



Humanitarian Aid Decision

23 02 01

Title: Humanitarian aid in favour of the people of Asia affected by the earthquake and the tsunami of 26 December 2004.

Location of operation: ASIA

Amount of decision: 80,000,000 EUR

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

Explanatory Memorandum

1 - Rationale, needs and target population:

1.1. - Rationale:

The earthquake that occurred off the west coast of northern Sumatra on Sunday 26 December 2004 was followed by aftershocks ranging in magnitude from 6 to 7.3. The quakes triggered a powerful tsunami that reared up into walls of water as high as 10 meters as they hit coastlines of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand. Aftershocks on a smaller scale continued every two hours for several days in Sumatra (Indonesia) and Andaman and Nicobar Islands (India).

Resultant tidal waves caused massive flooding in Indonesia (Provinces of Aceh and North Sumatra), Sri Lanka (mainly the north, the east and the south) and India (Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala states), substantial flooding in the Maldives and Thailand and minor flooding in Bangladesh and Myanmar.

The impact of this huge natural disaster on the affected population is impressive and the death toll is still increasing day after day, more than three weeks after the event. Latest figures as of 20 January 2005 are 213,655 dead, 21,687 missing and 1,453,256 displaced¹.

In addition to human losses, material destruction is enormous. Houses were destroyed or damaged, and household and personal items and savings lost. Damage to livelihood assets has eroded people's ability to earn a living. Public infrastructure such as water and drainage systems, roads, bridges, buildings, including schools and hospitals, and the telecommunication and power networks have been totally or partially destroyed. In towns such as Banda Aceh and Meulaboh most of the buildings were razed to the ground by the tidal waves.

¹ Source: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Situation report n° 19, 18/01/2005, and ECHO experts' situation reports.

On 6 January 2005, the United Nations launched an unprecedented Flash Appeal focusing on supporting the immediate needs of people in Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Seychelles, Somalia and Sri Lanka from January to the end of June 2005, and called for €751.5 million (\$ 977 million) to fund the critical work of some forty UN agencies and NGOs for the first six months of 2005. Already on 26 December 2004, the International Federation of the Red Cross had launched an Appeal for EUR 4,852,932, which was subsequently increased to EUR 53,439,988 on 29 December 2004. The unprecedented mobilisation of humanitarian NGOs should also be mentioned.

In response to this widespread disaster the Commission through ECHO took immediate emergency decisions² aimed at covering the very initial humanitarian response. But in the light of the unprecedented scale of the disaster and the subsequent fund appeals from the main humanitarian organisations the Commission consulted rapidly the Parliament and the Council in view of releasing additional funding by means of the mobilising EUR 100 million from the Emergency Aid Reserve to the Humanitarian Aid budget line (23 02 01). The Budgetary Authority quickly gave its approval to the immediate transfer of funds on 19 January 2005.

The present Decision represents the European Commission's proposal to use most the funds made available from the reserve. It provides an important contribution to the UN Appeal, as well as humanitarian aid projects not included in the Appeal coming from other key relief organisations.

1.2. - Identified needs:

Despite the fact that the tsunami, and the earthquake in the case of Indonesia, left behind it desolation, death and misery, the situation today is not the same in all the affected areas. This is explained by the differences in the intensity of the disaster, the local authorities' reactions, the local coping mechanisms and the degree of difficulty, or ease, of access to affected areas.

Indonesia

Indonesia is the country that has been most seriously affected by the disaster. The destruction has mostly concentrated in the Province of Aceh in the north of Sumatra, where the assessments of needs is not yet completed due to the enormous logistical constraints faced by relief agencies. Contrary to other countries affected in the region in which agencies are quickly moving into the recovery and rehabilitation phase, Indonesia has not overcome the emergency phase yet: relief efforts have not yet reached all the affected areas; acute needs persist in the water supply and sanitation sector (according to the Inter-Agency Health Assessment Teams reports) and shelter needs to be urgently provided to the displaced population arriving into camps.

Food aid

Although WFP estimates that one million people in Aceh will be in need of food aid from January to June, the nutritional situation seems to be acceptable since most of the population is already benefiting from food distributions. However, not all rations provided are nutritionally balanced and no special attention is being paid to the most vulnerable people. People living in urban areas have better access to food and more coping mechanisms.

² Primary Emergency Decision of 26/12/2004, EUR 3,000,000 (regional); Emergency Decision of 30/12/2004, EUR 10,000,000 (Sri Lanka and Maldives); Emergency Decision of 31/12/2004, EUR 10,000,000 (Indonesia).

Livelihood support

FAO reports that many farmers have lost a large part of their tools, equipment and livestock. Fields have been levelled, water reservoirs, bunds and dykes destroyed, along with irrigation and drainage facilities. Small-scale fishery was the main economic activity in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam Province and it has been reported that 70 percent of the small-scale fishing fleet was destroyed.

Health

In spite of worsening sanitation conditions and limited access to drinking water, no epidemic outbreaks have been reported so far. WHO, with European Commission (ECHO) support and in collaboration with the Indonesian Ministry of Health, has already established a surveillance and early warning system for epidemic outbreaks.

The health infrastructure was severely damaged and WHO reports that there is only one functioning hospital in Banda Aceh and another one in Meulaboh and no local health clinics left after the tsunami. Regarding health personnel, as of 17 January 2005, 50% of provincial health staff in Aceh was still unaccounted for. However, it seems that a sufficient number of field hospitals have already been set up and some local health facilities have reopened.

Due to the delays in getting people to hospital after the tsunami, and due to the limited medical facilities available at the time, there were many amputations – some reports say as many as 100 per day for the first few days.

Most people are traumatised by the scale of the disaster in terms of loss of lives and physical destruction. Reactions among the population vary from acute symptoms such as apathy and clinging to relatives to indifference, though other reactions may emerge in the longer term.

Water and sanitation

Immediate water supply needs in the biggest population centres (Banda Aceh and Meulaboh), are covered by temporary supply systems set up by the various agencies participating in the relief effort. In the rural areas of the west coast of Aceh, needs assessments are progressing. The Inter-Agency Health Assessment Teams led by WHO are using military transport to reach areas that were previously inaccessible. Their situation reports show that, while the quantity of water available is sufficient, quality needs to be improved through disinfection and rehabilitation of wells.

OCHA reports that environmental sanitation is still very poor in the majority of the affected areas. In spite of ongoing efforts, there is still a substantial amount of debris that has not been removed. Latrine construction is progressing but at a slow pace due to technical difficulties relating to the high level of ground water (20-30 cm from the surface).

In response to this situation, more than 50% of the funds of the Emergency Decision for Indonesia (ECHO/IDN/BUD/2005/01000) have been already allocated to water and sanitation projects. However, these operations aim to set up temporary systems in the areas destroyed by the tsunami and do not cover the full repair of existing water supply systems. In addition, there will be a need for water and sanitation facilities in the IDP camps which the Government plans to set up.

Shelter

UNHCR estimates that some 600,000 persons remain displaced. This figure includes in the category “displaced” groups of people with different needs: those who are living in camps, those who are living with families or neighbours and those who have remained on their land, despite their houses being damaged or destroyed. Both the displaced living in camps and those not being hosted by relatives or neighbours are in need of adequate temporary shelter until programs to repair or rebuild their houses start. Preliminary assessments estimate that 117,000 houses were completely destroyed, and 162,000 damaged. The replacement need is estimated at 105,000 given the large loss of life. As a transition measure, the Government intends to establish 24 camps for two years with a capacity of 35,000 persons. These plans are currently being discussed with humanitarian agencies.

Many of the people remaining on their land want to get back into their houses as soon as possible for which they need materials and tools to start rebuilding them..

Sri Lanka

A stretch of over 800 kilometres of coastline has been battered by tidal waves. The districts affected include the north and north east coasts (Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Trincomalee), the east (Batticaloa, Ampara), the south (Galle, Matara and Hambantota), and the south west of the island (Gampaha, Colombo, Kalutara). The most affected districts are in the east and the south. Thousands of people were swept out to the sea and drowned by the strong currents, while others were trapped in buildings, buses and trains. The northern and eastern districts were also affected by heavy rains after the tsunami, leading to poor sanitary conditions, and hampering relief activities for a week.

The Government of Sri Lanka declared a national emergency in the hours following the disaster, deployed military resources to assist relief efforts and issued a request for international assistance. The Centre for National Operations (CNO), working under the direct authority of the President, provides the essential interface between Government ministries, local authorities, the military and the assistance community.

Massive reconstruction and rehabilitation activities will take place in the coming weeks and months – housing, water-sanitation systems, electricity, public buildings, roads and bridges, port facilities. Costs will be in hundreds of millions of EUR. Less than three weeks after the disaster, several task forces have already been created to coordinate reconstruction work. The “Task Force to rebuild the Nation” (TAFRER) started work on 15 January, and was assigned the task of rebuilding hospitals, water and sanitation services, houses and network infrastructure within a year.

According to numerous UN reports and to the ECHO experts’ analyses, the emergency phase is now over and rehabilitation process is already starting.

Food aid

In its regional emergency food aid operation, WFP estimates that the number of people affected by the disaster and in need of food is 750,000 people. The organisation intends to provide 61,225 MT of food for this population, including rice, pulses, sugar, vegetable oil, biscuits and fortified blended food.

As of 17 January 2005, 6,872 MT have been distributed and WFP ascertains that food distributions are ongoing in all the affected districts despite transport problems in certain areas. Recent WFP assessments indicate that the number of people in need may increase by 100,000 and that by April the organisation will run out of supplies of wheat, sugar and rice.

Livelihood support

Concerning fishermen, a preliminary assessment carried out by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources estimates that of a total fleet of 29,694 boats, 19,637 or approximately 66 %, were damaged or destroyed (1,225 large multi-day boats, 8,097 motorized day boats and 10,316 traditional non-motorised craft). In addition, most of the fishing gear was also lost or damaged and needs to be replaced.

10 out of 12 major fishing ports with their support facilities were damaged to varying degrees³.

The immediate needs are to repair or replace boats and fishing gear to enable the most vulnerable fishermen to resume fishing in the shortest possible time.

There are also numerous families not in the fishing business who have lost their livelihood. These include farmers, traders, craftsmen, skilled and unskilled labourers and others living in the same communities along the coast. Support to these people should also be envisaged in order for them to restart their livelihood.

Health and psychosocial support

In the immediate aftermath of the tsunami, the main types of injuries were fractures and lacerations. There was also an increased risk of pulmonary infections linked to the inhalation of water. Post-traumatic complications (gangrene, septicaemia, etc...) were also identified.

No outbreaks of disease have been reported so far. The Ministry of Health, together with WHO, have conducted vaccination campaigns against measles, particularly in the south (Galle district) after a case was discovered in a temporary camp. A campaign for vector borne disease control is planned for all malaria and dengue endemic areas. The disease surveillance system is in place and, in some areas, very effective (Jaffna) but requires financial support. With increasing numbers of people leaving camps it will become more difficult to sustain disease surveillance as the population becomes more dispersed.

There are nearly 500 international health workers currently in Sri Lanka⁴ and as early as 29 December 2004, the Ministry of Health indicated that medical personnel were no longer required⁵. Nearly all hospitals are functioning, except those washed away on the eastern coast (Trincomalee), and medical supplies and drugs are available and in use. WHO and the World Bank are currently assessing the conditions in health facilities for the ongoing repair work.

The severe shock and loss experienced by the population have serious psychological and psychosocial consequences both in the short and long term, and return to normal life and the reestablishment of livelihood will be difficult. There is a great sense of solidarity among the affected population, but, with the displacement, devastation to homes and loss of life caused by the disaster, many families and individuals are affected both mentally and physically. .

³ FAO, preliminary assessment report, 12/01/2005.

⁴ WHO, situation report n° 19, 17/01/2005.

⁵ Source: UNDAC.

Particular attention should be paid to children. The National Child Protection Agency released provisional data collected from the camps on the number of orphan children (38), separated children (836) and children who have lost one parent (3,203)⁶.

Shelter and non-food relief items

As of 17 January⁷, the government reports that 443,336 people are still displaced (217,358 in camps and the rest with relatives). The number of completely damaged houses is 82,952 while those partially affected is 40,841. The districts of highest displacement are Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Ampara in the east and the south east.

The initial assistance rendered to tsunami victims consisted of a package of non-food relief items, including essentials. Many humanitarian actors have distributed and continue to distribute plastic sheets, plastic ropes, plastic mats, clothing such as sarees and t-shirts, towels and plastic plates and cups.

Figures for Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and camps should be treated as estimates since the situation is still very fluid (and will remain so for at least two more weeks). The existing IDP caseload should see a reduction in the days to come since: (i) those IDPs whose properties have not been severely damaged will possibly return to their places of origin once the government's pledges in terms of cash assistance become a reality, (ii) those IDPs who moved to Welfare Centres out of fear are believed to be returning to their dwellings and (iii) Welfare Centres will be closed and fewer Transit Centres opened.

Although the number of camps has dropped over the past week, the number of camps in school buildings remains high and plans for the relocation of displaced families from school buildings continue to be problematic⁸. The authorities (CNO) and the main humanitarian actors, starting with UNHCR, playing a coordination role in this sector, have agreed on a model to provide semi-permanent accommodation or transition shelter during the housing reconstruction period estimated to last between 8 months and one year. This module comprises of a floor area of 200 sq.ft., costing €230 per unit (on-site cost) and is moveable. UNHCR recently received permission to go ahead with the assembly of these transition shelters in the affected districts⁹. However the policy on whether resettlement will be allowed in the region of 100 to 300 metres from the coast has not yet been decided, which could affect shelter-related projects.

Water and sanitation

The secondary threat of water and vector-borne disease is well recognised as the greatest concern. While in many places the inundation from the tsunami has receded, further flooding caused by heavy rains in some areas has hampered the relief effort and exacerbated poor sanitary conditions for those displaced at the end of December and early January.

Although the availability and quality of water in the camps was found to be satisfactory, there are problems of camp sanitation, such as open defecation. Chlorination, water testing, sanitation training and hygiene education are needed. Problems in the cleaning and pumping of wells continue since wells collapse due to the high water level¹⁰. Through the emergency funding decision of 30/12/2004, the European Commission (ECHO) already supports this

⁶ 15/01/2005.

⁷ Source: <http://www.cnosrilanka.org/situatJan17.html>

⁸ UNICEF, Situation Report n°14.

⁹ Source: ECHO Colombo, situation report n°2

¹⁰ Source: UNICEF, situation report, 14/01/2005.

sector extensively, with the provision of water tanks and pumps and the installation of latrines, through partners like UNICEF, Oxfam and Action Contre La Faim among others.

Special attention should be paid to ensuring access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and water management in the organized or spontaneous IDP camps that may exist for an indefinite period of time until a durable solution is proposed.

India

The tsunami caused extensive damage in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the States of Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. The tsunami affected a total of 2,260 kms of the coastline in addition to the entire Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The earthquake moved the islands by several metres to the South-East.

India did not call for international assistance. The authorities responded to the emergency phase in a robust and timely manner, and India was indeed one of the first nations to offer assistance to neighbouring affected countries, the Maldives and Sri Lanka, through allocation of substantial resources and deployment of its civil and military defence assets.

However, for the reconstruction phase, the Government of India has approached the EC Delegation, the United Nations, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for financial assistance in rebuilding areas devastated by the tsunami which caused damage to property estimated at EUR 1.13 billion.

Shelter and Non Food Related Items

The authorities have started to close down the initial spontaneous relief centres, and move people to newly-constructed interim camps, which are envisaged to be established for a period of 6-9 months. Mixed reports are being received about the quality of these camps, in terms of location, space, building materials and provision of amenities; there appears to be no standardisation, and there is great variation between the different camps. The costs of establishing and running these camps are to be shared between the government, UN agencies, NGO and private organisations. This sharing of responsibility will necessitate rigorous coordination. Rain-proof shelter in Tamil Nadu needs to be ready by June. In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, more than 37,000 people are in urgent need of improved rain-proof shelter before the monsoon rains start in April.

In the next stage of the response, including the provision of permanent housing, the Government will allocate the required land outside the Coastal Regulations Zone (CRZ); this, and construction standards, will be coordinated in such a manner as to reduce the risk of vulnerability to future tsunamis. The Government has not yet announced its policy on providing permanent housing, and it is unclear whether and how it will be able to enforce CRZ regulations, given the current confusion over what the CRZ provisions actually stipulate, and the need and desire of fishing communities to live as close to the sea as possible.

Tamil Nadu state distributed relief materials, based on a standard package (cash, food, household items, clothes) to all 150,000 affected families in the tsunami-hit areas, at a total cost of EUR 1.56 million.

Psychosocial support

The effect of the tsunami on the population of the affected-areas in India is indeed the same as the one described for Indonesia and Sri Lanka and so are the needs. The Indian authorities have also responded to this issue through IMHANS (Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences) with the support of UN agencies such as UNICEF and UNDP; the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has adopted various measures for relief and rehabilitation of women, children and disabled people affected by the tsunami. Child Helplines have been established. However, more could be done at community level in the area of psychosocial support.

Livelihood

The fisheries sector in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands has suffered major damage.

Tamil Nadu has 591 fishing villages and 362 fish landing centres, which are mostly small and cater to the needs of small mechanised fishing crafts and traditional boats. In 2000 there were a total 698,268 people engaged in fisheries with some 10,000 mechanized fishing vessels, 21,000 fibre glass boats and 28,000 catamarans¹¹. The fisheries sector has suffered major damage in terms of lives, boats, gear and also infrastructure such as harbours, fish landing centres, ice plants and storage facilities.

In Andhra Pradesh, fishermen were affected along 1,000 km of coastline. Approximately 2,000 fishing boats and 47,370 nets were lost. Nearly 300,000 fishermen have been rendered jobless. Fishing is a major trade activity in coastal Andhra Pradesh. The state produces 200,000 tonnes of marine fish every year.

There is concern amongst the fishermen about the current market price of fish being so low, they are not keen to 'face the sea', unless they can sell the fish at a price that will enable them to sustain themselves¹².

Finally, not all tsunami-affected families are fishermen. There are non-fishing families dependent on the fishing sector for their livelihood (processing, marketing), which is therefore now disrupted. Furthermore, farming and other livelihoods were also affected. This is especially true of the Dalits, who are not fishermen, and are lower down the caste hierarchy¹³.

Maldives

The Maldives are coral atolls, rising directly from the sea. Consequently, the tsunami did not form the catastrophic tidal wave seen in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand and this was the main factor that prevented complete disaster in the Maldives. Instead, the tsunami appeared as a temporary rise in sea level that caused a strong surge of water which completely flooded 69 of the 200 islands and large areas of another 70. At one point, most of the country was under water. Only 9 islands were not flooded¹⁴.

In relative terms, the Maldives is the most affected country in terms of disaster's global impact. One third of the population, some 100,000 people were severely affected. Houses and

¹¹ Simple wooden artisanal fishing boats

¹² Source: FAO.

¹³ Source: Minutes of ECHO's partners meeting of 13/01/2005.

¹⁴ Source: OXFAM, initial assessment report, 08/01/2005.

water systems were destroyed or damaged and most personal/household items, including staple food stocks and cash were lost¹⁵. 20% of resorts have suspended their normal functioning for many months to carry out renovation works as a result of the tsunami. Nine resorts had to be evacuated. 46 of the 87 resorts (52%) have suffered damage. This is serious in a country where tourism constitutes over 34 % of the GDP.

According to the report of the ECHO expert's assessment mission in the Maldives¹⁶, the emergency was managed in a very satisfactory way by the authorities, despite important logistical constraints for delivering humanitarian aid to a population scattered over 900 kms¹⁷. There were sufficient water, food and relief items to assist the people shortly after the tsunami. There are no acute life-threatening needs that are not covered. The rehabilitation and reconstruction phases have already started under the leadership of the authorities who ensure good coordination between the various agencies and donors involved in the process¹⁸.

Health

Despite some initial fears of disease reaching epidemic levels because of lack of water and proper sanitation, no outbreaks have been reported. WHO has been closely following the incidence of communicable diseases, and morbidity levels are similar to the same period last year. Health structures and equipment have been damaged in many islands. Drugs and material have been already sent to the islands and these are not considered as emergency needs by the Government and WHO. According to the Ministry of Health, there are enough drugs to cover the needs for the next three months, and more are on their way. Important equipment will be replaced in time by the national authorities. UNICEF is in the process of repairing or replacing the cold chain facilities, including the cold rooms at the nation's capital, with the European Commission (ECHO) funding¹⁹.

Water and sanitation

The islands were self-sufficient in terms of drinking water, depending mainly on rainwater collection tanks at household and community level, as well as some boreholes. These water collection tanks were damaged by the waves and the wells were contaminated with salt water. Consequently, bottled water was sent from the capital and the tourist resorts and this is still continuing. Desalination plants have been installed in strategically located islands to cover the needs for large atolls, and water is being transported by boat to the small islands. Many of the water tanks that were destroyed have already been replaced. There is a constant flow of storage tanks to the islands. Again, the European Commission (ECHO) funding has enabled UNICEF to order 120 tanks.

Sanitation will be a bigger problem in the long term. There is a lot of debris and garbage all over the islands that will need to be collected and transported to the "garbage islands" some time in the following months.

Shelter

¹⁵ Source: UNDP, situation report, 14/01/2005.

¹⁶ Source: ECHO expert's mission report of 17/01/2005.

¹⁷ 90% of the 200 inhabited islands have communities with less than 500 people; most islands are accessible by small boats; the destruction of boats and jetties hampers even more aid delivery; the islands were completely depended to the capital of Male before the tsunami, which means that all aid has to be transported from Male.

¹⁸ electricity is restored in 194 islands and communications in 192

¹⁹ See Emergency Funding Decision ECHO/-SA/2005/01000 for Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

3,000 houses are uninhabitable and 4,700 need major repair or total reconstruction. The first stage of construction of temporary shelters will soon be completed in some of the most affected atolls and minor repairs have already started.

Livelihood support

Fishing represents 16% of the GDP. 26 vessels were lost and 121 damaged. FAO estimates that around €1.5 million will be needed to start rehabilitation of the marine fisheries and agricultural sectors in tsunami-affected areas. This will include replacing or repairing small fishing boats and gear, and providing inputs to resume livelihood activities.

The priorities for the next four to six months will be to rebuild/repair houses, provide logistics and transport for construction material and water and provide livelihood support to fishermen and farmers.

Thailand

As a result of the tidal waves which devastated the western coast of Thailand, all 6 Andaman coastal provinces of Ranong, Phang Nga, Krabi, Phuket, Trang and Satun have been declared an emergency area. The most affected provinces are Phang Nga and Ranong, where the impact has been severe, wiping away entire communities. The UNDP / FAO / World Bank assessment of 7 January 2005 estimates 500 villages and 30,000 families affected (around 100,000 people), 7,500 houses destroyed, 3,300 boats lost and 4,300 damaged²⁰, as well as thousands of fish cages and other sea-farming structures crushed.

Livelihood support

The impact of the tsunami has caused a tremendous blow to the small scale fishermen living on the coastline. While the Thai Government has pledged a compensation package for the fishery sector, some of the marginal groups are not eligible for these compensation schemes or these will only cover a part of the losses. Among the affected people there are Muslim minorities, marginalized Thai fishermen, semi-legal and very poor operators and ethnic Mokhen sea gypsy groups scattered along the coast or on outlying islands. For many of them it will be almost impossible to reconstitute the tools of production and recover the losses.

Compensation operations by the Directorate of Fisheries (DOF) are in the pipeline for the moment and at present no initiative, other than some private charity operations, has started the reconstitution of small scale fisheries tools and equipment.

Early Warning system and Disaster preparedness

As mentioned by the UNISDR/PPEW (International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning) in the UN Flash Appeal dated 6 January 2005, if effective tsunami early warning systems had been in place in the Indian Ocean region, many thousands of lives could have been saved. The Pacific Ocean has effective early warning systems in place, as 80% of large earthquakes occur around this huge ocean. This was not the case in the Indian Ocean.

It is nevertheless clear that early warning is largely a social issue, and that technology alone will not solve the problem. An effective early warning system needs to be people-centred. It requires active engagement with community leaders and the public, in addition to sound

²⁰ Source: Directorate for Fisheries.

technical systems. Also, the system needs good public education and experienced emergency management to ensure that warnings are well communicated, well understood, and rapidly acted upon. This has to be based on disaster preparedness activities. In addition, regional coordination is essential in particular for monitoring systems, warning and communications and disaster response.

The entire international community has agreed in Jakarta that it was necessary to urgently strengthen the preparedness and early warning capacity of the Indian Ocean region. This agreement has been pushed further at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe from 18 to 22 January 2005.

Regional

Coordination of humanitarian operations

Worldwide response to the disaster has been on an unprecedented scale. Billions of EUR have been pledged by institutional donors and hundreds of millions donated by private donors to humanitarian organisations. As a consequence there is a large presence of United Nations Agencies, Red Cross/Red Crescent national societies, international and national NGOs implementing relief actions in the affected areas. In addition to humanitarian actors, a large number of governmental organisations (military, civil protection) are carrying out relief operations as well.

This variety of efforts requires an exceptional coordination effort. For an optimally effective and efficient aid response that confronts the regional dimension of the disaster, coordination will have to operate on a regional plan. The United Nations through its Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is the institution best placed to assume the coordination of the relief response.

Logistic support to humanitarian operations

Transport and communication networks have been severely disrupted by the tsunami in most of the affected areas and in the north and west coast of Aceh in particular. It is still impossible or difficult to reach many of the beneficiaries by land. The supply of humanitarian items and equipment and the movement of humanitarian personnel rely mainly on air transport. As a consequence, air traffic to the main towns in the supply chain, such as Medan or Banda Aceh in Indonesia, has increased significantly and requires enhanced coordination of the logistics involved in the relief operation in order to allow for efficient delivery of the aid.

In addition to more efficient coordination of air transport, a better access of humanitarian organisations to transport and communication assets is required in order to extend both the areas covered by humanitarian projects and the amount of aid delivered to areas which are already covered. The use of military assets has so far provided a minimal transport capacity but only a limited number of agencies have had access to them. In addition, the military operation is likely to finish once the first phase of the emergency is over but the need to reach the beneficiary areas will persist.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

The areas targeted are the tsunami-affected areas of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Maldives and Thailand, with particular attention to people whose houses have been damaged or destroyed, and the most vulnerable groups, i.e. women, elderly and children.

This Decision will target some 1 million people affected by the tsunami in Indonesia²¹ in 15 Districts of the Province of Nanggroe Aceh Darusalam (NAD). The most affected areas are the north coast (Districts of Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar) and the west coast (Districts of Aceh Jaya and Aceh Barat). Although damage to the north east coast was less severe, the number of displaced people here is larger than initially anticipated, probably because there has been an influx from other areas more seriously affected.

The approximately 1 million people of Sri Lanka affected by the catastrophe will be targeted island wide through support to UN agencies and INGOs, and a particular focus will be given to the north and eastern region, given ECHO's presence, through experienced partners, in these areas in the framework of the conflict.

In India, ECHO intends to complement the authorities' actions in favour of the approximately 400,000 people directly affected by the disaster, through projects implemented by INGOs. Activities in favour of the population of the Andaman and Nicobar islands will depend on the possibility left to INGOs and UN agencies to have access to them.

For the Maldives, the targeted population will be 12,500 previously displaced people and the 10,000 inhabitants of the Baa Atoll.

In Thailand, this decision will provide support to 4000 members of small scale fishing households, entirely dependent on fisheries for their livelihood and among the most vulnerable groups within the small scale fisheries communities in the provinces of Phang Nga and Ranong.

For disaster preparedness, through support given to the UN, the direct beneficiaries will be the practitioners of the disaster management agencies, local authorities and scientific-technical institutions in the countries affected by the tsunami and the communities at risk themselves.

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints:

The main risks and constraints are the following:

- Access: This concerns primarily Banda Aceh in Indonesia and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in India²², the most affected areas in terms of physical destruction. Access to victims may be reduced by Government action in Indonesia. Statements made by senior Indonesian officials seem to indicate a possible intention to restrict the humanitarian organisation's movement in Aceh and, eventually, they may be requested to leave in the coming months. While these statements have been played down by the President of Indonesia, there is a risk of a change of position of the Indonesian Government. This would prevent the implementation of most of the actions funded under this Decision.
- Resumption of protracted conflicts in Banda Aceh and the North and the East of Sri Lanka. It is too early to say what the "tsunami effect" will be on both conflicts, but

²¹ United Nations flash appeal of 06.01.2005

²² Mainly of a political nature concerning these islands.

tensions may indeed be expected to rise with these “forgotten conflicts” again in the limelight for some time.

- Risk of weak co-ordination, particularly at field level in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India. This is a key issue given the financial level of the humanitarian response and the number of humanitarian actors present in the field, and this Decision already foresees support to coordination mechanisms in the region.
- In the shelter sector, there are contradictory views between the Governments of Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India, and the humanitarian organisations concerning the most adequate strategy to follow. Governments favour the setting up of semi-permanent camps while the humanitarian organisations consider that temporary structures are more adequate, as the camps should only be a transition facility aimed to shelter the displaced while the reconstruction programme is implemented.
- This being a disaster prone region, the normal implementation of operations might be affected by the occurrence of further natural disasters during the implementation period of this Decision.

2- Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:

2.1. – Objectives:

Principal objective:

To provide the necessary relief and assistance to the people of South and South-East Asia affected by the earthquake and the tsunami of 26 December 2004.

Specific objectives:

- To provide assistance and relief, including short term rehabilitation, to those affected in order to help them regain a minimum level of self-sufficiency in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Maldives and Thailand.
- To ensure an efficient co-ordination of the humanitarian aid provided to the affected populations and the logistical support for the delivery of this aid.
- To contribute to the assessment, evaluation and strengthening of Early Warning Systems and disaster preparedness in countries affected by the 26 December 2004 tsunami in South and South East Asia.
- To create and maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field, to assess needs, appraise project proposals and to coordinate and monitor the implementation of operations

2.2. - Components:

Indonesia

Health

- Restoration of basic public health services.
- Specific care for handicapped people, in particular with supply of prosthetics.

- Psychosocial support in order to support reintegration of the communities and the re-establishment of networks and daily routines. Psychological counselling for acute trauma cases.
- Vector control and distribution of impregnated mosquito nets.
- Support to immunisation campaigns.

Water and sanitation

- Disinfection and repair or construction of wells or other water supply systems.
- Construction of latrines.
- Hygiene training sessions.

Shelter

- Provision of temporary shelter to the displaced population living in camps.
- Provision of construction materials and tools to the affected population willing and able to repair their houses.

Food aid

- Food aid distribution for displaced people and particularly vulnerable groups in severely affected communities.

Livelihood support

- Actions in support of agricultural and fishery recovery and other income generation actions in order to support livelihood recovery..

Protection

- Actions aimed at reducing children's exposure to violence and abuse.
- Actions in support of the elderly that have lost their families.

Sri Lanka

Food aid

- Food distribution for the affected population.
- Targeted supplementary feeding for vulnerable groups, particularly children, pregnant and nursing women.

Livelihood recovery

- Food for work programmes aimed at rehabilitation of basic infrastructure.
- Restoration of livelihood for affected communities, particularly small fishermen and farmers.

Health and psychosocial support

- Special care for handicapped people.
- Strengthening of the epidemiological surveillance system.
- Psychological support to affected families, particularly children.

Shelter and Non Food Related Items

- Registration and database of the displaced persons.
- Distribution of emergency shelters and construction of semi-permanent shelters.
- Support to families to repair their houses.
- Distribution of non-food relief items, including cooking materials.
- Provision of logistical support such as trucks and rubhall storage units.

Water and sanitation

- Rehabilitation and construction of drinking water wells and water tanks.
- Rehabilitation and construction of latrines.
- Hygiene training sessions and wells and latrines maintenance training.

India

Shelter and Non Food Related Items

- Provision of shelters in semi-permanent camps.
- Distribution of non-food relief items, including cooking materials.

Water and sanitation

- Rehabilitation and construction of drinking water wells, water tanks and hand pumps.
- Repair and installation of hand pumps.
- Rehabilitation and construction of latrines.
- Hygiene training sessions and wells and latrines maintenance training.

Psychosocial support

- Psychological support to affected families, particularly children and elderly.

Food security and livelihood recovery

- Restoration of livelihood activities for the most vulnerable fishermen and affected non-fishing communities.

Maldives

Shelter and Non Food Related Items

- Provision of family relief kits.
- Repairing of partially damaged houses and minor infrastructure.

Livelihood recovery

- Recovery of livelihoods for the most vulnerable fishermen and farmers.

Thailand

Livelihood support:

- Recovery of livelihoods for the most vulnerable fishermen.

Regional

Logistical support

- Provision of air, maritime and overland transport for the humanitarian operations
- Provision of logistics coordination to humanitarian agencies.

Coordination

- Strengthening OCHA's support to UN country teams and other humanitarian organisations in Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka.
- Support to Humanitarian Information Centres (HIC) in Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Early warning system and Disaster preparedness

- To undertake missions by a multi-disciplinary team to assess the tsunami warning capacities of the region
- To establish interim networks among practitioners and authorities
- To conduct a regional conference with all the stakeholders for overall coordination and planning and meetings with relevant practitioners for both training and coordination aims
- To provide technical support, information and experts for practitioners and community leadres
- To prepare educational support and demonstrations in view of preparedness activities and awareness raising

Technical assistance

In order to maximise the impact of the humanitarian aid for the victims, the Commission will maintain its office in Jakarta and create two ECHO support offices, one located in Banda Aceh in Indonesia, and the other one in Colombo, Sri Lanka. These offices will appraise project proposals, co-ordinate and closely monitor the implementation of humanitarian operations financed by the Commission. The offices will provide technical assistance capacity and necessary logistics for the achievement of its tasks.

3 - Duration foreseen for actions within the framework of the proposed decision:

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

This duration will allow the funding not only of emergency actions which have already started, but also of small scale-rehabilitation activities which have a longer period of implementation and which are required to allow for a sufficient transition period before the reconstruction takes place.

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

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 01/01/2005, in order to cover the costs of some emergency relief operations which started in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and the Maldives immediately after the tsunami.

Start Date: 01/01/2005

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 decision.

Depending on the evolution of the situation in the field, the Commission reserves the right to terminate the agreements signed with the implementing humanitarian organisations where the suspension of activities is for a period of more than one third of the total planned duration of the action. The procedure established in the general conditions of the specific agreement will be applied.

4 –Previous interventions/decisions of the Commission within the context of the crisis concerned herewith

List of previous ECHO operations in Asia related to the Tsunami				
Decision number	Decision type	2003 EUR	2004 EUR	2005 EUR
ECHO/-AS/BUD/2004/01000	Primary Emergency		3,000,000	
ECHO/-SA/BUD/2005/01000	Emergency			10,000,000
ECHO/IDN/BUD/2005/01000	Emergency			10,000,000
	Subtotal		3,000,000	20,000,000
	Total 2004-2005		3,000,000	20,000,000

Dated : 18/01/2005

Source : HOPE

Primary Emergency Decision, 26/12/2004, 3 months

EUR 3,000,000

Regional	Emergency Relief Response, including emergency shelter and other non-food items, family kits, new emergency medical kits and as essential repair items for the rehabilitation phase	IFRC
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Emergency Decision, 30/12/2004, 6 months

EUR 10,000,000

Sri Lanka €8,266,182	Food aid and supplementary feeding	ACF, CARE, DANISH RED CROSS, GAA, OXFAM, TdH CH, UNICEF, WFP, ZOA
	non-food items: household items, hygiene products, clothing, etc.	
	water and sanitation: the installation of water tanks, water pumps, distribution of water purification tablets, treatment of wells, construction of emergency latrines	
	Health: mobile clinics, medicines and medical material, psychosocial assistance	
	Emergency shelter: material for construction of emergency shelter	
Maldives €1,733,818	Water and sanitation, and health	UNICEF

Emergency Decision, 31/12/2004, 6 months

EUR 10,000,000

Indonesia	Supplementary and therapeutic feeding	ACF, CARE, DANISH RED CROSS, ICMC, IRC, MDMF, SC-UK, TSF, UNICEF, WHO
	non-food items: household items, hygiene products, clothing, etc.	
	water and sanitation: installation of water tanks, water pumps, distribution of water purification tablets, treatment of wells, construction of emergency latrines	
	Health: early warning system, mobile clinics, medicines and medical material, psychosocial assistance	
	Protection (particularly children)	
	Telecommunication services	

5 - Other donors and donor co-ordination mechanisms

Donors' response to Tsunami-affected people					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others (**)	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria	6.000.000	ECHO	23.000.000	Japan	389.269.230
Belgium	360.000	Other services ²³	14.000.000	Australia	331.702.967
Cyprus				United States	270.991.000
Czech Republic	385.000			Canada	269.741.233
Denmark	13.378.380			Norway	133.666.066
Estonia	284.269			Private	126.496.125
Finland	12.000.000			Saudi Arabia	125.769.230
France	20.883.200			Kuwait	76.923.076
Germany	6.301.401				
Greece	300.000				
Hungary	310.300				
Ireland	2.320.993				
Italy					
Latvia	142.000				
Lithuania	217.215				
Luxembourg	3.490.000				
Malta	8.000.000				
Netherlands	3.982.145				
Poland	610.500				
Portugal	1.672.862				
Slovakia					
Slovenia	87.744				
Spain	52.950.000				
Sweden	9.035.150				
United Kingdom	4.696.669				
Subtotal	170.407.828	Subtotal	37.000.000	Subtotal	1.724.558.927

Dated :19/01/2005

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

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

(**) Source: www.reliefweb.org, 21/01/2005

EuropeAid responds to WFP emergency appeal with €14,000,000 for food aid for the region (amending an ongoing contract).

Additional information concerning international contributions to the tsunami victims can be obtained consulting OCHA's « reliefweb » site (Financial Tracking system), which is funded by ECHO: www.reliefweb.org

There has been a huge response from private donors, including private enterprises. On 20/01/2005, the "reliefweb" reported €126,496,125 (US\$ 164,444,963) as private donors' contributions.

The Commission has announced a package of up to €350 million of reconstruction aid. The final amount will depend on the needs assessment on final reconstruction costs, which is led by the World Bank and should be available in March, and on pledges from other donors.

In addition the Commission will put forward, in agreement with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Luxembourg Presidency, a proposal for an Indian Ocean Tsunami Lending Facility managed by the EIB.

²³ In addition, a post tsunami programme of EUR 15 million prepared by EuropeAid was approved by the ALA committee on 27 January and will be launched for formal decision in the near future.

6 –Amount of decision and distribution by specific objectives:

6.1. - Total amount of the decision: 80,000,000 EUR

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: <i>To provide the necessary relief and assistance to the people of South and South-East Asia affected by the earthquake and the tsunami of 26 December 2004..</i>				
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Possible geographical area of operation	Activities	Potential partners²⁴

²⁴ ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM, (FR), ACTIONAID (GBR), AGA KHAN FOUNDATION (United Kingdom), AGENCE D'AIDE A LA COOPERATION TECHNIQUE ET AU DEVELOPPEMENT, (FR), ATLAS LOGISTIQUE, (FR), CARE INTERNATIONAL DEUTSCHLAND E.V. (DEU), CARE INTERNATIONAL UK, CATHOLIC ORGANISATION FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT AID (NLD), CESVI cooperazione e sviluppo onlus, COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR), DANSK RODE KORS, (DNK), DEUTSCHE WELTHUNGERHILFE / GERMAN AGRO ACTION, (DEU), DEUTSCHER CARITASVERBAND e.V. (DEU), FOLKEKIRKENS NODHJAELP, (DNK), FONDAZIONE TERRE DES HOMMES ITALIA ONLUS, HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL (BEL), HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL (FR), HELPAGE INTERNATIONAL (GBR), INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (INT), International Rescue Committee UK, MEDICAL EMERGENCY RELIEF INTERNATIONAL (GBR), MOVIMIENTO POR LA PAZ, EL DESARME Y LA LIBERTAD, (E), MOVIMONDO (ITA), NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL (NOR), OXFAM (GBR), PLAN INTERNATIONAL (UK), PREMIERE URGENGE, (FR), SOLIDARITES, (FR), Stichting CARE Nederland, TERRE DES HOMMES-CHE, THE INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC MIGRATION COMMISSION (CHE), THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND (GBR), TRIANGLE Génération Humanitaire, (FR), UNITED NATIONS - FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION, UNITED NATIONS - WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES - BELGIUM, UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND, UNITED NATIONS, OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION - ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE, WORLD VISION - UK, ZOA-Vluchtelingen zorg

<p>Specific objective 1:</p> <p>To provide assistance and relief, including short term rehabilitation, to those affected in order to help them regain a minimum level of self-sufficiency in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Maldives and Thailand.</p>	56,500,000	South East Asia and South Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health. - Water and sanitation - Shelter - Food aid - livelihood support - Protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ACF - FRA - ACTED - ACTIONAID - AGA KHAN - ATLAS - CARE - DEU - CARE - UK - CARE NEDERLAND (FORMER DRA) - CARITAS - DEU - CESVI - CORDAID - CROIX-ROUGE - CICR- ICRC -CH - CROIX-ROUGE - DNK - DANCHURCH AID - DNK - GERMAN AGRO ACTION - HANDICAP (FR) - HANDICAP (BEL) - HELPAGE INTERNATIONAL - UK - ICMC - IOM - IRC - UK - MERLIN - MOVIMONDO - MPDL - NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL - OXFAM - UK - PLAN INTERNATIONAL UK - PREMIERE URGENCE - SAVE THE CHILDREN - UK - SOLIDARITES - TERRE DES HOMMES - CHE - TERRE DES HOMMES (TDH) - ITA - TRIANGLE - UN - FAO-I - UN - UNFPA - UN - UNHCR - BEL - UN - WFP-PAM - UN - UNDP - WHO - OMS - WORLD VISION - UK - ZOA
<p>Specific objective 2:</p> <p>To ensure an efficient co-ordination of the humanitarian aid provided to the affected populations and the logistical support for the delivery of this aid.</p>	15,000,000	Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination. - Logistical support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UN - UNOCHA - UN - WFP-PAM

Specific objective 3: To contribute to the assessment, evaluation and strengthening of Early Warning Systems and disaster preparedness in countries affected by the 26 December 2004 tsunami in South and South East Asia.	2,000,000	Asia	- Early warning system and disaster preparedness.	- UN - UNOCHA
Specific objective 4: To create and maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field, to assess needs, appraise project proposals and to coordinate and monitor the implementation of operations	600,000	Jakarta, Indonesia Banda Aceh, Indonesia Colombo, Sri Lanka		
Reserve, max. 10% of the total amount	5,900,000			
TOTAL	80,000,000			

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.

8 –Budget Impact article 23 02 01

	CE (in EUR)
Initial Available Appropriations for 2005	476,500,000
Reinforcement from Emergency aid reserve	100,000.000
Transfers	
Total Available Credits	576,500,000
Total executed to date (by 20/01/2005)	193,110,370
Available remaining	383,389,630
Total amount of the Decision	80,000.000

COMMISSION DECISION

of

on the financing of humanitarian operations from the general budget of the European Union in South and South East 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 aid²⁵, and in particular Article 15(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) An earthquake occurred on 26 December 2004 causing tidal waves that heavily affected Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, the Maldives and Thailand.
- (2) As of 20 January 2005, this tsunami has caused more than 213,655 acknowledged deaths, including more than 170,000 in Indonesia alone, and nearly 31,000 in Sri Lanka. More than 27,000 are still unaccounted for.
- (3) Tidal waves have also caused widespread destruction of houses and public infrastructure and nearly 5 million people have been affected.
- (4) The European Commission already approved one primary emergency decision for the region on 26/12/2004 (EUR 3 million), one emergency decision for Sri Lanka and Maldives on 30/12/2004 (EUR 10 million) and another emergency decision for Indonesia on 31/12/2004 (EUR 10 million)
- (5) The United Nations launched an unprecedented Flash Appeal on 6 January 2005, focusing on supporting the immediate needs of people in Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Seychelles, Somalia and Sri Lanka from January to the end of June 2005, and called for €751.5 million to fund the critical work of some forty UN agencies and NGOs for the six first months of 2005.
- (6) Initial assessments indicate that food aid, health, psychosocial support, water and sanitation, support to livelihoods and protections are priority sectors.
- (7) The presence of numerous humanitarian organisations as well as other entities responding to the humanitarian crisis demands the setting up of strong coordination mechanisms. This unprecedented humanitarian response also requires the deployment of adequate logistics.
- (8) There is a consensus on the need of establishing effective early warning systems and other disaster preparedness measures.
- (9) In order to maximise the impact of humanitarian aid for the victims, it is necessary to maintain and create a technical assistance capacity in the field.

²⁵ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6

- (10) 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.
- (11) It is estimated that an amount of 80,000,000 EUR from budget line 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to approximately 2.5 million people in the most tsunami-affected Asian countries, taking into account the available budget, other donors' interventions and other factors.
- (12) In accordance with Article 17(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave a favourable opinion on

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of 80,000,000 EUR for humanitarian aid operations in favour of the people of South and South East Asia (Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Maldives, Thailand) affected by the earthquake and the tsunami of 26 December 2004 by using line 23 02 01 of the 2005 budget of the European Union.
2. In accordance with Articles 2 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objectives:
 - To provide assistance and relief, including short term rehabilitation, to those affected in order to help them regain a minimum level of self-sufficiency in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Maldives and Thailand.
 - To ensure an efficient co-ordination of the humanitarian aid provided to the affected populations and the logistical support for the delivery of this aid.
 - To contribute to the assessment, evaluation and strengthening of Early Warning Systems and disaster preparedness in countries affected by the 26 December 2004 tsunami in South and South East Asia.
 - To create and maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field, to assess needs, appraise project proposals and to coordinate and monitor the implementation of operations

The amounts allocated to each of these objectives and for the reserve are listed in the annex to this decision.

Article 2

Without prejudice to the use of the reserve, the Commission may, where this is justified by the humanitarian situation, re-allocate the funding levels established for one of the 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 and does not exceed 2 million EUR.

Article 3

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

Principal objective: To provide the necessary relief and assistance to the people of South and South-East Asia affected by the earthquake and the tsunami of 26 December 2004.	
Specific objectives	Amount per specific objective (EUR)
To provide assistance and relief, including short term rehabilitation, to those affected in order to help them regain a minimum level of self-sufficiency in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Maldives and Thailand.	56,500,000
To ensure an efficient co-ordination of the humanitarian aid provided to the affected populations and the logistical support for the delivery of this aid.	15,000,000
To contribute to the assessment, evaluation and strengthening of Early Warning Systems and disaster preparedness in countries affected by the 26 December 2004 tsunami in South and South East Asia.	2,000,000
To create and maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field, to assess needs, appraise project proposals and to coordinate and monitor the implementation of operations	600,000
Reserve	5,900,000
TOTAL	80,000,000

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.²⁶

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

²⁶ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002, , OJ L248, 16/09/2002 and No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002, OJ L 357 of 31/12/2002.