2002 ceasefire in Angola, after 27 years of civil war, laid the building blocks for a lasting peace in Angola. It also lifted the curtain which had hidden the true extent of the humanitarian crisis in the country, and triggered movements on an unprecedented scale of the most vulnerable population groups, IDPs and spontaneously returning refugees. According to Government and OCHA figures, up to 3.800.000 people have moved in Angola since the ceasefire, including 50.000 (UNHCR) refugees who have been repatriated in an organised manner and up to 150.000 who have spontaneously returned from neighbouring countries. Humanitarian partners in Angola estimate that 70% of the returns have taken place without any form of assistance from local authorities or humanitarian organisations to areas where the minimum conditions for resettlement were not in place. Tackling this situation has been the major challenge for humanitarian partners since mid-2003, when the nutritional crisis in the country was generally judged to be over, and the post-conflict transition phase to have begun.

In spite of this stabilisation, the food security situation remains critical in many areas where vulnerable local and returnee populations have only been able to plant once, or not at all, since the ceasefire. At the end of the 2003/2004 hunger season, and with the first harvest about to be gathered for many, the WFP estimates that 1.2 million people are still dependent on food aid.

However, unusually heavy rains in December, January and February – the heaviest for more than 25 years – have caused the failure of the maize crop in many areas of north-eastern Benguela, northern Huila, Huambo and Bié provinces, depriving up to 300.000 families of a harvest, of the possibility to recuperate seeds for replanting during the next agricultural campaign, and prolonging their food insecurity for another year.

At the same time, due to a decision by the Government of Angola to ban the entry of GMO maize into the country, which effectively halves the quantities of food aid available, and to a shortfall in donor funds, the World Food Programme has recently announced cuts in rations, particularly to beneficiaries who have been receiving food aid for more than two years. Thus, for example, 20.000 vulnerable people in Chipindo, north-eastern Huila province, will no longer receive the rations on which they depend for survival, whilst at the same time their crops have failed due to very heavy rainfall.

In other areas where crops have failed, humanitarian partners have already noted a worrying increase in admissions to therapeutic and supplementary feeding centres. In Caconda, for example, where the running of the TFC had been taken over by the local authorities as the patient numbers dropped to 10, admissions rose to more than 30 in April 2004, whilst the INGO-run SFC also noted a sharp increase in admissions coinciding with the end of the lean season and the lack of any prospect of a harvest. A similar phenomenon has been noted by partners working in the municipalities of Mungo and Bailundo in Huambo province.

1.2. - Identified needs:

The needs identified in the target area have been detailed in assessments by partners working in the field, summarized in the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS) update of April 2004 and by the Humanitarian Coordination Group meeting in Luanda on 30th April, and confirmed by ECHO during a field mission in April 2004.

Interventions in the following areas are required to support vulnerable populations experiencing crop failures :

- ❖ Nutritional support, including surveillance and monitoring;
- ❖ Agricultural inputs ;
- ❖ Food inputs.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

This decision will address the emergency nutritional and food security needs for up to 300.000 families, whether resident or returnees, who have lost their maize crops due to heavy rainfall in north-eastern Benguela, southern Huila, Huambo and Bié provinces. The nutritional activities will specifically target children and their mothers. Children and their mothers will also be targeted through the provision of agricultural inputs on a household level.

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints:

The perspectives are that additional funding will be required in the short-term to address the problems described above, and support vulnerable populations through the 2004/2005 agricultural campaign. The constraints to the achievement of the objective are the difficulties in access caused by mine and other UXO infestation, and extremely poor infrastructure.

2- Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:

2.1. – Objectives:

Principal and specific objective :

To support emergency nutrition and food security interventions for vulnerable populations in north-eastern Benguela, northern Huila, Huambo and Bié provinces who remain food insecure due to heavy rainfall

2.2. - Components:

- a) Nutritional support, including accurate tracking of emergency needs through nutritional monitoring and surveillance;
- b) Agricultural inputs, as and when appropriate, including to the recovery of agricultural production;
- c) Food inputs.

3 - Duration foreseen for actions within the framework of the proposed decision:

The duration for the implementation of this decision will be 12 months.

Humanitarian operations funded by this decision must be implemented within this period.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 01/06/2004.

Start Date: 01/06/2004

If the implementation of the actions envisaged in this decision is suspended due to *force majeure* or any comparable circumstance, the period of suspension will not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the decision.

Depending on the evolution of the situation in the field, the Commission reserves the right to terminate the agreements signed with the implementing humanitarian organisations where the suspension of activities is for a period of more than one third of the total planned duration of the action. The procedure established in the Framework Partnership Agreement in this respect will be applied.

4 –Previous interventions/decisions of the Commission within the context of the crisis concerned herewith

List of previous ECHO operations in ANGOLA				
Decision number	Decision type	2002	2003	2004
		EUR	EUR	EUR
ECHO/AGO/210/2002/01000	Global Plan	8,000,000		
ECHO/AGO/210/2002/02000	Emergency	2,000,000		
ECHO/AGO/254/2002/01000	Non Emergency	2,000,000		
ECHO/TPS/210/2002/16000*	Non Emergency	2,000,000		
ECHO/AGO/210/2003/01000	Global Plan		8,000,000	
ECHO/TPS/210/2003/07000	Non Emergency		5,000,000	
ECHO/TPS/210/2003/12000*	Non Emergency		8,100,000	
ECHO/AGO/210/2003/02000	Non Emergency		900,000	
ECHO/AGO/BUD/2004/01000	Global Plan			8,000,000
	Subtotal	14,000,000	22,000,000	8,000,000
	Total (y-2)+(y-1)+(y)	14,000,000	22,000,000	8,000,000

Dated : 11/05/2004

Source : HOPE

* Allocations for Angola from Southern Africa regional decisions

5 - Other donors and donor co-ordination mechanisms

Donors in ANGOLA the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria	0	ECHO	22,000,000		
Belgium	500,000	Other services			
Denmark	5,673,619				
Finland	2,400,000				
France	0				
Germany	7,978,072				
Greece	0				
Ireland	1,091,000				
Italy	0				
Luxembourg	0				
Netherlands	5,865,965				
Portugal	416,360				
Spain	0				
Sweden	7,075,774				
United Kingdom	0				
Subtotal	31,000,790	Subtotal	22,000,000	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	53,000,790		

Dated : 11/05/2004

(*) Source : ECHO 14 Points reporting for Members States. <https://hac.cec.eu.int>
Empty cells means either no information is available or no contribution.

6 –Amount of decision and distribution by specific objectives:

6.1. - Total amount of the decision: 800,000 euro

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives:

Principal objective: <i>To support emergency nutrition and food security interventions for vulnerable populations in north-eastern Benguela, northern Huila, Huambo and Bié provinces who remain food insecure due to heavy rainfall</i>				
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (Euro)	Possible geographical area of operation	Activities	Potential partners¹
Specific objective 1: To support emergency nutrition and food security interventions for vulnerable populations in north-eastern Benguela, northern Huila, Huambo and Bié provinces who remain food insecure due to heavy rainfall	800,000	Benguela, Bié, Huambo, Huila provinces	- Nutritional support - Agricultural inputs - Food inputs	- ACH- ESP - ADRA - DE - MDM - FRA - SOLIDARITES - ZOA
TOTAL	800,000			

7 - Evaluation

Under article 18 of the Regulation the Commission is required to "regularly assess humanitarian aid operations financed by the Community in order to establish whether they have achieved their objectives and to produce guidelines for improving the effectiveness of subsequent operations." These evaluations are structured and organised in overarching and cross cutting issues forming part of ECHO's Annual Strategy such as child-related issues, the security of relief workers, respect for human rights, gender. Each year, an indicative Evaluation Programme is established after a consultative process. This programme is flexible and can be adapted to include evaluations not foreseen in the initial programme, in response to particular events or changing circumstances. More information can be obtained at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/evaluation/index_en.htm.

¹ ACCION CONTRA EL HAMBRE, (ESP), ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY (D), MEDECINS DU MONDE, SOLIDARITES, (FR), ZOA-Vluchtelingen zorg

COMMISSION DECISION

of

**on the financing of humanitarian operations from the 9th European Development Fund
in ANGOLA**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000, in particular Article 72 thereof²,

Having regard to the Internal Agreement of 15 December 2000 on the Financing and Administration of the Community Aid under the Financial Protocol to the Partnership Agreement between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Community and its Member States signed in Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000, in particular Articles 24(3) and 25 thereof³.

Whereas:

1. Heavy rainfall earlier in the year has caused the failure of the maize crop in certain areas of Angola;
2. Up to 300.000 vulnerable families have been lost their opportunity to reestablish their livelihoods and recover agricultural production at household level;
3. Supplies of international food aid to many of the same areas have been cut, giving rise to fears of a further deterioration of the humanitarian situation;
4. The number of cases of children requiring treatment for malnutrition has increased greatly over the past two months;
5. An assessment of the humanitarian situation leads to the conclusion that humanitarian aid operations should be financed by the Community for a period of 12 months;
6. In accordance with the objectives set out in Article 72 of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement and Article 25(2) of the Internal Agreement it is estimated that an amount of 800,000 Euro from the 9th European Development Fund is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to up to 300.000 people, taking into account the available budget, other donors' interventions and other factors.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

² OJ L317 of 15.12.2000, p.3

³ OJ L317 of 15.12.2000, p.354

Article 1

1. In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of 800,000 euro from the 9th European Development Fund for humanitarian aid operations to vulnerable populations in Angola who are food insecure due to heavy rainfall.
2. In accordance with Article 72 of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective:
 - To support emergency nutrition and food security interventions for vulnerable populations in north-eastern Benguela, northern Huila, Huambo and Bié provinces who remain food insecure due to heavy rainfall

The full amount of this decision is allocated to this objective.

Article 2

1. The duration for the implementation of this decision shall be for a maximum period of 12 months, starting on 01/06/2004. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from that date.
2. If the operations envisaged in this Decision are suspended owing to *force majeure* or comparable circumstances, the period of suspension shall not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the implementation of this Decision

Article 3

This Decision shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission

Annex: Breakdown of allocations by specific objective

Principal objective: <i>To support emergency nutrition and food security interventions for vulnerable populations in north-eastern Benguela, northern Huila, Huambo and Bié provinces who remain food insecure due to heavy rainfall</i>	
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (Euro)
Specific objective 1: To support emergency nutrition and food security interventions for vulnerable populations in north-eastern Benguela, northern Huila, Huambo and Bié provinces who remain food insecure due to heavy rainfall	800,000
TOTAL	800,000

Grants for the implementation of humanitarian aid within the meaning of Regulation No.1257/96 are awarded in accordance with the Financial Regulation, in particular Article 110 thereof, and its Implementing Rules in particular Article 168 thereof.⁴

Rate of financing: In accordance with Article 169 of the Financial Regulation, grants for the implementation of this Decision may finance 100% of the costs of an action.

Humanitarian aid operations funded by the Commission are implemented by NGOs and the Red Cross organisations on the basis of Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) (in conformity with Article 163 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation) and by United Nations agencies based on the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA). The standards and criteria established in Echo's standard Framework Partnership Agreement to which NGO's and International organisations have to adhere and the procedures and criteria needed to become a partner may be found at http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/partners/index_en.htm

⁴ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) n° 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002, OJ L 248, 16/09/2002 and n° 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002, OJ L 357 of 31/12/2002.