



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HUMANITARIAN AID - ECHO

Primary Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision

23 02 01

Title: Primary Emergency aid to the victims of the earthquake and resulting tidal waves in Asia

Location of operation: ASIA

Amount of decision: Euro 3,000,000 (Euro 169,630 from budget chapter 23.0201, budget year 2004 and Euro 2,830,370 from budget chapter 23.0201, budget year 2005)

Decision reference number: ECHO/-AS/BUD/2004/03000

Explanatory Memorandum

1 - Rationale, needs and target population:

1.1. - Rationale:

On Sunday 26 December 2004, 00.59 h GMT, an earthquake in the Sumatra area, measured at 8.9 Magnitude at the Richter scale and qualified as the biggest in the last hundred years, hit South and South East Asia.

It set off a tsunami (tidal waves) hitting the coasts from Indonesia over Sri Lanka to the South of India and Bangladesh. Walls of water up to 10 m swept away everything in their path.

Communication lines are disturbed and information on casualties is scarce and fragmented.

Reports received so far indicate that in Indonesia the province of Aceh has been severely hit by the waves, sweeping away the fishing villages, leaving more than 400 dead.

In Sri Lanka up to 1,000,000 people are affected while all medical facilities in the coastal area have been destroyed. More than 2,300 deaths are reported.

Big parts of the Maldives are under water but few deaths are reported.

In South India, especially Tamil Nadu, 1,100 persons are reported killed, at least 400 fishermen are missing. In Bangladesh the waves were followed by a second earthquake

but reports are lacking. The Indian government dispatched airborne assistance and vessels to the Gulf of Bengal.

In Thailand's tourist resorts around Phuket several dozens of deaths are already reported while Malaysia reports 25 deaths.

Sri Lanka declared a national emergency and launched an appeal for international assistance.

Access to the flooded areas is limited, and with cuts to the electric and communications connections further reports on details and assessments are only slowly emerging.

Start date: 26/12/2004

1.2. - Identified needs:

Detailed information is lacking due to communications deficiencies and difficult access to the disaster zones. In-depth assessments are expected to become available in the course of the coming week.

The damage reports, including figures on wounded and dead, provide an increasingly dramatic picture as time passes and more affected zones can be reached.

The Sri Lanka Government launched an appeal for international assistance while the Maldives sought UNDAC assistance.

Aceh province is closed to international assistance and in practice only the Indonesian Red Cross is operational. It is reported that several villages have been destroyed by the waves. North Sumatra is reportedly also affected but detailed information is lacking for the time being.

Teams of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are on the scene and report that most urgently needed relief items include: medical care, shelter, bottled water and purification equipment. In addition, efforts for tracing missing persons should be deployed.

This is also confirmed in an appeal for assistance to be launched by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

In the coming hours ECHO will send its own team of field experts for further need assessment and coordination. At this stage, the ECHO teams are limited to collecting data from various sources and relying on broadcasts from the affected areas.

ECHO's partners in the flooded zones are trying to assess the situation and will be able to provide more detailed information in the coming days.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

Inhabitants of the affected coastal areas, notably in Indonesia, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and India.

Reliable information is lacking but at least 1 million persons are already affected in Sri Lanka.

Numbers of missing persons are not available but likely a great number of persons are drawn away by the waves.

1.4. – Risk assessment and possible constraints:

All figures on potential beneficiaries are estimations and may vary significantly in the coming days when results of assessments become available.

While Sri Lanka called for international assistance, the Indian authorities have not yet done so. In Indonesia's Aceh province access is prohibited for most of the international organisations.

Communication and access lines being broken, logistic problems due to distance and scarce products available locally could require additional resources for implementation.

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:

2.1. - Objectives:

Principal objective :

Primary Emergency aid to the victims of the earthquake and resulting tidal waves in Asia

Specific objective :

Provision of life-saving support to victims of the earthquake and resulting tidal waves

2.2. - Components:

- Providing emergency relief assistance for the victims of the earthquake and resulting tidal waves, including purification equipment, food parcels, blankets, sets of kitchen sets, tents, heaters, stoves and hygienic kits.
- Assisting local health services by providing medical personnel, medical equipment and supplies, field hospitals and emergency rehabilitation of medical structures.
- Providing tools for tracing missing persons.

3 - Duration expected for actions in the proposed Decision:

The duration of humanitarian aid operations shall be 3 months.

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 humanitarian aid operations.

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 - Other donors and donor co-ordination mechanisms

Donors in BANGLADESH/INDONESIA/INDIA/SRI LANKA/MALDIVES/MYANMAR the last 12 months

1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria	0	ECHO	27,399,667		
Belgium	300,000	Other services			
Denmark	4,260,209				
Finland	430,000				
France	355,935				
Germany	4,528,618				
Greece	50,000				
Ireland	75,000				
Italy	0				
Luxembourg	250,000				
Netherlands	4,491,000				
Portugal	0				
Spain	0				
Sweden	2,960,680				
United Kingdom	0				
Subtotal	17,701,442	Subtotal	27,399,667	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	45,101,109		

Dated : 26/12/2004

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

5 - Amount of decision and distribution of funding by specific objectives:

5.1. - Total amount of the decision: Euro 3,000,000.

5.2 – Distribution by specific objectives.

Principal objective: <i>Primary Emergency aid to the victims of the earthquake and resulting tidal waves in Asia</i>			
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (Euro)	Geographical area of operation	Potential partners¹
Specific objective 1: Provision of life-saving support to victims of the earthquake and resulting tidal waves	3,000,000	South and South East Asia	- CROIX-ROUGE - FICR-IFCR-CH
TOTAL: 3,000,000			

¹ FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT ROUGE

COMMISSION DECISION

of

on the financing of primary emergency humanitarian aid operations from the general budget of the European Union in ASIA**THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,**

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,
Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid², and in particular Article 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) South and South East Asia have been affected by a violent earthquake followed by tidal waves on the 26 December 2004, estimated at a magnitude of 8.9 on Richter scale,
- (2) The epicentre being localised at the Indonesian island Sumatra, the earthquake has provoked tidal waves which have broken on the coasts of South and South East Asia notably on the coasts of Indonesia, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and the Maldives, provoking huge material damage and claiming many victims (dead and injured, homeless),
- (3) Victims are in urgent need of medical assistance, water and food supplies and emergency shelter,
- (4) The duration of humanitarian aid operations financed by this decision will be of a maximum of 3 months,
- (5) It is estimated that an amount of Euro 3,000,000 (Euro 169,630 from budget chapter 23.0201, budget year 2004 and Euro 2,830,370 from budget chapter 23.0201, budget year 2005) of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to the victims of the earthquake and resulting tidal waves in Asia, notably in Indonesia, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka Myanmar and the Maldives, taking into account the available budget, other donors' interventions and other factors.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of Euro 3,000,000 for primary emergency humanitarian aid operations to provide the necessary assistance and relief to the victims of the earthquake and resulting tidal waves in Asia, notably in Indonesia, Bangladesh,

² OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6

India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and the Maldives, from the budget line 23 02 01 of the 2004 budget (Euro 169,630) and the 2005 budget (Euro 2,830,370) of the European Union.

2. In accordance with article 2 (a), of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the humanitarian operations will be implemented in the framework of the following specific objective:
 - Provision of life-saving support to victims of the earthquake and resulting tidal waves

Article 2

1. The implementation of humanitarian aid operations funded by this decision shall have a maximum duration of 3 months from their start date.
2. Expenditure under this decision is eligible from 26 December 2004.
3. If the actions envisaged in this decision are suspended due to *force majeure* or comparable circumstances, the period of suspension will not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the humanitarian aid operations.

Article 3

1. This decision shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission