



Humanitarian Aid Decision

23 02 01

Title: Strengthening protection to children and women in humanitarian emergencies through thematic support to UNICEF

Location of operation: Global

Amount of Decision: EUR 1,800,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/THM/BUD/2006/04000

Explanatory Memorandum

1 - Rationale, needs and target population.

1.1. - Rationale :

Children are amongst the most vulnerable victims of humanitarian crises. They are the most exposed and at-risk group in unstable situations. According to UNICEF, an estimated 20 million children have been forced to flee their homes and some 300,000 child soldiers are involved and exploited in armed conflicts in over more than 30 countries. Their **protection** from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect is often inadequate even in times of stability. In addition to being human rights violations, these abuses are under-recognized and under-reported, which is a barrier to child survival and development.

Emergencies make protection programming particularly difficult, due to lack of humanitarian access, breakdown of family and social structures, collapse of basic social services, weak governance, the absence of accountability and the prevalence of violence. At the same time, the direct threats to child protection are compounded through forced displacement, abduction, labour and sexual exploitation by armed groups, disability due to combat or natural disasters, landmines and unexploded ordnance, and trafficking. Armed conflict and periods of repression may increase the risk that children will participate as combatants, will be tortured, may also witness war crimes, and come before truth and justice-seeking mechanisms.

The field of child protection is complex and relatively new. Despite the explicit references to child protection in the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, the implementation of

those provisions has remained slow and nowhere more so than in humanitarian crises – be they conflict-related or natural disasters.

Children and women are a natural target of all humanitarian operations funded by the Commission through its Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) and they have been considered as priorities in DG ECHO's aid strategy since 2002. In 2006, DG ECHO will finalise its internal guidelines on children in emergencies and continue to promote the mainstreaming of child related activities in humanitarian operations.

Child protection is an important component of DG ECHO's overall strategy in supporting children affected by humanitarian crises and is at the core of UNICEF's mandate. Child protection is a core part to UNICEF's organizational principles and an integral component of their Core Commitments for Children in emergencies (CCC)¹.

There is a clear expectation among all actors that UNICEF will provide leadership in setting standards, elaborating tools and policies, and gathering and analyzing information on the situation of children.

These principles were clearly highlighted in the 2003 DG ECHO funded Evaluation of UNICEF programmes. The Evaluation recommended that: "DG ECHO should set up thematic funding for activities and training in Child Protection and also possibly in Emergency Preparedness, a cross-cutting concern in the agency's humanitarian mandate. Synergies should be built up between DG ECHO and UNICEF for better protection of vulnerable children in crisis situations, such as e.g. child soldiers, orphans, family reunification, psychological support, forced labour or sexual exploitation, and for training of staff".

Consequently, DG ECHO envisages funding to continue the funding of measures designed to reinforce UNICEF capacities to ensure coherent, timely and consistent response to **child protection needs in emergencies**.

The activities will also contribute to the implementation of the EU guidelines on children and armed conflict.

1.2. - Identified needs :

Assessments of lessons from recent emergency response and reviews/evaluations of UNICEF's capacities in the area of child protection in emergencies have demonstrated that significant advances have been made in increasing the emphasis on child protection in UNICEF programmes of cooperation.

UNICEF and partner organisations have made significant progress in the quality of their interventions over a relatively limited number of years. Lessons have been learnt, guidelines and principles have been drawn up in a number of protection areas.

Among the best examples are the **Cape Town Principles and Best Practices**² for the demobilisation and reintegration of children in Africa, and the recently adopted **Inter-**

¹ For details see: http://www.unicef.org/lerg/index_commitments.html - *Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies*, UNICEF, Revised March 2005.

² Developed by UNICEF and the NGO Working Group on the Convention of the Rights of the Child, articulating strategies for preventing recruitment of children and for demobilizing child soldiers and helping
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Agency Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children³, and the drafting of an Inter-Agency Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration System (Children and DDR)⁴.

However, much remains to be done, in particular regarding the systematic implementation of international legal instruments and standards.

Programmatic approaches often differ from country to country, and while a number of efficient tools have been developed, their effective dissemination at the field level still remains a challenge - field practitioners are still often left to improvise their response. Effective knowledge-transfer and accountability still need to be improved at all levels.

Child protection programming in emergencies: while there is widespread commitment throughout UNICEF and its partners to a better implementation of the CCCs relating to child protection, the awareness and skills of UNICEF staff – protection officers working in more ‘regular’ contexts as well as other programme officers – need to be increased, in particular in relation to the specificities of child protection in situations of emergencies.

Prevention of child recruitment, demobilisation and reintegration of child soldiers: The demobilisation of children associated with armed forces and armed groups has received important visibility and attention over the past few years, with programmes developed in countries such as Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Sudan and Angola. Despite the increased attention given to these programmes, important aspects remain poorly addressed. As UNICEF and partners embark on further demobilisation and reintegration exercises, there is a need to look at reintegration of child soldiers within the broader context of the reintegration of all other children affected by a conflict, an issue which is not well understood yet.

Separated children: A family whose members have become separated puts children at particular risk. In all age groups, therefore, prevention of separation should be given special attention in humanitarian crises.

Although the recently adopted ‘Interagency Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied Children and Separated Children’ have been a major achievement in ensuring a common response to separated children in emergencies, UNICEF and partners still lack the tools to efficiently implement the principles, especially in the more challenging cases of younger children that become separated. While some progress has been made in developing standards in the realm of care for children in non-emergency situations, additional work is required to adapt this work to an emergency context, where separated and unaccompanied children are particularly at risk of abuse and exploitation.

Psychosocial support: Since the early 1990s UNICEF and most other child protection agencies have been active in providing children with the support required for psychosocial reintegration. Psychosocial support has now become a systematic part of humanitarian response. However, approaches to psychosocial reintegration vary greatly, within UNICEF programmes and also between UNICEF and other child protection organisations. There is a strong expectation in this field that a clear UNICEF policy, accompanied by the development

them to reintegrate into society. They recommend actions be taken by governments and communities in affected countries to end this violation of children’s rights.

³ This document has been formally endorsed by UNICEF, UNHCR, the ICRC, IRC, Save the Children UK, and World Vision International.

⁴ Expected to be launched formally in January 2006.

of a toolkit and guidelines, would greatly clarify the debate and lead to more consistency in approaches within UNICEF and within the wider humanitarian community.

Sexual violence, exploitation and HIV/AIDS: The international humanitarian community has become increasingly aware of the massive sexual violence and exploitation perpetrated against children and women in emergency situations. Violence during conflicts takes multiple forms, each demanding its own response: sexual violence used by armed groups as a weapon of war, sexual exploitation perpetrated by those taking advantage of the increased vulnerability of children and women in conflict situations sexual exploitation by those mandated to protect children and women (e.g. peacekeepers, humanitarian workers). These specific strategies must however all be part of a coherent and coordinated overall strategy on protection from gender-based violence. While extensive expertise has been developed, along with programme guidance and tools, policies are still too unevenly disseminated and endorsed. Furthermore, gaps still exist within UNICEF in understanding and incorporating the HIV/AIDS Corporate Commitments for Children in Emergencies (CCCs) in the response to emergency situations and its linkages to relevant protection issues.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned :

Funding under this decision will benefit UNICEF protection staff and protection programmes, as well as humanitarian partners (other UN agencies and NGOs involved in humanitarian action impacting children and women). However, the ultimate beneficiaries of this project should be children and women in humanitarian crises (affected children, refugees, internally displaced, returnees and other especially vulnerable groups).

UNICEF will implement the programme globally, impacting in locations at country, regional, and headquarters levels. Specific training and learning activities will build upon currently ongoing initiatives and focus on enhancing staff and partners' skills in all regions where the needs are most acute. Priority countries include Uganda, DRC, and Liberia, and UNICEF will continue to focus on the "forgotten emergencies", as well as countries where the emergency situation poses particular challenges. For example, in the area of prevention of child recruitment, demobilizing, and reintegration of child soldiers, there will be a focus on East and West Africa, as well as Nepal and Indonesia. In the area of separated children, countries recently affected by acute natural disasters will be a priority, including countries affected by the Tsunami disaster and the Pakistan earthquake. In the area of sexual violence and exploitation, priority will be given to Sierra Leone. In the area of HIV/AIDS, priority will be given to South Asia, East Africa, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe regions.

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints :

It is certainly a challenge to reconcile DG ECHO's short term mandate with the long-term needs in the field of women and child protection. The programmes that DG ECHO is funding under the present decision, in principle, require a medium-term perspective that DG ECHO cannot formally commit to, given the annual basis of DG ECHO programming and budget. However, DG ECHO believes that this support is needed as a necessary investment, over a limited period of time, to ensure the effectiveness and feasibility of its short term actions in a medium to long-term perspective.

UNICEF has initially encountered problems in recruiting qualified staff for this project, as they were looking for experts in child protection but with a robust field experience. After some delays it seems that a good and motivated team has been set up. This problem should not appear again. It has led to some delays in the work in the psychosocial sector.

UNICEF's ability to perform these functions depends on having skilled and experienced staff within countries, properly supported by regional offices and headquarters, all working towards the same standards.

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed: ⁵

2.1. - Objectives :

Principal objective:

To provide children and women affected by humanitarian crises with specific protection.

Specific objective:

To strengthen UNICEF's capacity to respond to developments in the protection of children and women by enhancing the organisation's child protection strategy in humanitarian emergencies.

2.2. - Components :

The objective of this decision will be implemented through the following components:

Improving the ownership and understanding of child protection in emergencies; Further develop and disseminate guidelines and strategies on Disarmament, Demobilizing and Reintegration (DDR) of child combatants; a UNICEF strategy on psychosocial support to children; better target the needs of unaccompanied and separated children, especially with regard to younger children; reinforcement of the implementation of the interagency

5 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 DG 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

guidelines for HIV/AIDS interventions in emergency settings and sexual violence and exploitation; and expand human resource capacity in child protection.

Improving the ownership and understanding of child protection in emergencies:

Under this component, UNICEF will finalize a “Child Protection in Emergencies” modular training package and roll out training activities through regional meetings, coordination meetings, and other trainings, UNICEF child protection officers, emergency officers and programme coordinators, as well as partners in the region. UNICEF is planning to further develop protection staff’s understanding of child protection work in emergencies through a staff exchange mechanism which twins experienced emergency child protection staff with new/inexperienced staff in countries identified as unstable and/or likely to become so in the near future (based on UNICEF’s early warning analysis). Part of the implementation of the mechanism will include 5 such staff exchange deployments based on the experience of a previous pilot-initiative.

Finally, UNICEF plans to implement training on how to communicate on child protection (advocacy) in three regions (South Asia, Middle East and North Africa), compile a “how to” toolkit on latest guidelines and tools on child protection, and develop a series of short information notes identifying concise and clear definitions of child protection terms and concepts and linking child protection with other sectors (education, HIV, health and nutrition, social policy, etc.). UNICEF will also convene an annual consultation of key child protection agencies to prepare an inter-agency work plan for the development of policies and tools on new emerging priority issues and gaps identified in the field.

Develop and disseminate guidelines and strategies on Disarmament, Demobilizing and Reintegration (DDR) of child combatants:

In 1997, a set of principles, known as the “Cape Town Principles”, was adopted by a group of specialists. These principles were mainly based on experience accumulated in Africa and now serve as a reference among protection agencies. However, the principles, as well as accompanying policies and guidelines need an update based on the most recent experiences and on lessons learned from Africa and other regions, which will be achieved through 7 regional consultations and a final global conference.

UNICEF will operationalize the UN Inter-Agency guidelines on child DDR (IDDRS). This will include an inter-agency approach to training contributing troops to ensure the guidelines are incorporated as standard practice in the DDR Missions by developing training packages in collaboration with the UN Department of Peace Keeping Operations (DPKO). UNICEF will provide technical support to the design of the training package related to children and DDR and support the field testing of the child IDDRS module.

A UNICEF strategy on psychosocial support to children:

UNICEF will conduct field evaluations of psychosocial projects in order to build its knowledge base. Experiences with Child Friendly Spaces are in the process of being further documented and its value assessed as an environment conducive to recovery and a methodology for added protection, particularly during displacement of populations. A policy will then be developed, within the context of this project, based on these evaluations and previous lessons learned.

To support the policy on psychosocial support and to ensure that staff know how to implement it, a toolkit and guidelines will be developed, which will include tools for assessing the level of distress among children, and better measurement of the impact of programme interventions. It will also include manuals for field practitioners.

Finally, UNICEF will support the creation of a practitioners' network managed by the Psycho-social Working Group (PWG) for immediate technical guidance and field support and develop with the IASC task force inter-agency principles on mental health and psycho-social work in emergencies and identify the necessary complementary research and tools for implementation.

Better target the needs of unaccompanied and separated children, especially with regard to younger children:

The recently adopted Inter-Agency 'Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children', have been developed as a joint effort by ICRC, UNICEF, UNHCR, the International Rescue Committee, Save the Children and World Vision. Although the common guidelines were a major achievement, the "Guiding Principles" need to be fully endorsed by all, including major donors. They contain key recommendations that should be followed by all actors active in situations where children get separated from their primary care givers, for example on strict limitations to international adoptions. UNICEF is planning to undertake a thorough dissemination campaign. Under this component, work will be done on the development and testing of guidelines and tools specific to the care and protection of children under five years of age, in the form of a guide for field work.

UNICEF will also develop in collaboration with the consortium on separated children (UNICEF, Save the Children, IRC) an inter-agency database for registration, care, protection, and reunification of separated children. A system has been developed and is currently in its first phase of implementation (Sudan, Liberia, Ivory Coast, and Indonesia) and will be expanded to an additional 2 countries (Guinea and DRC). This will allow the participating agencies to consolidate the development of and maintain a standard system that can be deployed globally to enable compatibility across programmes and agencies working in the field. UNICEF will also undertake a field study to produce recommendations on how best to ensure that all emergency affected countries adequately implement registration, tracing, interim care and reunion of separated children.

Reinforcement of the implementation of interagency guidelines for HIV/AIDS interventions in emergency settings and sexual violence and exploitation:

UNICEF has developed a provisional intensive training package on providing care and support to survivors of rape for community organizations, religious leaders, women's groups and health care workers. However, before finalizing the package, UNICEF proposed to hold technical consultations with partner agencies and experts on gender based violence on the contents of this training package and to field test the package. Results from the field testing will be used to improve training of staff, develop ways of adapting it to different contexts, and ensuring that it can be also used by the wider humanitarian community.

UNICEF, as co-chair of the IASC task force on Protection from Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation, has been developing model complaints mechanisms and investigative protocols for complaints of sexual abuse or exploitation by UN personnel and rolling out training in the field. UNICEF has also been working with its NGOs partner NGOs to strengthen their

accountability for acceptable standards of behaviour. This component will focus on the development of specific training material and training of UNICEF staff and partners so that they are better equipped to handle complaints of abuse and exploitation of children. In 2006, the training will be widely disseminated through regional offices, as well as focal point networks.

In addition to ongoing interagency collaboration, as part of the process to mainstream implementation of its own HIV/AIDS programmes in emergency settings, UNICEF will organize a series of workshops at regional level for Child Protection, Emergency and HIV/AIDS officers from selected country offices. The training will focus on HIV/AIDS in emergencies, through the utilization of the IASC guidelines and the related training package. Building on previous training initiatives, this activity will target three additional regions.

UNICEF will contribute to an informal “AIDS Humanitarian Consortium” that will continue to work with a focus on HIV/AIDS and humanitarian response, focusing on three main results: The HIV/AIDS-related needs of populations of humanitarian concern to be systematically included in existing humanitarian frameworks; the context specific multi-sectoral service packages in the IASC Guidelines for HIV/AIDS Interventions in Emergency Settings will be made accessible to all populations of humanitarian concern in an equitable manner; the underlying sexual and gender-based factors, including sexual violence, that heighten the vulnerability of girls and women will be identified and addressed through appropriate prevention, support, care, treatment, and mitigation interventions.

Visibility:

UNICEF shall endeavour to bring the support and financing given by the European Commission to the attention of the beneficiaries, the general public and the media during the operation, provided it does not harm the safety of UNICEF’s staff. In particular, information given to the press, the beneficiaries of the Action, all related publicity material, reports, publications and web-pages shall acknowledge that the Action was carried out with funding from the European Commission (DG ECHO), stressing the importance of the protection of children in emergency situations and the work of the EC and UNICEF in addressing this issue as a main topic. The European Commission logo and credit will appear prominently on all materials and website developed within the project. The EC will be referred to in all press releases and publicity associated with the project. The European Commission’s contribution shall be quoted in EUR, between brackets is necessary.

Upon receipt of contract, UNICEF will issue a press release announcing the partnership with the EC for children in emergency situations. UNICEF will film and produce one news feature story highlighting the issue of protection for children in a country where UNICEF and DG ECHO have child protection programs. UNICEF will quickly capture, produce and distribute video, audio, photos, and text elements for a wide variety of uses:

- Provided to DG ECHO for use on their own website and distribution;
- To distribute to more than 500 TV and radio broadcasters including all major European broadcasters via Associate Press Television Network’s (APTN) Global Video Wire and www.thenewsmarket.com, Europe By Satellite and other distribution channels;
- For use on www.unicef.org and other websites including Google Video and Yahoo Video;

- For pod-casting on a variety of pod-casting services, including UNICEF's own pod-casting site;
- To be distributed on the UNICEF RSS feed to subscribers who have requested up-to-date information about children from UNICEF;
- For the UNICEF Photo Database – a valuable resource for editors and publications worldwide;
- For editorial publications.

3 - Duration expected for actions in the proposed Decision:

The duration for the implementation of this decision will be 15 months. This duration will enable the implementation period of the operations to be streamlined with the UN Financial Year, thus ensuring a smoother implementation of the operations, covering effectively a full financial year. Humanitarian operations funded by this decision must be implemented within this period.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 01 February 2006.

Start Date: 01 February 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

DG ECHO has developed thematic collaborations with the following partners:

- UNHCR: Refugee Protection, Registration and Emergency Preparedness and Response programme (EUR 11,000,000 in 2002, EUR 11,000,000 in 2003 and EUR 5,000,000 in 2005)
- ICRC: Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts (EUR 10,000,000 in 2003 and EUR 4,000,000 in 2005)
- OCHA: Humanitarian Information Systems (EUR 4,000,000 in 2004 and EUR 4,000,000 in 2005)
- WHO: Health Action in Crises programme (EUR 3,500,000 in 2004 and EUR 4,000,000 in 2005)
- WFP: Food Aid Needs Assessment (EUR 4,500,000 in 2004)
- UNICEF: Data collection, child protection and emergency preparedness (EUR 996,000 in 2003, EUR 7,400,000 in 2004)
- IFRC: Support to IFRC Disaster Management programme (EUR 3,500,000 in 2005)

Concerning UNICEF in particular, UNICEF and DG ECHO have a long history of partnership, including since 2003 the following previous decisions for thematic funding:

- The initial decision was launched on 01 January 2004, aiming at the development of indicators and collection of accurate, disaggregated data on the impact of armed-conflict on children, with regard to displacement and child recruitment. (EUR 996,000).
- By the end of 2004 (01 November 2004), a second decision was approved to strengthen UNICEF's capacity to prepare for and response to humanitarian crises, with a targeted focus on women and children in line with its Core Corporate Commitments (EUR 5,430,000).
- A third decision started on 01 January 2005 to strengthen UNICEF's capacity to respond to developments in the protection of children and women, by enhancing the organisation's child protection strategy and tools in humanitarian emergencies. (EUR 2,000,000). **The current decision is a follow-up of this decision.**

A review meeting DG ECHO/UNICEF was held on the 14 November 2005 with wide participation from both organisations, to evaluate both projects (child protection and emergency preparedness) and to discuss the way forward.

In general the project went out well. The global consultation has been held in May 2005, inter-agency modular training packages as well as a CD Rom on how to communicate on child protection have been developed.

The work started during the first phase of the project will be further developed and complemented in the second phase, with a focus on dissemination.

A weakness identified has been the dissemination in field offices and in partners' organisations of the various tools developed during the first phase of the project (policy guidelines, information notes etc.). A specific attention will be given to this aspect in the second phase.

Moreover, the problem encountered in staff recruitments has led to some delays in the work in the psychosocial sector.

5 - Other donors and donor co-ordination mechanisms.

An important organisational capacity building effort for emergency response has been ongoing through a series of increasingly more coherent programmes of cooperation with the British Department for International Development (DFID). To ensure that UNICEF is better prepared and equipped to respond to crises, the programme focuses, among other areas, on the continued development and implementation of policy, improvements in operational systems (e.g. security, human resources, telecommunications, etc.), development and institutionalisation of an emergency preparedness planning framework, and improvements in understanding the impact of armed conflict on children (including data collection and policy guidance). UNICEF's contribution to policy development as well as monitoring and reporting on the impact of armed conflict on children will contribute to strengthening the overall UN response in this area. All these elements have been undertaken with an enhanced engagement in inter-agency partnerships.

UNICEF ensures that there is no overlap in funding of activities by different donors and notably between DG ECHO funding at country and thematic level.

DG ECHO will ensure the monitoring of the programme in selected countries via its network of field experts. At **headquarters level**, meetings with UNICEF will take place to review the results of the programme.

6 - Amount of decision and distribution by specific objectives:

6.1. - Total amount of the decision: EUR 1,800,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: <i>To provide children and women affected by humanitarian crises with specific protection</i>				
Specific objective	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Activities	Potential partners
To strengthen UNICEF's capacity to respond to developments in the protection of children and women by enhancing the organisation's child protection strategy in humanitarian emergencies.	1,800,000	Global	<p>Ownership and understanding child protection programming in emergencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalize and roll out the "Child Protection in Emergencies" modular training package. - Implement a staff exchange mechanism in emergencies for child protection staff - Convene an annual consultation of key child protection agencies - Compile a "how to" toolkit on latest guidelines and tools on child protection - Develop a series of short information notes <p>Prevention of child recruitment, demobilisation and reintegration of child soldiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update Cape Town Principles on DDR of child soldiers - Convert the UN Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS) into Interagency Guiding Principles - Undertake roll-out of UN Inter-agency DDR guidelines (IDDRS) <p>Separated children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalise and disseminate all inter-agency forms and guidance on unaccompanied and separated children - Develop with the consortium on separated children (UNICEF, Save the Children, IRC) of an inter-agency database for registration, care, protection, and reunification of separated children - Undertake a field study of selected emergency affected countries and a smaller number of non-emergency countries to produce recommendations on how best to ensure that all emergency affected countries implementation of registration, tracing, interim care and reunion of separated children. <p>Psychosocial support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build up knowledge base on psychosocial programming - Develop toolkit on psychosocial programming - Support the creation of a practitioners' network managed by the psychosocial working group (PWG) for immediate technical guidance and field support - Develop with inter-agency principles on mental health and psychosocial work in emergencies <p>Sexual violence and exploitation and HIV/AIDS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roll out of inter-agency training package on providing care and support to rape survivors, incorporating stronger emphasis on non-medical response to sexual violence - Build capacity to respond to issues of gender based violence, including sexual exploitation/abuse by UN staff and related personnel - Train UNICEF staff and partners in dealing with complaints of sexual abuse and exploitation - Roll out of current training strategy (IASC guidelines for HIV/AIDS interventions in emergency settings, CCs HIV/AIDS, and technical notes) - Contribute to an informal "AIDS Humanitarian Consortium" that will continue to work with focus on HIV/AIDS and humanitarian response, post IATF disbandment. 	- UN - UNICEF - BEL
TOTAL	1,800,000			

7 - Evaluation

Under article 18 of Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid the Commission is required to "regularly assess humanitarian aid operations financed by the Community in order to establish whether they have achieved their objectives and to produce guidelines for improving the effectiveness of subsequent operations." These evaluations are structured and organised in overarching and cross cutting issues forming part of 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.

8 - Budget Impact article 23 02 01

	CE (EUR)
Initial available appropriations for 2006	470,429,000
Supplementary budgets	-
Transfers Commission	-
Total available appropriations	470,429,000
Total executed to date (19/1/2006)	213,950,000
Available remaining	256,479,000
Total amount of the Decision	1,800,000

COMMISSION DECISION
of
on the financing of humanitarian operations from the general budget of the European Union to strengthen protection to children and women in humanitarian emergencies through thematic support to UNICEF

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 aid⁶, and in particular Article 14 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Children are amongst the most vulnerable victims of humanitarian crises and the most exposed and at-risk group in unstable situations.
- (2) According to UNICEF, an estimated 20 million children have been forced to flee their homes and some 300,000 child soldiers are involved in more than 30 conflicts worldwide.
- (3) Humanitarian emergencies make protection programming particularly difficult, due to lack of humanitarian access, breakdown of family and social structures, collapse of basic social services, weak government, the absence of accountability and the prevalence of violence.
- (4) Direct threats to child protection in emergencies are compounded through forced displacement, abduction, labour and sexual exploitation by armed groups, disability due to combat or natural disasters, landmines and unexploded ordnance, and trafficking.
- (5) Child protection is an important component of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid - ECHO's overall strategy in supporting children affected by humanitarian crises and is at the core of UNICEF's mandate.
- (6) The European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid – ECHO envisages funding measures designed to enhance the protection of children and women by funding UNICEF, an experienced partner with a unique mandate and a global outreach in that domain.
- (7) An assessment of the humanitarian situation leads to the conclusion that humanitarian aid operations should be financed by the Community for a period of 15 months.
- (8) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 1,800,000 from budget line 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to provide protection to children and women affected by humanitarian emergencies, taking into account the available budget, other donors' interventions and other factors.

⁶ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6
[ECHO/THM/BUD/2006/04000](#)

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of EUR 1,800,000 for humanitarian aid operations to provide children and women affected by humanitarian crises with specific protection by using line 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 objective:

To strengthen UNICEF's capacity to respond to developments in the protection of children and women by enhancing the organisation's child protection strategy in humanitarian emergencies.

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

Article 2

1. The duration for the implementation of this decision shall be for a maximum period of 15 months, starting on 01 February 2006.

2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 01 February 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 implementation of this Decision.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission