

Decision to modify a Humanitarian Aid Decision
23 02 01

Decision subject to the proposed modifications:

<u>Decision reference number:</u>	ECHO/-SA/BUD/2005/02000
<u>Location of operation:</u>	SOUTH ASIA
<u>Title:</u>	Humanitarian aid for the people displaced by the conflict in Sri Lanka and for the Tamil refugees living in Tamil Nadu, India
<u>Initial amount of decision:</u>	EUR 2,000,000
<u>New amount of decision:</u>	EUR 4,000,000
<u>Date of the decision:</u>	19 May 2005

Explanatory memorandum

Grounds for the modification

1. Increase in total budget of the decision

Six months on from the tsunami of 26 December 2004, it is becoming clear that the humanitarian assistance being provided to IDPs affected by the natural disaster in Sri Lanka is very different both in terms of quality and quantity to the assistance currently provided to the IDPs displaced by prior conflict. In the north and east of the country in particular, where ECHO operations are concentrated, discrimination in the treatment of IDPs is of particular concern and there is a risk that this may create resentment and tension among communities.

This imbalance in aid distribution violates the ECHO principle of non-discrimination. In the interest of fairness and with a view to avoiding future tensions, ECHO has a responsibility to ensure that people displaced due to prior conflict are not discriminated against in comparison to tsunami displaced persons.

ECHO is therefore requesting an increase in the total budget of this decision from EUR 2 million to EUR 4 million in order to increase both the number of beneficiaries

covered by this decision and the standards of aid provided to the conflict affected IDPs.

To the beneficiaries already indicated in the original decision, ECHO proposes to add an estimated 100.000 new beneficiaries under specific objective 1.

2. Addition of four partners under Specific objective 1

The additional budget will finance projects with ECHO partners who are well established in the affected districts and who have previously implemented ECHO operations for the conflict affected population. Consequently in addition to UNHCR, ICRC and NRC who were included as partners in the original decision, ECHO proposes to add CARE-DE, GAA, UN-FAO and ZOA.

The new budgetary table would be as follows:

Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: <i>To assist people displaced by the conflict and returning to their places of origin, IDPs living in welfare centres and the Tamil refugees living in camps in Tamil Nadu, India.</i>				
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Possible geographical area of operation	Activities	Potential partners¹
Specific objective 1: To help about 200,000 returnees and resident populations to meet their immediate needs	3,800,000	Northern and North-eastern regions of Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of shelters; - Distribution of non-food relief items; - Homestead rehabilitation, including rehabilitation of agro-wells and small irrigation tanks; - Rehabilitation and cleaning of drinking wells and latrines, including maintenance and hygiene training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CARE DEU - GERMAN AGRO ACTION - CROIX-ROUGE - CICR- ICRC - CH - NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL - UN-FAO - UN - UNHCR – BEL - ZOA

¹ [CARE INTERNATIONAL DEUTSCHLAND E.V. \(DEU\)](#), COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR), [DEUTSCHE WELTHUNGERHILFE / GERMAN AGRO ACTION, \(DEU\)](#), FOLKEKIRKENS NODHJAELP, (DNK), NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL (NOR), [UNITED NATIONS - FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION](#), UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES – BELGIUM, [ZOA-Vluchtelingen-zorg- NL](#)

<p>Specific objective 2: To improve access to health care and nutrition for the 60,000 refugees living in Tamil Nadu, mainly women and children.</p>	<p>200,000</p>	<p>Tamil Nadu state, India</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distribution of supplementary food rations to pregnant and lactating mothers and to children under five, to undernourished, chronically ill and infirm refugees and to severely undernourished children; - Preventive primary health care; - Training of health workers and provision of first aid medication and equipment for basic clinical tests; - Maintenance of the refugee database. 	<p>- DANCHURCH AID - DNK</p>
<p>TOTAL</p>	<p>4,000,000</p>			

Proposed modifications:

It is proposed:

- **To increase the total budget of this decision from EUR 2 million to EUR 4 million.**
- **To increase the number of beneficiaries under specific objective 1 from 200.000 to 300.000.**
- **To add CARE-DE, GAA, UN-FAO and ZOA to the list of partners under specific objective 1.**

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 aid², and in particular Article 15(2) thereof,

Whereas:

1. The conflict between Tamil separatists and Government forces in the northern and North-eastern region of Sri Lanka since 1983 has exacted a heavy toll on the economy, claiming about 65,000 human lives.
2. Since the truce agreement of February 2002, it is estimated that more than 380,000 internally displaced people have spontaneously returned to their areas of origin.
3. It is estimated that this movement will continue in 2005 albeit on a reduced scale, thus necessitating quick support to allow these returnees to resettle in the best and safest conditions.
4. 350,000 persons remain displaced to date, including 78,000 people living in welfare centres, and 60,000 Tamil refugees living in about 100 camps in Tamil Nadu, India.
5. It is necessary to balance aid distribution between the conflict and tsunami affected populations in order to avoid resentment and tension among different communities.
6. It is therefore necessary to modify the global budget of Decision ECHO/-SA/BUD/2005/02000 of 19 May 2005 on the financing of humanitarian aid for the people displaced by the conflict in Sri Lanka and for the Tamil refugees living in Tamil Nadu, India from budget line 23 02 01.
7. In accordance with Article 17(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave a favourable opinion on 2 August 2005.

² OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Article 1.1 of Decision ECHO/-SA/BUD/2005/02000 adopted on 19 May 2005 is replaced by the following:

“In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of EUR 4,000,000 for humanitarian aid operations to assist people displaced by the conflict and returning to their places of origin, IDPs living in welfare centres and the Tamil refugees living in camps in Tamil Nadu, India, by using line 23 02 01 of the 2005 general budget of the European Union”.

Article 2

Article 1.2 of Decision ECHO/-SA/BUD/2005/02000 adopted on 19 May 2005 is replaced by the following:

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

- To help about 300,000 returnees and resident populations to meet their immediate needs.
- To improve access to health care and nutrition for the 60,000 refugees living in Tamil Nadu, mainly women and children.”

Article 3

The annex to Decision ECHO/-SA/BUD/2005/02000 adopted on 19 May 2005 is replaced with a new annex as attached.

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

Principal objective: To assist people displaced by the conflict and returning to their places of origin, IDPs living in welfare centres and the Tamil refugees living in camps in Tamil Nadu, India.	
Specific objectives	Amount per specific objective (EUR)
To help about 300,000 returnees and resident populations to meet their immediate needs	3,800,000
To improve access to health care and nutrition for the 60,000 refugees living in Tamil Nadu, mainly women and children.	200,000
TOTAL	4,000,000