

COMMISSION DECISION
of
on the financing of primary emergency humanitarian operations from the general
budget of the European Communities in
Bangladesh

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 aid ¹, and in particular Articles 2(a) and 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 15 November 2007 Cyclone Sidr hit Bangladesh creating an emergency situation.
- (2) Winds of over 220 km/h and a tidal wave up to 5 meters high have caused extensive damage.
- (3) Victims are in urgent need of medical assistance, water and food supplies and emergency shelter.
- (4) The duration of humanitarian aid operations financed by this decision will be of a maximum of 3 months.
- (5) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 1,500,000 from budget line 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Communities is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to victims of cyclone Sidr taking into account the available budget; other donors' interventions and other factors.
- (6) The present Decision constitutes a financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002², Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002³, and Article 15 of the Internal Rules on the Implementation of the general budget of the European Communities⁴.

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 1,500,000 for primary emergency humanitarian aid operations to provide the necessary assistance and relief to victims of cyclone Sidr people in Bangladesh from budget line 23 02 01 of the 2007 general budget of the European Communities.

¹- OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6

²- OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1995/2006, OJ L 390, 30.12.2006, p.1

³-OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1 Regulation as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC Euratom) No. 478/2007, OJ L 111 of 28.4.2007, P. 13

⁴-Commission Decision of 21.02.2007, C/2007/513

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 objective:

- Provision of humanitarian aid to the population affected by cyclone Sidr.

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 3 months from their start date.
2. Expenditure under this Decision is eligible from 16 November 2007.
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 humanitarian aid operations.

Article 3

1. The Commission shall implement the budget by direct centralised management or by joint management with international organisations.
2. The actions supported by this decision will be implemented by humanitarian aid organisations that are signatories to the Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) or the EC/UN Financial Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA).
3. Taking account the specificities of humanitarian aid, the nature of the activities to be undertaken, the specific location constraints and the level of urgency, the activities covered by this decision may be financed in full in accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation.

Article 4

This Decision shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission



Primary Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision

23 02 01

Title: Primary Emergency Aid to victims of cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh.

Location of operation: Bangladesh

Amount of Decision: EUR 1,500,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/BGD/BUD/2007/01000

Explanatory Memorandum

1 - Rationale, needs and target population.

1.1. - Rationale:

Much of Bangladesh is both densely populated, and near or at sea level and extremely vulnerable to high winds and tidal waves, and consequent flooding. Given this situation, extensive work has been done on disaster preparedness, including DG ECHO⁵ Dipecho assistance to set up early warning systems and prepare the population for how to react in the event of a disaster. Large scale natural disasters, however, still require additional emergency humanitarian aid.

On the night of 15 to 16 November 2007, the super cyclone Sidr, described as category 4, hit the coasts of South West Bangladesh at 1:00am local time, with winds up to 240 km/ hour. Tidal waves up to 5 meters high hit the mainland, greatly increasing the level of rivers and destroying many protective embankments.

The cyclone continued northwards, hitting the capital city of Dhaka at 3:00am. local time. The most severely affected districts are the coastal districts of Barguna, Patuakhali, Bagerhat, Bhola, Pirojpur and Khulna. The city of Dhaka was also severely hit, and electricity is still not functioning in many areas.

⁵ Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid - ECHO

Early warning and evacuations programs in place and triggered 24 hours before the cyclone seem to have functioned well, greatly limiting the number of casualties compared to other cyclones having hit Bangladesh (a similar cyclone in 1991 caused 140,000 deaths). An estimated population of at least 3,200,000 people are affected, with 650,000 having been evacuated to organized storm shelters. The capacity of such shelters, however, is inadequate for the full number of those needing such evacuation given the scale of this cyclone and many have thus remained exposed.⁶

1.2. - Identified needs:

With assessments ongoing (including DG ECHO experts in situ and DG ECHO partners), initial needs are for potable water, shelter, clothes and domestic utensils, food and medical assistance. While stocks of items such as shelter material and food have been pre-positioned as part of disaster preparedness the scale of the impact requires additional assistance. For example, in Potuakhali (Galachipa Upazilla) 50 % of the livestock is reported dead, 75 % of the houses fully damaged and 100 % of the standing crops damaged.⁷

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

The target population is the victims of cyclone Sidr, mainly in the coastal districts of Barguna, Patuakhali, Bagerhat, Bhola, Pirojpur and Khulna .

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints:

Access to parts of the affected area remains problematic given the extent of damage to infrastructure.

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:

2.1. - Objectives:

Principal objective: To save and preserve lives in the aftermath of cyclone Sidr

Specific objective:

- Provision of humanitarian aid to the population affected by cyclone Sidr

2.2. - Components :

- Shelter
- Water and sanitation (including hygiene promotion)
- Domestic items (including blankets, clothes, jerry cans, cooking utensils)
- Nutritional assistance
- Health care

⁶ Source : Bangladesh Disaster Management Bureau

⁷ Source : Care

3 - Duration expected for actions in the proposed Decision:

The duration of humanitarian aid operations shall be 3 months.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 16 November 2007.

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 DG ECHO operations in Bangladesh				
Decision Number	Decision Type	2005 EUR	2006 EUR	2007 EUR
ECHO/-SA/BUD/2007/02000*	Emergency			9,500,000
	Subtotal	0	0	9,500,000
	Grand Total	0		9,500,000

Dated : 16 November 2007

Source : HOPE

* : This decision covered monsoon flooding in India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

Further EUR 1,360,000 is foreseen for Bangladesh under the forthcoming Dipecho Decision ECHO/DIP/BUD/2007/04000

5 - Overview of donors' contributions

Donors in Bangladesh the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria		DG ECHO	2,500,000		
Belgium		Other services			
Bulgaria					
Cyprus					
Czech republic					
Denmark					
Estonia					
Finland					
France					
Germany	1,033,196				
Greece					
Hungary					
Ireland	641,927				
Italy	2,000,000				
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg	85,000				
Malta					
Netherlands					
Poland					
Portugal					
Romania					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain					
Sweden	468,747				
United kingdom					
Subtotal	4,228,870	Subtotal	2,500,000	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	6,728,870		

Dated : 16 November 2007

(*) Source : DG ECHO 14 Points reporting for Members States. <https://hac.ec.europa.eu>

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

6 - Amount of decision and distribution by specific objectives:

6.1. - Total amount of the decision: EUR 1,500,000.

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: <i>To save and preserve lives in the aftermath of cyclone Sidr</i>			
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Potential partners⁸
Specific objective 1: Provision of humanitarian aid to the population affected by cyclone Sidr	1,500,000	Bangladesh, mainly in the coastal districts of Barguna, Patuakhali, Bagerhat, Bhola, Pirojpur and Khulna	- ACTIONAID - CARE - UK - Concern Worldwide - CROIX-ROUGE - DEU - IFRC-FICR - IRW - OXFAM GB
TOTAL: 1,500,000			

⁸ ACTIONAID (GBR), CARE INTERNATIONAL UK , CONCERN WORLDWIDE, (IRL), DEUTSCHES ROTES KREUZ, (DEU), FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT ROUGE, ISLAMIC RELIEF WORLDWIDE, OXFAM (GB)

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://ec.europa.eu/echo/evaluation/index_en.htm.

8 - Budget Impact article 23 02 01

-	CE (EUR)
Initial Available Appropriations for 2007	485.000.000,00
Transfers Commission	56.209,86
Total Available Appropriations	485.056.209,86
Total executed to date (16/11/2007)	478.975.694,95
Available remaining	6.080.514,91
Total amount of the Decision	1,500,000