



## Humanitarian Aid Decision

**23 02 01**

Title: Recovery support to flood affected populations in Guyana

Location of operation: GUYANA

Amount of Decision: EUR 996,500

Decision reference number: ECHO/GUY/BUD/2005/02000

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### Explanatory Memorandum

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

##### 1.1. - Rationale :

Guyana experienced heavy rainfall from late December 2004 to the end of January 2005; rainfall was particularly severe with a precipitation of 915 millimetres during the first two weeks of January. Since the rains began and until the end of January 2005, more than 1,250 millimetres of rain were recorded, when the usual monthly average in this area is of 177 millimetres. As a result of the uninterrupted rainfall, which has already been considered as the worst in the last 100 years, the entire eastern coast of Guyana was affected by widespread flooding, including the capital Georgetown, where two thirds of the city was flooded.

Three regions, out of the 10 regions that form Guyana, (regions 3, 4 and 5) were declared disaster areas. Coincidentally, most of the people in Guyana live in the most affected regions, which are coastal areas. Assessments point at 274,774 as the number of flood victims which required urgent relief assistance (out of the total affected, see Table I). Most of them live in Georgetown, though residences of coastal towns near the capital were also affected. The hardest hit communities were Albouystown, Shopia, Better Hope, Coldingen, Enterprise Gardens, Paradise and Enmore. Many residents in these areas live in poverty and the severe flooding further exacerbated their already precarious situation. The complexity of the situation is aggravated by the fact that the whole coastal area lies below sea level. Therefore the drainage system, which only operates at low tide, tends to become dysfunctional. Furthermore, a 150 year old earth embankment that encloses the East Demerra Water Conservancy regularly overflows; contributing much to the flooding of the coastal towns.

Table 1: People affected during the floods<sup>1</sup>:

Region	Total Population	Households	Persons Severely Affected	Persons Secondarily Affected
Region 1	23,204	4,223		
Region 2	48,411	11,453		4,841
Region 3	101,920	26,057	41,767	66,248
Region 4	<b>309,059</b>	<b>80,455</b>	<b>222,522</b>	<b>262,700</b>
Region 5	52,321	12,835	10,464	20,928
Region 6	122,849	31,681		
Region 7	15,935	3,748		
Region 8	9,211	1,781		
Region 9	19,365	3,553		
Region 10	39,766	10,224		
<b>Total</b>	<b>742,041</b>	<b>185,800</b>	<b>274,774</b>	<b>354,718</b>

Source: United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC),

As an immediate response to the disaster, earlier in 2005 ECHO adopted two funding decisions (EUR 700,000 using EDF funds and EUR 1,000,000 from the Commission's budget).

#### 1.2. - Identified needs :

An ECHO field monitoring mission went to Guyana from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2005 in order to assess the humanitarian situation in the disaster affected areas and to design ECHO's further support. One of the main conclusions of ECHO's mission was the need to increase support to our partners in the sectors of livelihoods as well as disaster preparedness.

The emergency decisions adopted by ECHO and other donors did not target livelihoods, as they were more focused on relief items, primary health care as well as water and sanitation actions. Although decision ECHO/GUY/BUD/2005/01000 foresaw the possibility of funding agricultural recovery measures, these could not finally be funded as emergency needs proved greater than initially foreseen and had to be prioritized.

Furthermore, the extent of damage and the erosion of farmers' coping capacity in the coastal areas of the country were not well known at the time of earlier assessments. The limited implementation capacities in the country as well as the necessity to address the most urgent needs did not allow the early implementation of a livelihood programme. By now, emergency operations have ceased and implementation capacity has been freed up which would allow for much required recovery interventions. Unfortunately, to date, no such program has been implemented to respond to these needs.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: OXFAM UK.  
ECHO/GUY/BUD/2005/02000

The recent flooding affected the industry and services sector on a small scale only, whilst the agricultural sector, mainly rice and livestock, had to take the brunt of the impact. Agriculture ranks as the predominant sector in the economy and accounted for approximately 37.2% of the GDP in 2003. The sector employed 22% of the labour force in 1999. Agricultural activity is concentrated along the coastal belt where most of the population resides.

In the floods, over 20,000 acres of agricultural land was flooded to various extents. Farmers have lost between 10%-95% of their total crop. The implications of crop loss are much greater due to the dependence of farmers on loans for inputs such as fertilizers, chemicals and most importantly fuel. Each farmer visited by our partner had thousands of Guyanese dollars (GUY\$ 200.00 = US\$1) taken out in loans, leaving productive assets such as tractors, harvesters and land at risk of repossession.

Livestock farmers have lost many animals due to the floods: newborn calves have died, cows have aborted and many animals became sick. Several months after flooding the animals had difficulty finding food as all pasturelands remained under water and when the water receded the grass was dead. Ranchers in the Abary region live isolated with access only by river. These ranchers have had difficulty in finding veterinarians to treat their animals: in most cases it is more expensive to pay for a boat and medication than to lose a 10,000GD (\$50) cow.

Both farmers and ranchers have felt the effects in the markets as well. Rice prices have risen 20% and rice by-products, such as rice bran used for livestock feed, have more than tripled in cost.

Many vegetable farmers have suffered the same fate as the above two groups. Plots have been washed out by the floods. Several of the crops were ready for harvest at the time of the floods. Market prices reflected a drop in supply.

The community members consulted by ECHO partners see floods in Guyana as a recurring phenomenon which calls for an integration of disaster preparedness in any recovery activities. The following areas along the east coast have been identified as the most vulnerable ones:

Table 2: Vulnerable Communities<sup>2</sup>:

Area	Causes of vulnerability	Estimated population
Enterprise	Under-developed, close to reservoir, low land (i.e. prone to flooding)	4000
Dazzel HIS Housing Scheme	Originally a low land rice field, lack of drainage, flat houses (one story), bordered by drainage canal at back, prone to overflowing	2000
Bachelors' Adventure	Poor drainage, low lands	5000
Better Hope	Poor drainage	6000
Good Hope Squatting Area	No drainage, low water from sugar estate floods the area, overflowing from reservoir	1000
Happy Acre	Low land, overflowing, close to main drainage, affected by tide	1000

<sup>2</sup> Source: OXFAM Interviews to community members.  
ECHO/GUY/BUD/2005/02000

<b>Area</b>	<b>Causes of vulnerability</b>	<b>Estimated population</b>
Mon Repose Pasture	Poor drainage, low, surrounded by drainage, overflowing, unplanned (leaked) water release due to condition of reservoir	2500
Buxton	Poor drainage, malfunctioning Kokar (Sluice), low level	8000
Paradise	Low, poor drainage, close to state drainage	500
Cane Grove	History of floods, rainfall, close to reservoir, lack of proper strategic plan	3000
Malanie North / South	Low, poor drainage	2000
Eastville H/S Housing Scheme(Annandale)	New Housing Scheme, low, poor drainage	500
Chateau Margot	Poor drainage, low lands	1500
Success	Poor drainage, pumping system inadequate, Low land	2000
Industry	Poor drainage	6000
Mosquito Hall (Lanchaster)	Close to sea wall, built in a swamp, lowest area in the village, drains from the village pass through the area	200
Mantyers Ville	Low, poor drainage, two canals at both sides that need to be cleaned	500
Pigeon Island	No drainage, main drain to sea wall floods due to the high tides	500
Bee Hive	Low land, poor drainage	2000
Montrose	Low, behind sea wall	3000
Belmonte	Poor drainage, water from Mahaica creek flows back	1000

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

It is estimated that at least 1,000 households living in 21 villages along 37 kilometres of East Coast Demerara, in Region 4, will be assisted with urgent support through the vegetable growing component, and 480 from other livelihood components. In rice producing areas, the livelihoods component will target 350 households – 250 for support in agricultural inputs and 100 for improvement in veterinary services.

In addition, the preparedness component of the decision will target around 60,000 people living in 21 villages along 37 kilometres of East Coast Demerara – Region 4.

In total, it is estimated that some 16,830 families are in need of urgent recovery support; the target groups will be the ones formed by the most vulnerable population.

ECHO partners estimate beneficiary numbers as follows:

Table 3: Direct Beneficiaries estimation:

<b>Component :</b>	<b>Families targeted</b>	<b>Individuals targeted</b>
Livelihoods	1,830	7,320
Disaster Preparedness	15,000	60,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,830</b>	<b>67,320</b>

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints :

The natural hazards that render Guyana vulnerable, such as further floods, could impede the implementation of the program. Continued ECHO support to partners that have responded since the first days of the emergencies and who have a solid network of local counterparts and a good knowledge of the country, should ensure success in implementing the proposed actions.

**2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:**<sup>3</sup>

2.1. - Objectives :

Principal objective: **Recovery support to the most vulnerable families in Guyana affected by natural disaster**

Specific objectives: **Assist flood stricken populations with livelihood support and disaster preparedness action**

2.2. - Components :

- Livelihood support
- Disaster preparedness

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

The duration of humanitarian aid operations shall be **15 months**.  
Humanitarian operations funded by this decision must be implemented within this period.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from **01 October 2005**.

Start Date : **01 October 2005**

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3 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 Art.110 thereof, and its Implementing Rules in particular Art.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 Art.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 [http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/partners/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/partners/index_en.htm)  
[ECHO/GUY/BUD/2005/02000](http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/partners/index_en.htm)

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 GUYANA				
Decision Number	Decision Type	2003 EUR	2004 EUR	2005 EUR
ECHO/GUY/EDF/2005/01000	Emergency			700,000
ECHO/GUY/BUD/2005/01000	Emergency			1,000,000
	Subtotal	0	0	1,700,000
	Grand Total			1,700,000

Dated : 26/07/2005  
Source : HOPE

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

Donors in <b>GUYANA</b> the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria		ECHO	1,700,000		
Belgium		Other services			
Cyprus					
Czech republic					
Denmark					
Estonia					
Finland					
France	50,000				
Germany	97,845				
Greece					
Hungary					
Ireland					
Italy					
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg					
Malta					
Netherlands					
Poland					
Portugal					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain					
Sweden	108,700				
United kingdom					
Subtotal	256,545	Subtotal	1,700,000	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	1,956,545		

Dated : 26/07/2005

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

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

**6 - Amount of decision and distribution by specific objectives:**

6.1. - Total amount of the decision: EUR 996,500

**6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives**

<b>Principal objective:</b> <i>Recovery support to the most vulnerable families in Guyana affected by natural disaster</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>4</sup></b>
Specific objective 1: Assist flood stricken populations with livelihood support and disaster preparedness action	996,500	Regions 3, 4, 5 (East coast)	Regions 3, 4 and 5 (East coast)	OXFAM (GB)
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>996,500</b>			

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<sup>4</sup> OXFAM (GB)

## 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 01**

-	CE (EUR)
Initial Available Appropriations for <b>2005</b>	476.500.000
Supplementary Budgets	100.000.000
Transfers	-3.500.000
<b>Total Available Credits</b>	<b>573.000.000</b>
Total executed to date (as at 28/07/05)	461.641.370
Available remaining	111.358.630
<b>Total amount of the Decision</b>	<b>996,500</b>

**COMMISSION DECISION**  
**of**  
**on the financing of humanitarian operations from the general budget of the European Union in**  
**GUYANA**

**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>5</sup>, and in particular Article 14 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In January 2005 Guyana was struck by flooding, causing wide-spread devastation in the country's most densely populated areas;
- (2) Whilst most of the affected population's short-term needs in terms of food, water, sanitation and non-food items have been met, it is important to also support the first phase of re-establishing livelihoods;
- (3) This recovery support should also include disaster preparedness actions so as to render populations less vulnerable to future disaster;
- (4) An assessment of the humanitarian situation leads to the conclusion that humanitarian aid operations should be financed by the Community for a period of 15 months;
- (5) It is estimated that an amount of **EUR 996,500** from budget line **23 02 01** of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to the flood victims in Guyana, 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 **EUR 996,500** for humanitarian aid operations **to support flood affected populations in Guyana** by using line **23 02 01** of the **2005** general budget of the European Union.

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

**Assist flood stricken populations with livelihood support and disaster preparedness action.**

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 **15** months, starting on **01 October 2005**.
2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from **01 October 2005**.
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