



## **Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision**

23 02 01

Title: Emergency Assistance to the victims of Hurricane Jeanne

Location of operation: BAHAMAS

Amount of Decision: Euro 480,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/BHS/BUD/2004/01000

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### **Explanatory Memorandum**

#### **1 - Rationale, needs and target population.**

On 25th September, Hurricane Jeanne directly hit Abacos Island and then Grand Bahama Island in the north western Bahamas while strengthening to a category three hurricane. This hurricane came just barely two months after Hurricane Frances, another category 3 hurricane, which had hit the archipelago on 31st of August.

The communities of the islands of Abaco, Grand Bahama and Eleuthera had not completed the repairs of their homes, and the Government was slowly rehabilitating the different public services such as water distribution, electricity and clinics when hurricane Jeanne hit those islands. The damages caused by this second hurricane were thus more substantial than would have been expected as the level of physical vulnerability was much higher. The infrastructure of roads suffered significant damage. Electricity and water distributions systems were badly damaged by the hurricane in the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama.

The health situation is being restored by the Government and there are no outstanding needs for external support. Nonetheless, the vulnerable population, mostly Haitians, lives in a poorly controlled health and sanitation environment. This is a structural problem that was aggravated by the impact of the hurricane.

#### **1.2. - Identified needs:**

The Haitian population (estimated between 2,000 and 3,000 families in Abaco, Grand Bahama and Eulethera Islands) which has no access to clean potable water and sanitation facilities saw their houses were destroyed or damaged by the hurricane, and lost most of their personal belongings. In addition, a large part of this population has lost its sources of income because of the closure of business and farms for repairs. The high prices of goods, food and

bottled water in the country mean that the Haitian population has major problems to cover their basic needs. The Government has not provided sufficient support to this population and there is no local raise funding capacity to respond to their needs.

The needs identified are shelter (rehabilitation and reconstruction of houses), rehabilitation of damaged health centers, support for preventive health (sanitation, good hygiene practices, hygiene kits), food and water.

### 1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

Needs have been covered for most of the Bahamian families with private donations and with local resources which is not the case for the Haitian communities. Therefore, most of the Haitian population living on the islands of Abaco, Grand Bahama and Eulethera still requires emergency assistance. The total affected population requiring assistance is estimated at 15,000 persons (mainly Haitians immigrants) in the islands mentioned above.

### 1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints:

The targeted Haitian population are illegal immigrants surviving on clandestine employment. Implementing an aid programme to their benefit requires that the government does not change its policy of relative tolerance.

## **2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed.**

### 2.1. - Objectives:

#### Principal objective:

To preserve lives during the emergency caused by hurricane Jeanne in the Bahamas.

#### Specific objectives:

To provide emergency assistance to hurricane victims in the sectors of food, non food items, health and shelter.

### 2.2. - Components:

- Shelter (material for roof repair)
- Primary health (emergency health and vector control)
- Food distributions
- Non food distributions

## **3 - Duration expected for actions in the proposed Decision.**

The duration of humanitarian aid operations shall be 6 months from their starting date. Expenditure shall be eligible as from 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 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 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. In this respect the procedures established in the general conditions of the specific agreement will be applied.

**4 - Previous interventions/Decisions of the Commission within the context of the current crisis.**

None.

**5 - Other donors and donor co-ordination mechanisms.**

No donations from EU Member States.

**USAID/OFDA** has given support for aerial reconnaissance as well as in kind support:

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Bahamas Red Cross	Emergency relief activities	Abaco, Grand Bahama	50,000 USD
US Embassy	Air transport, distribution of emergency relief supplies	Countrywide	100,000 USD
Multiple	Emergency relief supplies	Countrywide	212,084 USD
Multiple	Airlift of emergency relief supplies	Countrywide	82,683 USD
Multiple	Reconstruction and Rehabilitation	Countrywide	3,504,406 USD
<b>Total</b>			<b>4,210,118 USD</b>

## 6 - Amount of Decision and distribution of funding by specific objectives:

6.1. - Total amount of the Decision: Euro 480,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

<b>Principal objective:</b> <i>To preserve lives during the emergency caused by hurricane Jeanne in the Bahamas</i>			
<b>Specific objectives</b>	<b>Allocated amount by specific objective (Euro)</b>	<b>Geographical area of operation</b>	<b>Potential partners<sup>1</sup></b>
Specific objective 1: To provide emergency assistance to hurricane victims in the sectors of food, non food items, health and shelter	480,000	Abaco, Grand Bahama and Eulethera	- CROIX-ROUGE - FICR-IFCR-CH - PAHO
TOTAL:480,000			

## 7 –Budget Impact article 23 02 01

	CE (in Euro)
Initial Available Appropriations for 2004	472 000 000
Supplementary Budgets	- 3 700 000
Transfers	-
<b>Total Available Credits</b>	<b>468 300 000</b>
Total executed to date (by 26.10.2004)	434 211 489,78
Available remaining	34 088 510,22
<b>Total amount of the Decision</b>	<b>480,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT ROUGE, PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANISATION  
ECHO/BHS/BUD/2004/01000

## COMMISSION DECISION

of

### on the financing of emergency humanitarian operations from the general budget of the European Union in BAHAMAS

#### 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 aid<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 13 thereof,

Whereas: .

- 1) On 25 September, 2004 the Bahamas were struck by Hurricane Jeanne causing substantial destructions;
- 2) Some 15,000 persons are estimated to be in need of assistance;
- 3) Humanitarian aid operations financed by this Decision should be of a maximum duration of 6 months.
- 4) It is estimated that an amount of 480,000 Euro from budget line 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations affected by Hurricane Jeanne taking into account the available budget, other donors' contributions 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 480,000 Euro for emergency humanitarian aid operations to provide the necessary assistance and relief to people in the Bahamas by using line 23 02 01 of the 2004 budget of the European Union.
2. In accordance with Article 2 (a) of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective:
  - To provide emergency assistance to hurricane victims in the sectors of food, non food items, health and shelter.

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<sup>2</sup> OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6  
ECHO/BHS/BUD/2004/01000

*Article 2*

1. The implementation of humanitarian aid operations funded by this Decision shall have a maximum duration of 6 months from their starting date. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 1st of October, 2004.
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 humanitarian aid operations.

*Article 3*

This Decision shall take effect on the date of its adoption

Done at Brussels,

*For the Commission*

*Member of the Commission*