

**Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision**

23 02 01

Title: Emergency Assistance to the Victims of Tropical Storm JEANNE.

Location of operation: HAITI

Amount of Decision: Euro 1,500,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/HTI/BUD/2004/05000

Explanatory Memorandum**1 - Rationale, needs and target population.****1.1. - Rationale:**

On 17 September 2004 tropical storm Jeanne, the latest in a series of devastating storms in this year's hurricane season, struck Haiti causing large-scale destruction. Unlike with hurricane 'Ivan' which had wrought havoc to the region two weeks earlier it was not the effects of windstorm causing devastation but the torrential rains that submerged large areas under water and set off mudslides. Flooding started slowly on Saturday, 18 September and then, facilitated by the high level of deforestation in the country, increased quickly to flash flooding causing fast run off into the valleys and towns.

More than 1,100 deaths have been confirmed, so far. However with more than 1,000 persons still missing a death toll of more than 2,000 must be feared. Decomposing human and animal bodies constitute a grave health threat as they contaminate the water which many people are forced to drink because of lack of safe water sources.

The hardest hit areas were the city and surroundings of Gonaïves, which was heavily affected by political violence, earlier this year. About 80 per cent of the population in the Gonaïves region, estimated at 200,000, has been affected and the death toll has risen to more than 1,000. Most agricultural land in the area is currently flooded and harvests have been destroyed. It is estimated that at least half of the population in Gonaïves is in urgent need of food, water and shelter.

More than 80 persons have been reported dead in other regions in the country's north west, where one-third of the city of Port de Paix was under water. With the water receding the discovery of more dead bodies is likely.

Access to some parts of the affected areas, in particular the Artibonite region is still very difficult if not impossible with lack of reliable information for the outlying areas.

1.2. - Identified needs:

In response to the political and socio-economic crisis which resulted in an armed rebellion and the forced departure of President Aristide, earlier this year, a large number of humanitarian agencies had started programmes in Haiti. Many of them are now involved in emergency response to help the flood victims. Assessments for the Gonaïves region are being finalized but there is only limited knowledge on the extent of damage in the rural areas.

Identified needs include:

- Water and sanitation due to the destruction and contamination of water distribution systems
- Temporary shelters
- Relief items (kitchen, hygiene, cleaning sets)
- Medical aid (drug supplies, psychological support, emergency rehabilitation of health centres)
- Food distributions
- Humanitarian aid coordination.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

5,000 families or approximately 30,000 beneficiaries; most of them in the Gonaïves region.

1.4. – Risk assessment and possible constraints:

The presence of a large number of humanitarian aid agencies, and very importantly, that of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), has allowed for a quick response to the disaster. Nevertheless, Haiti is still suffering from instability brought about by years of political conflict and economic decline. Despite the presence of MINUSTAH security has not really improved. Should the government be perceived as not handling competently disaster response this could create further discontent amongst the population with potential repercussions on stability.

Also, with a great number of humanitarian agencies having started relief operations co-ordination is essential to avoid overlap and waste of funding.

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed.

2.1. - Objectives:

Principal objective:

To save and preserve lives during the emergency caused by flooding in Haiti

Specific objective:

To provide emergency assistance to flood victims in the sectors of water, shelter, sanitation, health and non-food items

2.2. - Components:

- Water and sanitation activities
- Hygiene kits distribution
- Kitchen kits distribution
- Temporary shelters
- Primary health support
- Psycho-social support
- Humanitarian coordination/logistical support

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 20 September, 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. 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 current crisis.

List of previous ECHO operations in HAITI				
Decision number	Decision type	2002 EUR	2003 EUR	2004 EUR
ECHO/HTI/210/2002/01000	Emergency	400,000		
ECHO/HTI/210/2003/01000	Prim. Emergency		80,000	
ECHO/HTI/BUD/2004/01000	Emergency			406,735
ECHO/HTI/BUD/2004/03000	Emergency			1,800,000
ECHO/HTI/BUD/2004/04000	Emergency			5,400,000
	Subtotal	400,000	80,000	7,606,735
	Total (y-2)+(y-1)+(y)	400,000	80,000	7,606,735

Dated : 24/09/2004
Source : HOPE

5 - Other donors and donor co-ordination mechanisms.

Donors in HAITI the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria	0	ECHO	9,249,592		
Belgium	500,000	Other services			
Denmark	0				
Finland	200,000				
France	3,086,140				
Germany	1,640,620				
Greece	0				
Ireland	500,000				
Italy	0				
Luxembourg	0				
Netherlands	657,397				
Portugal	0				
Spain	600,000				
Sweden	536,060				
United Kingdom	3,461,278				
Subtotal	11,197,495	Subtotal	9,249,592	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	20,447,087		

Dated : 24/09/2004

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

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

6.1. - Total amount of the Decision: Euro 1,500,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific

Principal objective: <i>To save and preserve lives during the emergency caused by flooding in Haiti</i>			
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (Euro)	Geographical area of operation	Potential partners ¹
Specific objective: To provide emergency assistance to flood victims in the sectors of water, shelter, sanitation, health and non-food items	1,500,000	Département de l'Artibonite, Département du Nord Ouest, Haiti	- CROIX-ROUGE - ESP - CROIX-ROUGE - FRA - MDM - FRA - OXFAM - UK
TOTAL:1,500,000			

¹ CROIX-ROUGE FRANCAISE, CRUZ ROJA ESPAÑOLA, (E), MEDECINS DU MONDE (FRA), OXFAM (GBR)

7 –Budget Impact article 23 02 01

	CE (in Euro)
Initial Available Appropriations for 2004	472.000.000
Supplementary Budgets	
Transfers	
Total Available Appropriations	472.000.000
Total executed to date (24.09.2004)	426.710.368
Available remaining	45.289.632
Total amount of the Decision	1,500,000

COMMISSION DECISION**of****on the financing of emergency humanitarian operations from the general budget of the European Union****in Haiti****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 ^[2], and in particular Article 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Following the passage of tropical storm 'Jeanne' Haiti was hit by torrential rains resulting in devastating floods affecting the north western part of the country.
- (2) More than 1,100 persons have lost their lives and tens of thousands are without accommodation.
- (3) It is estimated that at least 100,000 persons are in urgent need of food, water, shelter and non-food relief items.
- (4) It is estimated that an amount of 1,500,000 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 flooding 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 1,500,000 Euro for emergency humanitarian aid operations to provide the necessary assistance and relief to people in Haiti 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 flood victims in the sectors of water, shelter, sanitation, health and non-food items.

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 20 September, 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