



## Humanitarian Aid Decision

23 02 01

Title: Humanitarian aid to populations affected by the situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and to Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria

Location of operation: MIDDLE EAST

Amount of Decision: EUR 8,276,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/-ME/BUD/2005/02000

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### Explanatory Memorandum

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

##### 1.1. - Rationale

##### West Bank and Gaza Strip (WBGS)

In the second half of 2005 Palestinian and Israeli leaders stated their intentions to try to end the violence between the two sides and to operate within the framework of the Road Map<sup>1</sup> with the ultimate objective of the emergence of an independent, democratic, and viable Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours. The unilateral Israeli withdrawal, mid-August, of all 21 settlements and 7,000 settlers, and of the military presence, from the Gaza Strip, as well of 4 settlements and some 650 settlers from the North of the West Bank, provided some hope to the international community that the peace process might be reinvigorated<sup>2</sup>.

Movement restrictions around the West Bank had been eased by 20% as of June 2005 compared to December 2004, although some 375 fixed physical barriers were still in place and the number of mobile checkpoints had increased. Whilst the conflict claimed more than 3,500 Palestinian and more than 1,000 Israeli lives since the second Intifada began in September 2000, there was a reduction in civilian fatalities in the first half of 2005. Demolitions of Palestinian homes and infrastructure were also reduced.

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<sup>1</sup> See, inter alia, EU Council conclusions of 03 October 2005.

<sup>2</sup> See, inter alia, the Quartet Statement, New York, 20 September 2005.

These positive steps, however, remain fragile, and were followed by a new cycle of violence, in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, just weeks after the withdrawal.

Economic development in the Gaza Strip, to which the international community intends to provide significant financial support<sup>3</sup>, largely depends on the effective easing of movement for goods and labour, a process that remains entirely under Israeli control. The latter retains in fact full control over land borders, sea waters and the airspace. Continued construction of the “security barrier” on Palestinian land in the West Bank and around Jerusalem flaunting international law according to the advisory opinion issued in July 2004 by the International Court of Justice, and settlements expansion in the West Bank in violation of international law as well as the Road Map, remain major obstacles to a constructive re-engagement in the political process and continue to generate further humanitarian needs. The Palestinian Authority also needs to demonstrate its ability to exercise effective administration of the territory and control of militant groups whose popularity grows among the population.

On the socio-economic front, there have been no improvements in the first three quarters of 2005. Household incomes have fallen, assets and coping mechanisms exhausted, and living conditions further eroded by the considerable decline in the quality of essential services like health and education and the economic and/or physical inability of most Palestinians to access them. Half of the Palestinian population is in poverty, rising to 68% in the Gaza Strip. Unemployment remains high at 37%, a level that is 10% higher than in September 2000. Only 10% of women of working age are employed. One in three persons aged 15-24 years and over half of those aged 25-29 years are unemployed, which creates a potentially fertile breeding ground for violence and extremism. The psychological impact on a population increasingly dependent on international aid remains negative. Regular access to safe water in the West Bank where nearly 40% of the communities lack water networks, is a major concern, as well as the nearly 40% of the population who are food insecure<sup>4</sup>. All these factors maintain the population in a situation of high vulnerability and dependency towards external humanitarian assistance.

Despite slight improvements, humanitarian operators remained often victims of the Israeli policy of closure and movement restrictions, which is contrary to the provisions of the IV Geneva Convention that Israel has ratified. In the second half of 2005 there were also security incidents, including kidnappings, affecting UN Agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as well as NGO humanitarian staff and foreigners in general, due to the activities of Palestinian armed groups.

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<sup>3</sup> The G-8 have endorsed an outline of a reconstruction and development plan presented by the Quartet Special Envoy Mr. Wolfensohn that foresees financial assistance to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip up to EUR 3 billion annually in the coming three years, which would mean a doubling of the current efforts of the international donor community. The European Commission is proposing to the European Parliament and the Council to respond to such an effort by increasing the current Community budget for interventions in the oPt by about EUR 200 to 300 million per year if budget margins permit, accompanied by an increase in Member States bilateral assistance.

<sup>4</sup> See United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) website on the occupied Palestinian territory (<http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/opt/>), and “Occupied Palestinian territory – Mid-year Review of 2005 Consolidated Appeals Process”, UN, New York, June 2005.

## Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria

Lebanon, Jordan and Syria host, respectively, some 445,000 (13% of total population), 1,800,000 (nearly 35% of total population) and 430,000 (2.6% of total population) Palestine refugees<sup>5</sup>. They are well integrated into the Jordanian and Syrian societies. In Jordan, 16% of them live in 10 official camps. In Syria, 27% of them live in 10 official camps. They remain discriminated in Lebanon, where 53% of them live, in very poor conditions, mostly in 12 official camps and in a number of unofficial gatherings<sup>6</sup>. The Lebanese government declared its intention to considerably reduce the current legal impediments for access to more than 70 jobs. However, it is unlikely that such measures, even if implemented, would result in substantial improvements in the short term for Palestine refugees.

Against this background, the present funding decision should be regarded as being complementary to the one adopted by the European Commission on 24 May 2005<sup>7</sup>, insofar as it: a) addresses humanitarian needs, like shelter rehabilitation for Palestine refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria, that were not covered under that funding decision; b) aims at providing further support (food, water and sanitation, temporary jobs) to vulnerable groups of people particularly affected in the WBGs, as well as further assistance in the health sector to Palestine refugees in Lebanon. The present funding decision will also allow the European Commission to maintain humanitarian technical assistance in Jerusalem.

### 1.2. - Identified needs

#### 1.2.1 – Shelters

Given the living conditions of Palestine refugees in both official camps and unofficial gatherings in Jordan, Syria and, especially, Lebanon, shelter rehabilitation remains relevant within the humanitarian mandate. There are evident forgotten needs in this area, where the European Commission remains the only international donor to UNRWA and a small number of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO). Further interventions will take into account both the socio-economic conditions of the beneficiary families, with focus on special hardship cases, the structural conditions of the shelters, with focus on those that are life-threatening for their occupants, as well as the degree of integration into and formal rights enjoyed in the host countries. UNRWA estimates that presently 14.700 shelters meet these conditions.

According to these criteria, needs have been identified, in order of priority for intervention, in: 1) unofficial gatherings in Lebanon; 2) official camps in Lebanon; 3) unofficial gatherings in Jordan, in particular Al-Sukhneh, Zarka Governorate, 23 km northeast of Amman; 4) official camps in Jordan, in particular the Jerash camp, where the so-called “Gaza” population lives<sup>8</sup>, and in Syria; 5) the few unofficial gatherings in Syria, where the poor

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<sup>5</sup> Figures, as of 30 June 2005, provided by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in August 2005.

<sup>6</sup> In Lebanon there is also a group of some 3.000 persons not registered with UNRWA nor with the Lebanese authorities. They have no identification papers and live mostly in unofficial gatherings.

<sup>7</sup> “Humanitarian aid for the most vulnerable victims of the ongoing crisis in the occupied Palestinian territories, and the poorest segments of Palestine refugees in Lebanon” (EUR 28,300,000).

<sup>8</sup> Refugees from Gaza following the 1967 war, to whom the Jordanian government does not recognize full citizenship rights, although this is currently under review by the Government. They were in fact Egyptian citizens, contrary to the refugees from the West Bank that was part of Jordan before the occupation by Israel. They currently number 1,800 people.

living conditions of Palestine refugees do not actually differ from those of the poor Syrian population living in the same areas.

### 1.2.2 – Water and sanitation

In the WBGs, the Israeli authorities control both the quality and the quantity of water resources. Furthermore some 37% of the population is not connected to the water network<sup>9</sup>. In most rural areas the existing drinking water availability estimated by the Palestinian Water Authority, is less than 15 Lt/person/day. Due to the dilapidated state of the infrastructure the extracting capacity of existing wells is not sufficient to provide the necessary quantities of water for agricultural purposes. As a consequence the proper exploitation and cultivation of the land has been seriously hampered resulting in a significant drop of income for the rural communities and an increased pressure on farmer's household due to the cost of purchasing drinking water. Therefore, increasing access to water and minor rehabilitation of the infrastructure remain a priority.

### 1.2.3 – Food

According to the World Food Programme (WFP)<sup>10</sup>, in the WBGs 1,372,614 million people are food insecure, while a further 1,017,436 people are at risk of becoming food insecure. Over the last five years, food consumption levels have declined approximately 25 per cent per capita and a rise has been detected in stunting levels among children below the age of five, particularly those in rural and in refugee families. Overall there has been a significant increase in the percentage of Palestinians who indicate that food is the top priority need of their household (increase from 16% in February 2004 to 44,6% in April-June 2005<sup>11</sup>). The Palestinian National Authority has limited capacity to resolve the economic problems underlying food insecurity, because it faces a projected deficit of US\$ 100 million in 2005 despite broad support from international donors.<sup>12</sup> Providing support to the Palestinian population by mitigating the consequences of impoverishment at household level therefore remains a priority in this decision.

WFP received so far 16 million USD funding for its country programme 2005 of 41 million USD and has requested funding to be able to continue its present operation. People affected by the “security barrier” and populations like the Bedouins remain particularly vulnerable groups in terms of access to food<sup>13</sup>.

### 1.2.4 – Temporary jobs

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, work opportunities are the 2<sup>nd</sup> top priority for Palestinian households<sup>14</sup>. 63,9% of the Palestinian households indicated that their income has decreased since September 2000 (69,5% in the West Bank and 54,0% in Gaza Strip), of which 62,6% lost more than 50% of their usual income. As recalled, unemployment remains high, standing at 37%, a level that is 10% higher than before September 2000. Fewer

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<sup>9</sup> Mid-Year Review of the Humanitarian Appeal 2005 for Occupied Palestinian Territory, June 2005.

<sup>10</sup> WFP: Food Aid Response Plan – occupied Palestinian territory (Draft), 27 september 2005.

<sup>11</sup> Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics: Main Findings of the Survey on the Impact of Israeli Measures on the Economic Conditions of the Palestinian Households, April-June 2005

<sup>12</sup> Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU): Country Report Palestinian Territories, May 2005

<sup>13</sup> EU funding is being provided also through the budget line for food security. For 2005, EUR 8 million are being provided to WFP, EUR 6 million to the Social Welfare Programme, and EUR 14 million to fund UNRWA regular food distributions.

<sup>14</sup> Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics: Main Findings of the Survey on the Impact of Israeli Measures on the Economic Conditions of the Palestinian Households, April-June 2005

than half of all men of working age and only 10% of women of working age are currently employed.<sup>15</sup>

Due to the high level of unemployment in the WBGS, and severely restricted access to jobs in Israel, the creation of temporary jobs, through operations promoting community works, as well as food and cash for work and training, remains a priority sector of intervention.

#### 1.2.5 – Health

In Lebanon, the hospitals run by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS/L) remain the main provider of secondary health services to Palestinians and a major partner for UNRWA to refer its patients to. The Netherlands Red Cross has started to review and address the PRCS/L's managerial weaknesses. This process, financially supported by the Commission, needs to be continued and reinforced in order to guarantee that quality services are being provided by the PRCS/L hospitals to their patients.

#### 1.2.6 – Technical assistance

Given that the current humanitarian situation does not allow contemplating any significant scaling down of funding at least during the timeframe of the present funding decision, it is necessary to maintain an adequate level of technical assistance capacity in the field.

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

The present decision will target the most vulnerable Palestinians in the WBGS, as well as the poorest Palestine refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.

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

The evolution of the situation in the WBGS remains unpredictable.

In the light of the new cycle of violence that followed the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and despite the international efforts to secure a sustainable peace, the overall security situation might deteriorate, with consequences for access by humanitarian operators. It is assumed that co-ordinated international advocacy on issues of general interest like entry, access, protection, etc. will continue.

Co-operation, in the full respect of principles and provisions of international humanitarian law in particular, from both the Israeli and Palestinian authorities is essential. Any difficulty for the Palestinian authorities to assume control over the activities of armed groups could increase the security risk. Equally, whilst, as recalled above, movements have been relatively eased by the Israeli authorities during 2005, incidents affecting humanitarian operators, albeit reduced in number, continued to occur, including those with a negative impact on the cost of the humanitarian operations.

With regard to Lebanon, it might be very difficult to implement shelter rehabilitation in unofficial gatherings, where only NGOs and not UNRWA can work. In fact, issues linked to land ownership in particular have proved in several instances to be insurmountable obstacles, preventing operations from going ahead effectively. It is also assumed that the Lebanese authorities will continue to grant the necessary authorities for carrying out operations both in

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<sup>15</sup> CAP, Mid-term Review, June 2005  
ECHO-ME/BUD/2005/02000

official camps and unofficial gatherings. This concerns, in particular, the importation of construction materials especially in the South of the country. The overall evolution of the situation in Lebanon might also affect the full and timely implementation of some operations.

## **2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed<sup>16</sup>:**

### 2.1. - Objectives :

Principal objective: to assist vulnerable Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and vulnerable Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

Specific objectives:

- To provide water and sanitation, food and temporary jobs to vulnerable Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip;
- To provide shelter rehabilitation and medicines to Palestine refugees in Lebanon, and shelter rehabilitation to Palestine refugees in Jordan and Syria;
- To maintain a technical assistance capacity in Jerusalem, to assess needs, appraise project proposals and to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of humanitarian operations.

### 2.2. - Components

#### 2.2.1 – Shelter

In Lebanon, Jordan and Syria, more than 2,000 people belonging to the category of special hardship cases, living in dilapidated, unhygienic or unsafe shelters giving rise to life threatening, physical and health hazards, will have these shelters rehabilitated.

In Jordan, further rehabilitation works<sup>17</sup> will allow all the 3,300 and more Palestine refugees living in the Al-Sukhneh unofficial gathering to live in decent shelters. This will require, in some cases, the full rehabilitation of existing shelters, whereas in other cases only the main room and/or the kitchen and/or the toilet will be rehabilitated.

#### 2.2.2 – Water and sanitation

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1 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 [http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/partners/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/partners/index_en.htm)

<sup>17</sup> Funds made available at the end of 2004 under the EU budget line for humanitarian aid have already resulted in the improvement of living conditions of nearly 900 people in 115 shelters at Al-Sukhneh unofficial gathering.

Some 1600 families (1200 farmers and 400 well owners) living in the district of Tulkarem will have improved access to water for domestic and agricultural use through the rehabilitation of groundwater wells. Well owners and farmers will be trained on proper water pump management in order to minimise water consumption, operation and maintenance costs as well as improving their agricultural production.

### 2.2.3 – Food

In the WBGs, further support will be provided to food distributions, food-for-work and food-for-training, at the same time aiming at creating or rehabilitating assets, building skills and improving agricultural and income-earning opportunities.

In the West Bank, 18,000 Bedouins will have alleviated their household budget by providing fodder for their animals. Fodder is a key expense in the household budget of the Bedouin communities, for whom animals are the main source of income.

In Gaza 14,000 Bedouins will be supported in improving their animal and agricultural production through veterinary and agricultural training, the provision of construction material for animal sheds, the equipment for animal feeding, seedlings and fodder and work contracts for the rehabilitation of agricultural land.

### 2.2.4 – Temporary jobs

In the West Bank 1690 beneficiaries corresponding to specific selection criteria will receive an income of 50/75 NIS (unskilled/skilled workers) per day for a period of 20 days each within the scope of temporary job creation projects consisting in community works, as well as food and cash for work and training.

### 2.2.5 – Health

Some 200.000 Palestinian refugees will benefit from improved quality of health services provided at PRCS/L hospitals through a further strengthening of the latter's management capacity including: increased accountability and transparency of hospital administration, consolidation of financial procedures, collection of reliable data on real costs and hospital income, the introduction of procedures and systems for efficient medical supply management and the provision of further coaching and training to assist hospital management.

### 2.2.6 – Technical assistance

In order to maximise the impact of the humanitarian aid for the victims, the Commission will maintain an ECHO support office located in Jerusalem staffed with both expatriate and local personnel. This office will appraise project proposals, co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of humanitarian operations financed by the Commission. The office will provide technical assistance capacity and the necessary logistics for the achievement of these tasks.

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

The duration for the implementation of this decision shall be 18 months.

Humanitarian operations funded by this decision must be implemented within this period.

Movement restrictions imposed by the Israeli Defence Forces over the past five years on both persons and goods, which have often hampered the implementation of humanitarian operations and the movement of humanitarian personnel, have been eased since the beginning of 2005. However, since the imposition of such restrictions is directly dependent upon developments in the peace process that remain largely unpredictable, and considering also a recrudescence of violence, on both the Palestinian and Israeli side, in the third quarter of 2005, it is crucial to ensure some flexibility in this financial decision, so that in case of delay or halt of the activities, operations can resume within a reasonable period of time and be completed within the timeframe of the legal validity of this decision.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 01 December 2005, considering current circumstances, including security concerns and the need to avoid major disruptions between ongoing and planned operations.

Start Date : 01 December 2005.

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.

Funds made available under funding decisions listed below have been allocated or are in the process of being allocated through identified implementing partners.

List of previous ECHO operations in JORDAN/LEBANON/PALESTINIAN TERRITORY, OCCUPIED/SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC				
Decision number	Decision type	2003 EUR	2004 EUR	2005 EUR
ECHO/PSE/BUD/2004/01000	Emergency		1,000,000	
ECHO/-ME/BUD/2004/01000	As hoc		28,000,000	
ECHO/PSE/BUD/2004/02000	Non Emergency		1,350,000	
ECHO/-ME/BUD/2004/02000	Ad hoc		7,000,000	
ECHO/TPS/210/2003/03000	Ad hoc	15,000,000		
ECHO/TPS/210/2003/08000	Ad hoc	10,000,000		
ECHO/TPS/210/2003/16000	Ad hoc	13,000,000		
ECHO/-ME/BUD/2005/01000	Ad hoc			28,300,000
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>38,000,000</b>	<b>37,350,000</b>	<b>28,300,000</b>
	<b>Total (2003)+(2004)+(2005)</b>	<b>103,650,000</b>		<b>0</b>

Dated : 30/09/2005

Source : HOPE



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

### Donors in JORDAN/LEBANON/PALESTINIAN TERRITORY, OCCUPIED/SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC the last 12 months

1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria		ECHO	35,300,000		
Belgium	4,208,700	Other services	28,000,000 <sup>18</sup>		
Cyprus					
Czech republic					
Denmark	4,885,153				
Estonia					
Finland	3,600,000				
France	1,675,275				
Germany	935,000				
Greece					
Hungary	8,100				
Ireland	1,500,000				
Italy					
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg	149,215				
Malta					
Netherlands	4,494,000				
Poland					
Portugal					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain					
Sweden	8,432,950				
United kingdom					
Subtotal	29,888,393	Subtotal	35,300,000	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	65,188,393		

Dated : 30/09/2005

(\*) 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 8,276,000.

<sup>18</sup> EU budget line for food security.

## 6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

<b>Principal objective:</b> <i>To assist vulnerable Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and vulnerable Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria</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>19</sup></b>
Specific objective 1: To provide water and sanitation, food and temporary jobs to vulnerable Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip	4,550,000	West Bank and Gaza Strip	Water and sanitation; food; temporary jobs.	- ACP - CISP - COOPI - CRIC - UN - WFP-PAM
Specific objective 2: To provide shelter rehabilitation and medicines to Palestine refugees in Lebanon, and shelter rehabilitation to Palestine refugees in Jordan and Syria	3,215,000	Lebanon, Jordan, Syria	Health; shelter rehabilitation	- CROIX-ROUGE - NLD - ICU - UN - UNRWA
Specific objective 3: To maintain a technical assistance capacity in Jerusalem, to assess needs, appraise project proposals and to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of humanitarian operations	511,000	Jerusalem	Technical assistance	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>8,276,000</b>			

<sup>19</sup>

ASAMBLEA DE COOPERACION POR LA PAZ, (E), CENTRO REGIONALE D INTERVENTO PER LA COOPERAZIONE (ITA), COMITATO INTERNAZIONALE PER LO SVILUPPO DEI POPOLI (ITA), COOPERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE (ITA), HET NEDERLANDSE RODE KRUIS (NLD), ISTITUTO PER LA COOPERAZIONE UNIVERSITARIA (ITA), UNITED NATIONS - WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME, UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN NEAR EAST

## 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 2005	476,500,000
Supplementary Budgets	
Reinforcement from Emergency aid reserve	100,000,000
Transfers Commission	- 3,500,000
<b>Total available appropriations</b>	<b>573,000,000</b>
Total executed to date (as at 11/10/2005)	493,337,870
Available remaining	79,662,130
<b>Total amount of the Decision</b>	<b>8,276,000</b>

### Payment schedule

	2005	2006	2007
EUR	4,138,000	2,482,800	1,655,200

## COMMISSION DECISION

**of**  
**on the financing of humanitarian operations from the general budget of the European Union in the West bank and the Gaza Strip, the Lebanese Republic, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the Syrian Arab Republic**

**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>20</sup>, and in particular Article 15(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Despite efforts towards the resumption of the peace process between the Israeli and Palestinian side, the humanitarian situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip did not show any significant improvement during the first three quarters of 2005;
- (2) One third of the more than four million registered Palestine refugees across the Middle East live in refugee camps, in most cases, and in Lebanon in particular, in precarious hygiene and sanitation conditions and in dilapidated, often life-threatening shelters, with little attention from the international donor community;
- (3) It is essential to make water and sanitation, food, temporary jobs, and health services available, as well as to rehabilitate shelters for special hardship cases in particular;
- (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 18 months.
- (5) In order to maximise the impact of humanitarian aid for the victims, it is necessary to maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field.
- (6) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 8,276,000 from budget line 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as to the poorest Palestine refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria, taking into account the available budget, other donors-contributions and other factors.
- (7) In accordance with Article 17 (3) of Regulation (EC) No.1257/96, the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave a favourable opinion on 24 November 2005.

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<sup>20</sup> OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6  
[ECHO-ME/BUD/2005/02000](#)

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 8,276,000 for humanitarian aid operations to populations affected by the situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and to Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria by using line 23 02 01 of the 2005 general budget of the European Union.
2. In accordance with Articles 2 (a) and 4 of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objectives:
  - To provide water and sanitation, food and temporary jobs to vulnerable Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip;
  - To provide shelter rehabilitation and medicines to Palestine refugees in Lebanon, and shelter rehabilitation to Palestine refugees in Jordan and Syria;
  - To maintain a technical assistance capacity in Jerusalem, to assess needs, appraise project proposals and to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of humanitarian operations.

The amounts allocated to each of these specific objectives are listed in the annex to this decision

*Article 2*

The Commission may, where this is justified by the humanitarian situation, re-allocate the funding levels established for one of the specific objectives set out in Article 1(2) to another objective mentioned therein, provided that the re-allocated amount represents less than 20% of the global amount covered by this Decision.

*Article 3*

1. The duration for the implementation of this decision shall be for a maximum period of 18 months, starting on 01 December 2005.
2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 01 December 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 4*

This Decision shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission

## Annex: Breakdown of allocations by specific objectives

<b>Principal objective:</b> To assist vulnerable Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and vulnerable Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria	
<b>Specific objectives</b>	<b>Amount per specific objective (EUR)</b>
To provide water and sanitation, food and temporary jobs to vulnerable Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip	4,550,000
To provide shelter rehabilitation and medicines to Palestine refugees in Lebanon, and shelter rehabilitation to Palestine refugees in Jordan and Syria	3,215,000
To maintain a technical assistance capacity in Jerusalem, to assess needs, appraise project proposals and to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of humanitarian operations	511,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,276,000</b>