



## Humanitarian Aid Decision

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Title: Third DIPECHO Action Plan for South Asia

Location of operation: South Asia

Amount of Decision: EUR 6,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/DIP/BUD/2005/04000

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### **Explanatory Memorandum**

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

##### 1.1. - Rationale:

According to Article 2(f) of Humanitarian Aid Regulation (EC) of 20 June 1996<sup>1</sup>, DG ECHO's activities in the field of Disaster Preparedness shall be to "ensure preparedness for risks of natural disasters or comparable circumstances and use a suitable early-warning and intervention system". DIPECHO (which stands for **D**isaster **P**reparedness **E**CHO) is a programme set up by DG ECHO in 1996 to improve the capacities of communities at risk to better prepare and protect themselves. A Diagnostic Study was carried out in several regions to identify the risks, evaluate the socio-economic vulnerability of the people and determine what local, national and regional response capability and external support was already in place. The study was followed by the adoption of DIPECHO Action Plans in different regions. South Asia is benefiting from its third DIPECHO Action Plan.

South Asia, with South East Asia, is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to natural disasters (especially floods/landslides, drought, earthquakes, tsunamis/cyclones and forest fires). It is a region where the social and political structures, demographic pressures, the structure of settlements, agricultural practices and economic development result in a population which is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters.

The recent events in the region, the most severe of which were the tsunami of 26 December 2004 and the recent earthquake in Pakistan on 8 October 2005, have drawn stark attention to the importance of having prevention measures to reduce the impact of such natural disasters

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<sup>1</sup> CE Regulation n°1257/96 of 20 June 1996, OL L163 of 02 July 1996  
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on the populations, especially the most vulnerable. Disaster preparedness helps to save lives, fuels recovery and reduces the risk of future disasters. By simple preventive measures, many lives and properties can be saved. We are far from being helpless in the face of natural catastrophes and by helping people to help themselves, Disaster preparedness should be seen as our first response instrument. The recent huge disasters like the Tsunami in South and South-east Asia, the tropical storm STAN in Guatemala and El Salvador and the earthquake in Pakistan should be seen as opportunities to sensitise all the relevant stakeholders to the importance of improving their Disaster Risk Reduction policies.

With a view to improving the readiness of vulnerable populations in this region and their capacity to respond to the effects of disasters, DG ECHO launched a first DIPECHO Action Plan for South Asia in 2001 and a second Action Plan in 2003.

In 2002, an assessment of the first Action Plan was carried out. This concluded that the projects funded in the region by DIPECHO contributed to improving the populations' preparedness in the face of natural disasters in the areas concerned. However, the assessment also highlighted that most of the projects hinged upon too many levels of responsibility, were situated in several regions (and in this case several countries) without any concrete effort towards co-ordination.

The assessment recommended notably:

1. Strengthening the interventions at local community level with a strong participative approach;
2. Concentrating on a country-based approach except if a particularly vulnerable region "belonged" to several countries;
3. Undertaking a real co-ordination effort, including exchange of information and good practices and follow-up of projects.

The subsequent DIPECHO strategy took account of the assessment findings, as well as of the experience gained during the initial funding of proposals, in dealing with local partners, and through the increased collaboration between DG ECHO and other Commission services (LLRD).

In 2003, DG ECHO also launched a study on **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**<sup>2</sup> which ranked South Asia at a very high level of vulnerability, confirming the need for DG ECHO to intervene in the region. Four countries in the region were classified as most vulnerable: Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

In order to follow-up on these recommendations, this DIPECHO Action Plan concentrates on the four countries in South Asia classified as the most vulnerable that is: Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. It has to be mentioned that Pakistan is introduced for the first time under a DIPECHO Action Plan. With regard to other countries in the region, a particular effort will be made to mainstream Disaster Reduction components in other DG ECHO operations. This is foreseen notably in tsunami rehabilitation projects in Sri Lanka and in humanitarian operations in Afghanistan when feasible. Pakistan should also benefit from mainstreaming in the future earthquake relief and rehabilitation projects as a supplement to DIPECHO projects foreseen under this Decision.

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<sup>2</sup> December 2003, Evaluation of ECHO's strategic orientation to disaster reduction available on the Web site of ECHO :  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/evaluation/reports\\_2003\\_fr.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/evaluation/reports_2003_fr.htm)  
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The lessons learnt from the Tsunami experience have confirmed the need for putting into place efficient early warning systems, enforcing building codes, preparing communities to react in the first hours of a disaster, training people, organising awareness campaigns, mitigating the impact of disasters and doing advocacy towards all relevant stakeholders.

All these needs will be addressed in the projects financed under this Action Plan, being natural activities carried out under DIPECHO. The Tsunami and other disasters will have certainly helped to reinforce the Disaster Risk Reduction issues and should facilitate the implementation of the projects under this decision.

This Action Plan does not include any new support to the Early Warning System in the Indian Ocean as it has been done already through the Tsunami decision with EUR 2 million support to UN-ISDR (International Strategy Disaster Reduction) assessment, evaluation and strengthening of Early warning systems and disaster preparedness capacities of the countries affected by the Tsunami for a 15 month period starting on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005. The programme comprises five main components under which many activities such as meetings, workshops, assessments and production of materials, have already taken place: Core system implementation with assessment missions, integrated risk management with the production of a Policy Implementation Guide, public awareness and education, community-level approaches and project coordination. Support to local Early Warning Systems in the projects will nevertheless be provided.

As far as Pakistan is concerned, it is far too early to draw all the lessons learnt but it is already clear that specific attention should be given to ensure that the rehabilitation and reconstruction will take into account anti-seismic codes. This is why support to ISDR is foreseen in the framework of future DG ECHO funding in response to the Pakistani earthquake of 8 October. The aim is to provide knowledge on disaster risk reduction standards relevant to seismic risks to the agencies and authorities engaged in Humanitarian and recovery programmes. The projects that will be financed under this DIPECHO Action Plan will be implemented in close co-ordination with the response interventions when they are located in the region of the earthquake.

This Action Plan will therefore primarily aim to:

- Target the most vulnerable communities and categories of population using bottom-up participatory methods and relevant local materials/resources that can be easily replicated ; specific attention will be given to projects which take into account gender, children and disabled issues in line with DG ECHO's strategy on the most vulnerable populations.
- Foster appropriate and sustainable preparedness activities that are co-ordinated with local and national public institutions and that can be easily replicated in other parts of the region and beyond. Small-scale mitigation and prevention activities can complement the project if they have a demonstrable rationale and a proven impact;
- Focus on the areas most exposed to frequent natural hazards and with less coping capacities. Special attention will be given to the remoteness and difficulty of access of the proposed areas of operation.

Furthermore, efforts will be made to strengthen co-ordination at national and regional levels and exchange of information, collection and dissemination of best practices.

In pursuance of these objectives, this Action Plan will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Hyogo Framework for Action adopted in Kobe in January 2005 on the occasion of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction organised under the auspices of UN-ISDR (International Strategy Disaster Reduction) and fully supported by DG ECHO.

## 1.2. - Identified needs:

South Asia is one of the most disaster-prone areas in the world, and the disastrous effects of natural catastrophes are compounded by the fact that they tend to occur in places where there is a concentration of vulnerable populations. In particular, the recurrent appearance of small-scale disasters imposes a significant burden on the already very difficult humanitarian situation of the affected vulnerable populations.

Faced with this situation, DG ECHO has adopted a two-fold strategy with regard to natural disasters in the region. On the one hand, DG ECHO responds to those (large-scale) emergencies which exceed the national response capacity. This was the case for instance with the response to the 2004 floods in Bangladesh, to the tsunami at the end of 2004 and to the Pakistan earthquake in October 2005. On the other hand, efforts have been made to identify the geographical areas most vulnerable to natural hazards, and with the most vulnerable populations, and subsequently, to prioritise the implementation of disaster preparedness projects.

From April to May 2005, an extensive consultation process was undertaken by means of national consultative meetings (NCMs) in all targeted countries in order to take stock of the lessons learned from the DIPECHO projects under the Second Action Plan and to identify together with the main stake-holders the needs, regions and levels of intervention. Over 150 participants representing different institutions involved in preparedness and prevention (NGOs, UN agencies, Red Cross family, local authorities, regional organisations, academia etc.) attended these meetings.

The conclusions of the above-mentioned consultative process included *inter alia*: identification of the most vulnerable areas in each of the targeted countries; vulnerability as a crucial factor of prioritization; the application of a multi-hazard approach to the extent possible; institutional strengthening; the close involvement of local actors and local authorities; the need for standardisation, compilation and dissemination of best practices with a view to promoting replication; the need to search for synergies to establish a link with development initiatives at local level. The conclusions and recommendations of this process, "Instructions and guidelines for ECHO potential partners wishing to submit proposals under the third Dipecho Action plan for South Asia", were published on DG ECHO's website in the 22 June 2005.

It has been clearly established that there is a particular need to strengthen links between the various actors responsible for preparing for and preventing natural disasters (at local, national and regional levels) and to strengthen the local response capacity. The authorities are aware of this but are not "trained" in Disaster Management policies, which have an impact on the management of disasters, a task which is invariably undertaken at local level without any real intervention/co-ordination from the central government and in the absence of a good understanding of early warning systems and disaster management.

Needs therefore exist at local level, where the need is greatest to encourage the creation of internal structures with strong community involvement, in order to immediately respond to and manage disasters and their consequences; needs exist as well as central government level where disaster management (DM) and disaster preparedness (DP) policies are not yet considered a priority. It is important to encourage local efforts but also to support the existing structures in order to integrate practical training courses aimed at all management levels into disaster management policy.

With highly vulnerable populations and with a weak response capacity, further needs in terms of small structures and material supplies have been identified. Know-how is lacking in terms of small-scale mitigation activities which can be easily replicated and which would result in a reduced impact from natural disasters because fewer lives would be lost and less material damage caused. Depending on the type of disaster, certain mitigation works are noticeably absent in some particularly vulnerable areas: for example the strengthening of river banks which would reduce and/or eliminate flooding in certain areas; the strengthening of crumbly soil through mixed plantations; and the existence of watch-towers (in bamboo) with supplies of materials (megaphones) in order to provide an early warning.

In response to the published “*Instructions and guidelines*” for the Third Action Plan, DG ECHO has received 32 proposals amounting to EUR 9m. The projects to be funded under this Decision were selected according to the priorities outlined in the guidelines and the quality of proposals both in terms of strategy of intervention and capacity of the partner to implement.

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

The Third DIPECHO Action Plan will focus on the most vulnerable local communities and institutions involved in risk reduction in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan.

The total number of direct beneficiaries in the four South Asian countries is approximately 2,237,000.<sup>3</sup>

The regions indicated below for each country will be targeted on a priority basis taking into account when feasible a multi-hazard approach. The main hazards faced are also mentioned below.

Furthermore, specific attention will be given to projects not only taking into account the necessity to cover the most vulnerable populations affected by natural disasters but also taking into account a certain number of population groups with specific needs such as children, women and the disabled in line with DG ECHO’s strategy.

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<sup>3</sup> Number of direct beneficiaries based on the 22 national and one regional pre-selected projects.  
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## **Bangladesh**

In terms of geographical areas, recurring multi hazards<sup>4</sup> and the socio-economic background/poverty level, population vulnerability<sup>5</sup>, priority will be given to projects located in: the Northern, North Eastern and Central districts; eleven districts in the coastal belt and the major metropolitan cities with high population density such as Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet and Rangpur.

In these geographical areas, the main targeted hazards will be:

- *Floods*: Northern, North Eastern and Central districts,
- *Earthquakes*: Northern, North Eastern and Central districts; eleven districts in the coastal belt and the major metropolitan cities with high population density such as Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet and Rangpur
- *Cyclones/tidal waves/tsunamis*: eleven districts of the coastal belt

## **India**

In India, priority will be given to projects located in: West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkand, North Eastern States, Bihar; Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal and Jammu and Kashmir.

In these geographical areas, the main targeted hazards will be:

- *Floods*: North Eastern States, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam and Orissa
- *Earthquakes*: Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, North Eastern States, Uttaranchal and Jammu and Kashmir
- *Cyclones* :, West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh
- *Droughts*: Rajasthan, Jharkand, West Bengal, Assam and Orissa

## **Nepal**

Nepal is a country with an extremely high population density (25 Million inhabitants), is among the poorest countries in the world (ranking 136<sup>th</sup> out of 177 countries in the 2005 Human Development Report) and with high political and government instability. Recurring natural disasters such as annual floods, landslides, droughts and growing concerns about possible major earthquakes further aggravate the already-existing high level of vulnerability among the most affected.

In Nepal, priority will be given to projects located in: Central Eastern Terai Region; Eastern and Mid West Region; Central and Eastern Hills of Nepal and West and Far West Hills of Nepal and Kathmandu valley.

Considering that almost all of Nepal is covered under this Decision, it should be noted that Central Eastern Terai region and Kathmandu Valley were considered as a first priority during the National Consultative Meeting (NCM).

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<sup>4</sup> Bangladesh: Annually, about a third of this extremely poor country goes under water during the monsoon rainy season,

<sup>5</sup> Bangladesh: with a population of 146 million, the most densely populated country in the world with approx 1,000 inhabitants per sq/km and more than 60% living below the poverty line.

In these geographical areas, the main targeted hazards will be:

- *Floods*: Central Eastern Terai Region (1<sup>st</sup> priority) and Eastern and Mid West Region (2<sup>nd</sup> priority)
- *Earthquake*: all of the country, but more specifically Kathmandu Valley
- *Landslides and avalanches*: Central and Eastern Hills of Nepal and West and Far West Hills of Nepal
- *Droughts*: Mid and Far Western Hills and Terai district bordering with India

In addition to all other specified criteria, **security** and **access** to the above-mentioned prioritised areas were a key aspect for selection of projects in Nepal.

## **Pakistan**

Pakistan is prone to natural disasters, facing recurring droughts, floods and landslides, with a high risk of major earthquakes. The most recent earthquake that struck its capital and North Western Frontier Province (NWFP) and Jammu and Kashmir resulted in enormous loss of life and property and is further evidence of the country's vulnerability.

In Pakistan priority will be given to projects located in: Punjab, North Western Frontier Province (NWFP), and Sindh Province, Balochistan, Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK), Northern Areas and the major metropolitan cities of Quetta, Peshawar, Islamabad and Karachi.

In these geographical areas, the main targeted hazards will be:

- *Floods*: Punjab, North Western Frontier Province (NWFP); Sindh Province; Balochistan; Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK)
- *Earthquakes*: Balochistan; Northern Areas; NWFP, Jammu and Kashmir, major metropolitan cities of Islamabad, Quetta, Peshawar and Karachi
- *Landslides*: Punjab, North Western Frontier Province (NWFP); Balochistan; Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK)
- *Droughts*: Punjab, North Western Frontier Province (NWFP); Sindh Province; Balochistan

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

As most of the activities proposed have a grass root-level orientation, their successful implementation depends on the willingness of the identified communities to co-operate. In addition to this, disaster preparedness projects are dependent on the link that implementing partners establish with the relevant authorities, who need to be involved in the project from its inception to ensure that the objectives can be met and that results are sustainable.

In order to build a project on a strong basis, DG ECHO requires that NGOs interested in submitting a project have previous experience in disaster preparedness programmes in South Asia and have already developed relations with local communities and authorities on the ground.

In Nepal, implementation faces the further challenge of taking into account the internal conflict evolution. DG ECHO has selected proposals from partners already present and well-established in the country, and has insisted on the importance of having contingency plans in case of a major deterioration in the situation. Nevertheless, as Nepal is also considered by

DG ECHO as a forgotten crisis, it is important to intervene in this country in which the population is highly vulnerable and has very low local coping capacities.

In the case of natural disasters occurring in the region, the DIPECHO projects implemented in the affected area under the current Decision may need to be suspended during an emergency as NGOs are called upon to provide humanitarian assistance for the victims.

Bearing in mind the recent catastrophes in South Asia, it would also be advisable to identify as a risk the overstretched capacities of DG ECHO partners in the case of a major disaster, such as the tsunami or the Pakistan earthquake, should they occur during the timeframe of the present Decision.

## **2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:<sup>6</sup>**

### **2.1. - Objectives :**

Principal objective:

To increase the awareness and the response capacities of local communities and institutions to potential and recurrent natural disasters and to reduce the effects of these disasters on the most vulnerable

Specific objective:

To support strategies that enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for and mitigate natural disasters by enhancing their capacity to cope, thereby increasing resilience and decreasing vulnerability

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

In pursuance of the above-mentioned objectives, DIPECHO-funded projects include one or several of the following components:

- **Infrastructure support**

This component will focus on the provision of equipment and the reinforcement of infrastructure to support disaster preparedness plans (e.g. scientific equipment, upgrading or renovation of storage facilities, rehabilitation and sign-posting of evacuation routes, access to

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<sup>6</sup> Grants for the implementation of humanitarian aid within the meaning of Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid are awarded in accordance with the Financial Regulation, in particular Article 110 thereof, and its Implementing Rules in particular Article 168 thereof (Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002, OJ L248 of 16 September 2002 and No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002, OJ L 357 of 31 December 2002).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:

emergency shelters, refurbishment of health posts, temporary shelters for evacuated population, etc.)

- **Advocacy and public awareness raising**

Communication activities aimed at raising awareness of disaster risk reduction issues among authorities and the general public (e.g. awareness campaigns, street theatre, theatre, songs, simulation exercises /mock drills, DP sensitization, radio spots, radio communication in communities, media interaction-articles published in newspapers and magazines, Information Education Communication (IEC) materials: leaflets, posters, billboards, street wall papers, brochures, peer to peer awareness, conferences, seminars, symposiums, workshops, etc.)

- **Small-scale mitigation works**

Small-scale infrastructure works aimed at reducing the physical vulnerability of the beneficiaries. Occasionally, beneficiaries are trained during the implementation of these mitigation works in order to replicate them in the future (e.g. protection walls along river banks, drainage works, irrigation works, reforestation/plantation, raising homesteads, raising water pumps/latrines etc.)

- **Mapping and data computerization**

Mapping and data computerization linked with the study of hazards and vulnerabilities and the elaboration of emergency plans (e.g. data collection for risk mapping purposes - scientific maps, development of mapping software and training on its use, printing of risk maps, printing of emergency plans, Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA), Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), village level hazard, risk, basic services mapping, feasibility studies – baseline, research and case studies, distribution, dissemination of data / maps collected, preparation of emergency plans etc.)

- **Education**

Activities aimed at creating a “culture of prevention” within the formal education system, pursuing a change of attitude and practice (e.g. design and production of training materials for pupils, training of teachers, simulations conducted at school level, education of communities on Water and Sanitation etc.)

- **Early warning systems (EWS)**

All activities and equipment related to the setting up of an EWS and its functioning (e.g. reviving and/or strengthening traditional and existing indigenous knowledge on EWS and/or adapting or developing user-friendly, understandable and locally-appropriate systems, use of local radio stations, religious institutions (mosques, temples, churches), localisation of EWS, alarm systems (local), ensuring free information, warning dissemination from the national to community level with special attention to people with disabilities, women and children, technical studies conducted specifically to set up an EWS (e.g. hydrological study), Information Communication Technology, installation of radio networks and training beneficiaries on their use, installation of rain gauges and hydrometric scales and training of the beneficiaries on their use through simulation exercises, mock drills, dry-run rehearsals etc.

- **Research and dissemination**

Technical studies, workshops and surveys conducted in order to increase knowledge about preparedness issues and dissemination of the results (e.g. research and agreed disaster sensitive environmental practices, technical studies whose results are to be used in local

planning for zoning purposes, organisation of workshops/seminars aimed at dissemination of project results...)

- **Facilitation of co-ordination**

Support initiatives to facilitate co-ordination among institutions working on disaster preparedness, prevention and response (e.g. inter-institutional meetings, interactive products, synergy among key stake-holders, information resource centres, scientific documentation and dissemination among existing projects/partners, identification and dissemination of best practices ...)

- **Institutional strengthening**

Services and equipment delivered to strengthen institutional capacity on risk reduction (e.g. training of decision-makers at different levels on Disaster Preparedness/Disaster Reduction, training of health authorities on humanitarian supply management tools, training of firemen on rescue procedures, training of medical staff in mass casualty management...)

- **Local capacity building /training**

Capacity building/training on disaster preparedness conducted at local level, with the direct involvement of beneficiary communities (e.g. support in equipment supply, organisation and training of local emergency committees, simulations conducted at community level, workshops conducted at community level aimed at producing an emergency plan, training of community facilitators, linkages and co-ordination, building alliances, promoting good practices, building up coping mechanisms as defined by the communities own assessment of its capacities and vulnerabilities, community resilience improvement, training in indigenous knowledge and coping mechanisms, training on first aid and search and rescue, rescue kits and first aid emergency kits depending on the recipient...)

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

The duration for the implementation of this Decision shall be 18 months. This is justified by the fact that the vast majority of disaster preparedness projects last for 15 months, with operations starting in a deferred manner.

Humanitarian operations funded under this Decision must be implemented within this period.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 01 January 2006.

Start Date: 01 January 2006

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 procedure 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

##### List of previous ECHO operations in BANGLADESH/INDIA/NEPAL/PAKISTAN

Decision Number	Decision Type	2003 EUR	2004 EUR	2005 EUR
ECHO/BGD/BUD/2004/01000	Non Emergency		808,000	
ECHO/BGD/BUD/2004/02000	Non Emergency		2,000,000	
ECHO/IND/210/2003/01000	Non Emergency	1,950,000		
ECHO/IND/BUD/2004/01000	Non Emergency		2,000,000	
ECHO/NPL/210/2003/01000	Non Emergency	2,000,000		
ECHO/NPL/210/2003/02000	Non Emergency	2,000,000		
ECHO/NPL/BUD/2004/01000	Non Emergency		2,000,000	
ECHO/NPL/BUD/2004/02000	Non Emergency		2,000,000	
ECHO/NPL/BUD/2005/01000	Non Emergency			4,000,000
ECHO/NPL/BUD/2005/02000	Non Emergency			2,000,000
ECHO/PAK/210/2003/01000	Non Emergency	1,000,000		
	<b>Subtotal</b>	6,950,000	8,808,000	6,000,000
	<b>Grand Total</b>	21,758,000		

Dated : 18/10/2005

Source : HOPE

To date, two DIPECHO Action Plans have been implemented in South Asia, with all funds being allocated. The first Action plan (ECHO/TPS/219/2001/01000) comprised eight projects for a total amount of EUR 3.2 million, the second Action Plan (ECHO/TPS/219/2003/01000) consisted of ten projects for a total of EUR 2.5 million.

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

##### Donors in BANGLADESH/INDIA/NEPAL/PAKISTAN the last 12 months

1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria	1,660,000	ECHO	35,358,476		
Belgium		Other services			
Cyprus					
Czech republic	834,000				
Denmark	483,766				
Estonia	99,042				
Finland	1,350,000				
France	312,721				
Germany	2,888,258				
Greece	817,342				
Hungary					
Ireland	2,720,993				
Italy	998,500				
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg	1,113,312				
Malta					
Netherlands	3,246,000				

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Poland	41,000				
Portugal					
Slovakia					
Slovenie	156,000				
Spain					
Sweden	1,067,300				
United kingdom	7,435,576				
Subtotal	25,223,810	Subtotal	35,358,476	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	60,582,286		

Dated : 18/10/2005

(\*) Source : ECHO 14 Points reporting for Members States. <https://hac.cec.eu.int>

Empty cells means either no information is available or no contribution.

- **With other Commission services:**

Since September 2001, co-ordination on Disaster Preparedness issues has been ongoing with DG RELEX, Europaid Co-Operation Office and the EC Delegations. DG ECHO has always emphasised the importance of including Disaster Preparedness and Prevention as a cross-cutting issue in the country/regional strategy papers.

In the case of Bangladesh, EUR 9m has been programmed by the Commission (but not yet implemented) in support of disaster preparedness mainly for earthquake and tsunami hazards. The programme is intended to support the national Comprehensive Disaster Management Plan (CDMP) and UNDP is the implementing partner.

In India, a disaster preparedness programme for the amount of EUR 10m is being implemented, also in partnership with UNDP, for the “National Disaster Reduction Management” plan in four selected states: Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim and West Bengal.

In Nepal, although there are no current projects that specifically target natural disaster preparedness, the Commission has held preliminary discussions with relevant UN agencies, to consider some activities in the area of disaster preparedness and prevention.

- **With Member States**

In June 2005, DG ECHO requested Humanitarian Aid Committee (HAC) members to provide information about projects in the area of disaster preparedness and prevention funded by them in the region. No response was received.

- **With other donors**

USAID has provided the following information:

- *India Earthquake Safety Initiative*: Implemented by Geohazard International, the objectives of the programme are to conduct risk assessments and risk reduction activities in 20 of India’s most earthquake-prone urban areas, and implement mitigation activities in 5 of those areas. This programme, co-funded by USAID/OFDA and USAID/India, began in September 2002 and will continue until October 2005. Total USAID/OFDA funding to date is US\$650,000.
- *Incident Command System (ICS) Training*: Co-funded by USAID/OFDA and USAID/India through an interagency agreement with the U.S. Forest Service, this capacity-building programme provides ICS training and simulation exercises at national and state levels in India and the region. The programme also provides

technical assistance and training to government and non-government disaster managers to assist them in developing coordinated disaster response planning. The first phase of ICS trainings ran from April 2002 through to April 2004. The second phase will continue through to September 2006. To date, USAID/OFDA has provided US\$1,706,712 to support the programme.

- *Regional Flood Forecasting*: USAID/OFDA supports technical assessments and forums that bring together decision makers and technical personnel from the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region to promote collaboration and share information related to flood management, flood early warning systems, and broader trans-boundary water issues. The forums are hosted by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) based in Kathmandu, Nepal. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan participate in the programme the support to ICIMOD began in November 2001 and will continue through to December 2005. Total funding to date is US\$50,860.
- *Community Flood Monitoring and Forecasting in Bangladesh*: Implemented by Riverside Technology Inc., this five year USAID/OFDA project supports a community-based approach for flood monitoring and forecasting to reduce the vulnerability of communities living in floodplains and mitigate future flood damage in Bangladesh. The project began in September 2002 and will end in September 2007. Total funding to date is 576,977 FY 05 USUS\$180,000
- *Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Risk Management Plan*: The National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) in Kathmandu, Nepal works with the Government of Nepal, NGOs, schools, and local communities to increase earthquake awareness and preparedness by coordinating and monitoring the long-term earthquake risk reduction plan *Asia – Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Programs, Fact Sheet #2, FY 30 September 2005* for the Kathmandu Valley. The project began in September 2000 and will continue through August 2006. Total funding to date is 651,555 FY 05 USUS\$100,000
- *Emergency Flood Preparedness in Bangladesh*: CARE (lead agency), Save the Children – US, and World Vision have joined to form the Emergency Working Group of Cooperative Sponsors (EWG) in order to improve emergency response to floods in Bangladesh. The EWG will reduce the incidence of health problems associated with a disaster, particularly water-borne diseases. With USAID/OFDA funding, the EWG will foster co-ordination between communities and local authorities, maintain and operate a mobile water purification plant and zodiac boats, and operate a mobile health clinic/water ambulance. Total funding to date is USUS\$293,103 FY 05 USUS\$293,013

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

6.1. - Total amount of the Decision: EUR 6,000,000

## 6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objective

<b>Principal objective:</b> <i>To increase the awareness and the response capacities of local communities and institutions to potential and recurrent natural disasters and to reduce the effects of these disasters on the most vulnerable</i>				
<b>Specific objectives</b>	<b>Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)</b>	<b>Geographical area of operation</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Potential partners<sup>7</sup></b>
Specific objective 1: To support strategies that enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for and mitigate natural disasters by enhancing their capacity to cope, thereby increasing resilience and decreasing vulnerability	6,000,000	Bangladesh India Nepal Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure support</li> <li>• Advocacy and public awareness raising</li> <li>• Small-scale mitigation works</li> <li>• Mapping and data computerisation</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Early warning systems</li> <li>• Research and dissemination</li> <li>• Facilitation of co-ordination</li> <li>• Institutional strengthening</li> <li>• Local capacity building/training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ACTIONAID</li> <li>- AGA KHAN</li> <li>- CARE - AUT</li> <li>- CHRISTIAN AID - UK</li> <li>- CONCERN UNIVERSAL</li> <li>- CROIX-ROUGE - BEL</li> <li>- DANCHURCH AID - DNK</li> <li>- HANDICAP (FR)</li> <li>- ICIMOD</li> <li>- IRC - UK</li> <li>- ISLAMIC RELIEF</li> <li>- MERCY CORPS SCOTLAND</li> <li>- MPDL</li> <li>- OXFAM – UK</li> <li>- PA_05</li> <li>- SAVE THE CHILDREN - UK</li> <li>- UN - UNDP - BEL</li> <li>- UN - UNICEF - BEL</li> <li>- WORLD VISION DEU</li> </ul>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	6,000,000			

<sup>7</sup> ACTIONAID (GBR), AGA KHAN FOUNDATION (United Kingdom), BELGISCHE RODE KRUIS/CROIX ROUGE DE BELGIQUE, (BEL), CARE OESTERREICH - VEREIN FÜR ENTWICKLUNGSZUSAMMENARBEIT UND HUMANITÄRE HILFE, CHRISTIAN AID (GBR), CONCERN UNIVERSAL (GBR), FOLKEKIRKENS NODHJAELP, (DNK), HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL (FR), ISLAMIC RELIEF ,International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, International Rescue Committee UK, MERCY CORPS SCOTLAND (GBR), MOVIMIENTO POR LA PAZ, EL DESARME Y LA LIBERTAD, (E), OXFAM (GB), Practical Action, THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND (GBR), UNICEF, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, WORLD VISION, (DEU)

## 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).

## 8 - Budget Impact article 23 02 02

-	EC (EUR)
Initial Available Appropriations for 2005	12,500,000
Supplementary Budgets	
Transfers Commission	5,000,000
<b>Total Available appropriations</b>	<b>17,500,000</b>
Total executed to date (as at 20/09/2005)	11,500,000
Available remaining	6,000,000
<b>Total amount of the Decision</b>	<b>6,000,000</b>

**COMMISSION DECISION**  
**of**  
**on the financing of humanitarian operations from the general budget of the European Union in South 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 aid<sup>8</sup>, and in particular Article 15(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The South Asia region is exposed to a variety of natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, droughts, landslides, earthquakes and cyclones/tidal waves/tsunamis;
- (2) The local communities are highly vulnerable to these disasters, and the losses caused by disasters are significant both in social and economic terms;
- (3) The coping capacities of the countries concerned by the Decision are insufficient considering the impact of the catastrophes on the population and international interventions are needed to support preparation and small-scale mitigation activities;
- (4) The lessons learned from the previous Action Plans and the recent evaluation carried out by DG ECHO indicate that the types of activities financed by DIPECHO are the most effective and therefore disaster preparedness operations should be financed by the Community for a period of 18 months;
- (5) It is estimated that an amount of **EUR 6,000,000** from budget line 23 02 02 of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to finance disaster preparedness activities for the vulnerable populations of South Asia, taking into account the available budget, other donors' contributions and other factors;
- (6) In accordance with Article 17 (3) of Regulation (EC) No.1257/96, the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave a favourable opinion on 24 November 2005.

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 EUR 6,000,000 for humanitarian aid operations undertaken in the framework of the Third DIPECHO Action Plan for South Asia by using line 23 02 02 of the 2005 general budget of the European Union.

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<sup>14</sup>. OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6  
ECHO/DIP/BUD/2005/04000

2. In accordance with Article 2 (f) of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective:

To support strategies that enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for and mitigate natural disasters by enhancing their capacity to cope, thereby increasing resilience and decreasing vulnerability

The total 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 18 months, starting on 01 January 2006.

2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 01 January 2006.

3. 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