



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HUMANITARIAN AID - ECHO

**HUMANITARIAN AID
for
Conflict affected people and refugees
in
COLOMBIA AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES
GLOBAL PLAN 2006**

Humanitarian Aid Committee

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The long lasting conflict in Colombia continued to have a significant impact on the civilian population's vulnerabilities in 2005. While during the first 10 months of 2005, official government figures show a continuing reduction in the number of *new* IDPs (Internally displaced people) - down from 160,648 in 2004 to 106,250 - reliable independent figures show an increasing trend in new displacements: 252,801 had to leave their houses during the first 9 months of the year (which at the same rate would give a figure of 337,068 for the whole year). The total number of IDPs remains extremely high, as since 1985 over 3 million Colombians have been displaced from their homes, one of the highest figures in the world. There is also a growing concern over the less visible phenomenon of besieged or blockaded communities as part of the armed groups' conflict strategy. The conflict also continues to trigger movements of populations towards the neighbouring countries, in particular into Ecuador and Venezuela: over 250,000 Colombians qualified as "people of concern to UNHCR" are estimated to be living in Ecuador and 200,000 in Venezuela.

Some level of security in the major urban areas (with the exception of the poor marginalised suburbs) and major roads has been attained over the past years but the conflict continues in most rural areas - and has clearly intensified in the South - causing renewed needs.

The much heralded demobilisation of the paramilitary groups is ongoing, but so far - from a humanitarian point of view - has tended to create more insecurity, displacements and other violations. Violations by the armed groups include the recruitment of children with over 14,000 estimated to be involved, from age 12 upwards.

DG ECHO's strategy for 2006 builds on those of previous years, the principal objective being to provide the necessary protection, relief and assistance to people affected by the conflict - in Colombia and its neighbouring countries.

Assistance to affected populations living in rural areas will be a priority as state institutions are generally not present there due to lack of capacity or lack of will. However, in urban areas, to ensure respect of IDPs' rights, a minimum complementary assistance to the one ensured by the State will be supported while measures to improve the government response will also be supported. All activities will be developed with a protection focus to reinforce the fragile Colombian protective environment.

It is estimated that under the Global Plan at least 50,000 people will receive emergency assistance immediately after displacement caused by the conflict and 13,700 when the displacement is caused by natural disaster in conflict affected areas. About 35,000 affected people will see their living conditions improved, 3,000 children will benefit from adapted protection assistance. Also, around 37,000 refugees in Ecuador and Venezuela will benefit from DG ECHO's intervention. In total around 138,000 persons will be assisted.

The present Global Plan proposes humanitarian operations for a total amount of EUR 12 million. Each will have an average duration of 12 months within an 18 month decision implementation period.

2. CONTEXT AND SITUATION

2.1. General Context

Colombia has an estimated population of 44 million with 76% of its population living in urban areas. Although it is rich in natural resources, with fertile agricultural land, energy resources (oil, natural gas and coal) and minerals, much of its wealth has been squandered in a debilitating 40-year long internal armed conflict. As this has intensified in recent years, the gains made in reducing poverty have been eroded, so that the country has dropped from 53rd to 69th in the UNDP Human Development Index in 7 years (1998-2005). 64% of the total population lives below the national poverty threshold, of which, 22.6 % lives on two dollars each day, and 8.2 % on just one dollar.

The internal conflict involves the Colombian army and three main irregular armed groups, all of whom are included on the US and EU list of international terrorist organisations: the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) and ELN (National Liberation Army) guerrilla organisations, plus various paramilitary groups, most of whom have come together under the banner of the United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AUC). All groups regularly commit violations of International Humanitarian Law, usually with high levels of impunity. The conflict is largely self-financing, through the proceeds of cocaine and to a lesser extent heroin production, extortions, kidnapping, oil revenues and other business activities, and is compounded by social vulnerability and inequality, corruption, political weakness, violence and drug trafficking. In recent years large amounts of US military aid have been injected into the country in an attempt to strengthen the army and expand the territory controlled by the government and to eradicate coca cultivation but little real progress has been made in bringing the conflict to an end.

The theatres of conflict are complex and changing. Each new attempt by one group to gain control of territory, towns, roads or rivers causes a new group of civilians at risk to be displaced from their homes or persecuted. In the past 6 years over 2,108,000 people have been displaced in this way¹, the highest figure in the world outside Africa². Many Colombians have chosen to leave their country, so that now 10% of the population – over 4 million people – is living abroad³. There have been steadily increasing flows of refugees in recent years into the neighbouring countries of Ecuador, Venezuela and Panama.

2.2. Current Situation

After the Constitutional Court approved a presidential re-election bill passed by Congress, the present government - which took office in August 2002 under President Álvaro Uribe Vélez - has increased its chances of continuing for another 4-year period. It is very likely that this pre-electoral period will be marked by increased levels of political violence, as in recent years.

¹ CODHES

² Source: Global IDP project: <http://www.idpproject.org>

³ Source: IOM Press Briefing Notes, <http://www.oim.org.co/modulos/contenido/default.asp?idmodulo=89>

President Uribe's government has continued controversial⁴ peace negotiations with a large group of the paramilitaries and is currently exploring the possibility of peace talks with ELN. He has continued to conduct a military offensive against FARC.

In late 2003 AUC began a process of demobilisation, under the supervision of a mission from the Organisation of American States (OAS). End of November 2005, 11,119 combatants from the AUC have been demobilised, of which, 7,459 from 14 AUC structures were in 2005⁵. Local populations often do not trust the demobilised combatants to cease their intimidatory activities, nor do they have confidence in the capacity of the army to prevent the guerrillas from retaking areas where AUC has demobilised. This creates further insecurity and displacements.

Major towns and roads in most of the country are now secured. However, much of the surrounding countryside remains under FARC's control, especially the more remote and mountainous regions. During 2005 a considerable increase of armed actions carried out by FARC was noted, with a 122% increase (up to September 2005)⁶ of military actions from FARC, demonstrating that their military capacity is still substantial.

Throughout 2005 the army has continued its *Plan Patriota* offensive in the South of the country, attempting to regain control of rural areas which have been a traditional FARC stronghold. As a result, large parts of the southern departments of Caquetá, Putumayo and Guaviare have become difficult to access to humanitarian organisations, with the conflict also moving to the south-west of the country. Some communities in the conflict zones are deliberately blockaded and isolated by groups involved in the conflict, and there have been substantial population displacements from these rural areas to the relatively safe urban centres and across the borders into Ecuador, Venezuela and Panama. Displacement is further increased by aerial fumigation operations, which aim to destroy coca plants but are usually much more indiscriminate, affecting also food crops. Although the situation in these southern departments is the most dramatic, similar problems of conflict, violence and displacement are being experienced in many other parts of the country, particularly in Cauca, Nariño, Arauca, Norte de Santander (Catatumbo), Guajira, Cesar, Southern Cordoba, Eastern Antioquia, Chocó, Montes de Maria, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Meta, and Casanare.

3. IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

3.1. Main affected population groups

3.1.1. Displaced populations (including those displaced because of fumigations) –The cumulated figure of displacement in Colombia amounts to 3,842,662 people according to CODHES⁷ While Accion Social⁸ figures show that there was a considerable decline of the numbers of displacements since 2003, CODHES demonstrates that IDP numbers were on the increase again in 2004 and probably stabilising in 2005.

⁴ HRW (Human Rights Watch), Amnesty international requested a non support to the process. The UNCHR criticised the lack of compliance of the law with international norms.

⁵ http://www.altocomisionadoparalapaz.gov.co/desmovilizaciones/2004/index_resumen.htm (28 November 2005)

⁶ As stated by Fundación Seguridad y Democracia in September 2005

⁷ http://www.seguridadydemocracia.org/news_desc.asp?s_year=2005&s_news_id=268

⁸ Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento, a Colombian NGO monitoring displacement and the observance of human rights in the country

⁸ Accion Social - Red de Solidaridad Social, or today Accion Social, the government agency that has the responsibility to coordinate assistance to displaced by violence.

3 main types of movements have been observed: Displacements towards the capitals and urban centres, displacements towards the municipal capitals and displacements within rural areas.

Displacements linked to fumigation operations – illicit crops, mostly coca, are grown in 26 of Colombia’s 32 departments. If farmers (some small farmers are forced to grow coca by the armed groups) report fumigation as being the cause of displacement, they are excluded from government assistance.

Regions affected by displacement: The departments most affected by displacement –in terms of the number of IDPs per 100,000 inhabitants- up to September 2005 include: Guaviare, Cauca, Caqueta, Putumayo, Meta and Sucre. Accion Social reports that 13 of the 32 departments of Colombia have received 75% of the displaced population. These departments are: Antioquia, Bolivar, Sucre, Magdalena, Valle, Bogotá, Cesar, Cordoba, Santander, Atlantico, Choco, North of Santander and Nariño.

Most IDPs come from rural and farming communities; however 30 to 50% end up in cities, without real prospects for return. Colombian cities such as Bogota, Bucaramanga, Cali, Cartagena, Cucuta and Medellin have growing IDP populations concentrated in “poverty belts” in marginal areas.

Number of IDPs⁹

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
CODHES	317,375	341,925	412,553	207,607	287,581	252,801 (until 30 September)
ACCION SOCIAL	331,164	374,803	423,814	220,062	160,493 ¹⁰	116570 (until 30 November)

3.1.2. Host communities – a large part of the displacement takes place in zones which are economically marginalised and prone to disasters. Many host communities are already living at little more than subsistence level and are ill equipped to cope with an influx of IDPs.

3.1.3. Returnees – Since 2003 the government has been promoting the return of IDPs to their places of origin. UNHCR surveys, however, showed that 90% of government facilitated returns did not manage to fully apply all 3 principles of will, dignity and security, and as such these will not be supported in the framework of the Global Plan. Spontaneous returns are, however, occurring and could be motivated by the lack of dignity of the living conditions in the areas of displacement.

3.1.4. Rural communities. – Confined, at risk and blocked communities. Entire communities are sometimes forcibly removed but also used as “human shields” by irregular armed groups. Communities are caught between two or more irregular armed groups and are not able to leave, remaining trapped or under siege. CODHES figures show

⁹ figures as available at time of writing

¹⁰ Figures of the Accion Social for 2004 can be modified until the end of 2005 as people can register up to one year after displacement CODHES figures are therefore more complete. Furthermore CODHES figures also include IDPs who have not been accepted by the official system. For these reasons, a large majority of International NGOs considers that CODHES figures are more reliable. DG ECHO considers that CODHES figures are closer to the reality than Accion Social figures.

that between January 2003 and June 2005, at least 275 municipalities in 30 departments of Colombia were affected by confinement or blockades¹¹. The most extended and critical situations were seen in Antioquia, Cauca, Valle del Cauca, Chocó, Nariño, Caquetá, Cesar and Meta.

3.1.5. Populations affected by the presence of illicit crops– Coca is often grown by ordinary farmers who either find an economic interest in growing coca or are forced to do so by the armed groups. In either case coca growing leads to vulnerability to displacement; also vulnerability is enhanced because fumigation can lead to loss of income and armed group pressure is increased where coca cultivation is found.

3.1.6. Colombian refugees and asylum seekers – Ecuador continues to be the main receiving country, due to its proximity to the area of development of the “plan Colombia”. Substantial numbers of people are also crossing to Venezuela and, to a lesser extent, Panama. The tables below show the number of asylum seekers and refugees in both countries. UNHCR considers that 200,000 people of concern are residing in Venezuela and another 250,000 in Equator.

1.1. Number of asylum seekers per country¹²

Country	Number of Colombian asylum seekers
Ecuador	35,314
Venezuela	5,484
Panama	379

1.2. Number of refugees per country¹³

Country	Number of Colombian refugees
Ecuador	11,137
Venezuela	347
Panama	234

3.1.7. Ethnic groups: (Afro Colombian and Indigenous peoples). Afro Colombians are amongst the most vulnerable groups in Colombia: their human development index (HDI) is 0.66, the lowest in Colombia. Although they constitute only 8% of the total population and the Indigenous peoples only 2%, they make up 11% and 8% respectively of the total displaced population, due to the interest which the illegal armed groups have in their territories

3.1.8. Women and children According to official sources, 73% of the total IDP population is women and children of which 51% are women. Many of them have been victims of sexual violence¹⁴. Many have to assume the role of heads of household due to the death or disappearance of their partners. Of all the displaced families in Colombia, 34% are headed by women.

¹¹ CODHES “Confinamiento de Población civil: Una aproximación conceptual para la caracterización

¹² Source: UNHCR: <http://www.acnur.org> (until September 2005)

¹³ Source: UNHCR

¹⁴ Report ‘Mesa Mujer y Conflicto’, 2004

3.2. Identified Humanitarian Needs

3.2.1 Primary emergency. Immediately after displacement, people often arrive in a new neighbourhood only with the essential goods they could transport. They therefore lack access to the most basic needs. Food and non food assistance is therefore deemed essential and is part of the Accion Social responsibilities. ICRC has signed an agreement with the Accion Social to provide primary emergency assistance to newly displaced people in case of massive displacements and in case of individual ones when the organisation has an office located in the town of arrival.

3.2.2. Water and sanitation. Poor access to public water and sanitation services and inadequate handling of solid and liquid wastes are the cause of an increased risk of exposure to infectious diseases (acute respiratory infections and acute diarrhoea diseases). Only 44 of every 100 homes in displacement zones and 64 of each 100 homes of population in reception zones have a water pipe system, and the water thus transported is not necessarily potable.¹⁵

3.2.3. Shelter. In 4 major cities surveyed, 49 % of the displaced live in houses made of disposable materials¹⁶. During 2004, 100,000,000,000 pesos (EUR 37,160,000) from the Ministry of Environment, House and Territorial Development, were allocated for 14,598 subsidized houses. This was intended to cover the needs of only 12.5% of the displaced families in 2003, 2004 and 2005 up to September 2005, according to Accion Social.

3.2.4. Health. With the new health care system instituted by the Government in November 2002, the user needs to be affiliated to social security in his municipality of residence: this implies that the displaced can only be attended in the hospitals registered in the respective ARS¹⁷: “this lack of flexibility is very important, if one is taking into account the high territorial mobility of the displaced populations”¹⁸. Diarrheic diseases and acute respiratory infections continue to be important causes of morbidity for children under five. So are the vector-borne diseases (malaria, dengue, leishmaniasis and Chagas disease). Tuberculosis and infection by HIV/AIDS is increasing progressively although it is yet maintaining a status of "concentrated epidemic"¹⁹.

3.2.5. Psychosocial: Psychosocial assistance is considered as an essential focus of humanitarian intervention, recognizing that “the undervaluation of these aspects could lead to failure of the actions or to a lack of understanding of the people’s experience” Psychosocial assistance helps people to relieve their stress and to be integrated again into normal life.

3.2.6. Food Security²⁰. The mainly farmer displaced populations that move to urban centers are food insecure as illustrated by the WFP/DG ECHO nutritional survey that showed that 23% of displaced children under 5 and 16 % of those of the host communities were chronically malnourished. Acute malnutrition rates are at 1.8%. This is not considered abnormal and therefore nutrition programs per se are not a priority.

¹⁵ Serie “Salud y Desplazamiento en Colombia”. Mód. 1. pág. 13 and 14 . PAHO and the University of Antioquia.

¹⁶ UNHCR: “Balance de la política pública de prevención, protección y atención al desplazamiento interno forzado en Colombia”.

¹⁷ Health insurance system for the subsidized regime (population not affiliated to the formal health system).

¹⁸ Source : UNHCR p. 219.

¹⁹ Source : Organizacion Pan Americana para la Salud (OPS) : UN Pan American Health Organisation.

²⁰ “Identificación de las Necesidades Alimentarias y No Alimentarias de los Desplazados Internos. Una Encuesta Conjunta de las Poblaciones Desplazadas Internamente en Colombia. Diciembre 27 de 2004.

3.2.7. Education and forced recruitment. Although the law guarantees the right to education for displaced populations, displaced children do not have real opportunities to access education. According to Accion Social, during 2002 approximately 216,350 children abandoned the education centers of various regions because of displacement. In the receiving municipalities during the same year only 10,762 internally displaced children were registered in the schools, out of a total 122,295 registered displaced children in the Sistema Unico de Registro (SUR)²¹.

Children and adolescents are increasingly facing forced recruitment by irregular armed groups (guerrilla or paramilitary). Human Rights Watch (HRW) estimates that irregular armed groups engage some 14,000 children of both sexes as combatants or helpers²². UNICEF on its side calculates an approximate number of between 6,000 and 7,000 children involved with armed groups.²³ It is children who have fallen out of the schooling system who are the most vulnerable to such forced recruitment.

3.2.8. Protection. In an environment where IDPs vulnerability is often the result of serious human rights violations, the construction of a protective environment by means of assistance, access to information and awareness raising is essential.

Colombian refugees and asylum seekers arriving in a new country require assistance in knowing their rights and in applying for refugee status, protection from predatory groups (both Colombian ones, linked to the illegal armed groups, and those from their host country), aid in integrating into the new country, as well as help with much the same basic humanitarian needs as the IDPs.

Mines and other explosive ordnances are one of the major threats for the security of those living in at least 600 municipalities of the country. According to the Mine Observatory of the Presidential Program of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, 4,282 persons were injured or killed because of mines in at least 404 municipalities of 31 departments of the country between January 1990 and 1 November 2005. Of the total victims registered, 37% are civil. This makes Colombia the third worst country in the world for new mine victims in 2003 and 2004, a similar situation to the ones of Afghanistan and Chechnya.

21 SUR : Registration system for IDPs.

22 <http://www.unicef.org.co/08-conf.htm>.

23 http://www.hrw.org/spanish/informes/2003/colombia_ninos.html#resumen

4. PROPOSED DG ECHO STRATEGY

4.1. Coherence with DG ECHO's overall strategic priorities

Colombia is classified according to the GINA index as “medium-needs” country.

The fact that it is not even higher in the list reflects the relatively advanced economic and social development of the country in relation to many other countries where DG ECHO traditionally intervenes. However, the affluence of major cities such as Bogota, Medellin and Cali masks enormous pockets of serious humanitarian need, mostly in the more remote rural areas, but even on the outskirts of those cities. There is little or no presence of state institutions in the places of greatest need, on account of the violence and conflict, and the state is unable to intervene in those humanitarian situations.

The country receives a large amount of attention from the US and is often spoken about in the media, but this is more in the context of Plan Colombia, a largely military strategy. The issues of displacement and humanitarian need are rarely raised, except in the Spanish speaking media.

LRRD is essentially developed in the spirit of complementarity's, DG ECHO intervening in areas where the other EC programmes do not support projects and where the situation is most acute in terms of humanitarian needs. In areas where both DG ECHO and other services are assisting the affected population, DG ECHO will intervene during the period of displacement up to 12 months, looking to hand over to another EU programme, particularly the one for uprooted people (UP), for longer term support. In Colombia, the LRRD works well. There are 3 types of link in Colombia. The first case is done where a single partner receives both UP and ECHO funds and works with the same beneficiaries first with ECHO and then with UP. Otherwise the UP support and ECHO support are complementary. ECHO working in the conflict areas, the delegation focusing its work essentially in communities where some level of stabilization was gained. Finally complementarities are reached through an institutional support to the State assistance mechanisms to ensure improvement of the government provided assistance while ECHO priorities a grass roots support. The ECHO office in Bogotá liaises closely with the Delegation on the selection of uprooted peoples' projects to ensure continuity with ECHO activities.

IDPs usually have to settle on the least desirable land in an area, and this is often a land most prone to natural disasters. Partners are therefore required to take these risks into account when formulating proposals and to include appropriate **disaster preparedness** components in their projects. Special emphasis will be put on the development of risk maps jointly with the local administrations. There is also coordination between the Global Plan and the projects funded in Colombia under the DIPECHO Andean Community programme.

Children DG ECHO projects pay special attention to this vulnerable group, helping with their nutritional, psychosocial and special educational needs. Particular focus will continue to be given to projects which will prevent the recruitment of children by the armed groups, by supporting the increased use of adapted teaching methods allowing children who dropped out of the school system and who are thereby vulnerable to recruitment to have a second chance to catch up with formal or informal education.

Access to **water** is usually a problem for IDPs only in the areas controlled by the illegal armed groups, but quality of water is a major issue almost everywhere and this has to be addressed as well.

Vulnerable ethnic groups will be considered as a priority in the selection of geographical areas and activities.

4.2. Impact of previous humanitarian response

- Mid-term reviews of the 2005 Global Plan have not yet been completed and final results will only be fully available in September 2006. However, based on the interim reports which have been received, together with site visits and informal contacts, the following results for 2005 can be indicated:
- *Specific objective 1: Post-emergency assistance.* Living conditions for around 73,281 IDPs and other vulnerable groups have been improved, through: improved shelter, access to safe drinking water and excrement disposal systems, distribution of non-food items, access to primary health care, education and recreational activities for children, psychosocial assistance and community strengthening.
- *Specific objective 2: Emergency assistance and protection.* Up to 30 September 2005 ICRC, supported by DG ECHO, has given emergency assistance to 43,285 recently displaced people, including food kits, hygiene kits, kitchen kits and household kits.
- *Specific objective 3: Children Protection* 3,028 youths and children have benefited from a protective environment through an educational strategy.
- *Specific objective 4: Refugee protection.* UNCHR and international NGOs have protected Colombian 35,311 refugees in Ecuador and almost 25,000 in Venezuela by providing them with emergency assistance to cover basic food, nutrition, shelter, health, water and sanitation and education needs; and also by strengthening institutions involved in the reception, registration, documentation, assistance and integration of refugees.
- *Specific objective 5: Coordination.* OCHA has continued to issue monthly reports on the Colombian humanitarian crisis based on information gathered through the Humanitarian Situation Room²⁴.

4.3. Coordination with activities of other donors and institutions

Until now Accion Social has not been able to play fully its central coordinating role attributed to it under Colombian law, as illustrated by the Constitutional Court sentence T025. Platforms have been established to assist the national system to gradually better comply with the state institutions obligations as prescribed by law. Several key national and international humanitarian actors are involved in this dialogue.

In parallel and linked to the above, the London declaration and the subsequent Cartagena declaration (February 2005) have been the starting point for the establishment mechanisms of coordination *by thematic blocks*. Those are to ensure a follow up of the progress towards gaps identified in the above forum.

With regards to coordination OCHA has also a role to play but it still has to be strengthened. UNHCR being mandated by the government to support its effort in better protecting IDPs, naturally UNHCR plays a central role in terms of coordination of the assistance to that

²⁴ These are published on <http://www.colombiassh.org/paginas/home.php>

population. ECHO continue its sponsoring of the humanitarian situation room facilitated by OCHA, which is a valuable information instrument while support to UNHCR is ensured by both the uprooted people budget line (baseline support) and ECHO in the framework of new, ad hoc, UNHCR initiatives.

There are regularly meetings organized by ECHO-Bogota with its partners. This coordination forum has been the platform to develop the present strategy for 2006. Key actors involved in institutional strengthening also participated in those preparatory consultations to ensure that ECHO actions are complementing the efforts undertaken at that level when they aim at strengthening the national efforts to reach better assistance and protection of the affected populations.

The DG ECHO office in Bogota is also carefully coordinating its activities with other donors and with the Delegation of the European Commission.

All Member States present in Bogota have been invited to the presentation of the ECHO strategy in November 2005 and the delegation was involved in all steps of the PG preparation process.

Furthermore, this financing Decision plans to undertake:

- Data collection, information analysis and diffusion on the humanitarian situation in Colombia
- Facilitation of information exchange amongst local, national and international organisations
- Support to the establishment of monitoring mechanisms in the affected regions
- Institutional strengthening of national humanitarian actors.

As stated above, there is excellent cooperation between ECHO and the EU Delegation in Bogota in relation to the uprooted people's budget line, and ECHO also seeks synergy with other EU funded programmes such as the Peace Laboratories, the human rights programme and the support street children. The 2005 programme for the uprooted people's budget line is currently being prepared, with the following main components:

- Support for UNHCR for protection, strengthening of state response, legal awareness and community organisation for IDPs (€1.9 million) for 2006 and 2007
- Support for UNICEF for protection, prevention of recruitment of child soldiers and assistance to families (€1.9 million) for 2005 and 2006
- Support for RSS for a strengthening of the state response and regional PAUs (programas de atención únicos) (€6 million)
- Work Programme, managed by the Commission, for the social and economic rehabilitation of IDPs (including LRRD), reinsertion of former child soldiers and adult former combatants, via a call for proposal in the second semester of 2005 (€10.2 millions).

As such the uprooted people's programmes will prioritize an institutional support to strengthen government efforts in complying with its obligation as well as a support to reinforce the socio economic recuperation of the people affected by the conflict. Such support allows ECHO to prioritize its assistance to those excluded from the government assistance.

4.4. Risk assessment and assumptions

Several medical missions have been attacked and a number of cases of kidnapping of the personnel of humanitarian organisations occurred during 2005. These retentions were usually of short duration as fortunately the humanitarian personnel (but not the logistic or medical material) was released after a few hours or days, leading to the belief that humanitarian space is respected to a large extent. In 2005 such cases occurred only, to the knowledge of DG ECHO, in Norte de Santander.

Humanitarian access might also be at risk due to the demobilization process and the reconfiguration of the conflict it has created. This might generate a new period of instability as local armed groups fight to control territory or to hold on to it, especially through the control of the civilian population.

There is some level of confusion however between human rights organisations and humanitarian ones. The former being clearly targeted by armed groups, this could lead to an increased risk for humanitarian workers.

Access to populations living in rural areas controlled by the armed groups is theoretically limited by a presidential decree forbidding any international organization, with the exception of the Red Cross (RC)²⁵, from establishing contact with the armed groups. In other areas, humanitarian organizations are simply advised by the irregular armed groups not to operate. Three affected regions currently have no presence of humanitarian organizations: the southern part of Caqueta department, rural areas of the Monte de Maria and Guaviare.

It is assumed that the uprooted people's budget line of the European Commission will take over some DG ECHO projects with medium term objectives.

It is also assumed that Accion Social will continue to provide assistance to IDPs in departmental capitals and beyond in the framework of their agreement with ICRC²⁶.

²⁵ the Red Cross Movement has the government's official authorization to engage dialogues with armed actors to gain humanitarian access as stipulated by Law 852 of 2003 in the specific case of the Colombian Red Cross

²⁶ There is an agreement between Accion Social and ICRC by which Accion Social provides emergency assistance to new individual IDPs, while the ICRC assists cases of massive displacement (more than 50 people at a time) plus individual cases where it has an office and the Accion Social has insufficient capacity.

4.5. DG ECHO Strategy²⁷

There is no major change in the 2006 strategy compared to 2005: IDPs victims of violence and Colombian refugees in the surrounding countries will be assisted as before. DG ECHO and its partners will continue to encourage LRRD as described in point 4.1.

This Global Plan takes into account the fluid situation in almost all Colombian departments: Some areas previously blocked have become accessible while other areas have become blocked or confined. Movements of IDPs are unpredictable as they depend on the ongoing conflicts and other acts of violence. Therefore this Global Plan aims to be as flexible as possible, so as to be able to address new situations occurring during its implementation period.

Due to security and access constraints, since the rural areas affected by the conflict still receive relatively little attention from Colombian state institutions and other donors, DG ECHO's interventions will continue to have a particular focus on these areas, without excluding the possibility of assistance in certain of the most vulnerable and neglected urban areas.

Caquetá, Putumayo, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Norte de Santander (Catatumbo), Meta (former FARC safe haven area), Nariño, Cauca, Valle de Cauca, Eastern Antioquia, Cesar, Chocó, Magdalena Medio and Montes de María will be amongst the priority regions. Additionally, assistance will be provided to Colombian refugees in neighbouring countries.

People assisted will include IDPs, populations suffering from blockade, confinement or those generally at risk in rural areas, refugees and returnees only under specific conditions: spontaneous return could be supported on condition that assistance is provided in the area of displacement and in the area of return (to avoid the push factor), that the assistance does not precede the return (to avoid the pull factor) and that people are informed on the principles of their return (will, dignity,...)

It is estimated that about 35,000 affected people will see their living conditions improved, around 50,000 will receive primary assistance and 3,000 children in need of special attention will be protected. An additional capacity of assistance for 13,700 people affected by natural disaster will be set up. Additionally, in neighbouring countries, around 37,000 refugees, asylum seekers will see their rights better respected and 27,000 of these plus host populations will be economically assisted.

²⁷ 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

Principal objective:

To provide protection, relief and assistance to people affected by the Colombian conflict, both in Colombia and in neighbouring countries:

Specific objectives:

Specific objective 1: To provide protection, relief and assistance to people affected by the internal conflict in Colombia

Component 1. Humanitarian assistance (where local authorities are unable to provide effective relief) in conditions of dignity and to promote the local integration of populations affected by conflict in the most affected regions

Activities

IDP and host populations:

- Primary emergency (first three months of displacement) shall be considered including the distribution of food and non food items
- To help targeted populations regain a minimum level of self-sufficiency: Water and sanitation assistance (excluding the construction of water points), provision or improvement of shelter, improving access to the national health care system, psychosocial support, food security: canteens and livelihood support shall be the sectors of intervention.

Blocked, confined, at risk or returning populations:

- Water and sanitation assistance (including the construction of water points),
- Shelter improvement (only when the conflict situation has proved to have had an impact on shelters),
- Health assistance (including mobile clinics as a step to facilitate the return of health services when possible),
- Psychosocial support,
- Food security: livelihood support. Possibility of canteens for returnees.

Component 2. Improved protection of the affected populations in accordance with current international agreements and the Colombian legal framework

Activities

General Protection activities:

- Implementation of safeguard measures for civilians in need of protection,
- Visits and selective assistance to detainees,
- Support for families of detainees and hostages,
- Activities in favour of missing persons and their families.
- Improved respect of international agreements, Strengthening the enforcement of the legal framework
- Sensitization, education and prevention of accidents with antipersonnel mines and Unexploded Objects (UXO). Assistance to affected people.

Child protection activities (to deter the recruitment of minors by armed groups and to protect them from other forms of violence):

- Informal education to reintegrate vulnerable children into the state education system,
- Psychosocial support,
- Nutritional support,

- Protection and local integration,
- Institutional strengthening.

Component 3. Improved coordination of the assistance

Activities

- Data collection,
- Information analysis and diffusion on the humanitarian situation in Colombia,
- Facilitation of information exchange amongst local, national and international organisations,
- Support to the establishment of monitoring mechanisms in the affected regions,
- Institutional strengthening

Component 4. Improved capacity to save and preserve life during natural disasters and their immediate aftermath that have entailed major loss of life, physical, psychological or social suffering or material damage. (this assistance shall be focused on the areas mostly affected by the conflict)

Activities

- Pre-positioning of stocks,
- Food and non food item distribution to victims of natural disasters,
- Disaster preparedness as a horizontal issue.

Specific objective 2: To provide protection, relief and assistance to refugees in neighbouring countries

Component 1. Improved protection of the refugees

Activities

- Legal assistance,
- Protection and advice to Colombian asylum seekers,
- Support for registration of Colombian refugees (institutional strengthening)

Component 2. Improved respect of the refugees' right to humanitarian assistance and to promote their local integration

Activities

- Emergency assistance for newly arrived asylum seekers and their host communities,
- Support for integration of Colombian refugees,
- Support for durable solutions for asylum seekers, refugees and their host communities

Specific objective 3: To maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field, to assess needs, appraise project proposals and to coordinate and monitor the implementation of operations.

4.6. Duration

The duration for the implementation of this decision will be 18 months starting from 1 January 2006. Expenditure under this decision shall be eligible from 1 January 2006.

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

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 organizations 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.

4.7. Amount of Decision and strategic programming matrix

4.7.1 Total amount of the Decision: EUR 12,000,000

Principal Objective	<i>To provide protection, relief and assistance to people affected by the Colombian conflict, both in Colombia and in neighbouring countries:</i>				
Specific objectives	Allocated amount EUR	Geographical area of operation	Activities proposed	Expected outputs / indicators	Potential partners (*)
<p>Specific objective 1:</p> <p>To provide protection, relief and assistance to people affected by the internal conflict in Colombia</p>	9,700,000	Colombia	<p>1. A. a. IDP and host populations</p> <p>1. A. a. a Primary emergency (first three months of displacement)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and non food items distribution <p>1. A. a. b To help targeted populations regaining a minimum level of self-sufficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water and sanitation assistance (excluding the construction of water points) • Provision or improvement of shelter • Improving access to the national health care system (through administrative support) • Psychosocial support • Food security: canteens, livelihood support <p>1. A. b. Blocked, confined, at risk or returning populations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water and sanitation assistance (including the construction of water points) • Shelter improvement (only when the conflict situation proved to have had an impact on people shelters) • Health assistance (including mobile clinics as a step to facilitate the return of health services when possible) • Psychosocial support • Food security: livelihood support. Possibility of canteens for returnees. 	<p>To provide humanitarian assistance (where local authorities are unable to provide effective relief) in conditions of dignity and to promote the social local integration of populations affected by conflict in the most affected regions.</p> <p>The most urgent needs of 50,000 IDPs in terms of food and non-food assistance are met for 3 months (6 months for female-headed households) following forced displacement, in accordance with SPHERE standarts</p> <p>Around 35,000 affected people have improved living conditions and social integration. At least one of their unmet basic needs is addressed. (As defined by SPHERE standards)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ACH- ESP - ANNF - CAFOD - CARE – FR - CARITAS-FR - CARITAS -ESP - CARITAS -LUX - CROIX-ROUGE - ESP - CROIX-ROUGE - FRA - CROIX-ROUGE - NLD - COMMITTE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX ROUGE - CICR- ICRC –CH - COOPI - DIAKONIE - IFRC - HILFSWERK AUSTRIA - MDM - FRA - MPDL - NRC - OXFAM – UK - DRC - SAVE THE CHILDREN – UK - SI - UN - WFP-B - PAHO - WFP - UN -UNOCHA - UNHCR

			<p>1. A. c. Horizontal issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of community and civil society organisations, together with advocacy • Disaster preparedness • Institutional Strengthening <p>1. B. a. General Protection activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved respect of international agreements • Improved respect of international agreements, strengthening the enforcement of the legal framework. • Implementation of safeguard measures for civilians in need of protection • Visits and selective assistance to detainees • Support for families of detainees and hostages; • Activities in favour of missing persons and their families • Sensitization, education and prevention of accidents with antipersonnel mines and UXO. Assistance to affected people. <p>1. B. b. Children protection activities (to deter the recruitment of minors by armed groups as well as other forms of violence)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal education, to reintegrate vulnerable children into the state education system • Psychosocial support • Nutritional support • Protection and local integration • Institutional Strengthening 	<p>1. B. to contribute to an improved protection of the affected populations in accordance with current international agreements (IHL, GPID, International Convention on Child Rights) as well as the Colombian legal framework (Law 387, sentence T025..):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detainees of concern to ICRC (held by government and the armed groups) and hostages are better treated in accordance with IHL – confidential results - The number of people under 18 recruited by armed groups decreases – confidential results - All combatants are made aware of the difference between participants and non participants in the conflict – confidential results - The families of persons reported missing have been informed of their fate and whereabouts, and the number of disappearances has diminished - 2000 children that dropped out of school are better protected through an access to adapted education and integrated support and are able to reintegrate the formal schooling system. 	
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<p>Specific objective 2:</p> <p>To provide protection, relief and assistance to refugees in neighbouring countries</p>	<p>1,600,000</p>	<p>Venezuela, Ecuador and Panama</p>	<p>1. C Coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collection, information analysis and diffusion on the humanitarian situation in Colombia Facilitation of information exchange amongst local, national and international organisations Support to the establishment of monitoring mechanisms in the affected regions Institutional strengthening <p>1.D. Emergency preparedness and response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-positioning of stocks Food and non-food items distribution to victims of natural disasters Disaster preparedness as a horizontal issue. <p>2.A. Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal assistance, protection and advice to Colombian asylum seekers <p>Support for registration of Colombian refugees (institutional strengthening)</p> <p>2.B. Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency assistance for newly arrived asylum seekers and their host communities Support for social integration of Colombian refugees <p>Support for durable solutions for asylum seekers, refugees and their host communities</p>	<p>1. C. To contribute to an improved coordination of the assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly reports on the humanitarian situation in Colombia formulated and distributed Maintenance of the database of humanitarian assistance and organizations in Colombia. <p>1. D. To contribute to an improved capacity to save and preserve life during natural disasters and their immediate aftermath that have entailed major loss of life, physical, psychological or social suffering or material damage. (this assistance shall be limited to populations also affected by the conflict)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting-up of a standard stocks pre-positioning system to guarantee availability and timely delivery of assistance to 13790 disaster affected people <p>2. A. To contribute to an improved protection of the refugees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 37 000 refugees and asylum seekers have their rights better respected (including socio-economic rights); are made better aware of their options <p>2.B. To contribute to an improved respect of the refugees right to humanitarian assistance and to promote their social local integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27,000 refugees and asylum seekers (and host populations) are supported to enable the development of durable solutions or voluntary return 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CARITAS-ESP CARITAS-FR CR FR DRC MDM NRC UN - UNHCR - BEL UN PAHO UN WFP UN WFP-B
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Specific objective 3: To maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field, to assess needs, appraise project proposals and to coordinate and monitor the implementation of operations	200,000	Bogota			
Reserve	500,000				
Risk assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Irregular armed groups may prevent access to target populations and their actions may force humanitarian organisations to withdraw from certain areas</i> ▪ <i>A worsening of the security situation, locally or more extensively, could delay the implementation of activities</i> ▪ <i>Stigmatisation of NGOs may lead to increase security risks</i> 				
Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>It is assumed that the EU uprooted peoples budget line will take over some DG ECHO projects with medium term objectives</i> ▪ <i>It is assumed that the Colombian government, through Accion Social, will continue to provide assistance to IDPs in departmental capitals and beyond</i> ▪ <i>It is assumed that the existence of a conflict and a humanitarian crisis continue to be recognised.</i> 				
Total cost	12,000,000				

(*) ASSOCIACION NAVARRA NUEVO FUTURO, ACCION CONTRA EL HAMBRE, (ESP), CATHOLIC AGENCY FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT (GBR), CARE FRANCE, CARITAS ESPANOLA, (E), FONDATION CARITAS LUXEMBOURG, CARITAS FRANCE – SECOURS POPULAIRE, COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR), COOPERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE, CRUZ ROJA ESPAÑOLA, (E), FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT ROUGE, CROIX-ROUGE FRANCAISE, HET NEDERLANDSE RODE KRUIS (NLD), DIAKONISCHES WERK der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland (DEU) , DANSK FLYGTNINGEHAELP, HILFSWERK AUSTRIA, MEDECINS DU MONDE, MOVIMIENTO POR LA PAZ, EL DESARME Y LA LIBERTAD, (E), NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL (NOR), OXFAM (GB), THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND (GBR), SOLIDARIDAD INTERNACIONAL, (E), UNITED NATIONS - PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION, UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES - BELGIUM, UNITED NATIONS, OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, UN - WORLD FOOD PROGRAM - LIAISON OFFICE, UNITED NATIONS - WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

5. 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 DG 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.

6. BUDGET IMPACT ARTICLE 23 02 01

-	CE (EUR)
Initial Available Appropriations for 2006	470,429,000
Supplementary Budgets	-
Transfers	-
Total Available Credits	470,429,000
Total executed to date (by 12/01/2006)	192,500,000
Available remaining	277,929,000
Total amount of the Decision	12,000,000

7. ANNEXES

Annex 1: Map of country and location of DG ECHO operations

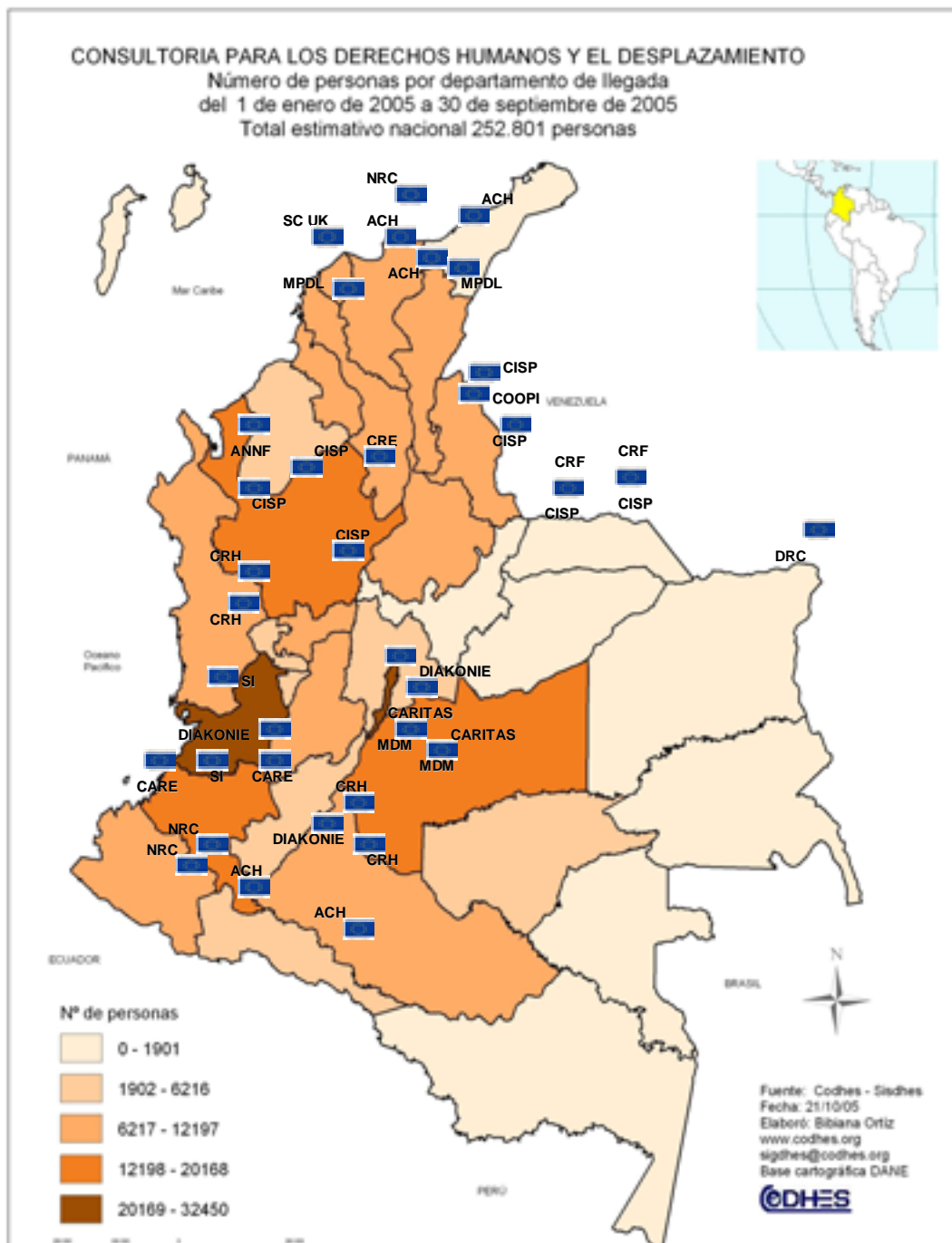
Annex 2: List of previous DG ECHO operations

Annex 3: Other donors' assistance

Annex 4: List of abbreviations

Annex 1: Map of country and location of DG ECHO operations

Preselección de proyectos Plan Global 2000



Annex 2:

List of previous DG ECHO operations in COLOMBIA/ECUADOR/VENEZUELA

Decision Number	Decision Type	2004 EUR	2005 EUR	2006 EUR
ECHO/COL/BUD/2004/01000	Emergency	500,000		
ECHO/-SM/BUD/2004/01000	Global plan	8.000.000		
ECHO/-SM/BUD/2005/01000			12.000.000	
	Subtotal	8.500,000	12.000.000	0
	Grand Total	20.500,000		

Dated : 14/12/2005

Source : HOPE

Annex 3: Other donors assistance

Donors in COLOMBIA/ECUADOR/VENEZUELA the last 12 months

1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria		DG ECHO	12,500,000		
Belgium		Other services	75.000.000		
Cyprus					
Czech republic					
Denmark					
Estonia					
Finland	200,000				
France					
Germany	3,036,000				
Greece					
Hungary					
Ireland					
Italy	100,000				
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg	592,400				
Malta					
Netherlands	2,960,195				
Poland					
Portugal					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain					
Sweden	1,384,400				
United kingdom					
Subtotal	8,272,995	Subtotal	87,500,000	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	95,772,995		

Dated : 14/12/2005

(*) Source : DG ECHO 14 Points reporting for Members States. <https://hac.cec.eu.int>
Empty cells means either no information is available or no contribution.

Annex 4: List of Abbreviations

ACH- ESP	Acción Contra el Hambre
ACCION SOCIAL	Social Action (former RSS)
ARS	Health insurance system for the subsidized regime (population not affiliated to the formal health system)
AIDCO	Europe Aid Co-operation Office
AUC	Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia
BPRM	Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration
CODHES	Consultoria para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento
COOPI	Cooperazione Internazionale
DIAKONIE	Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
EC	European Commission
DG ECHO	European Commission: Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid
ELN	Ejército de Liberación Nacional
EU	European Union
FARC	Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia
GP	Global Plan
HDI	Human Development Index
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
LRRD	Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development
MDM - FRA	Médecins Du Monde
MPDL	Movimiento por la Paz, el Desarme y la Libertad
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OAS	Organisation of American States
OPS	Panamerican Health Organisation
PAHO	Pan American Health Organisation
RC	Red Cross
SI	Solidaridad Internacional
SUR	Sistema Unico de Registro – Official Registration system for IDPs
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	The United Nations Children's Fund
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
US	United States of America
USAID	US Agency for International Development
UXO	Unexploded Object
WFP	World Food Programme

COMMISSION DECISION
of
on the financing of humanitarian operations from the budget of the European
Union in
Colombia and neighbouring countries

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 aid²⁸, and in particular Article 15(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Colombia continues to experience a violent internal conflict, which has led to internal displacement of over three million people and more than 250,000 in 2005 alone,
- (2) Most internally displaced people (IDPs) are in need of short term relief immediately after their displacement and need humanitarian assistance to improve their living conditions and to be integrated into a new environment,
- (3) The Colombian institutions do not have sufficient capacity to cope with the humanitarian needs of IDPs and in some cases do not have access to them,
- (4) Over 14,000 children have been recruited by armed groups in Colombia and there is a need to protect vulnerable IDP children and prevent further recruitment,
- (5) The conflict in Colombia is increasingly affecting the surrounding countries, particularly Ecuador and Venezuela. Last year, over 40,000 Colombians sought asylum in Ecuador, with more than 200,000 Colombians living there who are of concern to humanitarian agencies, many of whom in need of protection and humanitarian assistance. There are over 130,000 Colombians living in border areas of Venezuela who are in need of protection and humanitarian assistance,
- (6) There is a need for better coordination of humanitarian assistance in Colombia,
- (7) In order to maximise the impact of humanitarian aid for the victims, it is necessary to maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field,
- (8) 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,
- (9) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 12,000,000 from budget article 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to more than 90,000 IDPs, refugees and other vulnerable groups, taking into account the available budget, other donors' interventions and other factors,
- (10) In accordance with Article 17 (3) of Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid, the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave a favourable opinion on 23 February 2006.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves an amount of EUR 12,000,000 for humanitarian aid operations (Global Plan) for Internally displaced people, refugees and other vulnerable groups in Colombia and Neighbouring countries from Article 23 02 01 of the 2006 general budget of the European Union,

2. In accordance with Articles 2 and 4 of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objectives:

- To provide protection, relief and assistance to people affected by the internal conflict in Colombia
- To provide protection, relief and assistance to refugees in neighbouring countries
- To 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 specific 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 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 and does not exceed EUR 2,000,000.

Article 3

1. The duration of the implementation of this decision shall be for a maximum period of 18 months, starting from 1 January 2006.

2. Expenditure under this decision shall be eligible from 1 January 2006.

3. If the actions envisaged in this decision are suspended due to *force majeure* or comparable circumstances, the period of suspension will 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

Specific objectives	Amount per specific objective (EUR)
To provide protection, relief and assistance to people affected by the internal conflict in Colombia	9,700,000
To provide protection, relief and assistance to refugees in neighbouring countries	1,600,000
To maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field, to assess needs, appraise project proposals and to coordinate and monitor the implementation of operations	200,000
Reserve	500,000
TOTAL	12,000,000