



Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision

23 02 01

Title: Emergency Decision to strengthen the resilience of local populations in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia to the affects of the drought cycle on human and livestock health.

Location of operation: HORN OF AFRICA (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia)

Amount of Decision: EUR 5,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/-HF/BUD/2006/01000

Explanatory Memorandum

1 – Rationale, needs and target population.

1.1. - Rationale:

The Horn of Africa has been affected by another failure of the short rains season leading to a severe food and livelihood crisis, due to successive rain failures since 2001. The arid and semi arid lands of Kenya, southern Somalia, Ethiopia and Djibouti are hardest hit by food and water shortages, as well as insufficient grazing pastures for livestock. This current situation is thought to be too much for many already impoverished pastoral communities to bear, leading to a number of reported deaths from malnutrition, and calls for an emergency. The current situation is foreseen to last for the next 6 months, the habitual period of drought. The populations affected are mainly nomadic pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities who rely on short rains for water and livestock for survival. Even though the region is known for its regular cycles of drought and rain failures, the past few years have seen these cycles become ever more recurrent, frequent, and severe. This is resulting in pastoral communities trying to survive in an increasingly fragile environment. Should these rains fail, then whole communities are faced by water shortages and insufficient pastures, resulting in food insecurity and a livelihood crisis. These consecutive rain failures have also been aggravated over the years by a lack of structural development support from local authorities.

In Djibouti, the government has launched an emergency appeal on 19th January 2006 in order to respond to the severe drought affecting all the country. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET – USAID), after the warning issued in December, classified Djibouti in an emergency status on 11th January 2006. OCHA and FAO confirmed the presence of pre-famine indicators in most of pastoral livelihood zones,

including distress migration, livestock deaths, concentration in permanent deep water points, increase in supplementary feeding for dairy herds, malnutrition and diarrhoeal diseases, etc.

Successive failures of the main season rains and prolonged droughts in most livestock dependent areas in the Southeast, Northwest and Central pastoral zones have severely eroded pastoral livelihoods. This year, in comparison to 2003, income and food sources derived from livestock products have been reduced by half in most pastoral zones. As a result of all these factors, significant food deficits ranging from 20 percent to 70 percent of minimum food requirements exist in all pastoral livelihood zones through the next recovery period, which is expected in November. Water shortages are critical for both humans and animals, particularly in areas where both depend on water catchments.

In Ethiopia, following a multi agency needs assessment mission in the southern Somali region of Ethiopia, the Ethiopian government's Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Agency (DPPA) dispatched food aid as an immediate first measure in response to the deteriorating situation. This degrading situation was simultaneously relayed by UNOCHA on the 26th December 2005 and by *Action Contre la Faim* ECHO's partner operating in the region. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET – USAID) on 23rd and 28th December 2005 alerted the international community on the pre-famine conditions in the Somali region and classified Ethiopia in an emergency status.

The drought situation is currently unfolding throughout most pastoral areas of the Ethiopian Somali Region, the Borena Zone and the southern parts of South Omo Zone (Oromiya Region) where UNOCHA Ethiopia reports a severe shortage of pasture and water and poor physical conditions and deaths of livestock.

In Kenya, on 2nd January 2006, the President Mwai Kibaki, declared a state of national disaster in 8 districts in the North and north-eastern parts of Kenya, following calls by the Government for prolonged assistance since September 2005. In response to the drought in Kenya, the Government has mobilised military resources to provide immediate relief in the form of food aid and water to the most severely hit areas in the North of Kenya. The National Red Cross Society is being supported with a launch of an international appeal (through IFRC) for approx. EUR 11.8 M in support of water, livestock and food aid.

In Kenya, there has been little social, developmental or economic support to the affected regions. Pastoral communities and their livestock have been void of any sustainable management. There are now some initiatives that are trying to address some of these structural issues; however these have not yet been fully engaged or established. The situation is as a result still dependent on emergency interventions.

In southern Somalia, the chronic situation has been affected by persistent insecurity and conflict by warring clans for the control of natural resources, business interests and the imposition of authority. This has led to significant amount of internal displacement and impoverishment, which has persistently weakened communities. The lack of access to many areas, due to insecurity, has also limited the impact any previous humanitarian aid assistance. The Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU- FAO) released on 21st December 2005 a Special Alert on the rapid deteriorating of the food security situation and the imminent widespread humanitarian emergency in Southern Somalia. There is a fear that the current situation, if left unchecked, could lead to repeat of the situation faced in 1993, in which the pastoral communities were affected by a famine.

The present drought is affecting the border region of Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia and Djibouti. The lack of drought preparedness structures and lethargy over a problem that has persisted for many years may affect the situation harder than it might otherwise have. As a result, a regional drought decision is the most appropriate tool for responding in the short-term to the needs of such a disaster. This decision will complement the ongoing activities under the recently adopted Decision for Kenya (EUR 2 M); the Somalia Global Plan (EUR 9 M) and the ad hoc decision for Ethiopia (EUR 4.5 M). No humanitarian intervention is presently being implemented in Djibouti. The present decision could be complemented in the future in light of the development of the drought situation, in particular concerning the timely arrival of the next rainy season.

1.2. - Identified needs:

The immediate challenges of the present situation are with regards to the provision of food, protection of livestock assets, nutrition and health-related activities, as well as water activities in the region. Needs assessments are currently being finalised, following the receipt of which, the European Commission will be able to fine-tune its partners' interventions in the sectors.

Food Aid:

In Djibouti, WFP's emergency operation is currently assisting 47,500 persons with a full ration, which will continue through March 2006. A 40 percent increase in the number of drought victims (of who one third are children) is expected during the coming months. However, reports indicate that around 150.000 people are under serious threat. Food aid will be needed until at least November, when recovery can begin in certain zones (Southeast roadside and Central pastoral zones) if the coming Sougoum/Diraa rainy season (March- April) is adequate.

In Ethiopia, the government's pledge of food aid will depend on cumbersome transportation logistics, made difficult by the remoteness of the populations and poor infrastructure. Timely delivery will be of the essence.

In Kenya, in many of the low lying coastal, arid and semi arid areas, the harvest is reported to have failed. These are traditionally not good maize growing areas, even though the national 2005-6 maize harvest predictions are expected to be 5% above the 5 year mean average. The recurrent challenge, again, is with regards to the transport of food from surplus areas to deficit areas and access by destitute vulnerable households.

For Somalia, there are at present two food aid pipelines. One of the pipelines is managed by CARE International, which is targeting food aid to the region of Gedo and neighbouring areas (US support), whereas the other is through WFP which is targeting food aid to the other areas, mostly in the south. WFP have recently been expanding their network of implementing partners to get greater coverage in the area. The current needs for food aid have been estimated at 1.4 million people: 400,000 in CARE areas and 1,000,000 in areas to be supported by WFP.

Nutrition:

The region is host to whole communities who remain in a constant state of "knife edge" nutritional vulnerability and livelihood crisis. The slightest climatic shock to their fragile coping system sees Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) levels as high as 40%, as is currently suspected to be the case in North East Kenya (Mandera) and pockets of southern

Somalia (FSAU)¹. The latest nutritional surveys undertaken in Kenya, in October 2005, indicate that Garissa measures a GAM rate of 18.6%; Wajir measures 30.3% GAM, and Tana River 18.5% GAM².

The situation in both northern Kenya and southern Somalia are chronically affected by GAM rates of 20% and above (15% and above is usually considered to be the threshold level for any emergency intervention). However due to the chronic malnourished state of the communities and the nature of the situation, interventions are often only triggered as a reactions to much higher levels of malnutrition than would normally be the case.

Due to inadequately functioning health care services or social infrastructure, the quality of data collected is always questionable, i.e. mortality rates and disease prevalence. However, the understanding of the situation and its effects on the present level of destitution after the accumulative effects of three years of drought leaves little room for doubt. GAM is a “late indicator”, as opposed to an early warning indicator and there will be a need for therapeutic feeding combined with targeted supplementary and food security support. However there has in the past been little linkage between WFP and GoK food aid distributions and the various therapeutic and supplementary feeding programmes, and the school feeding programme. The co-ordination level needs to be improved.

Health:

The health services in Ethiopia and many areas of Kenya (such as in the North East) suffer from a serious and chronic lack of support. This is mainly due to insufficient resources being allocated for the management of these facilities.

The health problems encountered all over the affected area are mainly as a result of structural and national policy deficiencies. Drought is aggravating the consequences of absent medical health care on the populations in all three countries. Many medical facilities in northern Kenya (such as in Mandera and Marsabit) have come to rely on the benefit from NGO (non-governmental organisation) support which substitutes essential support from the Government for ongoing therapeutic feeding interventions. NGOs are also providing drugs and medical equipment, though recently the Kenyan Ministry of Health has sent medical supplies to areas in north eastern Kenya. Previous efforts to hand over to the MoH have proven to be fruitless. Social services in these abandoned northern districts are at an almost stand-still.

In Somalia, the lack of health care support is as a result of the 15 years of ongoing civil war. Many NGOs have been forced to pull out of supporting medical health care facilities due to the nature of the Somali clan structure and militias. Fruitless negotiations between NGOs and such clans have led to medical facilities being abandoned. DG ECHO is doing its best to reopen such facilities as the provision of medical support is considered to be of utmost priority.

Water:

The biggest challenge for the communities living in this drought affected areas is access to water. It is regarded as a very sacred and precious resource.

¹ Somalia Food Security Analysis Unit (report December 2005)

² UNICEF Kenya, nutrition update December 2005
ECHO-HF/BUD/2006/01000

In south Somalia, data collected from the monitoring of many of the water points in the region indicates that water tables have lost up to 90% in just over 6 months. Readings taken from borehole measurements in Somalia have recorded a consistent and spectacular drop in their water tables i.e. the water table at Subxhanallah has gone from 3.6 meters to just 60 cm; while the one at Waabgarad has gone from 4.60 meters to 25 cm. These readings are consistent with over 12 other wells in southern Somalia³. The same situation has been noted in Kenya, which results in the forced migration of communities and livestock herds to known sources of water, adding additional pressure and demands on existing natural resources.

Livestock:

Pastoralist communities living in semi arid areas are amongst the most exposed to the various climatic shocks and their consequences. Livestock die in drought periods because of the lack of water, fodder and parasites infestation. During post drought periods livestock are prone to parasitic diseases. They are often too weak to respond well to vaccinations.

Every year, the downward spiral affects pastoralist communities in reducing their core breeding livestock, which is the main asset of the pastoralist livelihood. This subsequently reduces their food and energy intake, as the pastoralists can no longer rely on their traditional diet of milk and meat anymore.

Livestock losses deeply destabilize livelihoods and food security of pastoralist households, it was calculated that up to 5 years (without any problems and stress) are necessary to rebuilt herds and retrieve previous income/livelihood level.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

The majority of the beneficiaries to be targeted through this decision are nomadic and semi nomadic pastoralists and agro-pastoralists.

It is thought that there is an estimated 5 million people affected in the region:

- i) 0.15 million in Djibouti ⁴
- i) 1.1 million in Ethiopia⁵
- ii) 2.5 million people in Kenya⁶
- iii) 2 million in Somalia⁷

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints :

It is important to note that the current drought situation is usually more familiar in and around the end of March/April, before the long rains. The affected communities still have another several months of hardship ahead of them. In addition, over time, other more borderline marginal areas will be getting worse, and will become critical, further south. The areas further to the North will face more difficulties. There is a fear that the long rains due in May may not be reliable. Should they fail, it could become a serious catastrophe.

³ ACF-F Somalia programme – Bay/Bakool/Gedo

⁴ FEWS estimates

⁵ Government of Ethiopia – DPPA (Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Agency)

⁶ GoK estimates; pending WFP assessments ongoing in January 2006.

⁷ FSAU Somalia estimates

There is also the concern that a growing pressure on existing limited resources will lead to increasing inter-ethnic and tribal tension and could result in violent incidences.

In Kenya, one of the biggest constraints is going to be the logistic requirements in order to get the assistance out to many of the affected remote areas. It takes two days by car to reach the Northern border areas of Kenya with Somalia, and the territory is wide and expansive and bandits and insecurity are a concern, often requiring the use of police escorts.

Flights are few and irregular, often requiring private charters.

In Somalia, besides logical factors, security constraints are more serious. In addition there are the difficulties and constraints of risk associated to pirates and the hijacking of aid ships off the Somali coastline.

In these areas of northern Kenya and southern Somalia there is also the sensitivity around inter-clan violence and impartiality. For Somali tribes, neutrality means each tribe gets the same assistance. Any differentiation is considered being partial.

For many organisations, working in these areas presents an additional challenge. Motivation is often a problem as they do not perceive there to be any improvement in the situation from previous interventions. Rather there is a perception that things are getting worse as times goes on.

In Ethiopia, the limited number of potential partners and the difficulties of movement in the affected regions linked to security reasons, could limit the implementing capacity of DG ECHO.

In Djibouti, emergency food aid, water, health care, veterinary services, animal feed and other assistance is critical in the coming months. However, long term solutions are needed to address and prevent the potential for a total breakdown in pastoral livelihoods in Djibouti. Increased coordination and planning for humanitarian interventions is essential to target assistance efficiently to the most vulnerable populations.

A possible constraint could be represented by the limited implementing capacity, due to the limited presence of international NGO.

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:⁸

2.1. - Objectives :

Principal objective: **To mitigate the effects of current drought on vulnerable pastoral communities in the Horn of Africa, notably in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.**

⁸ 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.

Specific objectives: **To contribute support for immediate provision of food aid, food security, protection of livestock assets, health, nutrition and water, thereby alleviating the pressure on targeted vulnerable local communities.**

2.2. - Components :

Food Aid:

Support will concentrate contributing to the provision of targeted food aid relief and logistical support targeting vulnerable drought affected communities.

Livestock:

Where possible, there will be support for the treatment of livestock against opportunistic parasites, and targeted feeding of core livestock herds. Veterinary support to pastoralist communities through livestock parasites treatment targeted feeding and water supply. Livestock emergency feed and watering is crucial in most part of the drought prone affected areas. An epizootic surveillance scheme in almost all pastoralist and agro-pastoralist areas where livestock diseases are prevailing is necessary in order to prevent any large epidemic within livestock which will result in deeper destitution of the pastoralist communities.

Nutrition/Health:

Support will need to be focused on contributing to expanding therapeutic and supplementary feeding activities targeting vulnerable groups notably women and under 5 children in key targeted areas.

Water:

Unfortunately, drilling of boreholes will only draw more water from the same exhausted aquifer. The key to managing the situation is natural resource and livestock management. The environment can only carry so much livestock. The uncontrolled management of livestock herds and population results in growing pressure and tension around dwindling water resources and pasture. The recurrent drought cycles are also not allowing the aquifer to be sufficiently recharged and for pastures to regenerate.

Activities will focus on the provision of water through immediate and short term water trucking, together with the provision of bowers and bladders. At the same time, these measures will be accompanied by the rehabilitation of existing water points and pans for both humans and livestock. In addition there will be support for the purchase of “fast moving” spare parts and subsidised fuel for the running of boreholes. There will in addition be support sanitation and public health and hygiene promotion.

3 - Duration expected for actions in the proposed Decision:

The duration of humanitarian aid operations shall be **6 months**.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from **2nd January 2006**.

If the implementation of the actions envisaged in this Decision is suspended due to *force majeure* or any comparable circumstance, the period of suspension will not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the humanitarian aid operations.

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

4 - Previous interventions/Decisions of the Commission within the context of the current crisis

List of previous ECHO operations in ETHIOPIA					
		2004	2005	2006	
Decision Number	Decision Type	EUR	EUR	EUR	
ECHO/ETH/EDF/2004/01000	Emergency	498,580			
ECHO/ETH/EDF/2004/02000	Non Emergency	5,833,800			
ECHO/ETH/EDF/2005/01000	Non Emergency		4,500,000		
	Subtotal	6,332,380	4,500,000	0	
	Grand Total	10,832,380			

Dated : 05/01/2006
Source : HOPE

List of previous ECHO operations in KENYA					
		2004	2005	2006	
Decision Number	Decision Type	EUR	EUR	EUR	
ECHO/KEN/EDF/2004/01000	Non Emergency	3,850,000			
ECHO/KEN/BUD/2005/01000	Non Emergency		2,000,000		
	Subtotal	3,850,000	2,000,000	0	
	Grand Total	5,850,000			

Dated : 06/01/2006
Source : HOPE

List of previous ECHO operations in SOMALIA					
		2004	2005	2006	
Decision Number	Decision Type	EUR	EUR	EUR	
ECHO/SOM/BUD/2004/01000	Global Plan	8,000,000			
ECHO/SOM/BUD/2004/02000	Non Emergency	1,150,000			
ECHO/SOM/BUD/2005/01000	Global Plan		9,000,000		
	Subtotal	9,150,000	9,000,000	0	
	Grand Total	18,150,000			

Dated : 06/01/2006
Source : HOPE

5 - Other donors and donor co-ordination mechanisms.

Donors in ETHIOPIA the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria		ECHO	4,500,000		
Belgium		Other services	74,500,000 (*)		
Cyprus					
Czech republic					
Denmark	1,122,219				
Estonia					
Finland	1,400,000				
France	1,318,400				
Germany	4,440,000				
Greece					
Hungary					
Ireland	500,000				
Italy	2,000,000				
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg					
Malta					
Netherlands	9,850,252				
Poland					
Portugal					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain	400,000				
Sweden	2,833,300				
United kingdom					
Subtotal	23,864,171	Subtotal	177,900,000	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	201764,171		

Dated : 05/01/2006

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

(*) Global commitments

Donors in DJIBOUTI the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria		ECHO	0		
Belgium		Other services	0		
Cyprus					
Czech republic					
Denmark					
Estonia					
Finland					
France					
Germany	231,000				
Greece					
Hungary					
Ireland					
Italy					
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg					
Malta					
Netherlands	498,000				
Poland					
Portugal					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain					
Sweden					
United kingdom					
Subtotal	729,000	Subtotal	0	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	729,000		

Dated : 19/01/2006

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

Donors in KENYA the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria		ECHO	2,000,000		
Belgium		Other services	17,000,000 (*)		
Cyprus					
Czech republic					
Denmark	1,879,194				
Estonia					
Finland	500,000				
France					
Germany	10,000				
Greece					
Hungary					
Ireland	227,000				
Italy					
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg					
Malta					
Netherlands					
Poland					
Portugal					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain					
Sweden	1,254,744				
United kingdom					
Subtotal	3,870,938	Subtotal	102,100,000	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	105,970,938		

Dated : 06/01/2006

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

(*) Global commitments

Donors in SOMALIA the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria		ECHO	9,000,000		
Belgium		Other services			
Cyprus					
Czech republic					
Denmark	842,444				
Estonia					
Finland	1,000,000				
France					
Germany	4,530,963				
Greece					
Hungary					
Ireland	1,350,498				
Italy	1,710,100				
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg					
Malta					
Netherlands	2,697,323				
Poland					
Portugal					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain					
Sweden	5,288,000				
United kingdom	1,945,208				
Subtotal	19,364,536	Subtotal	40,200,000	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	59,564,536		

Dated : 06/01/2006

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

(*) Global commitments

Pledges following the declaration on 2nd January, 2006.

Kenya

The GoK has pledged 10,000 MT of cereals in response to the drought, though are seeking funds to pay for the transportation.

The UK have pledged £1 million to assist with the associated costs of the transport of the GoK pledge, however discussions still needs to be concluded.

Sweden has also pledged SEK 17,000,000 (EUR 1.8 million). 2 million SEK to UNICEF, 10 million SEK to WFP to assist with the associated costs of the transport of GoK food, and 5 million SEK to FAO.

USAID has already pledged a 10 million USD wheat for maize swap. Kenya is traditionally short of wheat, but sufficiently stocked with maize. The negotiations are currently under progress through WFP.

Somalia

Besides support for the already current interventions, US Food for Peace has pledged 15 million USD worth of food aid to their pipeline. However there are some serious concerns with regards to the difficulties in getting food aid into Somalia. This is in reference to concerns with piracy and the recent reports of ships being hijacked off the Somali coast.

6 - Amount of decision and distribution by specific objectives:

6.1. - Total amount of the decision: EUR 5,000,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: To mitigate the effects of current drought on vulnerable pastoral communities in the Horn of Africa, notably in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia			
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Potential partners⁹
Specific objective 1: To contribute support for immediate provision of food aid, food security, protection of livestock assets, health, nutrition and water, thereby alleviating the pressure on targeted vulnerable local communities.	5,000,000	Northern, eastern and southern districts of Kenya, southern Somalia and southern Ethiopia, Djibouti	- ACH- ESP - ACF - F - CARE – UK - CARE - NL - COOPI - I - CORDAID – NL - CROIX-ROUGE - CICR-ICRC - CH - CROIX-ROUGE - DNK - CROIX-ROUGE - FICR-IFCR-CH - GAA - D - MERLIN – UK - OXFAM -UK - SCF - UK - UN - UNICEF - BEL - UN - WFP-PAM WORLD VISION - UK
TOTAL:	5,000,000		

7 - Budget Impact article 23 02 01

	CE (EUR)
Appropriations for 2006	470.429.000
Supplementary Budgets	-
Transfers Commission	-
Total Available Appropriations	470.429.000
Total executed to date (12/1/2006)	192.500.000
Available remaining	277.929.000
Total amount of the Decision	5.000.000

⁹ ACCION CONTRA EL HAMBRE, (ESP), ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM, (FR), CARE INTERNATIONAL UK, CATHOLIC ORGANISATION FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT AID (NLD), COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR), COOPERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE (ITA), DANSK RODE KORS, (DNK), DEUTSCHE WELTHUNGERHILFE / GERMAN AGRO ACTION, (DEU), FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT ROUGE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY RELIEF INTERNATIONAL (GBR), OXFAM (GB), Stichting CARE Nederland, THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND (GBR), UNICEF, UNITED NATIONS - WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME, WORLD VISION

COMMISSION DECISION

on the financing of an emergency humanitarian operations from the general budget of the European Union in

HORN OF AFRICA (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia)

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 aid¹, and in particular Article 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- 1) The Kenyan government declared a national disaster on 2nd January 2006 because of the drought affecting $\frac{3}{4}$ of the country's territory.
- 2) The Djibouti government appealed for the support of the international community on 19th January 2006 for the drought affecting the country.
- 3) The drought affects neighbouring regions that go across traditional state boundaries, affecting populations who carry out similar pastoral activities; such drought is also having pernicious effects on Ethiopia and Somalia, therefore these countries are contained in the decision.
- 4) Years of neglect leave the populations facing high vulnerability, loss of assets and livelihoods and a precarious health and nutritional situation.
- 5) The prognosis is bad and for the situation to worsen during the continuing dry season that is underway in these most affected countries of the Horn of Africa.
- 6) Humanitarian aid operations financed by this Decision should be of a maximum duration of 6 months.
- 7) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 5,000,000 from budget line 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to over 5.6 million people in the Horn of Africa, 0.15 million in Djibouti, 1.1 million in Ethiopia, 2.5 million in Kenya, 2 million in Somalia, taking into account the available budget, other donors-contributions and other factors.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

¹ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6

Article 1

1. In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of **EUR 5,000,000** for emergency humanitarian aid operations to provide the necessary assistance and relief to over 5.6 million local people in the HORN OF AFRICA by using line 23 02 01 of the 2006 general budget of the European Union.
2. In accordance with Article 2 (a) of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objectives:

To contribute support for immediate provision of food aid, food security, protection of livestock assets, health, nutrition and water, thereby alleviating the pressure on targeted vulnerable local communities.

The total amount of this decision is allocated to this objective.

Article 2

1. The implementation of humanitarian aid operations funded by this Decision shall have a **maximum duration of 6 months** from their starting date.
2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from **2nd January 2006**.
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 humanitarian aid operations.
4. This Decision shall take effect on the date of adoption.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission