



## **Humanitarian Aid Decision**

23 02 01

Title: Commission Decision concerning humanitarian aid in favour of the people of Bangladesh affected by floods in September 2004

Location of operation: BANGLADESH

Amount of decision: 2,000,000 euro

Decision reference number: ECHO/BGD/BUD/2004/02000

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### **Explanatory Memorandum**

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

##### **1.1. - Rationale:**

The 2004 monsoon season started in Bangladesh in the middle of June. The flooding was considered to be serious during July when it became clear that the rivers were rising higher than during the same period in previous years. Low-lying Bangladesh, where over 50% of the 130 million population lives below the poverty line, is criss-crossed by a network of 230 rivers including several major arteries carrying melting ice from the Himalayas. Flooding affects at least 20% of the country every year.

The rivers in Bangladesh and northern India (Brahmaputra and Ganges basins) continued to rise throughout the month of July, seriously affecting large numbers of people. The flooding caused some loss of life and large scale damage to livelihoods. About 34 Million people were affected at the peak when about 60% of the country was under water. The damage included loss of crops, serious erosion of property, destruction of livestock, food and tools and the pollution of both surface water supplies and wells.

The Bangladesh Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) is a government agency that constantly monitors the height of water levels in almost 100 places around the country. It gave warnings as the floods worsened and by the end of July at least 60% of the country was inundated. The unusually heavy rain caused flooding in the upstream Indian states of Assam and Bihar that came down to the Bangladeshi delta and added to the floods in Bangladesh.

Initially the governments of India and Bangladesh did not appeal for international assistance but were willing to allow aid agencies to provide assistance on the ground.

As a result of an ECHO fact-finding mission on 15/07/04, ECHO launched an emergency decision (ECHO/-AS/BUD/2004/01000) for €4,000,000 to provide immediate assistance to flood victims, with €3,000,000 being for Bangladesh. This decision was adopted on 3/08/04 and is now being implemented by the chosen partners.

During September 2004 the monsoon rains again reached excessive levels, causing a second wave of floods that particularly affected the south west of the country, an area not usually affected by the regular flooding cycle.

On 24/09/04 ECHO again sent a Technical Assistant to report and make recommendations. The report indicates that although the South West of the country was hardest hit the whole of the country is still in dire need of assistance. The report suggests the following actions: High nutritional supplementary feeding for vulnerable groups, distribution of non-food items and water purification tablets, primary health care through mobile medical teams, rehabilitation of damaged housing and sanitation facilities and the possibility for landless farmers to earn cash.

#### 1.2. - Identified needs:

This second wave of flooding has added to the trail of devastation left by the flash floods and river erosion leaving a large number of people in a vulnerable situation.

The food and fodder stocks, having already been largely destroyed in the first wave of floods, have again been affected by the floods. Livestock losses are difficult to estimate but the stocks remaining after the previous floods have been further affected.

Shelter has been affected as the inundation of large parts of the country has left the housing stock severely damaged and in some cases completely destroyed. People are currently being housed in makeshift shelters with their houses in urgent need of repair.

The water and sanitation system has been seriously affected by the floods. Drinking water, primary healthcare and promotion of hygiene are necessary as precautionary measures against possible epidemics.

Long-term flood damage includes the loss of the expected harvest and the ability to provide seeds for the following year. The floods have damaged large areas with the additional result that the daily wage labourers will see a reduction in work available. The current crisis should be alleviated by the immediate supply of food supplements together with the stabilising effect of cash for work rehabilitation

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

The present decision will benefit the rural population living in the most flood affected districts of the newly flooded areas of the south west while continuing to provide help in central and northern Bangladesh. The target groups of this Decision are the most vulnerable women, men, children and disabled persons affected by the floods. They have been identified by the potential partners as follows:

WFP identified about 400,000 direct beneficiaries in 6 districts for the Supplementary Feeding Programme. OXFAM identified 7,600 beneficiaries in 4 districts Jessore, Shakthira, Faridpor and Rajbari. TDH-I identified 5,000 families living in slum dwellings as being in need of health, shelter, non-food items and water and sanitation. Danchurch Aid have identified 1,800 families as being the most vulnerable, being landless and marginal farmers, women headed households and people living low-lying areas in the districts of Kurigram and Nilphamari.

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

This is the second serious flood of the season which is now receding. The damage is extensive and as the population is not in a position to recover easily it remains extremely vulnerable and in need of support..

In addition to floods Bangladesh is liable to be affected by tropical storms and would be badly affected in the event of such a disaster.

Serious food shortages could adversely affect the civil situation further. The level of social disaffection could increase in the event of widespread shortages or famine.

Coordination between the INGOs, thanks to ECHO initiatives, is considered important by ECHO. The ECHO Office in New Delhi has taken steps to avoid geographical and sector based duplication in Bangladesh.

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

### **2.1. – Objectives:**

Principal objective

To respond to the humanitarian needs of the people of Bangladesh affected by the 2004 monsoon floods

Specific objective:

To support the recovery from the 2004 floods through emergency relief, property rehabilitation, medical aid and support of lost livelihoods

### **2.2. - Components:**

The objectives will be met through the following activities:

Nutritionally fortified supplementary food aid (WSB, CSB, high-energy biscuits) to be distributed to those in the greatest need, specifically targeting vulnerable groups (pregnant/lactating women and children under-5).

Immediate water and sanitation support, consisting of water purification tablets and powder (chlorine, potash alum) followed by improvements of protected tube wells and improved pit latrines.

Appropriate Primary Health Care interventions that include basic hygiene education, the provision of essential medicines and the establishment of mobile medical teams.

Provision of short term shelters for those whose houses are either seriously damaged or destroyed followed by rehabilitation.

Supply of fodder for animals and livelihood protection for farmers, whose crops and livestock are affected through seeds, tools, fishing nets, etc

Rehabilitation and flood resistant works to damaged housing, water supplies and latrines to be carried out through Food-for-work or Cash-for-work schemes targeting vulnerable groups, particularly landless farmers who rely on labour for their income.

These activities should result in the most vulnerable having sufficient food to last until the next harvest.

## **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 01/10/2004

Start Date: 01/10/2004

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.



## 5 - Other donors and donor co-ordination mechanisms

Coordination with other donors in the field has so far been successful. ECHO held a partners meeting in June in preparation for problems and subsequently funded an emergency decision in July for €4,000,000, €3,000,000 of which was for Bangladesh. This decision has been taken after consultation in September with the Head of EC Delegation, UN agencies, the Red Cross family and international NGOs, in Dhaka.

Donors in BANGLADESH the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria	0	ECHO	4,548,000		
Belgium	300,000	Other services			
Denmark	0				
Finland	0				
France	0				
Germany	769,968				
Greece	50,000				
Ireland	75,000				
Italy	0				
Luxembourg	250,000				
Netherlands	1,494,000				
Portugal	0				
Spain	0				
Sweden	2,771,280				
United Kingdom	0				
Subtotal	5,710,248	Subtotal	4,548,000	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	10,258,248		

Dated : 25/10/2004

(\*) 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: 2,000,000 euro

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

<b>Principal objective:</b> <i>To respond to the humanitarian needs of the people of Bangladesh affected by the 2004 monsoon floods</i>				
<b>Specific objective</b>	<b>Allocated amount (Euro)</b>	<b>Possible geographical area of operation</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Potential partners<sup>1</sup></b>
To support the recovery from the 2004 floods through emergency relief, property rehabilitation, medical aid and support of lost livelihoods	2,000,000	Flood affected areas of Bangladesh	Distribution of fodder, food, NFI and medical help. Shelter provision Rehabilitation of latrines, wells and houses (CFW)	- DANCHURCH AID - DNK - OXFAM - UK - TERRE DES HOMMES (TDH) - ITA - UN - WFP-PAM
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>			

## 7 –Evaluation

Under article 18 of Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid 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](http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/evaluation/index_en.htm).

<sup>1</sup> FOLKEKIRKENS NODHJAELP, (DNK), FONDAZIONE TERRE DES HOMMES ITALIA ONLUS, OXFAM (GBR), UNITED NATIONS - WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

## 8 –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 .28/10/04.)	434,691,499
Available remaining	33,608,501
<b>Total amount of the Decision</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>

## COMMISSION DECISION

of

**on the financing of humanitarian operations from the general budget of the European Union in BANGLADESH**

### **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 15(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In September 2004 there was an increase in the floods experienced in the South-West of Bangladesh following heavier than usual rain in the region. These floods added 160,000 people to the 4,500,000 still affected by the flooding in 2004.
- (2) Villages have been completely inundated, causing damage to houses comparable to that inflicted by earthquakes.
- (3) Fields have been flooded, with the newly planted crops being destroyed thus eliminating the harvest that would have been expected in November.
- (4) Bangladesh has not yet recovered from the serious flooding in July 2004 that affected much of the population and about 60% of the country.
- (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) It is estimated that an amount of 2,000,000 euro from budget line 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance taking into account the available budget, other donors' interventions and other factors.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

#### *Article 1*

1. In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of 2,000,000 euro for humanitarian aid operations in favor of the people of Bangladesh affected by floods in September 2004 by using line 23 02 01 of the 2004 budget of the European Union.
2. In accordance with Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No.1257/96, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective:
  - To support the recovery from the 2004 floods through emergency relief, property rehabilitation, medical aid and support of lost livelihoods

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<sup>2</sup> OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6



*Article 2*

1. The duration for the implementation of this decision shall be for a maximum period of 12 months, starting on 01/10/2004. 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*